

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God of the Covenant, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The afflicted await good tidings. The brokenhearted would have their wounds bound. The captives still yearn for freedom, and those who mourn remain to be comforted. Forgive us who fail to follow Christ's call to faithful ministry; restore us and make us worthy to serve in his name. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Lani Smith

***Call to Worship**

God is in our midst; do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

God gathers us for this time of worship.

God claims us and promises us a home.

Trust in God who is our strength and life.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

We will sing praises and exalt God's name.

With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.

Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.

Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

We will not worry as we seek God's peace.

We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.

***Hymn #130**

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Advent Lighting

Advent is a time to prepare.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Refrain



(1st Sunday) We wait in
(2nd Sunday) We watch in
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
(4th Sunday) We praise with
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



We wait with
We watch with
We pre - pare with
We praise with
We pro - claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we wait in
we watch in
we pre - pare in
we praise with
we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

Senior Choir Anthem

“Listen”

Joel Raney

Scripture Isaiah 61:1 – 4, 8 – 11 (NRSV p. 603 – 604, LP p. 1162 – 1163)
John 1:6 – 8, 19 – 28 (NRSV p. 862; LP p. 1657 – 1658)

Children’s Choir

“Away In a Manger”

James Murray & Mark Patterson

Soloist: Selia Werth

Children’s Sermon

***Hymn #134**

“The King of Glory Comes”

Sermon

“The Anointed”

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Offertory

“Lo, How a Rose”

Olive Nelson Russell

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn#171**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Edward Broughton

*All who are able, please stand.

Today's bulletins are sponsored in loving memory of Evelyn M. Schultz by the family.

Mission Statement of PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH:

Our task is to proclaim the Living Word of God, which empowers us to care for and share with our community and the world.

Vision Statement of PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH:

Serving the glorious God, claimed by Jesus, and inspired by scripture, honoring our history, with renewed commitment we will reach out to our community and the world through worship, spirit enriching programs, and outreaching mission.

... Things of Interest to Our Palm Schwenkfelder Family ...

This week, please keep in your daily prayers:

Bob Jones, Rick Jones, Walt Master, Jane Petrilla, Deb Callodonato, Molly Werley, Bryan Schwoyer, Clara Graber, Anna Bieler, Earl Yerger, Donald Long, Jen Fries, Vera Boykin, Jean Gentry, Doris Masemore, Wanda Gentry, Charlie Krauss, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Vern Weller, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Karen Freed, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, John Hathaway, Betty Pope. Please also keep in your prayers the men and women serving in the United States Military. This month from our Schwenkfelder Prayer list we uplift the staff of Palm Schwenkfelder Church.

Bible Study

The online Bible Study will take one more look at Psalm 75 this week, before returning to our ongoing study in 1 Samuel 16-19. This week, we seek comment from anyone with a feel for historic understanding in physical science. To help with the discussion, please contact Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19

The kids are doing great earning punches in their fish card. Keep catching those kids acting kind!

Children’s Church

After the children’s sermon all children from 4 years of age thru 4th grade are invited upstairs to participate in Children’s church for an interactive Bible lesson and snack. Please advise the leader if your child has food allergies or food restrictions. Parent pick up is upstairs in the children’s church room.

Children’s Christmas Program Rehearsals

Sunday, Dec. 14th 9:00am – 10:00am

Saturday, Dec. 20th 9:30am – 11:30am

Sunday, Dec. 21st 9:00am – 10:00am

Sunday, Dec. 21st 10:15am, Christmas program during worship

Open Link Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who helped to provide gifts for the Open Link family!

Sunday School Room Committee

Beginning in the New Year, a committee will work on improving Sunday school rooms. We are looking for members of all talents. You may find that you are strong in organizing and planning or maybe in painting and handyman work. You are all needed. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please see anyone on the Board of Christian Education or sign up on the sheet outside of the church office. There will be an initial meeting in January. Come out and see if this committee is right for you!

Congregational Meeting

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service **today**. Please take time to pick up a copy of a 2015 Budget and review this information as we will discuss this Budget at the Congregational Meeting.

Confirmands and Mentors Luncheon

There will be a Christmas Party and Luncheon sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Mentor Committee **today**. The party begins at approximately 12:00 p.m., immediately after the special church meeting. After lunch, we will discuss your Faith Journey timelines. Please be sure to have them completed by this time. The event concludes around 1:30 p.m. If you are UNABLE to attend, please notify your confirmand /mentor, also notify the church office.

Jesus is “The Reason for the Season”

Palm Youth will present two great programs on Sunday, December 21st at 10:15 am. “The Reason for the Season” written by Angela and Jessica Simmons is a short play about Christmas decorations that find out Jesus is at the center of Christmas. Following will be a poem reading “The Christmas Story” written by Leanne Guenther with adaptations by Jerry Lynn Maldet. Watch the stable fill with life as the poem is read and Christmas hymns are sung.

Refreshments and Hoagie Sale

After the Children’s Christmas program on December 21st, join us in the Adult Sunday school room for free refreshments sponsored by the Confirmation class in honor of the young performers. And, keep your lunch plans open as the youth will be selling turkey and Italian hoagies.

Christmas Eve Cantata

On Christmas Eve, at 7:30 pm we will gather in worship to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This year our service will feature Joseph Martin’s Canticles in Candlelight, a musical service of illumination. With Scripture, narration, carols, candles, and lots of congregational carol singing, this service in song tells the treasured story of Christ’s birth. Join us as we celebrate the light of Christ this holiday season with this wonderfully creative musical presentation.

Nursery

When there is no one available to supervise the nursery, parents are welcome to use the nursery but are responsible for their children. If anyone is interested in providing child supervision, please contact Gregg Hoffman.

Give the Gift of Warmth

Time has flown, as time is wont to do, and the Christmas season is once again upon us. One of the wonderful chances that we have to share with those less fortunate during this season is the Christmas Mitten Tree. Help decorate our Mitten Tree with new warm mittens, gloves, caps, and scarves for children and adults. Also appreciated are new socks or other warm winter clothes. After Christmas, these gifts will be given to Open Link for distribution to those in need.

Ladies' Aid Christmas Stockings

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this mission possible. Ethel Soffa, Sandra Kriebel, Miriam Hausman, Sallie Wright, Ruth Weaver.

Christmas Fund

Next Sunday, December 21st, the Mission Board will be sponsoring the Annual Christmas Fund Offering on behalf of the Penn Southeast Conference (UCC). This Offering, for the Veterans of the Cross, enables the Pension Board Ministerial Assistance Program to offer pension & health supplements, along with emergency grants, to retired clergy and lay employees struggling to make ends meet. The Mission Board asks that you prayerfully consider support of this offering. Please visit www.christmasfund.org for more information.

“Trees, Trains, and Gingerbread”

From November 29, 2014 to January 18, 2015, come to the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum where you'll see an exhibit featuring a Schwenkfelder Christmas tree decorated with cookie cutters, and a showcase with German cookies and Schwenkfelder information on display. There will also be trees decorated with railroad themes and railroad gingerbread buildings and trains. A large O-gauge operating layout with a Reading Company theme will also be part of the exhibit. The Schwenkfelder pieces are thanks to Lee Schultz, and Bill and Sallie Wright. Museum hours are 10:00am – 4:00 pm on Saturdays, noon – 4:00pm on Sundays. Admission; adults \$7.00, seniors (65+) \$6.00, ages 5 – 12 \$3.00, children under 5 and active military are free. Free parking. For additional information visit www.readingrailroad.org/museum

Annual Report Submissions

And yes, it's that's time. Annual reports from all Church committees are due in the office no later than January 5th, 2015. If possible, please e-mail your report to the church office. Any questions should be directed to our Moderator, Anne Goda, or Vice Moderator, Joanne Luz.

Address Changes/Updates

As a service to our members, any address changes that come through the office will now be listed in the bulletin. There will also be a section in the Palm Leaves that will list new addresses. If you have any information on members who have may have moved, or if any of the addresses listed appear to be incorrect, please call the office to let us know. Thank You.

Bulletin Sponsorships

The Deacons would like to thank the members of Palm for sponsoring bulletins and real flowers every Sunday for the 2014 calendar year! Everyone who did sponsor please remember that bulletin sponsorships are \$15, flower sponsorships are \$50, and the flowers are yours to keep after the service. Please sign up for 2015 on the chart in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

Palm Schwenkfelder Church has decorated a tree at



Trains, trees, and gingerbread

at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum

500 S. Third Street, Hamburg PA

www.readingrailroad.org

November 29, 2013 through January 18, 2014

Come and vote for our tree! Two free tickets with each admission. Additional tickets 50 cents each.

Also see:

- 🌿 Model trains: large display of vintage and modern model trains
- 🌿 More trees decorated in railroad themes by community groups.
- 🌿 Gingerbread railroad stations by individual crafters
- 🌿 Indoor and outdoor displays of Reading Railroad history and real Reading trains.

Museum hours: Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM, Sunday noon – 4 PM

Admission: Adults, \$7; Seniors (65+), \$6; children (5-12), \$3;
under 5 free

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

December 14, 2014

Mark These Upcoming Events on Your 2015 Calendars

Additional details and online registration are available on psec.org.

Jan 6 - Quiet Days are held at New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Rd. in East Greenville, PA 18041. No formal registration, but a minimum donation of \$5 is requested. Bring a Bible, journal, pen, and bag lunch.

Jan 6-8 - Clergy Women's Retreat-My Soul Feels Lean Come away for a time apart at St. Raphaela Center, 616 Cooperstown Rd in Haverford, PA 19041. Fee of \$155 includes 2 overnights & 6 meals. Register online by Dec. 19.

Jan 11 - Conversation with PSEC Church Educators from 3-4:30 pm at Zwingli Hall, Church of the Good Shepherd, 35 W. Philadelphia Ave. in Boyertown, PA 19512.

Jan 22 - Day of Prayer - Listening for God's Voice-Making Decisions This day of prayer will be led by Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Minister of Spiritual Nurture, PSEC at Heidelberg UCC, Perkiomen Ave. & Second St. in Schwenksville, PA 19473 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. We will explore ways of praying that are designed to help us listen for God's voice as we make decisions. Register online by Jan. 16.

Jan 24, Mar 25, Sep 12, Nov 10 - Committee on Ministry Training Four FREE training sessions using the Manuel on Ministry at two locations: First UCC in Spring City and Trinity Reformed UCC in Pottstown. Register by Jan. 21 for the Jan 24 (9 am-12 pm) session: *Who should and should not be in ministry discernment? MOM Sections 1 & 2* at First UCC.

Feb 20-21 - Clergy Couples Retreat Register online by Jan 15 for this retreat with Stephen R. Treat, DMin, LMFT at the Golden Plough Inn in Peddler's Village, New Hope, PA 18938. We will learn how to stay connected with all the challenges of everyday life and ministry. Fee of \$175 per couple includes 1 overnight and two meals.

Other upcoming events include:

Feb 5, Apr 13, Sep 3, & Nov 19 - Days Apart for Clergy

Mar 10-12 - Clergy Men's Retreat

Mar 17, May 13, Oct 22 - Boundary Training in PSEC from 9 am to 3 pm.

May 5-7 - Clergy Convocation - From *Sabbath to Selfies: Faithful Spirituality in the Smartphone Age* at DoubleTree by Hilton, 2400 Willow Street Pike in Lancaster, PA 17602. Presenter is MaryAnn McKibben Dana.

NOTE: The PSEC Conference office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning on Wed., Dec. 24 and will reopen on Mon., Jan. 5. The Conference Minister will be on call during the week for any pastoral emergencies. The closing date for 2014 PSEC books will be Jan. 16, 2015.

UCC South Dakota Conference Completes Transfer of Tribal Lands to Dakota Association *(Written by Anthony Moujaes)*



*Rev. David Felton
signing the last of the deeds.*

After years spent returning tribal lands to their owners, the South Dakota Conference and the Dakota Association of the United Church of Christ are celebrating the completion their historic work. The Rev. David Felton, Interim Conference Minister of the South Dakota Conference, recently signed the last of more than a dozen deeds that transfer ownership of Native American UCC church sites and adjacent lands from the Conference to the Dakota Association. "This is a great day for all of us in the South Dakota."

"This is a great day for all of us in the South Dakota Conference and the United Church of Christ," said Felton. "We are pleased to finally realize autonomy for our Native American brothers and sisters. Thanks be to God!"

The recent land transfers were for church sites in Nebraska and in North Dakota, which are part of the Dakota Association.

Already this year, the South Dakota Conference transferred deeds to nine different parcels of land. The Conference previously returned a parcel of church lands to Native Americans of the Dakota Association two years ago at the 2012 annual meeting. Before that, three other parcels were returned to the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe in the 1960s.

The church land deeds were held by the mission organizations of the denominations that preceded the UCC and transferred to the South Dakota Conference after the UCC was formed in 1957. The Conference held those deeds for decades "in trust" on behalf of the Dakota Association. It wasn't until a few years ago that the Conference and Association began the process of transferring the lands, when the "desire of the Dakota Association to hold the deeds had finally arrived," said Winifred Boub, Administrator and Program Coordinator for the Dakota Association.

Read more about the land transfers, and how the Conference and Association cooperated in this effort in this UC News story published in June: ucc.org/news/dakota-lands-transfer-06242014.html.



Prayers are requested for St. Paul's UCC in Mahanoy City and Rev. D. John H. Reid.

COMING JANUARY 2015!



Join Our Family!

Your children build confidence, when we teach them
to swim.

Walk with us in the Winter, on our beautiful indoor track.

Seniors, come in and connect, get fit with your friends.

Swim laps on your lunch hour in our indoor pools.

We are here for **you**, with something for everyone!

Join NOW, take advantage of 50% off the Join Fee!

Join online or stop in at our current location to sign up!

Financial Assistance is available to those in need.

philaymca.org

Save 50% off Joiner Fee through December 31, 2014



**Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team
Sponsors Luminaries for Christmas Eve**

Every Sunday, until December 14th, you may contribute \$5.00 per line for a luminary to decorate the church driveway on Christmas Eve. This is one of the fundraisers of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team.

Your contribution may be made “in honor of” or “in memory of” friends or loved ones. There will be a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin acknowledging your gifts. **Please order your luminaries at the Relay for Life Team table located in the Narthex after worship services or place your order and payment in the office lock-box before the deadline of Sunday, December 14th.**

**Please make checks payable to:
PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
Memo: Relay for Life Team**

PLEASE PRINT

Donor's Name _____

Phone Number _____

“In Honor of”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

“In Memory of”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Total Donation \$ _____ **Check #** _____ **Cash** _____

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 14

- 8:00am Boy Scout Overnight "Lock-In"
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Sunday Worship Service
- 11:30am Congregational Meeting
- 12:00pm Confirmands & Mentors Luncheon
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 61:1 – 4)

Monday, December 15

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 61:8 – 11)
- 7:00pm Board of Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

- 8:00am Quilters
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 126)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts
- 7:00pm Girl Scouts - Senior/Ambassador Troop
- 7:00pm Mission Board

Wednesday, December 17

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(1 Thessalonians 5:12- 24)
- 5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (John 1:6 – 9)
- 4:00pm Assemble Luminaries

Friday, December 19

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (John 1:19 – 23)

Saturday, December 20

- 9:30am Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (John 1:24 – 28)

Sunday, December 21

9:00am [Sunday School](#)

10:15am [Children's Christmas Program Worship Service](#)

11:30am [Refreshments & Youth Hoagie Sale](#)

12:00pm [Scout Ceremony](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are \(Luke 1:26 – 38\)](#)

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

833 Gravel Pike

PO Box 66

Palm PA 18070

Office Phone: 215 – 679 – 5321

Fax: 215 – 679 – 2650

Pastor Nick's Cell Phone: (267) 374 – 5691

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmadministrator@comcast.net

Church Office Email: palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net

Pastor's E-mail: palmpastor@comcast.net

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Serving You at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Pence

Pastor Emeritus: Ronald R. Krick

Director of Music: Ed Bieler

Children's Choir: Gail Ferry

Children's Choir Accompanist: Joan Pusey

Junior Bells: Beth Croll

Senior Bells: Joanne and David Luz

Organist: Peg Jacob

Church Administrator: J. Daniel Ferry

Youth Director: Barbara Master

Sexton: Kevin Master 484 – 358 – 1684

Greeter: Gregg Hoffman

Ushers: Scott Kriebel, Darrell Manley, Matt Wright, Pierce Wright

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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