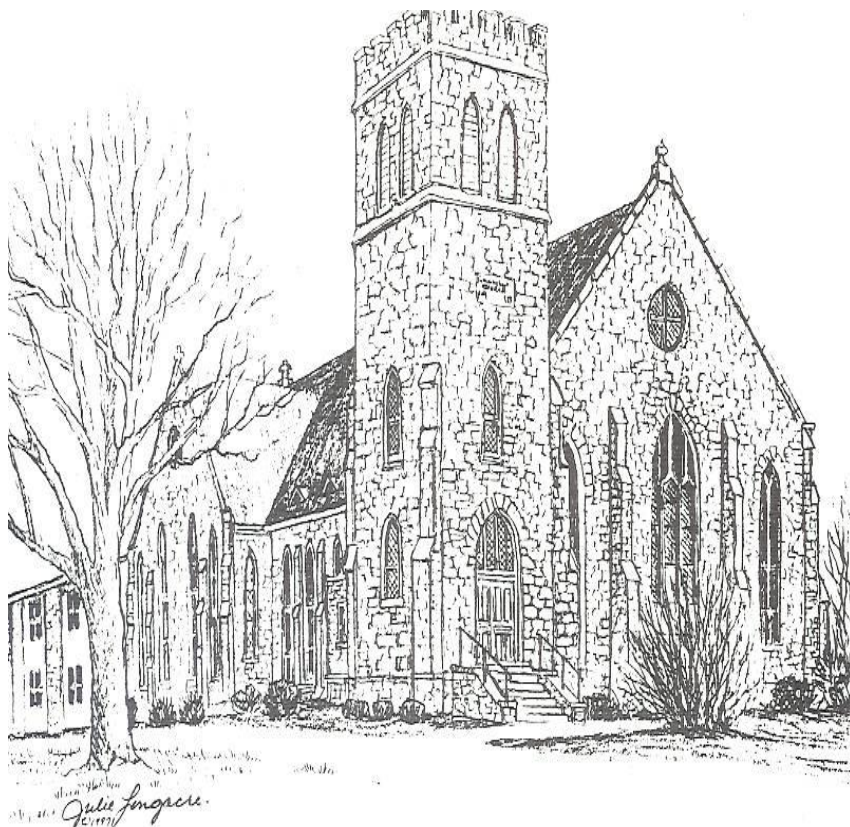


PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



**833 Gravel Pike
PO Box 66
Palm PA 18070
215-679-5321**

**PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net
www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com**


Scripture Micah 5:2 – 5a (NRSV p. 756 – 757; LP p. 1456 – 1457)

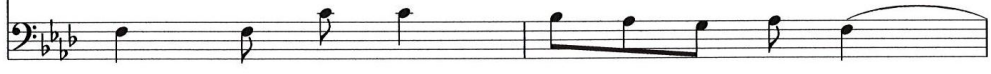
Advent Lighting and Children's Sermon


Advent Candle Choral Response


Women  Light the can - dle, Je - sus is com - ing.

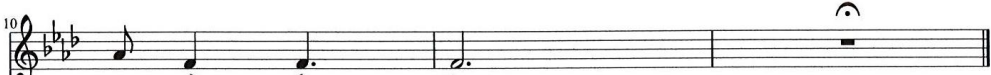
Men 

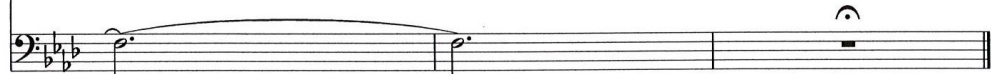
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 Light the can - dle, Je - sus is com - ing.

10  com - ing.



***Hymn #166**

“While by the Sheep We Watched”

Children's Christmas Program

“The Birth of Jesus”

Written by Felicia Mollohan

May we pass along our Christmas joy to you as you watch the youth present “The Birth of Jesus” a play written using Scriptures. Added throughout the play is poetry and well known Carols.

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” 2 Corinthians 9:15

Narrators in order of appearance:

Brent Master, Shane Raab, Josie Kinsler, Reid Hoffman, Andrew Pence, Sabine Muse, Bridgette Wright, Tatum Korn

Nativity characters in order of appearance:

Cow: Johanna Kinsler

Registrar: Tatum Korn

Inn Keeper: Sabine Muse

Mary: Shaelyn Korn

Joseph: Hunter Korn

Donkey: Jovia Kinsler

Main Angel: Selia Werth

Shepherds: LJ Morasco, Parker Morasco

Sheep: Hayley Raab, Derek Mims

Little Angels: Aniya Mims, Anja Muse, Maya Yoder

Star Holder: Lily Hoffman

Camel: Michael Kennedy

Three Kings: Ethan Raab, Owen Hoffman, Nicholas Pence

Solo: Selia Werth

Piano Accompanists in order of performance: Andrew Pence, Kate Pence, Selia Werth, Brent Master

Please join us in singing

At the end of the play please join us in singing our last carol, Joy to the World found in your hymnal.

After Worship Today

All youth will go to their Sunday school classroom immediately following worship. Teachers will bring all children to the adult Sunday school classroom (located next to the church office) for parent pick up.

Refreshments and Hoagie Sale

The Congregation is invited to join us in the adult Sunday school classroom after worship for free refreshments provided by the Board of Christian Education in honor of the children performing in today's program. And, buy a hoagie for lunch! The youth will be selling turkey and Italian hoagies.

A Special Thank You!

Thank you to all the youth who performed in today's program and to the youth who helped with the program and who helped with refreshments. Thank you to the Parents, the Sunday school teachers, and the Board of Christian Education for your involvement and support.

Special Music

“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”

John Jacob Niles

Performed by Brent Master, Andrew Pence, Kate Pence

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”

A. Josef Monar

***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**

**Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us
physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd.**

**We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can
never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity
we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May
these offerings do far more than support our church. We
dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through
ministry in the world. Amen.**

***Hymn #146**

“Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Divine Mystery”

Dorothy Howell Sheets

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in honor of Palm’s youth by Kevin and Barb Master.

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:

Clara Graber, Mary Steltz, Kerm Goda, Rev. Linda S. Gruber, Edmund Kuhns, Vern Weller, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Bryan Schwoyer, Donna Weller, Jeff Treichler, Bill Ludlow, Donald Long, Brian Shelly, Jean Gentry, Mary Hartman, Janet Esposito, Alice Davis, Jen Fries, Doris Masemore, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, 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

This week's online Bible Study will revisit 1 Samuel 3:19 with an observation in nature that explains the image that we have wrestled with off-and-on for four years. Take part by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

Combined Sunday School

Our annual Hockey Game will be an intergenerational Sunday School on Sunday December 27th at 9:00AM in the Adult Bible Classroom. The season and the Bible provide questions. It plays very much like ice hockey, with body-checking prohibited. The need for teamwork assures roles for anyone old enough to attend Sunday School. Some past games have been high scoring; some have been defensive contests. The fellowship is genuine. Please join us!

December Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

Drew Colvin (12/21), Jonas Kinsler (12/30)

December Joy Scripture

Joy is trusting when you want to doubt.

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.” Isaiah 26:4

Advent Opening Devotions ~ Jesus' Birth

Story: Excerpts from the Gospel of Luke

Song: Joy to the World

Memory Bible Verse: “This very day in David's town your Savior was born – Christ the Lord!”

Luke 2:11 Good News Version

You Version Holy Bible App – Teens and Adults

The Christmas Story, Chris Tomlin-Adore, Loop for Women, WiRE for Men, A Christmas Prophecy Devotional, Prayers for Christmas, Our Daily Bread Video Devotionals

Bible App for Kids ~ Help your kids connect each day and help them fall in love with God's Word.

Open Link Tree

Thank You! The gifts were brought over to Open Link for the family that Palm adopted this Christmas. Everyone did a wonderful job buying nice gifts for the family. Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Thank You

I would like to thank the Ladies' Aid for the wonderful fruit basket I received after my surgery.

Arlene Krause

Christmas Eve Service Correction

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at **7:30pm** on Thursday, December 24th. The calendar had mistakenly listed the start time as 7:00. The correct time is **7:30pm**.

Christian Exiles Are Fleeing Persecution

Let's help rescue some Exiles! The Deacons at Palm have arranged a partnership with Church World Services (CWS) that will allow all of us to play a role in solving the problem. We will begin by serving as a Hospitality Team for legal, Christian refugees arriving in our area. CWS is one of nine agencies certified by the US State Department to receive refugees. It is difficult not to be distracted by news reports, but it should be noted that it will be another two years before current Syrian exiles can be expected. Meanwhile, we seek to minister to a Brother or Sister from anywhere in the world who has made it through the process and arrives as a stranger in need. Please watch for announcements polling our congregation for specific needs. In the meantime, please include this mission in your prayers. Ask the Lord to guide us and ask how He wills each of us to participate.

Donations for the Migrant Hospitality Project

Offering to support the Migrant Hospitality Project is welcomed. Please mark "Migrant" on your Envelope to direct your donation. Thank you.

Migrant Hospitality Team

Would you like to be part of the Migrant Hospitality team? We want to make sure that you are included! Drivers, cooks and movers are needed for arrival day. Occasional help will be needed collecting items in preparation. Volunteer forms for these roles are available in the Narthex.

Donations of Furniture for MHP

Can you help us furnish a safe place for arriving Christian exiles? Please let us know. Forms for you to list possible items that you wish to donate are available in the Narthex. They can be turned in to any Deacon or placed in the mail slot on the Church Office door. The picture painted for housing is small. Specified items are crucial. Limited space may be a factor for other items.

Annual Report Submissions

And yes, it's also that time, too. Annual reports from all Church committees are due in the office no later than January 5th, 2016. 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.

Music Ministry Committee

The Board of Music Ministry has been asked to consider providing appropriate sacred music from 10:00am - 10:15am, prior to the Sunday morning service. For those who arrive early, it can be a quiet time of reflection and prayer to prepare hearts and minds for the service which will follow. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact our Director of Music, Ed Bieler.

Epiphany Party

The Ladies' Aid Epiphany Party will be held on January 5th. We will start at noon with a covered dish lunch, and we will take up a monetary gift collection for Open Link. Following our lunch we will hold our monthly business meeting.

Personal Care Volunteers Needed

Peter Becker Community, Harleysville, will be holding a training for Abiders in January 2016. Abiders provide a reassuring, comforting presence to someone in the last hours of their life who would otherwise die alone. This can take the form of silent and soft prayers, reading a poem or psalm, singing a song or hymn, or simply holding a resident's hand. The hours are very flexible. To learn more contact Director of Pastoral Care, Merlin Hedrick, at 215 – 513 – 6817, or at mhedrick@peterbeckercommunity.com

Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorships

The Deacons would like to thank the members of Palm for sponsoring bulletins and real flowers every Sunday for the 2015 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 2016 on the new charts in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

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.

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 20, 2015

Advent and Christmas Message from Rev. William P. Worley

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations." - Psalm 90



Live Crèche at Old First Reformed UCC, Philadelphia

This December, as homeless refugees deservedly occupy so much of our attention, I am struck by how many Christmas songs are laced with longing, and particularly a longing for home. "I'll be home for Christmas," a poignant song written during World War II when many would not be home for Christmas, resonates for

me. My family is scattered and the homestead to which we once returned has been traded for an apartment that is more manageable for my aging parents.

Of course, a home is so much more than a house. A house, in its simplest form is just a well-organized pile of lumber, brick and stone. Home is a place where you feel uniquely "at home," a place of belonging and of oneness – with others, yourself and the world. It is a place to seek refuge from the tragedies and traumas both near and far that are sometimes bewildering.

Home is also a place where I can be myself, for better or for worse (and usually it is both). And, in the home of my dreams, at least, it is a place where I feel accepted and loved into that certain place where I know my life matters.

There are not many places like that in the world. All of us need such a place. That is why, in my yearning for home, it helps to hear again the Psalmist's affirmation that God is "our dwelling place in all generations." I pray there is home for you in this season of homeless Holy family travels, in your church, in your family and in your heart where God, most certainly, is at home.

Advent and Christmas Blessings, Rev. Bill Worley

NOTE: The closing date for the PSEC books for 2015 will be January 14, 2016. The PSEC Conference office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25 and Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1. The Conference Minister will be on call during the this time for pastoral emergencies.

Getting to Know:

St. John's UCC

121 East Main Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



Saint John's Church is a friendly congregation located in the heart of Schuylkill Haven. Founded in the German Reformed tradition in 1862, we have enjoyed a rich history of service to our community and the wider church, including five Sons of the Congregation. Our accessible, landmark building is located at the corner of East Main & Dock Streets, anchoring one end of the business district.

Our daily life as a congregation is focused on the five points of our mission statement, which proclaims that "As the body of Christ, we..."

WORSHIP GOD – In addition to our 9AM Sunday service, we offer mid-week Lenten services and other special services throughout the year. Saint John's also enjoys choral & handbell choirs for all ages & abilities.

LOVE OTHERS – This year, we formed a partnership with Schuylkill Women In Crisis to provide articles for their shelter program. We also support the local food pantry, Salvation Army, Bethany Home, and other service organizations. We recently shipped several boxes of items to the Philippines to aid in the relief efforts there. Saint John's also offers a prayer chain through which we pray for anyone in need.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – We believe it is important to be the body of Christ in our local community. In addition to our website, Facebook page, and prominent downtown location, several of our members have leadership roles within the local community. We recently began a monthly men's ministry group.

WELCOME ALL – Saint John's is known as a friendly congregation. Our greeters take pride in welcoming members and visitors alike. We sponsor various events during the year such as Blessing of the Animals to connect more closely to our community.

LEARN TO FOLLOW JESUS – We are committed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn about their faith including Sunday School classes every Sunday at 10:15am, a Wednesday morning Bible Study series, and youth & adult Confirmation programs.

Under the leadership of our pastor, Rev. Janet E. Lewis, we strive to be the body of Christ in Schuylkill Haven. Our commitment to the community includes serving as a host site for Borough Day, an annual event which draws thousands of people to the downtown area. Learn more at stjohnsreformed.com or on Facebook.



Prayers are requested for St. John's UCC in Schuylkill Haven and Rev. Janet E. Lewis

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 20

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Fourth Sunday of Advent - Children's Christmas Program

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:39 – 45)

Monday, December 21

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

Tuesday, December 22

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:46 – 55)

7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting

7:00pm Girl Scouts Senior/Ambassador Troop 72134

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 23

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Psalm 89:1 – 4, 19 – 26)

6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 24

11:00am Luminary Placement

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 2:1 – 14)

7:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Merry Christmas

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (John 1: 1 – 14)

Saturday, December 26

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Sunday, December 27

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Combined Sunday Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

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 –Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Closed Friday

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmschwenkfelderchurchadmin@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: Jean Ross

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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