

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

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You send forth your Spirit, yet we ignore your counsel. Christ dwells among us, yet we fail to obey him. We sing of peace on earth, yet hostility continues. Angels herald good tidings, yet we commit evil deeds. Forgive our deliberate and indirect misuse of your graciousness, and make us worthy to receive Christ in our lives. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Prelude

“Lift Up Your Heads”

Lani Smith

*Call to Worship

Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;
Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.

We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

God looks with favor on the humble and lonely.

God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.

God strengthens those who are weak.

The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.

Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.

Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

Hymn #152

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Advent Lighting

Advent is a time to praise.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

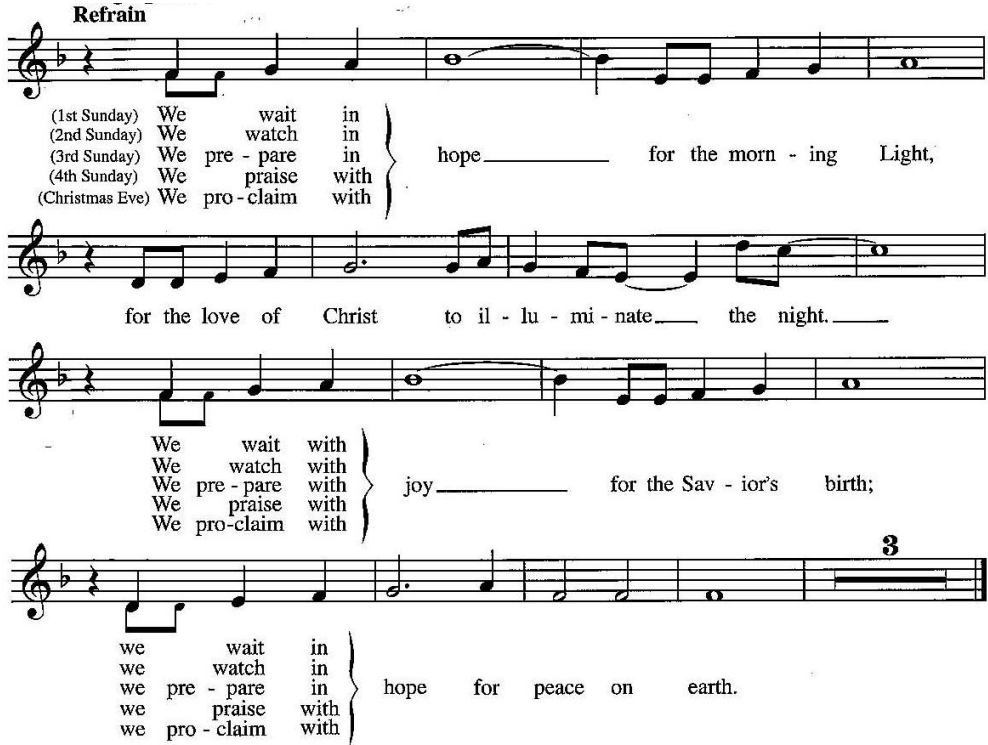
During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's future promises.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

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.

3

Junior Bell Choir

“Joy to the World”

Scripture Luke 1:26 – 38 (NRSV p. 831; LP p. 1598 – 1599)

Children's Christmas Program

“The Reason for the Season”

“The Christmas Story”

*Hymn #146

“Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”
Verses 1,2,4 to finish kids' program

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; let all their
 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room,
 songs em-ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow
 na-tions prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness,

and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
 (1.) and heaven and na-ture sing,

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.
 heaven and na-ture sing,

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.

Presentation of the God and Life Award to Whitney Leh

Prayer of the Congregation

Lord, your Son has called all of us into the adventures of learning and serving. Today we celebrate one who has answered that call in a special way. We thank you for Whitney and for this moment of joyous celebration. Continue to challenge all of us to grow in Christian service, that your kingdom may become a reality in and through our lives. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" Johann Christoph Bach

***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**

Source of life and Bringer of light to the nations, you provide for all our needs. We bring our gifts in response to your goodness. We thank you for sending Christ into our midst. Use what we offer, to enlighten all people to the truth of his salvation, and bless all our endeavors as we seek faithfully in Christ's name to do your will. Amen.

***Hymn #168** "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

***Benediction**

Postlude "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" Stephen Weber

*All who are able, please stand.

Today's bulletins are sponsored in memory of loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Brian Shelly.

Children's Christmas Program

I spy with my little eye a tree, a star, an angel, a card, a candy cane, a bell, a present, a stocking, and a candle! See if you can find the family's Christmas items in their living room. Palm Youth will present two great programs today!

“The Reason for the Season” written by Angela and Jessica Simmons is a play about Christmas decorations that find out Jesus is at the center of Christmas.

The cast in order of appearance:

Nicholas Pence as Tree
Selia Werth as Star
Margo May as Angel
Brent Master as Card
Jonas Kinsler as Candy Cane
Hans Muse as Bell
Bridgette Wright as Present
Owen Hoffman as Stocking
Sabine Muse as Candle
Andrew Pence as Dad
Tatum Korn as Mom
Lily Hoffman as Girl
Ethan Raab as Boy

“The Christmas Story” written by Leanne Guenther with adaptations by Jerry Lynn Maldet. Watch the stable fill with life as our young narrators read “The Christmas Story.”

Narrators:

Shane Raab
Tatum Korn
Andrew Pence
Josie Kinsler
Reid Hoffman

Nativity characters in order of appearance:

Animals: Parker Morasco, Miya Yoder
Joseph: Ethan Raab
Mary: Lily Hoffman
Angels: Aniya Mims, Johanna Kinsler
Inn Keeper: Reid Hoffman
Shepherds: LJ Morasco, Hunter Korn, Michael Kennedy
Wise Men: Shaelyn Korn, Jovia Kinsler, Anja Muse

Piano Music:

Kate Pence
Brent Master
Andrew Pence
Selia Werth

A Special Thank You!

Thank you to all the youth for performing or helping with today's program. Thank you to the Confirmation class, Mentors, and everyone who provided refreshments. Thank you to the parents, Sunday school teachers, Board of Christian Education, Peg Jacob, and Lisa Stitt for all of your help and support.

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:**

Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Bob Jones, Rick Jones, Walt Master, 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 Buriemek, 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

Q. Other than their first name, what do Davey Crockett and King David have in common? The answer is the basis for this week's online Bible Study. For the answer, please contact Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

After Worship Today

Children 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 pick up.

Refreshments and Hoagie Sale

The Congregation is invited to join us in the adult Sunday school classroom after worship for refreshments provided by the Confirmation class in honor of the children performing in the program. Buy a hoagie for lunch! The youth will be selling turkey and Italian hoagies today.

Snow Tubing

Join us on Friday, January 30th from 6:00 – 9:00pm at Bear Creek Mountain for a fun night of snow tubing. Palm youth 18 and under are free and adults are \$24 each. Some chaperones will be needed. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, January 18th.

Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid January 6th meeting time has changed to 12 noon. This will be the lunch and Epiphany Party. Please meet us in the fellowship hall and bring a covered dish to share. Instead of a gift exchange, a monetary collection will be taken for Open Link. The monthly business meeting will be held after lunch.

Quilting

The Ladies' Aid will not be quilting this coming Tuesday, December 23rd, or next Tuesday, December 30th. They will return for quilting on Tuesday, January 6th, 2015.

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.

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.

Christmas Fund

Today 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 also that time, too. 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.

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.

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 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 21, 2014



*Merry Christmas from the
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Staff*

*In the spirit of the One Born in Bethlehem,
we wish for you,
the PSEC congregations and communities of gospel faith,
your friends and family,
the very best of God's blessing in this Christmas Season
and in the New Year that is to come.*

May Peace, Hope, Joy and Love surround you now and always.

Donna, Diane, Wanda, Tammie, Sharon, Marge and Bill.

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 the PSEC books for 2014 will be Jan. 16, 2015.

UCC Continuing Education Grant Awarded to Janeen R. Adil



Janeen R. Adil of Robeson Twp. has been awarded a Continuing Education grant by the Richard and Helen Brown Endowment Fund of the United Church of Christ. Adil, a Commissioned Minister in Christian Spirituality, serves both the wider church and her congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro. This \$2000 maximum-grant award will be applied towards her training as a spiritual director, though Kairos:School of Spiritual Foundation, Lancaster. Congratulations Janeen!



UCC Disaster Ministries: Hagupit Update

Zach Wolgemuth, Executive, UCC Disaster Ministries

By now you are likely aware of the major typhoon that made landfall, in the Philippines, the first weekend in December. The typhoon has impacted many of the same communities that suffered at the hands of super typhoon Haiyan approximately 13 months ago. UCC Disaster Ministries has been responding, in a significant way, in the Philippines for over a year now. I am slated to make a trip to the affected region in January to assess our ongoing work and to assess needs from this latest disaster. While we are not issuing a specific appeal for this response we are



responding to the current emergency needs and expect to engage in long-term recovery and livelihood restoration efforts in the coming months. We have already provided \$20,000 to trusted partners who are involved in providing emergency relief.

In order to have the capacity to provide ongoing support and to help restore livelihoods we are strongly encouraging individuals and congregations to support the International Emergency Relief fund https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df_id=1234&1234.donation=form1.

We also request your continued prayers for survivors and the families that have suffered great loss at the hands of these two major typhoons.

For additional information and continued updates about UCC Disaster Ministries response to typhoon Hagupit visit ucc.org/disaster/.



Prayers are requested for Christian Network Outreach Church, UCC in Norristown and Rev. Bruce L. Allen.

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

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)

Monday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 23

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Psalm 89:1 – 4, 19 – 26)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24

- 11:00am Luminaries Place
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 2:1 – 14)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts Board of Review
- 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

- 8:00am Church Office Closed
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (John 1:1 – 14)

Friday, December 26

- 8:00am Church Office Closed
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Saturday, December 27

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Sunday, December 28

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Sunday Worship Service (Rev. David Luz Guest Pastor)
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

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

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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