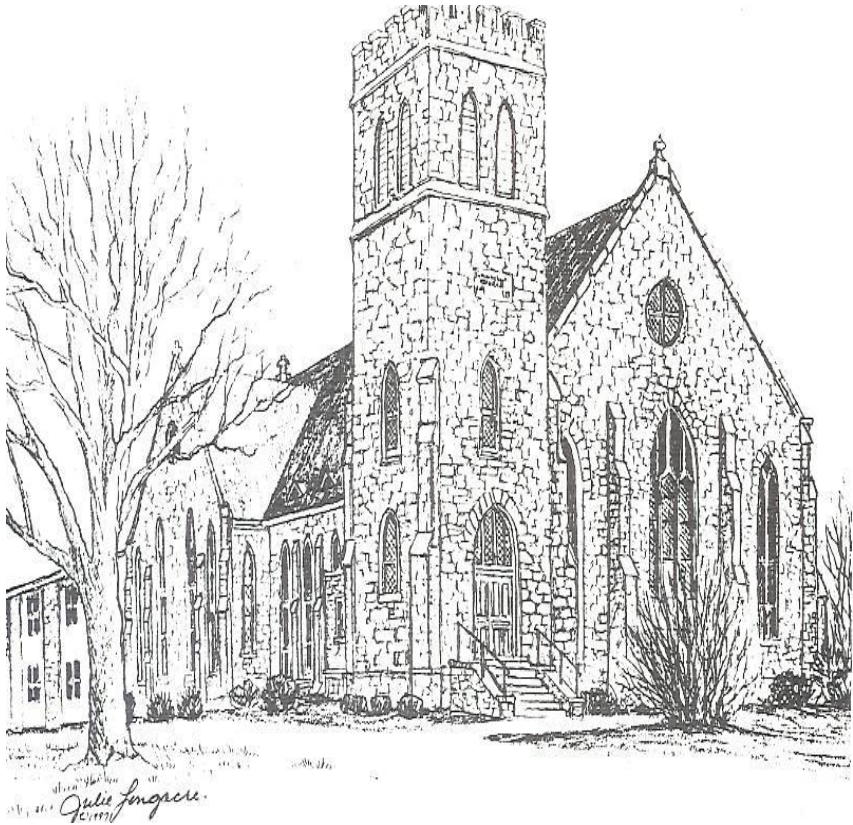


PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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

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PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who led Joseph like a flock!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Let us worship God!

Junior Bells

“Away In a Manger”

Douglas E. Wagner

Advent Candle Lighting

(Tune: Joyful, joyful we adore thee)

Come, Our Joy, this Advent season

Fill our hearts with saving grace.

Let your light and love surround us

As we lift our songs of praise.

From the glow of one small candle

May a flame in all inspire.

Gifts of Joy from God Eternal

Lighted by the Spirit's fire.

**O Holy One, as Christmas draws near,
there is a sense of excitement in the air.**

**We can feel a joy in our lives
and see it in those around us.**

**Still, for some of us this is a sad time
because of unhappy things
that have happened in our lives.**

**Help us to have the joy
that does not depend on earthly happiness
but on you.**

**Help us to be filled with your joy
so that we may share it with a joyless world.**

Amen.

After the worship service the children will be dismissed to their Sunday school classrooms. When they are finished, the teachers will bring the children to the Adult Bible Classroom to meet up with their parents for refreshments.

Virtual Nativity

Written By: Vicky Best

Donation Made to: Tearfund, Children at Risk

Please join the youth for fellowship in the Adult Bible Classroom after worship. There will be light refreshments for everyone, in honor of the children performing today.

The youth hope you enjoy today's program as they take the familiar Christmas story and give it a new perspective. You will see that technology is a little more advanced than you may have thought.

Opening Song: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, Kate Pence piano

Scene 1: King Herod's Royal Palace

Song: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, Kate Pence piano

Scene 2: King Herod's Royal Palace

1st Video clip with Angel Gabriel and Zechariah

2nd Video clip with Elizabeth and Mary

Scene 3: Three Wisemen in Judea at the Cybercafe

Song: *We Three Kings*, Andrew Pence piano

Scene 4: Herod's Royal Palace

Scene 5: Shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem

Song: *The First Noel*, Nicholas Pence guitar

Scene 6: Stable in Bethlehem

Song: *Away in a Manger*, Brent Master piano

Rainbow Bells: *Joy to the World*

Thank you to our cast and stage crew who had a lot of fun putting the play together.

Virtual Nativity Cast:

Narrators: Selia Werth, Margo May, Tatum Korn

Scribe: Kate Pence

Herod: Hans Muse

Angel Gabriel: Sabine Muse

Little Angel: Lily Hoffman

Zechariah: Reid Hoffman

Joseph: Shane Raab

Mary: Tatum Korn

Elizabeth: Josie Kinsler

Adobe (Wiseman 1): Bridgette Wright

Dotcom (Wiseman 2): Owen Hoffman

Javascript (Wiseman 3): Nicholas Pence

1st Shepherd: Andrew Pence

2nd Shepherd: Brent Master

Herod's Soldiers: Andy Kriebel & Jonas Kinsler

Sheep: Shaelyn Korn, Hunter Korn, Jovia Kinsler, Johanna Kinsler

Children bringing gifts: Anja Muse, Ethan Raab, LJ Morasco, Aniya Mims

Michael Kennedy, Parker Morasco

Stage Crew, Lighting and Props: 7th grade & Up Sunday school class

Costumes: Sunday school teachers

Thank you to all the adults who helped in the many various ways to make this program a success and fun for the children. Thank you!!!

Senior Bells

“Advent Hope”

Derek K. Hakes

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.**

Sharing of Oranges

Call to Offering

Offertory

***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**

**The stage is set for the presentation of your gift of life, O
Christ, and we are part of the company of players. As the
curtain is about to rise, we prepare ourselves for our roles.
We commit what we have to the drama that changes lives.
Help us to step onto the stage with anticipation and boldness.
May we know the script so well we shall not falter as we share
your gift, and ours. Amen.**

***Hymn #146**

“Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”

***Benediction**

Postlude

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in honor of John and Lisa Stitt's 25th wedding anniversary.

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:

Shiogama Higashi Church, Sendai Hosanna Church, Jeff Treichler, Florence Miller, Vern Weller, the Nees family, Dick Guldin, Marty Glowacki, Vera Boykin, Charles Krauss, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Barbara & John Kirwin, Karen Freed, Clark Schultz, Brad Hoffman, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Harold Smoll, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, John Hathaway, Bryan Schwoyer, 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

Did Israel expect their King to save them or deliver them? Which do we expect? To join the discussion in this week's online Bible Study, please contact Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

Holiday Sunday School

Hockey is back! Come and enjoy our Intergenerational Sunday School on December 29th at 9:00 AM! Play is easy. Scoring is a bit harder. Formatted like ice hockey, the event is a little like a quiz on Seasonal and Bible topics. Teams are encouraged to discuss their answers. The resulting fun and conversation is our real goal. Allowing discussion also invites generations within a single family to take part together. Those who played in earlier years will have a slight advantage, because we are too lazy to write lots of new questions.

Keep Catching those Kids being Kind!

Members of the Congregation are invited to catch kids being kind. When you see a child carrying out an act of kindness, let them know you caught them and tell them to make a punch on their *Acts of Kindness Incentive Punch Card!* The acts are limitless! Once their card is complete, the card will be entered into a drawing and they will start a new one. Several children are already on their second punch card and a few children are on their third card. Great job!

Many Thanks.....

To the Congregation for buying chocolate covered pretzels at the Holiday Bazaar from the youth, and thanks in advance for supporting the youth hoagie fundraiser today after the children's Christmas program.....

to the youth for volunteering at the various tables and for helping with the many tasks at the Holiday Bazaar.....

To the *many* volunteers who helped make the Children's Christmas program a success.

All of you are a blessing!

Nursery

Sadly, Sallie Wright has indicated her intent to resign from the Nursery. Sallie has been the happy, familiar face that the children of Palm Schwenkfelder Church have seen for years now, and we thank Sallie for her years of dedication to our children. If you are interested in caring for the children on Sundays in the Nursery, please contact Joan Pusey (215) 679 – 2048, or see her in church.

Used Greeting Cards

The 5th & 6th grade Sunday School class needs your help. They are looking for old/used greeting cards. They will use the pictures on the cards to help create a special book of Bible verses. Please drop off your used/unwanted cards in the designated box located in the Narthex coat closet. Thank you in advance for your help with this special project!

Check Out Our Updated Church Website

Have you looked recently at www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com? You will find it has changed and includes a lot of new helpful features. Our home page is an invitation to “Get Started,” “Get Connected,” and to “Get Involved.” You will also find our “Upcoming Events,” “News” and “Recent Facebook Posts” on the home page. Send your friends and family to our webpage!

Altar Flower Sponsorship Announcement from the Deacons

Due to rising costs, the donation amount for Sunday altar flowers will be \$50. The new price is effective beginning January 5, 2014. Your participation in sponsoring flowers defrays the cost to the church and brightens our sanctuary with beautiful flowers each Sunday. Sponsorship of bulletins remains at \$15 per week.

Please sign up for the date(s) of your choice on the new charts posted in the hallway by the church office. Make checks payable to “Palm Schwenkfelder Church,” with the notation of “flowers” or “bulletins,” and place in the office lock box or offering plate prior to or on the date of your sponsorship.

Thanks for your support!

Ladies’ Aid Epiphany Party

The Ladies’ Aid Epiphany Party is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2014. We will begin at 12:00 noon with a covered dish lunch and a monetary gift collection for Open Link. The luncheon will be followed by our monthly business meeting.

Palm Leaves

Due to some publication difficulties, the December Palm Leaves was sent out late. For that reason, several additional copies have been made and can be picked up here at church. These copies are located in the narthex. Thank you for your understanding.

Senior Hand Bell Choir

Do you enjoy music? Please consider joining the senior hand bell choir as we need a couple more ringers. We will be glad to teach you. Musical experience is not necessary. If you have questions please feel free to contact Joanne Luz at 215-679-8237 or just show up for our next regularly scheduled practice on Wednesday, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.



Mark your calendars! Join us to see the World Premiere of Sight & Sound Theatres' newest show – MOSES! The parting of the Red Sea...the Burning Bush...the Plagues...the Ten Commandments...the greatest Biblical epic of the Old Testament comes to life on the Sight & Sound stage. The show is on Saturday, March 29, 2014. It starts at 2:45pm (bus leaves Palm Schwenkfelder Church at 12 noon). The price includes Perkiomen Tours bus transportation, show ticket, and dinner at Shady Maple Restaurant. The cost is \$130 for adults, \$92 for children (18 and under). Flyer and registration forms now available in the church Narthex. Questions – contact Karen Schultz at 215-679-6747 or karen.schultz12@yahoo.com (This may be the perfect Christmas gift – spending the day with your loved ones)

New Schwenkfelder Booklets

The Publication Committee of The Schwenkfelder Church is pleased to announce that the new *Schwenkfelder Heritage Sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania* booklets will be available for sale. The 70-page booklet contains historical and current information, locations and full-color photographs of Schwenkfelder churches, meetinghouses, cemeteries of the immigrants, and other places of interest. You will find a copy on display in the Narthex. There are maps of the three main Schwenkfelder districts, and smaller maps of selected sites. Two appendices list the immigrants, their “E” numbers, and places of burial. The booklets cost \$15.00 per copy. Please make checks out to “The Schwenkfelder Church.” We’d like to thank the many people who assisted the Committee, in providing photographs, history and information to make this booklet possible. The booklets may be purchased in the church office or by contacting the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center (shipping \$3.95 additional.)

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 22, 2013

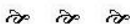
News from our Ministerial Partners

Read more in PSEC Newsroom: psec.org

Meet-and-Greet Kevin Snyder, new Chief Executive Officer, Bethany Children's Home on Jan 14, 2014 from 4 to 6 pm in the upstairs dining room of the Bethany Administration Building. RSVP to Crystal Henning at chenning@bethanyhome.org or 610-589-4501 by Tuesday, Jan 7, 2014.

Carol Howard Merritt joins the Center for Progressive Renewal Team as a consultant Rev. Merritt will be available to work with pastors in one-on-one coaching relationships as well as work with congregations around issues of decline, re-imagining and renewal.

Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia Over the past 8 years of running Walking the Walk, the Interfaith Center has developed a cutting edge and flexible curriculum for interfaith youth dialogue and service learning. They train their program facilitators in this curriculum and have shared it with others across the country for their own adaptation and use. The curriculum includes clear learning goals, accommodates diverse learning styles, and every aspect has been field-tested to create a truly transformative educational model.



UCC Retired Pastor Donates More Than 3000 Christmas Books to Underprivileged Children

Thanks to the generosity of the Rev. Steven Burt, a retired UCC pastor in The Villages, Fla., 3,160 underprivileged children will receive an autographed book of their very own this holiday season. Known as New England's Christmas Story Pastor for his frequent readings of holiday stories in churches, retirement communities, and on the radio, it's only fitting that Burt should spread joy through his inspirational holiday stories with those who need it most.... Burt donated 3,000 copies of his book, *A Christmas Dozen: Christmas Stories to Warm the Heart*, to the United Way of Marion County's Pajamas and Books for Bedtime initiative, which serves the 5,200 children in central Florida who are homeless, live in transitional housing, or come from low-income families. Each child is given a book and a pair of new pajamas, which are seen as items that provide comfort, Burt said. To read more of this article by Emily Schappacher, visit the PSEC Newsroom at psec.org.



NOTICE TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

The PSEC Administrative offices will be closed for the Christmas holidays Dec 24, 2013 through Jan 1, 2014.

Getting to Know :

St. Luke's UCC
147 S. Main St., Dublin, PA 18917



If you are looking for a church family, the members of St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Dublin, PA welcome you. Organized in 1869 for the purpose of providing a place of worship for members of the Reformed Church living in the Upper Bucks County area of Dublin, we are a growing congregation committed to serving God through fellowship and participating in community and world outreach projects.

The church service is held at 10:30 am each Sunday morning in the upstairs sanctuary. A chair glide is available for folks not able to use the stairs. Services are traditional, with the summer service being a little more casual and held in the fellowship room. We have an active music program. The vocal choir sings each service. The bell choir plays throughout the year.

Members of the congregation give generously of their time and resources to many projects during the year. We put together hygiene kits to send to Church World Service. Loose change is collected for the Helping Hand Fund, which is donated to local charitable agencies. We give non-perishable food items to the local food pantry throughout the year. We participate in the American Cancer Society Daffodil Day and the Pennridge Crop Walk. Gift cards to local stores are purchased as Christmas gifts for the young people at Bethany Home. A dedicated group of members make delicious chocolate candy during the year to sell at various venues. Crafty ladies of the church stitch or sew items to sell with the candy. A new endeavor of our knitters and crocheters is making prayer shawls that are given to those in need of encouragement. Most of the members have a hand in our two flea markets and bake sales held on two days in the spring and fall.

Whatever needs doing, our members are there with a smile, hug or encouraging words to strengthen each other in our journey through life and to celebrate God's goodness in our lives. To learn more, visit our website: stlukesuccdublinpa.org.



Prayers are requested for St. Luke's UCC, Dublin
and Rev. Mary L. Capron.

Our Schedule: December 22 Through December 29, 2013

Sunday, December 22, 2013

9:00 a.m.: Sunday School

9:00 a.m.: Kids' Christmas Program Rehearsal

10:15 a.m.: Kids' Christmas Program

Hoagie Sale and Refreshments Following Kids' Christmas Program

Monday, December 23, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Church Office Open

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Church Office Open

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

Merry Christmas!

Thursday, December 26, 2013

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 27, 2013

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 28, 2013

Sunday, December 29, 2013

9:00 a.m.: Combined Sunday School

10:15 a.m.: Sunday Worship Service

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.

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 Luz

Organist: Peg Jacob

Church Administrator: J. Daniel Ferry

Youth Director: Barbara Master

Sexton: Kevin Master (484) 358-1684

Greeter: Luanne Stauffer

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610-845-7208

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