

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

CHRISTMAS DAY

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Anna Laura Page

Prayer

Call to Worship

The grace of God has appeared among us.

A child has been born, bringing God’s salvation.

We have seen anew the light of God’s love.

How splendid is God’s gift to us.

Sing to our God a joyous new song.

Sing to God, all nations of the earth.

Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

Ascribe to God the glory that is due.

Let the heavens be glad as the earth rejoices.

Glory to God in the highest heaven.

The child of Bethlehem will help us know God.

We gather to contemplate what God has done.

***Hymn #169**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of light, we are frightened by what you might expect of us if we get too close to the manger. Many enticements draw our attention away from this holy place. Our worldly passions have led us into comfortable ruts. We admit that some are mere time-killers but others seem to have real value to us. What more can a baby offer us? Of what use is a Messiah who ends up on a cross?

O God, teach us what salvation is all about. Heal the emptiness that gives rise to our misplaced loyalties and distorted dreams. We want to be whole people, experiencing wholesome relationships, giving ourselves to worthy causes. Amen.

***Hymn #160**

“O Holy Night”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Joy to the World”

Matthew Carl

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins today are sponsored by Joan Pusey.

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:

Katherine Kocs, Connie Marks, Michael Marsicano, Jean Gabel, Willard Long, Samantha Hossler and Ryan Woods, Edmund Kuhns, Lucile and Bob Jones, Sheryl Tomlin, John Detweiler, Carmen Davis, Mae Gerhart, Brandon Komark, Rev. Bill Vanderslice, Alvera Heffner, Dorothy Parker, Sharon Stevens, Jack Bold, Marian Fox, Goldie Graber, Kylene Bertoia Hart, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Martha Wolford, Becky and Craig Kimmel, Marvin Zeisloft, Devon Hawkins, Kerm Goda, Vern Weller, Bryan Schwoyer, Donna Weller, Donald Long, Mary Hartman, Jen Fries, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Dave Jaeger, 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 resume on Jan. 1, raising issues in 1 Samuel 31 that are frequently encountered on-the-street. Take part in the discussion by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

H.E.R.O.

Helpful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Optimistic!

When you recognize heroic behavior among our youth, please let them know.

Acts 20:35 and Luke 19:10, check them out!

Holy Bible App by YouVersion

Teens - check out one of these current plans: Chasing Failure, How to Strengthen your Faith, or Fighting FOMO (it's what happens when everyone else's great day stops us from enjoying our own)

Kids - (and parents can help) check out one of these current plans: Courageous Kids, Next Steps for Kids, Truth or Trash.

Bible for Kids by YouVersion

Type in "Bible for kids free" to begin your kid's journey with Christ. New format, same great stories! Great for kids who aren't reading independently. Interactive fun for all ages.

December Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

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

Migrant Hospitality Project

Thank you to all who have supported MHP throughout the year. Financial support and donated time and furnishing have us ready to serve a household of up to four legal, Christian exiles fleeing persecution from anywhere in the world. Cash donations are still appreciated, in anticipation of moving costs and final items that depend on demographics of the actual clients. Please mark your donations "Migrants."

Installation of Officers

On Sunday, January 8, 2017, during the worship service, we will have the installation of all new officers. Please greet and congratulate the new officers at the reception in the Adult Sunday School Classroom after the installation.

Ladies' Aid

The date of the Ladies' Aid meeting for January has been changed from Tuesday the 3rd to Tuesday the 10th.

Open to All Epiphany Party Covered Dish Lunch

Date change: The Ladies' Aid Epiphany Party will be held on **January 10, 2017** at 12:00 noon beginning with a covered dish luncheon. Along with a variety of many delicious foods, we will be collecting monetary donations for Open Link and featuring a guest speaker from Philly Cure HD. Philly Cure HD is a local charitable organization that works to raise funds and awareness in supporting individuals and families affected by Huntington's disease. This special event is open to all so please make plans to join us! It will be a fun and informative afternoon! (And don't forget to bring something yummy to share) The monthly Ladies' Aid business meeting will follow the guest speaker.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, January 10th to take down the holiday stage. Please consider coming out to help with this important and labor intensive task. If you are able to help, please come to the church by 6:00pm that evening.

Annual Report Submissions

And yes, it's that time, too. Annual reports from all Church committees are due in the office no later than **Tuesday, January 10, 2017**. If possible, please e-mail your report to the church office; palmadministrator@comcast.net Any questions should be directed to our Moderator, Joanne Luz.

Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorship

The **new charts for 2017** are now available and are posted outside the office. The cost for flower sponsorship is \$50. The cost for bulletin sponsorship is \$15. Please sign up on the chart located outside the office. You could also call or email the office, or drop a note in the office drop box. Any Deacon or Church Officer will help you with any questions about the process. Getting your name in an available slot will hold the date for you. Thank You.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for all the cards, phone calls and visits. I sincerely appreciate it.

Grace Beard

New Kitchen Floor

Starting January 7th and running through to the end of the month, we will be installing a new tile floor in the kitchen. Because of this work, the kitchen will be unavailable and no functions or events will be held in Fellowship Hall until the work has been completed.

February 5th – Souper Bowl Sunday

The Ladies' Aid will be selling soup after the worship service on Sunday, February 5, 2017. So whether you're a football fan or not, please plan on purchasing some delicious soup for lunch!

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.

Do You Know?

We are starting a new feature in our bulletins entitled "Do You Know?" Items of interest to members and visitors will be listed. If you have any items to add, please call or email Dan Ferry in the church office. Thank you.

Do You Know?

- LARGE PRINT bulletins are available from an usher. LARGE PRINT Bibles are also available for use during worship services, located on the table to the left between the front and back sections of pews.
- Listening devices are available for those who would like them. Please see an usher to assist you.
- A fully accessible restroom is located in the hallway, across from the office. A baby changing table is there, also.
- There are greeting cards on the podium as you enter the sanctuary. Anyone is invited to sign – you don't need to be a member of the congregation to add your name to the well wishes.
- Collections on the Christmas mitten tree for Open Link include winter hats, scarves, and gloves for all ages. Items will be distributed after Christmas.

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464

484-949-8774

December 25, 2016

Merry Christmas!

It is Christmas Day! Merry Christmas! Perhaps you are enjoying a wonderful celebration. Perhaps it is everything you planned. I certainly hope so.

But if you are far from home or feel distant from those who are very near, if there is more tension than cheer in the air, if you are exhausted, or feel a let-down, or if your life is such that it feels like an *unlikely* place for Jesus to show up—pay particular attention. Because Jesus is always showing up in unlikely places, including perhaps the most unlikely place of all—our own lives.

The news of Jesus' birth is announced not in a palace or a temple, not where things are bright and beautiful, not to good people, or to whoever might be considered the right people. Shepherds, rather unclean and smelly people, were the first to get the news; and the first to share it. As surprising as this would have been at the time, in retrospect it seems entirely fitting because Jesus is forever showing up in the most unlikely places and associating with the most surprising people.

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night... The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord."

It's the only announcement that ever changed the world. I hope it's the one that will change yours -- if it has not already.

Merry Christmas,
Bill

-William P. Worley, Conference Minister



IMPORTANT NOTE !! Treasurer Training is taking place Jan. 14th, not Jan. 21st ! Please refer to the PSEC website—psec.org.

Getting to Know :

St. John's UCC

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961



Traditional Worship for Contemporary Souls” is the centering statement describing St. John’s UCC to all those seeking a church home. In our 1907 Akron-style sanctuary with pipe organ and choir, we worship the living God with enthusiasm and then go out into the world prepared to serve in Christ’s name. Worship is sometimes a quiet and

meditative time away from the daily grind. Other times, worship is lively as the movement of the Spirit energizes and encourages us.

Our building houses the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. We receive assistance from a wide range of local churches, businesses, farmers and non-profit organizations, so that once a month boxes of food staples are distributed to over 125 southern Schuylkill County residents. Our Health Ministry led by Commissioned Minister Kay Jones, offers a variety of activities, blood drives, healthy habits workshops to the church and wider community. We care for others and ourselves, body and soul!

We are a multi-generational church honoring our faithful elders and nurturing our eager children, encouraging our youth away at college or in the military, making room at the table for singles, widows and the divorced, and offering a variety of service opportunities for all ages. Our music program includes a variety of guest musicians and vocalists, along with our faithful choir. Our church is 185 years old....but our thinking is now! To learn more, visit our website:stjohnorwigsburg.org .



Original St. John's church



Prayers are requested for the members and leaders of St. John's UCC , Orwigsburg.

Women's Community Communion Service

Saturday, January 28, 2017

10:00 a.m.

at New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ
1070 Church Road, East Greenville, PA 18041

**** Please note the new date and time ****

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED.

SAVE THE DATE – MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



A light luncheon will be held
in the Fellowship Hall
following the service.

Please join us!

~ Socks are the #1 requested item of clothing by the homeless shelters.

Please can you contribute some heavy men's and
women's socks (no child sizes) for those in need?

Collection will be taken to the Lehigh Valley Shelters. Thank you! ~



This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 25

10:15am [Sunday Worship Service](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are \(Isaiah 9:2-7\)](#)

Monday, December 26

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Tuesday, December 27

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

7:00pm [Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting](#)

Wednesday, December 28

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Thursday, December 29

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Friday, December 30

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Saturday, December 31

12:00pm [Hoffman Family Reunion](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Sunday, January 1, 2017

9:00am [Sunday School](#)

10:15am [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 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

Director of Music: Ed Bieler

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: Joan Pusey

Ushers: Gregg Hoffman, Tom Long, Scott Kriebel, Matt Wright

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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