

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2014

Welcome – Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

**All the shining stars praise you, O God, for you commanded
and they were created.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, young men and women alike, old and young
together!

**Let everyone praise the name of the Lord, for your glory is
above earth and heaven.**

Let us worship God!

***Carol #174** “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of compassion, have mercy upon us as we make our
confession. We so often think of ourselves before
others; serving our own needs first. We so often keep for
ourselves the gifts of your graciousness. We so often keep for
ourselves the new life you offer to all people. Forgive us our sins
today and make us your more faithful servants in the year ahead.
Help us to use our time wisely as we follow Christ’s way. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm #148 (Responsive Reading – NRSV p. 508; LP p. 984 – 985)

Carol #162 “The First Noel, the Angel Did Say”

Scripture Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 (NRSV p. 604; LP p. 1162 – 1163)

Children’s Message

Children’s Church No Children’s Church Today

Scripture Luke 2:22 – 40 (NRSV p. 833; LP p. 1602 – 1603)
Galatians 4:4 – 7 (NRSV p. 947; LP p. 1824)

***Carol #147** “Away in a Manger”

Carol #155

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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.**

Offertory

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Eternal God of redemption, you bless your creation and it
springs forth with beauty. We bring you now the fruits of our
labors. Bless the work of our hands, so that what we do reflects
the radiance of your love. Amen.**

***Carol #157**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

***Benediction**

*All who are able, please stand.

Today’s bulletins are sponsored in honor of Sunday School teachers.

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 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 is examining the Biblical, rather than theatrical, version of the David vs. Goliath battle in 1 Samuel 17. To join 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!

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. 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!

Thank You

Thank you for supporting the youth last week at the Children’s Christmas Program and at the Hoagie Sale. ☺

Thank You

The congregation of Palm Schwenkfelder Church would like to thank Rev. David Luz for leading us in worship today and Joe Sobjak for supplying on the organ music.

“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

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.

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 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 28, 2014

Message from Rev. Wanda D. Craner, PSEC Minister of Spiritual Nurture

This morning as I was sitting drinking my cup of coffee in the quiet, and in view of our white lighted Christmas tree, memories of this time last year flooded my soul. One memory in particular kept arising. I had arranged for my Mom and Dad to come with us to see the Christmas display at Longwood Gardens. At that time, Mom was having a challenge walking, so I rented a wheel chair, and we were off to a garden of beauty and wonderland of lighted trees and shrubs. As we wound our way through the crowds, and I ran over a few heels while guiding the wheelchair, repeatedly saying, "I'm so sorry, this is the first time I've ever driven one of these...", Mom remained patient and calm. But what I remember most is how Mom was just spell-bound seeing the lights on the trees. She kept saying, "It's amazing how perfect the lights are strung; they are beautiful." She stared up into the branches of huge trees adorned with starry sparkles, and she was like a child filled with wonder. It was a joy to experience her delight! She seemed "to see" something beyond even what we were experiencing. At that point, we were unaware that in a little over a month, she would leave us and enter into God's eternity. I imagine her today, with the lights of stars reflecting in her eyes, as she is with all of those who have moved beyond this world into the fullness of God's loving arms.

In these days life often seems somewhat of a roller coaster, filled with light as well as darkness. Much of the news we hear is not good news, and yet, we have the opportunity to carry the Good News within us. The words of the Psalmist come to mind, "If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you." (Psalm 139:11-12) You see, beloved brothers and sisters, Jesus was absolutely correct when he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) He was also correct when he said, "YOU are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) May we truly be "the light of the world" to show others the way of Jesus, in a world that is desperately in need of seeing the Light!

As we travel over the holidays, and see the wonderful light displays on neighborhood lawns, in homes and churches, the lights on Christmas trees, may we be reminded that there is indeed "God with us," no matter where we are, no matter what difficulties or challenges come our way. We are not alone, and that IS the Light that shines in the darkness now, and always and forever!

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas and New Year! Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Minister of Spiritual Nurture, PSEC

Getting to Know:

Bausman Memorial UCC

1863 Bethany Road, Wolmesdorf, PA 19567



Bausman UCC in Womelsdorf is located on the campus of Bethany Children's Home. According to Bethany's History written by Rev. Ray S. Vandevere, in 1869 or 1870, Rev. Albright petitioned the Lebanon Classis of the Reformed Church for permission to organize a formal congregation in the Home. The permission was granted and on the following 21st day

of July he confirmed a class of seventeen orphans and celebrated the first Communion Service with some thirty guests. This was an event of significant importance to the deepening of the spiritual development for Bethany Children's Home. Rev. Albright very carefully indoctrinated his large family with the importance of contributing to all the benevolent projects of the church. All benevolence was made through freewill offerings of the children and employees of the Home. No funds were ever used from the Home's accounts.

Today, these traditions continue at Bethany Children's Home. The youth and staff continue to attend worship services weekly and provide monthly offerings which support OCWM. Spiritual development is an integral component to the health and well-being of our youth. At Bethany, we seek to provide our youth with opportunities to explore the meaning of God and church. We encourage our youth to participate in local youth groups and attend mission trips within the UCC Church.

Our youth are working through a lot of trauma and many times ask.... Is there really a God? And if there is, why would He allow this to happen to me? These are tough issues for our youth, but we work with them to address these issues and show that God is love. Providing our youth with a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care, we can help them develop their faith.

Today, we ask for special prayers for our youth in care during the holiday season. This is the most difficult time of the year for our youth and your prayers of guidance and support are much appreciated.

Thank you for helping Bethany and Bausman UCC provide every youth in care with a Brighter Future.



Prayers are requested for Bausman Memorial UCC
in Womelsdorf and Bethany Children's Home

NOTE: The PSEC Conference office will reopen on Mon., Jan. 5. The Conference Minister is on call for any pastoral emergencies. PSEC books for 2014 close on Jan. 16, 2015.

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



This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 28

9:00am [Sunday School](#)

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

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

Monday, December 29

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

Tuesday, December 30

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

7:00pm [Boy Scouts](#)

Wednesday, December 31

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

Thursday, January 1, 2015

Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

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

Friday, January 2, 2015

Church Office Closed

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

Saturday, January 3, 2015

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

Sunday, January 4, 2015

9:00am [Sunday School](#)

10:15am [Epiphany 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

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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