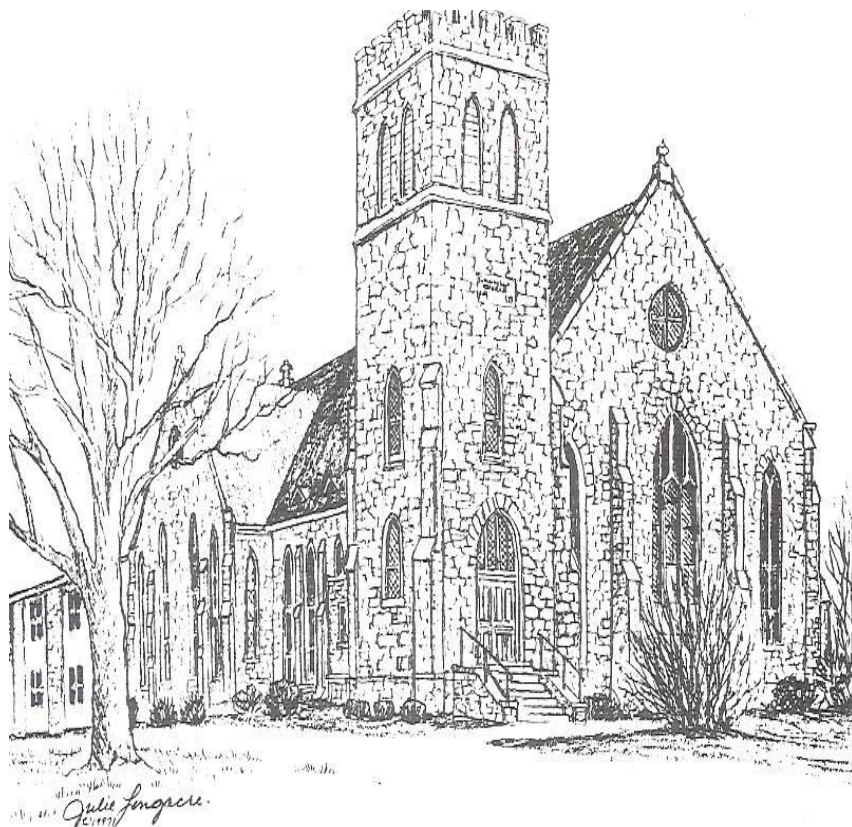


PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



833 Gravel Pike
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PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2013

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Praise God all who dwell on this earth.

Praise God in the heights and depths of life.

We will recount the deeds of God.

Surely God has shown us goodness and mercy.

Praise God, sun, moon, and stars.

Praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost.

Men and women, young and old, together.

Let us praise and honor our Creator.

Let God's name be praised and exalted.

God's glory is above heaven and earth.

By God's steadfast love, we are drawn to worship.

Our gracious savior leads us in new ways.

***Hymn #174**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, we have been so busy with things that do not satisfy!

We have tried to fill our emptiness with activities and possessions that drain our energies rather than give life meaning. We do not know how to live, and we are afraid to die. We excuse our own sin and at that same time we deplore the abuse and violence we see in others. We deny the witness of the One who shared our common lot, for we are not willing to take the risks of genuine love. O God, save us from ourselves. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture

Matthew 1: 18 – 25 (NRSV p. 783; LP p. 1506)

Matthew 2: 13 – 23 (NRSV p. 784; LP p. 1507 – 1508)

***Hymn #152**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Sermon

“What About Joseph”

Reverend Ron Krick

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

***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**

**Great Shepherd of the sheep, you feast our soul with
abundance and satisfy your people with goodness. We dine
on your mercy and are filled by your grace. Having received
your gift of Christ our Redeemer, we no longer anguish in
barrenness but are full of new life. Accept these gifts that we
bring you in response to the love you have shown us in
Christ. Amen.**

***Hymn #92**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

***Benediction**

Postlude

***All who are able, please stand.**

The bulletins are sponsored today in memory of loved ones by Alex and Joanne Jalowy and family.

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

1 Samuel 12 will be opened in this week's online Bible Study. Help us discern the lessons in this Chapter by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

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!

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.



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.)

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.

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464

484-949-8774

December 29, 2013

What is Different in Your Church Now From Three Years Ago?

An evaluation from six churches in the PSEC Revitalization Program

At the beginning of November, six PSEC congregations completed three years of revitalization work. The six churches are: St. Paul's UCC in Kutztown, Glenside UCC in Glenside, UCC East Goshen in West Chester, St. Peter's Union Church in Macungie; Trinity (Mt. Penn) UCC in Reading; and Salem UCC in Spangsville. The work over the three years included hospitality, worship, governance, diversity issues, faith-sharing, and community outreach. The churches asked that the results of their evaluation be shared with all PSEC churches in Communitas.

The evaluation consisted of two questions:

What is different in your church now, from three years ago?

- The prayer has deepened, and we have become more spiritually aware.
- The relationship among the people has improved, and we have more and better communication within the congregation as a whole.
- We are more aware of what we need to do to grow.
- We have more patience to stick with our plans for growth and change.
- Our congregation looks different. We are multi-racial, have more babies, and much more participation of lay leaders.
- Our congregation is closer to one another and is engaged in outward thinking.
- People are more in-touch with one another within the congregation.

What was the most valuable learning for your church?

- We learned what it means to be the church, rather than a social club.
- We learned that we are not about what the world values (our size), but what God values. We have hope now.
- We learned that prayer undergirds all that we do.
- Our behavioral covenant was helpful in making our congregation safe for people with diverse opinions and ideas.
- The participation of the congregation in 40 days of prayer and faith-sharing was significant.
- We learned that God is not finished with us yet. God will continue to work with us.
- We learned that evangelism is not a bad word.
- We experienced the power of prayer.

If your church has interest and/or excitement about the possibility of new growth and revitalization, please contact Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Acting Conference Minister (craner@psec.org). If five or more churches express an interest, we will organize a group to work through the revitalization process together.

Congratulations to **Morgan Bates of St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC** for being 1 of



125 musicians & color guard members nationally to be selected to fly to San Antonio, Texas to perform with the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band at the All-American Bowl on **January 4, 2014** (1 pm eastern, on NBC)! Many of you know Morgan as an active youth in the PSEC who

attended NYE 2012 and General Synod 2013. Congratulations Morgan Bates! Read more on PSEC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UCCpaSE> (Nov 25 entry). *Picture: The U.S. Army's Staff Sergeant Greg Miller, Staff Sergeant Keith Taylor, and Tony Cevoli (Lehigh ROTC program) proudly present Schuylkill Haven Area High School (Schuylkill Haven, PA) trumpet player Morgan Bates with her 2014 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band jacket, representing her official selection as a 2014 U.S. Army All-American.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

To learn more, visit psec.org/local-church-happenings
Check with event contacts for cancellation information

Jan 28 - Spirit on Tap featuring Dr. Stephen Treat, "Stress, Healing, & Forgiveness" at 7 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Goodnites Lounge, 1741 Papermill Rd., Reading, PA 19610.

Feb 25 - Robin Smith, "Life Coaching"

Mar 25 - Patrick Donmoyer, "Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Spirituality"

Apr 22 - Dr. Stephen Ohnsman, "The Cancer of Fundamentalism"

May 27 - TBD

First and Third Fridays - Elder Dinner (12 noon) at Woodcrest UCC, 8107 Thouron Avenue in Philadelphia 19150.

CLASSIFIED

To learn more, visit psec.org/classified

PT Christian Education Director - Allentown

PT Church Organist/Choir/Music Director - Pottstown

FREE E&R Hymnals - Blue Bell

PT - Sunday Nursery Attendant - Schwenksville

PT - Minister of Music - Birdsboro

PT - Minister of Music - Robesonia

FREE Communion Ware for 250 Plus - Schuylkill Haven

PT - Head Custodian - Quakertown Church School Coordinator - Chalfont

PT Director of Worship Music - Warminster

FREE Red and Blue Pilgrim Hymnals - Wayne

Organist - Pottstown

Music Ministries - Pottstown

Wanted: UCC Cufflinks (willing to pay)

PT Organist & Choir Director - Rehersburg



Prayers are requested for Hope Outreach Ministries, Philadelphia

Our Schedule: December 29, 2013 Through January 5, 2014

Sunday, December 29, 2013

9:00 a.m.: Combined Sunday School

10:15 a.m.: Sunday Worship Service with Reverend Krick

Monday, December 30, 2013

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

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

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 2, 2014

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

Friday, January 3, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Church Office Open

Saturday, January 4, 2014

Sunday, January 5, 2014

9:00 a.m.: Sunday School

10:15 a.m.: Epiphany 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: palmsadministrator@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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