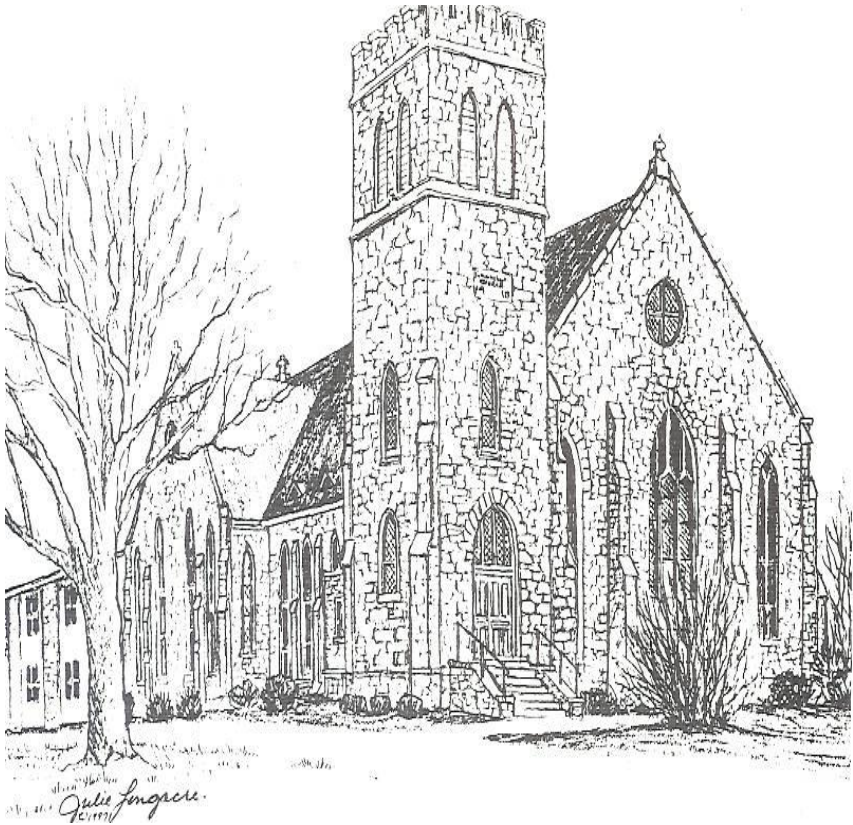


PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



833 Gravel Pike
PO Box 66
Palm PA 18070
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PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

“Lift Up Your Heads”

Lani Smith

***Call to Worship**

Come away from haste and frantic busyness.

This is the season for quiet waiting.

It is hard to still our souls when we are so busy.

It is hard to be patient with ourselves or others.

Receive God’s mercy and strengthen your hearts.

A savior is coming; God’s love is near.

We want to hear and believe God’s promises.

We want to become patient, loving seekers.

God presents us with a high and holy way.

Come before God now with praise and singing.

We sense the joy God offers us.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

***Hymn #143**

“For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

You have taught us to be patient and promised to supply our needs, O God. Yet we grow weary of waiting and restless with our wants. We blame our troubles on brothers and sisters, withholding from them the tolerance and care you have shown to us. O God, forgive our indulgence and help us to stand firm. In Christ you showed patience with the world in spite of the cross. Teach us to be patient, that in Christ we may have endurance in spite of our need. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Advent Candle Lighting

1 John 4:9 – 11 (NRSV p. 865; LP p. 1662 – 1663)

(Tune: Of the Father's Love Begotten)

***As we light this Advent Candle, may it's light by all be seen
Waiting for the gift of love to come, throughout all eternity
May our hearts be filled with Christ's love
And that Love be truly seen, evermore and evermore!***

**O God, we thank you
That Jesus showed your love for every person –
babies and children, old people and young,
sick people and those who were strong,
rich people and those who were poor.
Come to us in this Advent season,
and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.**

Scripture Luke 1:39 – 56 (NRSV p.831 – 832; LP p.1599 – 1660)

Children's Sermon

Children's Church Anjie Hoffman Owen Hoffman

***Hymn #150** "What Child Is This?"

Sermon "A Mother's Love"

Senior Choir "Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child"
Traditional Spiritual
arr. Lloyd Larson

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 "Wake, Awake" Lani Smith

***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**

We offer ourselves, O God, as messengers of peace and goodwill. Where war threatens and strife is real, we seek by grace to demonstrate your reconciling love. When hostilities persist and your people are alienated, our gift is Christ's promise of intercession and accord. May our words be combined with commitment to act, and our actions conform to your abiding desire. Amen.

***Hymn "Mary Heard the Angel's Message" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
(to the tune of Beecher)**

Mary heard the angel's message:
"Greetings, Mary, favored one!
Do not fear, for God is with you;
You will one day bear God's Son."
Filled with questions, filled with wonder,
She proclaimed her faith in God:
"May it be as you have spoken;
I'm the servant of the Lord!"

When she heard her cousin's greeting,
Mary's heart was filled with joy,
So she sang of God's great blessing
Promised in her baby boy:
"God has looked on me with favor,
So I sing this song of praise.
God has worked, the proud to scatter ...
Humble, hungry ones to raise."

Mary heard the shepherds' story,
Words she treasured with delight.
Then an angel gave the warning:
"Flee with Jesus in the night!"
Mary wondered in her anguish,
What would be the pain he'd know?
Fleeing then, she held him closely ...
One day she would let him go.

Mary heard, "Who is my mother?
Who is in my family?
All who do my Father's bidding—
All these ones belong to me."
Later, on the hill she heard him,
"Woman, see your new son there!
You, my friend, behold your mother!"
So Christ formed new bonds of care.

When they learned the Lord had risen,
Christ's disciples met to pray.
Mary was among the faithful,
Bound in love, on Jesus' Way.
God, we see her, Christ's disciple,
Loving, learning, serving, too.
Like her, may we hear and answer,
"We, your servants, live for you."

Hymn copyright © 1999 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
All rights reserved. From *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey
Gillette, Geneva Press, 2000. Contact information as well as a complete list of Gillette's hymns
can be found [online](#).

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

Diane Bish

*All who are able, please stand.

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:

The family of Bill Schultz, 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

Is multi-tasking the besetting sin of our age?! This week's online Bible Study will apply the parable in 1 Samuel 11 to say that the answer is "yes." To join the discussion, please contact Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

Children's Christmas Program

Join the children **next Sunday, December 22nd at 10:15 am** as they perform a nativity play entitled

Virtual Christmas

Written by Vicky Best

Donation made to Tear Fund



Virtual Christmas takes the familiar nativity story and gives it a fresh, new perspective.

Enjoy traditional Christmas carols sung by our youth and musical instruments performed by our youth. Join us after worship to enjoy light refreshments as you meet the cast. The youth will also be holding a hoagie sale.

Kids Get Caught 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.

Christmas Program Rehearsals

Practices/Performances for everyone

Today, Sunday Dec. 15th at 9:00am

Saturday Dec. 21st 10:00am performance at Frederick Home

Sunday Dec. 22nd 9:00am rehearsal and 10:15am performance

Thank You

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Ladies' Aid Christmas Stockings project.

Ethel Soffa, Sandra Kriebel, Miriam Hausman, Sallie Wright, Ruth Weaver.

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!

United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert Re-Scheduled

The performance of the United Schwenkfelder Choir that was to have taken place last Sunday at 7:30 has been rescheduled for **tonight** at 7:30! Special music will begin at 7:00, and the n the concert will begin at 7:30.

Caroling

Because of scheduling difficulties, the Christmas caroling that was planned for this evening has been cancelled.

Mission Trip

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Long Branch, NJ from July 6 – 12, 2014, please sign up on the sheet on the mission board in the Narthex. An informational meeting will be held **today** following worship.

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)

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.

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.)

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.

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 15, 2013

Did You Know...?

A message from Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Acting Conference Minister

A number of years ago during Advent a friend gifted me with a book entitled Mary Did You Know? that is based on a song with the same title that was written by Mark Lowry. I find the song, as well as the words, to be very powerful. Here are some of the words:

"Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?..."

*Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child
that you delivered will soon deliver you...*

Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?...

*Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect lamb? This sleeping child
you're holding is The Great I Am."*

Through Advent-Christmas readings, I suspect that Mary had some sense of the destiny of her son, but certainly not a full understanding. She, like us, needed to watch, and wait, and hope; and actively engage in God's plan.

As a result of our connections with the National Church, as well as the Conference, we are provided with resources which can enrich our active engagement in God's plan. Did you know that you can receive free of charge, **daily devotionals** via the internet from the National UCC? Or, did you know that if you go to the UCC home page and click on **Feed Your Spirit**, you can find spiritual practices, including topics like: Lectio Divina (a special way of reading scripture), Icons, and Prayer Beads? This is in addition to providing avenues for social justice throughout the United States and the world.

Did you know that the PSEC and Penn Northeast Conference have begun sharing some mission and ministry resources? For example, we join in opening opportunities for one another for Christian formation, the Clergy Convocation, the Disaster Response Team, and the Ecumenical Relations Mission Team? We are inviting one another to ministry and mission events across Conference boundaries. And, there are other "grassroots" connections springing up among us, such as, connections between ministers who serve in large church settings. God is doing a new thing! And this, I think, is only the beginning. I really do not know how all of this will unfold in the future - it is beyond planning. I believe the Spirit is teaching us, and correcting us in these days. Our call is to be listening and watching closely as the Spirit moves.

Clergy colleagues, did you know we are invited to a Ministry Day in the PNEC on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at St. Francis Retreat House, Easton, with keynote speaker: The Rev. Cameron Trimble, Executive Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal? She will help participants to understand and to address the sociological and theological challenges facing congregations today. I hope you will **SAVE THE DATE**, and join me, and our brothers and sisters in

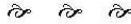


PNEC. Registration information will be available soon on the PNEC website.

Did you know that God IS with us in these hard times? Did you know that IF we surrender our individual agendas, our plans, our mistakes, our regrets, our limited understandings to God, "all will be well, all manner of things shall be well?" What did baby Jesus' mother know, as she held him in her arms? What do you and I know as we look at the future of the church? More importantly, what does God know?

Deep peace and hope,

Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Acting Conference Minister, PSEC



Getting to Know :

Trinity UCC

27 Maria Street, Rehrersburg, PA 19550



Trinity United Church of Christ, formerly known as the New Union Lutheran and Reformed Congregation, was established in 1847. Trinity became a UCC congregation in 1959 and continues within the historic tradition of the German Reformation – seeking to serve God and humanity today while looking forward to the future with trust and hope. Our congregation is lead by Pastor Joseph Long.

Bethel, Strausstown, Bernville, Womelsdorf, and Robesonia are towns nearby the town of Rehrersburg. Pottsville, Harrisburg, and Reading are all within a twenty-mile radius. The Trinity church bell and steeple are the oldest west of the Schuylkill River.

Christmas and Easter Programs, Mother's and Father's Day Services, Mid-Week Lenten Soup and Dramas, Christmas Cantata's by both Junior and Senior Choirs, and a Rogation Service "Down on the Farm" are special services held yearly. The Adult Choir and two Children's Choirs are lead by talented church members. Trinity is currently in need of an organist. Please call 717-933-8926 for more information.

A weekly Sunday School Program and Adult Bible Class continue to sustain the concept of teaching the good news about Jesus. An annual Rally Day kicks off the new classes formed and start of Confirmation classes. An evening weekly Adult Bible Study has been added.

An annual picnic, fellowship trips, and occasional free, sit-down meals served by the Community Outreach Program are offered. Our fundraising projects - Kauffman's Bar-B-Que Restaurant's Annual Car Show, Trinity Breakfast, offering a full menu, Bingos for both Longaberger Basket and Craftsman Tools, Spaghetti Dinners, Bake Sales, Soup Sales, Italian Sandwich Sales, and selling food at Public Sales - all provide the fellowship and fun associated with our Christian family.

Trinity UCC Rehrersburg supports mission programs and worthy causes such as Bethany's Children's Home, Neighbor's in Need, and Harvest Home. Trinity helps sustain the UCC and its ministries by giving to the Church's Wider Mission, such as the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign to help people in need, especially in a crisis and shoebox gifts for children around the world through the Operation Christmas Child program.



Prayers are requested for Trinity UCC, Rehrersburg, and Rev. Joseph D. Long.

Our Schedule: December 15 Through December 22, 2013

Sunday, December 15, 2013

9:00 a.m.: Sunday School

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

10:15 a.m.: Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service

Mission Trip Meeting Immediately Following Worship

7:30 p.m.: United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert at Central Schwenkfelder Church

Monday, December 16, 2013

Church Office Closed

2:30 p.m.: Music Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m.: Board of Christian Education

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

8:00 a.m.: Quilters

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

6:30 p.m.: Brownies

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

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

5:30 p.m.: Children's Choir

6:00 p.m.: Junior Bells

6:30 p.m.: Senior Bells

7:30 p.m.: Senior Choir

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Friday, December 20, 2013

Saturday, December 21, 2013

10:00 a.m.: Kids' Christmas Program at Frederick Living

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

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: Jean Ross

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610-845-7208

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