

# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

**Associate Member: United Church of Christ**



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# PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Ruth Elaine Schramm

Advent Wreath Lighting "Of the Father's Love" Joel Raney

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el."

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

We wait for the one who can turn discord into perfect harmony.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

We wait for the one who can replace hate with love, and anger with understanding.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

We wait for the one who can replace division with unity, and war with peace.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.

This block is identical to the one above, showing the musical notation for the Advent Wreath Lighting song.

Prayer

## Senior Choir Anthem

“Amen! Tell It On the Mountain” arr. Mary McDonald

## 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 grace 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. Teach us to be patient, that in Christ we may have endurance. Amen.**

## Time of Personal Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

**\*Hymn #173** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Scripture** Isaiah 35:1 – 10 (NRSV p. 578; LP p. 1115 – 1116)  
Matthew 11:2 – 11 (NRSV p. 792; LP p. 1522)

## Children’s Sermon

**Children’s Church** Sally Muse and Liz Kennedy

**\*Hymn #132** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

**Sermon** “A Highway in the Desert”

## Pastoral Prayer and 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** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” Paul Manz

## **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 #159**

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

## **\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Matthew Carl

\*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins today are sponsored in loving memory of Evelyn Schultz by Wilmer Schultz.

## **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 Colton Davis, Samantha Hossler and Ryan Woods, Edmund Kuhns, Lucile and Bob Jones, Sheryl Tomlin, John Detweiler, Carmen Davis, Maurice Meeker, Mae Gerhart, Brandon Komark, Rev. Bill Vanderslice, Alvera Heffner, Dorothy Parker, Sharon Stevens, Jack Bold, Marian Fox, Helen Miller, Goldie Graber, Kylene Bertoia Hart, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Wanda Gentry, Martha Wolford, Becky and Kraig 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**

A flawed trivia question explains 1 Samuel 31 in this week's online Bible Study. Help interpret the accidental Truth 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**

The Migrant Hospitality Project (MHP) is awaiting activation. We are equipped to welcome a Christian exile household of up to 4 people. 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."

## **Confirmands and Mentors Christmas Party and Luncheon**

There will be a Christmas Party and Luncheon sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Mentor Committee **today**. The party begins at approximately 12:00 p.m., immediately after the special church meeting. After lunch, we will discuss your Faith Journey timelines. Please be sure to have them completed by this time. The event concludes around 1:30 p.m. If you are **UNABLE** to attend, please notify your confirmand /mentor.

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held **today** immediately following the worship service to elect our church leadership, approve our budget for 2017, and have a discussion regarding the Church's Memorial Garden. There will be copies of the budget in the narthex available before the meeting. Please be sure to attend this important meeting.

## **We Need Your Help!**

The Relay for Life committee needs to replenish its supply of gallon plastic milk jugs for the Christmas Eve luminaries. If you can contribute, please take off the labels, and place the jug(s) in the receptacle located in the coat room on the south side of the Narthex. We also need people to help assemble the luminaries at 4:00 PM, Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and place the luminaries around the drives on Christmas Eve Day at 11:00 AM. There is a sign-up sheet for these two activities in the Narthex.

## **Kids' Christmas Program**

**Next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** Palm Youth will present this year's Christmas program entitled *A Not So Silent Night*. It's a Christmas comedy where the shepherds are on trial for "disturbing the peace" when celebrating the birth of Jesus. Cookies and refreshments will follow the program in the Adult Bible Classroom, along with a hoagie sale.

## **Open Link Donations and the Wooden Chest**

Have you noticed the old wooden chest in the narthex? The Ladies' Aid has decided to sell this chest with the proceeds from the sale being donated to Open Link. Please help us fill it with non-perishable food items or personal toiletries for our neighbors in need. It's almost full but we would love to see it overflowing! Donations will be collected up to and including **next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** and then delivered to Open Link. Please be sure that food items donated have not reached their expiration date. Thank you for your generosity!

## **Christmas Cantata**

On Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm we will gather in worship to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This night of nights culminates the weeks of Advent Anticipation as we wait in hope, peace, love, and joy, and prepare our hearts to once again receive the greatest gift the world has ever known. This year our worship will feature Joseph M. Martin's Canticles in Candlelight: A Cantata for Christmas.

## **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.

## **Treasurer's Report – November 2016**

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Cash on Hand Start of Month/Year	\$ 9,811.19	\$ 35,761.03
Operating Income Received	\$21,727.62	\$262,268.96
Operating Expenses	\$24,636.46	\$291,127.64
Ending Operating Cash on Hand – 11/30	\$ 6,902.35	\$ 6,902.35

Treasurer's note: Please notice that we have used almost \$29,000 of our \$35,761 starting balance as of November 30, 2016. Your generous support in December will help us to finish the year with a healthy starting cash level for 2017. Thank you for your support.

## **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.

Alyssa Guldin  
1370 Oro Vista Road  
San Diego, CA 92154

Ty McNeal  
1611 Park Avenue  
Apt. 116  
Quakertown, PA 18951

## **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.

### *New This Week...*

- If you took a gift tag from the Christmas tree in the narthex for our adopted Open Link family, the due date to bring the gifts is **today**.
- Collections on the Christmas mitten tree for Open Link include winter hats, scarves, and gloves for all ages. Some items are available for sale in the narthex after worship. Proceeds from this sale go towards Relay for Life.

**Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team  
Sponsors Luminaries for Christmas Eve**

Every Sunday from November 27<sup>th</sup> until December 11<sup>th</sup>, you will have the opportunity to contribute \$5.00 per line for a luminary candle to decorate the church driveway on Christmas Eve. This is one of the fundraisers for the Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team. You may purchase a luminary "In Honor" or "In Memory" of anyone who holds a special place in your heart, a family member, friend, teacher, etc. There will be a special insert in the Christmas Eve worship folder acknowledging your gifts. **Please order your luminaries at the Relay for Life Team table located in the Narthex after worship services, or place your order and payment in the office lock-box before the deadline of Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.** You may use the form included in this newsletter to place your order.

Please make checks payable to: *PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH*  
Memo: Relay for Life Team

*PLEASE PRINT*

*Donor's Name* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone No.* \_\_\_\_\_

*"In Honor of"*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

*"In Memory of"*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_\_



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

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 11, 2016

## ***Why give to The Christmas Fund next Sunday?***

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

*"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."*

*"...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"*

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering.

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

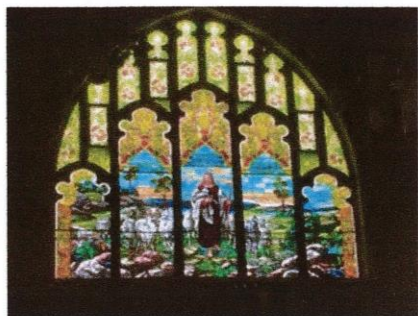
Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

However you choose to provide your gift, please know that it is truly appreciated and that it will brighten the life of one of God's servants who is facing a moment of personal need.

*- from The Pension Boards*

## Grace (Alsace) UCC

2151 Kutztown Rd., Reading, PA 19605



Grace (Alsace) has been serving God and our community since 1732. If you've ever been to the Kutztown Folk Festival, you've heard of our long history of reaching out to those in need – our pastor cared for the infamous Susanna Cox before her hanging in 1809.

Our current membership is very small, but we continue to share the love of God through ministering to others. The

group that makes breakfast at Opportunity House was once pointed out by one resident to another as “the people who brought us Easter” – perhaps the greatest compliment a church could want. The highlight of our year is preparing breakfast on Easter morning, worshipping with them while the meal is cooking. And of course, there are Easter baskets for all the kids. We make breakfast there once a month, on a Sunday morning.

Our CROP Walk team of two raises nearly \$2000 every year, often as the highest contributing team. Our Relay for Life team is equally dedicated. Our candy makers bring in money that is used to benefit a number of service organizations in the area. Our building is home to Path to Holiness (a Spanish language congregation), who reaches out with literacy classes and Bible classes, as well as hosting a meal for Muhlenberg fire and ambulance crews on September 11. We also host an exercise group for local senior citizens and a coin club. Many of our members participate in their own service projects.

We even helped to chase away some local drug dealers after the local police officers used one of our education rooms for a stake out!

Worship at Grace (Alsace) is in a traditional style, and we offer Sunday School to our kids. Like many small churches, we've learned how to face anything with humor and grace. We struggle and we strive, and although we worry about our future, we take each day as one more day to walk with God and one another.



Prayers are requested for Grace (Alsace) UCC in Reading and Rev. Bonnie Dalious.

# This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

## Sunday, December 11

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service

11:30am Special Congregational Meeting Following Worship

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 35:1-7)

12:00pm Confirmands and Mentors Christmas Luncheon

## Monday, December 12

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 35:8-10)

6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee

7:30pm Board of Trustees

## Tuesday, December 13

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:47-55)

7:00pm Boy Scouts of America - Troop Committee Meeting

7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting

## Wednesday, December 14

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (James 5:7-10)

6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 15

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 146:5-10)

## Friday, December 16

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Matthew 11:2-6)

## Saturday, December 17

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Matthew 11:7-11)

4:00pm Boy Scouts Annual Christmas Party and Lock-In Begins

## Sunday, December 18

9:00am Boy Scouts Annual Christmas Party and Lock-In Ends

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Children's Christmas Program Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 7:10-16)

# **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](http://www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com)

Church Administrator E-mail: [palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net](mailto:palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net)

Church Office Email: [palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net](mailto:palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net)

Pastor's E-mail: [palmpastor@comcast.net](mailto: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: Jean Ross

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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