

# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

**Associate Member: United Church of Christ**



**833 Gravel Pike  
PO Box 66  
Palm PA 18070  
215-679-5321**

**PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net  
www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com**

**PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

**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, with a long note for 'Em' and a dotted note for 'el'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with a long note for 'Em' and a dotted note for 'el'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

**And he will be called Everlasting Father.**

We wait for the one who knows our deepest thoughts and fulfills our every need.

**And he will be called Everlasting Father.**

We wait for the one who will love us unconditionally, as a parent loves a child.

**And he will be called Everlasting Father.**

We wait for the one whose grace and mercy will never end.

**And he will be called Everlasting Father.**

**Lighting the Candle of Love**

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, with a long note for 'Em' and a dotted note for 'el'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with a long note for 'Em' and a dotted note for 'el'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Prayer

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**O God, we have been too busy to pray and too proud to kneel. We are skeptics in a skeptical age. Yet, we are drawn to the birth of a child. We are inspired by the song of angels. We are challenged by the responsive faithfulness of shepherds. Have mercy on us and help us to put all our concerns in the new perspective of your constant presence and unfailing care. Amen.**

### Time of Personal Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

**Junior Bell Choir**      “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

**Scripture**              Isaiah 7:10 – 17 (NRSV p. 554; LP p. 1072)  
Matthew 1:18 – 25 (NRSV p. 783; LP p. 1506)

**\*Hymn #142**              “Long Ago, Prophets Knew”

### Children’s Christmas Program

*The Not-So-Silent Night* by Group Publishing

How were three young shepherds to know they were “disturbing the peace” by shouting God’s praises after visiting the baby Jesus? Join us today in a Bethlehem courtroom for a comical trial.

Please join us in singing our pageant hymns printed in the bulletin. The children will stand during the hymns; however, we ask that the congregation please remain seated.

### Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

Bailiff – Brent Master

Judge – Sabine Muse

Josiah, shepherd 1 – Owen Hoffman

Abel, shepherd 2 – Reid Hoffman

Seth, shepherd 3 – Johanna Kinsler

Prosecutor – Josie Kinsler

Sophia Busybody – Jovia Kinsler

Gotta Lotta – Lily Hoffman

Defense Attorney – Ethan Raab

Dr. Fruitcake – Andrew Pence

Baltasar – Shane Raab

Nativity Scene Characters (in order of appearance)

Angels – Maya Yoder, Shelby Yoder

Mary – Anya Muse

Joseph – L J Morasco

Shepherd – Michael Kennedy

Sheep – Hailey Raab

Wisemen – Parker Morasco, Jovia Kinsler, Lily Hoffman

Piano Accompaniments – Kate Pence, Andrew Pence, Brent Master

Props & Lighting – Joe Kinsler, Job Kinsler, Blake Master

Christmas program carols in order of singing

Congregation, please remain seated during the singing.

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

(Repeat Chorus)

**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright;  
'Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Timeless peace, all is right;  
Shepherds hear the angels sing,  
“Alleluia! Hail the King!”  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

**Go, Tell it on the Mountain**

Chorus:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

(Repeat Chorus)

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

(Repeat Chorus twice)

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the King of angels.

Chorus:

O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**We Three Kings of Orient Are**

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

Chorus:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice;  
“Alleluia, Alleluia!”  
Earth to the heavens replies.

(Repeat Chorus)

**\*Hymn #146** “Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come” (verses 1,2 & 4)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods  
Rocks, hill and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love

*Thank you to the Sunday school teachers, parents, and volunteers for helping to put the pageant together.*

*The congregation is invited for refreshments after worship in the Adult Sunday School Classroom.*

**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

“What Child Is This?”

Richard Purvis

## 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

**The stage is set for the presentation of your gift of life, O Christ, and we are part of the company of players. As the curtain is about to rise, we prepare ourselves for our roles. We commit what we have to the drama that changes lives. Help us to step onto the stage with anticipation and boldness. May we know the script so well that we shall not falter as we share your gift, and ours. Amen.**

\*Hymn #162

“The First Noel, the Angel Did Say”

## \*Benediction

Postlude

“Angels Sing! (Medley)”

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

\*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins today are sponsored in honor of Palm’s youth by Kevin and Barb Master.

## **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 Helen Miller, Connie Marks, The family of Maurice Meeker, 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, Wanda Gentry, 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**

1 Samuel 31 is the topic for this week's online Bible Study. Take part 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."



## **Kids' Christmas Program**

**Today** the Palm Youth 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 Sunday School Classroom, along with a hoagie sale.

## **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.

## **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 over flowing! **Today** is the last day that donations will be collected. All of the donations will be 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.

## **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 Epiphany Party**

Date change: The Ladies' Aid Epiphany Party will be held on **January 10, 2017** at 12:00 noon beginning with a 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 also 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; [palmsadministrator@comcast.net](mailto:palmsadministrator@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.

## **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.

## **New Kitchen Floor**

Starting January 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> – 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. Some items are available for sale in the narthex after worship. Proceeds from this sale go towards Relay for Life.

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

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 18, 2016

**Training for Church Treasurers and Bookkeepers****January 21, 2017 - 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon**

Since taking on the position of Finance Operations Manager of the PSEC Conference Tammie Wisniewski has fielded many questions from treasurers, bookkeepers, consistory presidents, and pastors that all fall under a "financial" umbrella. Recently, many of you have replied to an online survey asking what types of financial/bookkeeping questions keep you up at night. In the spirit of the New Year and in the effort to ensure that you are doing your work accurately; we are offering you, for a minimal charge, a ½ day workshop with some of the most requested questions and church financial issues that Tammie has answered.

Topics to be covered include but are not limited to, general bookkeeping/accounting issues you should understand, what does non-profit mean, budgeting, IRS/federal/state/local tax issues, software opportunities, employee issues, Our Church's Wider Mission, best practices, audit committee responsibilities, how long must you keep those records, and any other questions you may have.

Should my investments on the financial statements show the unearned increases/decreases each month? How long do I have to keep these payroll records? Do I have to give the pastor a 1099 or a W2? If I hold off and pay the insurance bill in January, our prior year statement won't show such a large loss? How does housing allowance work?

Sign up if you are a church treasurer, bookkeeper, consistory president, pastor or anyone who might benefit from this type of knowledge. Although our churches are rarely in audit situations, it makes the most sense to make sure your "books" and records are kept using best practices. Then in the event you are ever questioned by a federal/state/insurance agency, you have the information that they are looking for in a format that will make the inquiry go very smoothly.

**Where:** Church of the Good Shepherd, 35 W. Phila. Ave. Boyertown  
**Cost:** \$5.00 Please join Donna Daloisio, PSEC Bookkeeper, and Tammie Wisniewski, for this informative workshop. You are sure to learn something you didn't know before! And please share this with others who might benefit from this workshop.

*For additional suggestions or recommendations to add to this workshop, please contact Tammie Wisniewski at [tammie@psec.org](mailto:tammie@psec.org) or 484-949-8774 X304.*

## Getting to Know :

## St. John's UCC

257 W. Walnut St., Kutztown, PA 19530



People who worship at the United Church of Christ do not all think alike. We do not require our members to subscribe to certain creeds or dogmas. We accept the historic creeds of the church, such as the Apostles' and Nicene, as representing the faith we share in common.

We also have the following **Statement of Faith**, which is widely accepted, and which we think is one of the best modern interpretations of Christianity.

*We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:*

*You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.*

*You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.*

*You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.*

*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.*

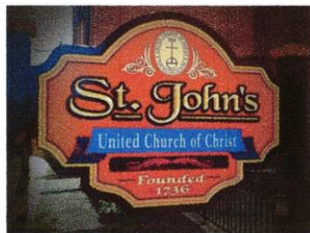
*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.*

*You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.*

*You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.*

*Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.*

To learn more about us, our ministries and our events, visit us at <http://www.stjohns-ucc.org/>



Prayers are requested for St. John's UCC in Kutztown and Rev. Michael Beynon.



The PSEC office can accept 2016 OCWM contributions up to Tues., Jan. 17, 2017. After that date, all receipts will be posted towards 2017 gifts.



# Christmas Day



Join us for worship on Christmas morning for a  
good old fashioned carol sing!



# This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

## 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)

## Monday, December 19

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 80:1-7)
- 7:00pm Board of Christian Education Meeting

## Tuesday, December 20

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 80:17-19)
- 4:00pm Christmas Luminary Assembly
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting
- 7:00pm Girl Scouts Senior/Ambassador Troop 72134
- 7:00pm Mission Board

## Wednesday, December 21

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Romans 1:1-7)
- 6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 22

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Matthew 1:18-25)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Board of Review

## Friday, December 23

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 62:6-12)
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, December 24

- 11:00am Christmas Luminary Placement
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 2:1-20)
- 7:15pm Christmas Cantata

## Sunday, December 25

- 10:15am Sunday Worship Service
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 9:2-7)

# **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: [palmadministrator@comcast.net](mailto:palmadministrator@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: Deb Callodonato

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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