

West Swamp News

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July 2021

Getting back to normal (facilities-wise)

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FYI

- * The secretary will be on vacation July 8-18,
- * July is National Blueberry Month, National Grilling Month, National Hot Dog Month, National Picnic Month, National Watermelon Month, and National Anti-Boredom Month. Celebrate wisely and often.

As of this writing the restoration work to the church building is complete. What remains to be done is the outdoor landscaping and installation of the new digital sign. We are very grateful that Yoder Construction was able to complete the work in a relatively short time-frame.

The next big project is the outside church painting. Please note that we will have a brief Congregational meeting after the

church service on July 4 to seek an increase in the budget now that we have a quote for the job.

Recall that the outside painting was first proposed in 2019 and was deferred that year in favor of completing the second-floor window replacements. The \$5,000 budgeted in 2019 was more of a best guess and so now, in 2021, the painter who recently did the restoration painting has provided us with a quote of



Men can rejoice! The bathroom repairs are finished.

\$9,500 to complete the church plus a to-be-determined amount for some minor stucco work around the chimney and a few other areas in need. The Stewardship Commission will be seeking an increase of the budget from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the painting project.

Finally, the May Treasurers report reveals that at May 31, we have a 2021 surplus of \$2,987. We thank you for your continued financial stewardship.

*~ Randy Rush
Moderator Deacon,
Stewardship Commission*



Repairs completed! Just waiting on some landscaping and a new sign.

Pastor's Corner: A closer look at Independence Day

With the Fourth of July coming up, I've been thinking about what the American Independence Day means for us as followers of Jesus.

First, if we are honest, we have to recognize that any independence we have as Americans comes to us by way of the theft of land from and displacement of indigenous Native peoples and the stolen labor of enslaved persons. It also comes to us as the

fruit of war and violence, the loss of many thousands of lives.

So what do we do with this tainted gift we have been given? First, we need to realize from where true freedom originates. John 8:36 says, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." True freedom comes to us as a gift from God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Second, we need to put what freedom we possess to good use. Let us use our freedom to advo-

cate for justice for others, particularly for persons of color who suffer the crippling injustice of systemic racism. 1 Peter 2:16 says, "live as free people."

I want to challenge you this year, amid the barbecues and fireworks, to reflect on the authentic freedom that we find in Jesus and put that freedom to use for the good of others.

Peace,

~ *Pastor Michael*

Mission: School kits for MCC; Care & Share service evening

MCC has received requests for over 63,000 school kits from their partners around the world. **MCC needs donations of 21,200 school kits by the end of July.** That's why we're going to start collecting school kit items here at West Swamp **now**, instead of waiting 'til August. Please do your shopping soon—you can donate single items or complete kits. Just be sure to the pencil sharpener directive. (If you can't find metal sharpeners, don't worry; we have some left over from last year's collection.)

Care & Share Service Trip

Sign up to volunteer for an evening at Care & Share on Thursday, July 15 from 5:30-8 pm. A variety of tasks are available: at the clothing store—quality control, price tagging and stocking; at the furniture store, processing electronics, simple sorting, testing, etc. Questions? Ask Don Rosenberger or Glenn High.

School Kit Contents (NEW items only)

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes.

All metal sharpeners can be found online at Amazon.com or Bazzic.com or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners**, please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.



DISCO: What's next for Sunday School?

Summer is here! Time to enjoy the long days and summer trips with family. With things slowly getting back to normal, the Discipling Commission would like to know if you are ready to get back to meeting together in a small group setting. Do you miss spending time with members of your church family or are you still a little hesitant? If you are ready, feel free to express your interest to any of the members of

the Discipling Commission. We will be meeting at some point over the summer to discuss options for new small groups.

For those who feel more comfortable with meeting virtually, the Bible Project Sunday School group continues to meet every Sunday morning at 9 am via Zoom, some from their homes and a few in the church classroom. We are halfway through

Matthew and are enjoying thought-provoking conversations and building relationships with each other. You are welcome to join us. Let Lynne know if you are interested or if you need help with how Zoom works. (Note: the Bible Project SS Class will not meet on July 11.)

Wishing you a safe and fun-filled summer!

~ Lori Farrell

Men-O-Lan staff picnic

(Clockwise) Staff make their way through the buffet line. We couldn't have done it without Karen Parzych & Jan Wieand. Pastor Michael blesses the meal. Glenn High chats with Lindsay Ordenana, whose two daughters are on staff and who will serve one week as camp nurse. Jan & Karen in action serving pork barbecue.





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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

We have elves!



A big thank you to the elf or elves who weeded and cleaned up the courtyard garden. It was greatly in need of some TLC. We would love to know who the elves are so that we can thank them properly. If you wish to remain anonymous, just know that your hard work is noticed and appreciated!



Birthdays

July

7/2 Haley Stauffer
7/3 Richard Rosenberger
7/5 Pov Sar Loch
7/9 Mike Olimpo
7/14 Lindsay Baver

7/22 Kevin Riley
7/27 Marian Heimbach
Evelyn High
Mark Kemmerer
7/30 Sue Conrad Howes