

West Swamp News

Volume 12, Issue 2

February/ March 2023

Senior Luncheons are back

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Calling all seniors! Are you over sixty and enjoy getting together with others for a good lunch and good conversation? The monthly West Swamp Senior Luncheons are back and going strong!

With thanks to Karen Parzych and Jan and Denny Wieand for "getting the ball rolling

again," we plan to schedule a noon luncheon for the third Thursday of every month. The next one will be Thursday, Feb. 16.

This is a great time to invite a friend or neighbor to come along! There will be sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Room each time. Sign up for a time of

good food and fellowship!

~ *Nancy Jacobs*



FYI

- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22. Join us at 7 pm for a simple Ash Wednesday service in the Fellowship Hall.
- Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, Mar. 12 at 2 am. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead.

After a 20-month hiatus, Senior Luncheons began again in December.

Right: The "kitchen staff"—Katie Mood, Karen Parzych, Jan Wieand and Nancy Jacobs begin the clean up process.

Below: Lee & Joan Hallman, and Carolyn Rush and her daughter Karen Parke have just finished a delicious meal and are ready for desert.



Pastor's Corner: A unique and exciting Bible Study opportunity

Looking for something different to do in February? What about a Bible Study that lasts for 4 weeks ... with an opportunity to not only get to know WSMC folks better but also become a part of a historical document?

Here's the background:

In 2025, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism, a movement of women and men trying to live out the truth of Scripture and walk in the way of Jesus. As part of the celebration, MennoMedia is publishing an Anabaptist Community Bible. One of the characteristics of this new study Bible is that the marginal notes will be written in part by dozens of Bible reading groups in local congregations around the world ... like us!

Here's your opportunity:

West Swamp Mennonite Church

will have two participating groups. One group will meet at Pastor Michael & Sue's home on Thursday nights at 7pm, and the other group will meet at the church on Thursday mornings at 10am.

Anyone is welcome! You do not have to be a biblical scholar or even have ever done a Bible study before. You will have a passage to study and some questions to ponder each week, but mostly, come and be ready for the Spirit and community of believers to enliven the Scriptures for us.

Both groups will run for four weeks beginning Thursday, Feb. 9 (Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, and March 2).

I am very excited about the opportunity for us to participate in this new study Bible project and for all the insights we will be



able to share with folks all around the world.

Please email, call or text me if you would like to be involved at howes.michael@gmail.com or 717-419-4228. Please register by Monday, Feb. 6 to reserve your spot in either group.

Peace,

~ *Pastor Michael*

Community: Staying connected

There are few things more heartwarming than keeping in touch with dear friends. We have several ways to let those we care about know we are thinking of them.

The best way is to reach out with a phone call, and arrange a visit if possible – there is nothing like a personal visit and a friendly chat! Sending a card or text is also a good way to stay connected with others.

Church family members who are not able to see us in church, or who are ill, appreciate knowing we care and are thinking of them. Currently, we are delivering “to-go” meals to folks after the Senior Luncheon on the third Thursdays.

If you would like to help with meal preparation or meal deliveries, it would be a great way to help stay connected!

Please let Nancy Jacobs or someone on Community Commission know if you are able to help or have any questions. Thank you!

~ *Nancy Jacobs*

DISCO: Here's what's happening

Are you ready for some football - and delicious homemade food? The "Soup"er Bowl is back by popular demand!

Place your order for sausage chicken gumbo, beef barley soup, chicken noodle soup, and bread. Order forms can be found in your



church mailbox or on the sign up bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please return your orders to Katie Mood by Wednesday, Feb. 8 (267-733-2141) so we can prepare our soup makers and bread bakers.

Orders will be ready to go after the worship service on Sunday Feb. 12. *Donations accepted but not expected.*

Join us for the next Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Please contact Katie Mood if you are willing to bring juice or bake muffins/bread (i.e., banana, zucchini). These breakfasts are a great opportunity to invite some-

one to church!

Discipling Commission's goals for 2023 will continue to build on the efforts of our previous goals. First, DISCO will plan and offer a monthly Prayer Breakfast. Second, DISCO will develop and offer small group opportunities. Third, DISCO will evaluate children's ministry facilities and develop an action plan for updates.

In all this, may we know Him and make Him known. If you have any insight or suggestions in these areas, your conversation is welcome!

~ **Katie Mood**

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday Order Form

Soup & bread to go

Sunday February 12 following the worship service

Name:

Bread? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sausage Chicken Gumbo		Beef Barley		Chicken Noodle	
SIZE	QUANTITY	SIZE	QUANTITY	SIZE	QUANTITY
8 oz.		8 oz.		8 oz.	
16 oz.		16 oz.		16 oz.	
32 oz.		32 oz.		32 oz.	

Order due to Katie Mood by February 8 (267-733-2141)

Donations accepted but not expected

Mission: Two kinds of opportunities

In 2023 the Mission Commission wants to look at our projects in two ways. One is places that we can help with giving of funds and resources. For Jan/Feb/Mar we will be collecting for MCC's Relief Kits & My Coins Count. You can find info sheets for relief kits on the tables at the entrance to church or use the list below:

- 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1-2 bottles shampoo (totalling more than 20 oz; place in a re-sealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (such as Sunlight®, Fels Naptha®, or Zote® brands)
- 4 adult-sized toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colours; approx. 29 x 60 in)
- 2 wide-toothed combs (6-8 in)

- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted)
- 1-2 packages sanitary pads (thin, minimum 28 pads total)

Start saving your change for My Coins Count. We'll fill out bottle during Sundays in Lent. This year's collection is designated for MCC's educational projects. You can help make a difference in classrooms around the world.

When a child learns, communities benefit and lives change. MCC supports increased access to education to at risk children, helps improve the quality of education through training and promote peace clubs and other initiatives to help develop young people's full potential as leaders

The second way is to get involved is with our time. For Jan/Feb/

Mar we invite you to take part in the work evenings at Care & Share. If you have questions about them, just ask this quarter's poster children.



If any one knows of other places that we can give of our time, let us know.

~ Glenn High

Each one has a story

I enjoyed bringing different nativities each Sunday to put on windowsills during the Advent/Christmas season. Each one brings to mind the artisans who made it or the person who gave it to me.

My collection began (unknowingly) when Les and Linda Rice gave us a nativity as a wedding present—olive wood pieces from the West Bank and a stable made in Mexico.

Around 1996 I was asked to help edit the Eastern District publica-

tion *The Messenger*. I had the idea to feature Ten Thousand Villages, tracing a product from the artisans who made it to the volunteers who unpack things at the warehouse to it arriving at the store.



Bonnie Moyer, then manager of the Souderton store, suggested this nativity from Vietnam (much too small for a church windowsill—the tallest wiseman is an inch and a half). I loved the story behind it.

A Catholic missionary priest was concerned about all the street children in his area and worked to get them back in school. However, their need to earn money soon had them out on the street again. So he came up with a plan.

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Each one has a story

(Continued from page 4)

He opened up his home to teenage boys and gave them an education that included stone carving. This provided them with a place to stay, a family to belong to, and income they could earn. As teens graduated from the program with marketable skills, the priest invited new ones in.

Well, after learning all that, I

had to buy one for myself! And that's probably when my nativity collection really began.

The article also talked about two EDC congregations who volunteered regularly at the warehouse (first in Akron, then Leola). Of course, West Swamp was one of them. Which reminds me—this year's dates for service days at the Ten Thousand Villages Warehouse in Brownstown

are April 20, July 20 and Oct. 19.

I now have over 90 nativities of various sizes and materials. Most are made by fair trade artisans, a few are made by people I know; most I've bought for myself, some have been gifts. I love getting them out each year and displaying them around my house. Each one has a story.

~ *Lynne Rush*

Coming in March



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Mon. March 27, 2023
Tues. March 28
Wed. March 29

You can help
feed hungry
people around
the world.

MCC Mobile Cannery

You can help feed hungry people around the world by contributing financially and/or volunteering your time.

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) mobile meat cannery has provided millions of pounds of canned meat to areas of need around the world.

267-203-8074
mrc@mcc-harleysville.org

Meat Canning Location:

 **MCC Material Resource Center**
Sharing God's Love in the name of Jesus Christ



737 Hagey Center Drive, Souderton, PA
267-203-8074 • mcc-harleysville.org



west swamp
mennonite church

2501 Allentown Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Phone: 215-536-7468

FAX: 215-536-7709

E-mail: westswamp1@verizon.net

Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

Calendar of Events

February

1, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
1, 7:15 pm—Choir
7, 7 pm—Community Com.
8—Souper Bowl orders due
12—Souper Bowl order pickup
14, 7 pm—Mission Com.
15, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
15, 7:15 pm—Choir
16, 12 pm—Senior Luncheon
19, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
22, 7 pm—Ash Wednesday Service
26—First Sunday of Lent
My Coin Count collection begins

March

1, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
1, 7:15 pm—Choir
7, 7 pm—Community Com.
14, 7 pm—Mission Com.
15, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
15, 7:15 pm—Choir
16, 12 pm—Senior Luncheon
19, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
27—MCC Canner
28—MCC Canner
29—MCC Canner
29, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
29, 7:15 pm—Choir (tent.)

ACB Bible Studies: Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 9
10 am at church
7 pm at the Howes' home

Regular Activity

Tuesdays, 8 am—Quilting & Knotting



Birthdays

February

2/4 Karalynne Parzych
2/6 Nancy Propst
2/10 Paige Mood
2/12 Sue Keller
2/15 Ernie Reich
2/21 Kinsley Searfass
2/22 Michaela Wieand
2/26 Jim Bevan

March

3/5 Judy Scheetz
3/9 Jason Stevenback
3/11 Rick Hinkle
3/12 Alicia Loch
3/14 Julia Huff
3/16 McKenzie Huff
3/17 Chris Farrell
3/22 Erin Farrell
3/27 Bruce Bauman
Katie Stauffer
3/29 Pat Bevan
3/31 Lori Farrell