

Cover art: Schoolchildren and other community members gather beneath a nearly 800-gallon tank of safe, clean water provided through the work of MCC and CEFMC (Community of Mennonite Brethren Churches in Congo). *Justin Makangara/MCC/Fairpicture*

World Food Day 2023 is tomorrow, Oct. 16. This year's theme, "Water is food. Water is life," reminds us of the importance of water, highlighting its indispensability as a "driving force" in our lives. According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (UN), 2.4 billion people live in *water-stressed* countries where 25% or more of the renewable freshwater resources have been consumed. Poverty and hunger resulting from a lack of clean water not only affect well-being, but also exacerbate violent conflict and disrupt human relationships.

UN Sustainable Development Goal #2 pledges to "**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**" This goal has been made even more challenging to meet given the global COVID-19 pandemic and its aftershocks, climate change, escalating violent conflicts and growing inequalities.



The great banquet

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

Worship Service

October 15, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Preludes Father, Heavenly Father ~ *Michael Shea*
Blessing and Honor ~ *Carl Simone*
Processional in C ~ *arr. Hal H. Hopson*

We Gather around the Word

Opening Song O let all who thirst #495

Welcome & Prayer

Songs of Praise 10,000 reasons
For the fruits #90
Taste and see

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Isaiah 25:1-9

Offering The Heavens Rejoice! ~ *Franklin Ritter*

Worship Music Come on, children, to the gospel feast *Choir*

Scripture Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon The great banquet *Pastor Michael*

We Respond to the Word

Song Take my life (Holiness)

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Song We dream of a turning

Benediction

Postlude Grand Choeur ~ *Craig A. Penfield*

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Les Rice
Greeter: Les & Linda Rice
Pianist: Joan Hallman
Musicians: Brenda Landt, Lynne Rush
Videographer: Mark Kemmerer
Visual Technicians: Marsha High, Emily Rush
Sound Technicians: Glenn High, Rod Rush, Tim Scheetz

Sunday School Classes for Fall Quarter

Stay tuned for what Sunday School options are coming up.

West Swamp Mennonite Church

2501 Allentown Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

215-536-7468

E-Mail: westswamp1@verizon.net

Website: www.westswamp.org

Pastor: Michael Howes

717-419-4228, howes.michael@gmail.com

Commissions & Deacons:

Ministry Team, Randy Rush

Community, Nancy Jacobs

Discipleship (DISCO), Katie Mood

Mission, Glenn High

Stewardship, vacant

Worship, Joan Hallman

Church Secretary: Lynne Rush

Treasurer: Pat Bevan

Mennonite Mission Network: Today, Ecuador is holding run-off presidential elections. Mennonite Mission Network requests prayers for peace, as the country has been experiencing increasing violence. In August, an anti-corruption candidate, Fernando Villavicencio, was killed at a campaign event, and nine others were injured.



Continue to pray for those in our congregation who are experiencing illness and ongoing medical treatment.

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

October 8, 2023

Reflecting God in our living, loving & serving

Calendar

Oct. 15, 12 pm	Sunday Lunch Bunch
Oct. 17, 8 am	Knotting & Quilting
Oct. 17, 7 pm	Ministry Team
Oct. 18, 6:30 pm	Worship Commission
Oct. 19, 12 pm	Senior Luncheon
Oct. 25, 6:30 pm	Chimin' In
Oct. 25, 7:15 pm	Choir

~ **What's Happening at West Swamp** ~

Sunday Lunch Bunch: Join the gang after church **today** for lunch and fellowship at Giovanni's Pizzeria (Trainer's Corner Shopping Center).

Senior Luncheon: All those 60 and up are invited to food and fellowship on **Thursday, Oct. 19 at noon**. Look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

The October **Ten Thousand Villages Service Trip** has been cancelled. These service trips support artisans in developing countries by helping Ten Thousand Villages process, price and pack their handcrafted items, readying things to be shipped out to stores across the country. **Other ways to support this fair trade mission:** Volunteer weekly or one Saturday a month at the Souderton store (see Lynne Rush if interested), and of course, purchase fair trade products!

Care & Share Community Volunteer Night: The October volunteer night will actually be held on Wednesday, Nov. 1 (instead of Halloween night, Oct. 31). Choose your department and help process donations to the thrift store.

West Swamp members are invited to the **Ripple church service** on Nov. 12. After the service West Swamp will be hosting dinner at Ripple that all are also invited to attend if you can stay. We will need volunteers to serve the meal and provide items needed for the meal. There are sign up sheets in the fellowship hall. Please pay attention to the dates on the signup sheets when

items are needed by. If you are volunteering, please be at Ripple at 3 pm. If you have any questions, contact Karen Parzych 215-317-8424.

~ **What's Happening in the Community** ~

All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Hyacinth Stevens, Executive Director of MCC East Coast**, this week. Hyacinth is the keynote speaker at the Mosaic Conference Annual Assembly on November 4. Pray for wisdom, insight, and peace for Hyacinth as she prepares to speak to our gathered Assembly.

Camp Men-O-Lan's **Fall woodcutting/work day** has been moved to **Nov. 4**. Meet at the Dining Hall at 8:30 am to get your work assignment. Various projects, including cutting and splitting wood, need done. Lunch is provided. The day will wrap up around 3:30 pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Steve Panning at 215-679-5144 ext 326 or steve@menolan.org. Please bring chainsaws and woods splitters. Free wood is available from what is cut during the day.

Free Benefit Banquet for The Worm Project to be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at 6 pm at the Franconia Heritage Restaurant. Hear inspiring stories from our keynote speaker, Howard Schiffer, founder and President of Vitamin Angels. The meal is free but reservations are required by no later than Oct. 15. Leave your name and number of attendees; email to info@wormproject.org or by phone at 267-932-6050 Ext. 201.

Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Monday-Thursday, 9-4.

Lynne: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8:30-1:30.