

# West Swamp News

Volume 12, Issue 6

October/November 2023

## The unsung heroes of worship

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This month Worship Commission is giving long overdue acknowledgement to our “tech crew”—those who work with sound, power point and video. The jobs they perform are

crucial to our weekly services, and we appreciate their dedication.

The hard work they put in can sometimes be overlooked or taken for granted, so the Commission is highlighting

them with interviews below, and with a special Fellowship Hour in their honor on Oct. 8.

Please take time to thank them for the work they do!

~ *Joan Hallman*

## The people behind our sight and sound

### FYI

- Mosaic Conference Assembly is Nov. 4. The theme is “*Emet*—Powerful Kindness, Faithful Truth” from Psalm 116 & 117.
- Daylight Savings ends at 2 am on Sunday, Nov. 5. Don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night!

**Tim Scheetz** is all about sound—by his own admission, his ears are more important to him than his eyes. He's been using his passion, and gift, of sound at West Swamp since the mid-80s.

“I love the new sound system,” Tim says. “It's one of the best investments that the church ever made. It's designed so that no matter where you sit, there's minimal difference in volume. No one asks for hearing devices anymore.”

Tim wishes the sound system could be utilized

to its full potential. “We're only using about 30% of it; I know about 50% of it.”

For someone thinking about learning to run sound, here's some tips

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Tim Scheetz and others attend a training session following the sound system installation in March 2012.**

## Pastor's Corner: Pursuing faithfulness

For a while now, the Ministry Team and I have been working on revising our sense of direction for our congregation. As part of that process, on Sept. 16 the Ministry Team and I had a half day retreat with our Mosaic Conference Leadership Minister, Rev. Jeff Wright. Jeff engaged us around questions of mission and vision. Mission seeks to answer the question, why do we exist?

All churches have the same mission, regardless of denomination or location. Each church exists to multiply followers of Jesus. Jesus himself makes this clear in Matthew 28:18-20, as he speaks to the eleven apostles just prior to his ascension:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The work we do of multiplying followers of Jesus is done in the authority of Jesus and in the company of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit. And each of us has a personal mission as well, which Jesus articulated when asked by the Pharisees what the most important commandment is in Matthew 22:

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart

and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

As we love God with all that we are and love our neighbors, we collaboratively multiply followers of Jesus. Although every congregation has the same mission, God has for each church a unique vision for ministry within its specific context. There are things God wants to do through West Swamp Mennonite Church that are different and distinct from what God wants to use other congregations in our community to accomplish. Rather than comparing ourselves to other churches, we should focus our attention on discerning and living into God's unique vision for us.

Sunday Sept. 24, we spent some time during worship discussing

questions about our vision for ministry. Some of the questions were: What does our congregation do well? What would be absent in our community if we weren't here? What do we do that makes our community a better place? What do we do that makes our world a better place?

We compiled the responses that were generated, and the Ministry Team and I will be using them as we collaborate together to freshly articulate our sense of mission and vision going forward.

Perhaps you weren't able to be in church on Sept. 24, or perhaps you were there but have additional thoughts that you'd like to share. I welcome your input, and I can be reached at by voice or text at 717-419-4228 or by email at [howes.michael@gmail.com](mailto:howes.michael@gmail.com). I am very excited for us as a congregation to move into God's future for us.

Peace,

~ Pastor Michael



## Community: Join us for Senior Luncheons this fall

Good food and fellowship are happening this fall on the third Thursday each month. All those 60 and up are invited.

Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Room, a couple weeks prior to each meal.

Fall luncheons are Oct. 19 and Nov. 16. Don't miss out!

~ *Nancy Jacobs*



## A reminder from the Cemetery Committee

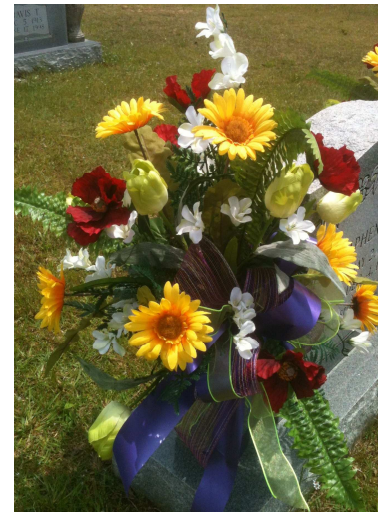
The Cemetery Committee is asking that families and friends who have decorated plots in the cemetery remove all of the summer decorations.

Please take them away entirely. There are no trash receptacles in the cemetery.

This will allow the mowing crew to get the cemetery ready for the winter.

Thank you,

~ *John Gwilliam*



## Stewardship: Progress report of 2023 finances

As of this writing (September 24) our Treasurer, Pat Bevan, has reported the Church finances through August 31 or 67% of the year.

On August 31 our year to date deficit stands at \$7,481. By way of comparison the deficit at the end of August last year was \$14,200. This favorable difference is due primarily to the overall reduction of \$7,200 budgeted for 2023 missions.

The receipts thus far in 2023 (tithes & offerings and rents) total \$125,165, virtually unchanged from 2022.

Commissions expenditures this year are running at or slightly below budgeted amounts.

Please give prayerful consideration to your planned giving for the balance of the year as we strive to meet our financial commitments.

~ *Randy Rush*

## Interviews continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

from Tim:

“You have to know what people need to hear—there’s more to it than just making it softer or louder. You have to match the microphone to the purpose. You need to know when to turn microphones on and off. And you have to remember that YOU are the one in control.”

If that sounds daunting, don’t worry. “Our sound system kind of thinks for you, with presets for worship services and funeral services.”

**Glenn High** doesn’t remember exactly how long he’s done the sound, but he knows he worked with the old system for quite a while before the current sound system was installed spring of 2012.

What Glenn likes about the task is “the simple routine. You hit the preset and then all you have to do is turn on and off the mikes at the right time. Concentrating on that helps me concentrate on the whole service. I leave the technical stuff to Tim!”

Glenn is also the person who faithfully takes the portable sound system to Men-O-Lan each year for our camp service, and out to the pavilion for when we worship there.

**Rod Rush** is the newest sound person and is still learning the ropes. Why did he take up the task? “My wife strongly encouraged me to.” And what does he enjoy most about the job? “I schedule

my Sundays to match when Emily is running the projector. It means I get a little extra time with my daughter.”

Which brings us to the projector.

**Marsha High** remembers the first time it was used. “When we came back from taking the youth to the Mennonite Conference in Columbus, OH—that was the first time we used the projector and screen. That was July of 2009.”

Marsha and **Lynne Rush** were the first ones to run it and work through several kinks. A big one was figuring out that if someone flipped the switch by the piano-side door, the projector didn’t work. Forgetting that fact has caused some moments of panic over the years!

Marsha has been a faithful slide advancer since that time, with some periods of being the only one to do it.

**Emily Rush** began giving Marsha a break when Emily was in high school. She remembers Alicia Loch sitting in the back and coloring pictures for her.

“I was familiar with the technology through school,” says Emily. “When I was in college, I did the same thing for our Sunday Night Worship group, so it’s in my wheelhouse.”

After learning how to hook the laptop up and get everything powered up, it’s usually just a matter of advancing slides. If anyone would like to give it a try, Marsha and Emily will be happy to teach them!

**Mark Kemmerer** has a unique story for becoming West Swamp’s official videographer. As our area began to come out of the COVID lockdown, we started having services in the parking lot. Some sat in their cars, some sat in lawn chairs, and the pastor and song leader were on a flatbed trailer.

Lynne had borrowed a video camera from Leon & Elaine Propst. She put it on a tripod, and had set the tripod in a couple of cement blocks to stabilize it. It might’ve worked if it hadn’t been for the wind.

Mark was sitting nearby, saw the problem and took control. He’s been taking the videos ever since. God’s hand (or wind) at work!

“I love doing it,” says Mark. “I have my own camera at home, so I had experience and know what I’m doing.”

**Lynne Rush** takes the video footage, edits it and posts it on Youtube each week. She’s also the one who makes the power point slides for the service. Two things she’s learned: red rarely is a good color for words, and it is never a good thing when she’s too busy to proofread!

West Swamp is thankful for each of these people who work behind the scenes to make our worship services run smoothly. Of course, there is always room for more people to join them and lighten the load. If YOU are interested in learning one of these tasks, contact the Worship Commission.

# World Communion Word Search

World Communion Sunday is celebrated the first Sunday in October each year. It connects us to the global family of God as around the world, Christians share in the Eucharist of Christ.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is another thing that connects to God's global kingdom. 86 countries are a part of MWC. Most of them are in this word search. The remaining letters will spell out four more countries. Can you find them all?

A I D O B M A C B A I S S U R U G U A Y B  
 U M E X I C O U O N E P A L E C N A R F A  
 S A D N A L E R I S I N G A P O R E R B N  
 T C K R O D A U C E T I N A U S A F P E G  
 R A T O G O A C S A M A H A B D R C O L L  
 I U B E L I Z E O S O V R E L N L G R G A  
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 A M O Z A M B I Q U E L I H C B G A U U E  
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 R E O E H T B D L S A B U R U N D I I T U  
 I T B A T A I B M A Z G R E N A D A A N G  
 C I M Y A N M A R L N E H V A M D O T E A  
 A N C H I N A P A J A A L A M E T A U G R  
 R U K R A I N E R I T R E A N G O L A R A  
 N E T H E R L A N D S I W A L A M A N A P

- ALBANIA
- ANGOLA
- ARGENTINA
- AUSTRALIA
- AUSTRIA
- BAHAMAS
- BANGLADESH
- BELGIUM
- BELIZE
- BENIN
- BOLIVIA
- BOTSWANA
- BRAZIL
- BURUNDI
- CAMBODIA
- CANADA
- CHILE
- CHINA (Hong Kong, MACAU)
- COLOMBIA
- COSTA RICA
- COTE D'IVOIRE
- CUBA
- DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- ECUADOR
- ERITREA
- ETHIOPIA
- FRANCE
- GAMBIA
- GERMANY

- GHANA
- GRENADA
- GUATEMALA
- GUINEA BISSAU
- HAITI
- HONDURAS
- INDIA
- INDONESIA
- IRELAND
- ITALY
- JAMAICA
- JAPAN
- KENYA
- KYRGYZSTAN
- LITHUANIA

- MALAWI
- MEXICO
- MOZAMBIQUE
- MYANMAR
- NAMIBIA
- NEPAL
- NETHERLANDS
- PANAMA
- PARAGUAY
- PORTUGAL
- REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- ROMANIA
- RUSSIA
- SENEGAL
- SINGAPORE

- SOUTH AFRICA
- SOUTH KOREA
- SPAIN
- TAIWAN
- TANZANIA
- THAILAND
- TOGO
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
- UGANDA
- UKRAINE
- UNITED KINGDOM
- USA
- URUGUAY
- VIETNAM
- ZAMBIA



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Reflecting God in our  
living, loving and serving

**Calendar of Events**

**October**

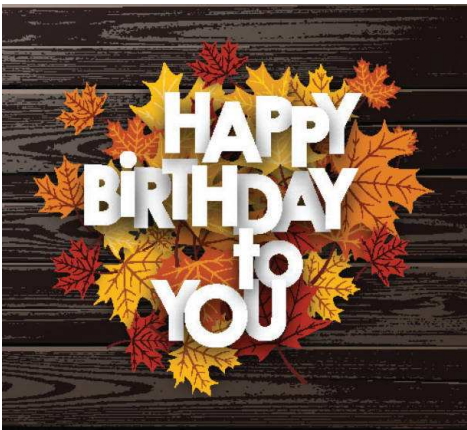
- 1, 9:30 am—Prayer Breakfast
- 3, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 4, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In Practice
- 4, 7:15 pm—Choir Practice
- 10, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 15, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 17, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 19, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 24, 7 pm—DISCO
- 25, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In Practice
- 25, 7:15 pm—Choir Practice

**November**

- 5, 9:30 am—Prayer Breakfast
- 7, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 8, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In Practice
- 8, 7:15 pm—Choir Practice
- 14, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 16, 12 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 19, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 21, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 23—Thanksgiving
- 28, 7 pm—DISCO
- 29, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In Practice
- 29, 7:15 pm—Choir Practice

**Regular Activity**

Tuesdays, 8 am-Knotting & Quilting



**October**

- 10/6 Matthew Opdyke
- 10/7 Deb Stevenback  
Jan Wieand
- 10/14 Don Rosenberger
- 10/17 Case Mood
- 10/18 Paul Heimbach  
Joann Rush
- 10/20 Amanda Wieand
- 10/21 Randy Rush
- 10/25 Corinne High
- 10/27 Dick Landt
- 10/29 Dale Loch

**November**

- 11/3 Nancy Jacobs  
John Riley
- 11/05 Olivia Mood
- 11/06 Jordan Husvar
- 11/08 Alex Parzych
- 11/19 Pam Grube
- 11/20 Don Butcher
- 11/21 Bernice Keller
- 11/26 Les Rice
- 11/28 Kitty Stauffer
- 11/30 Mary Bittenbender