

Cover Art: *John the Baptist Preaching*, by Thomas Marsh, 2000. This sculpture, which stands in front of a Spanish Mission in San Juan Bautista, California, is a depiction of John the Baptist as an Ohlone Native American.

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A call to repentance

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Preludes Deck the Halls *with* The Holly and the Ivy ~ *arr. A. Zsolt*
Of the Father's Love Begotten ~ *arr. John Carter*
The Advent of Our God ~ *arr. Carol Tornquist*

We Gather around the Word

Opening Song Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Welcome

Call to Worship Screen

Songs of Praise Come, now is the time
Blessed be the God of Israel #174
Comfort, comfort, O my people #176

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11

Worship Music Lord, I want to be a Christian *Chimin' In*

Offering I Wonder as I Wander ~ *Appalachian Carol, arr. T. Doran*

Scripture Mark 1:1-8

Sermon A Call to Repentance *Pastor Michael*

We Respond to the Word

Song Prepare the way!

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Song Act justly, love mercy

Benediction

Postlude All Earth Is Hopeful ~ *Alberto Thule*

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Deb Stevenback
Greeter: George & Bev Mellan
Organist: Joan Hallman
Musician: 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

How to Read the Hebrew Bible: 8:45 am, Room 104 or join us through Zoom.

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: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, who have walked alongside Toba-Qom churches and communities in the Argentine Chaco since 2004. Pray for them as they provide continuity in long-term relationships and encourage the preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures.



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

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

December 10, 2023

*Discovering together how to follow Jesus
and make our community and the world a better place*

Calendar

Dec. 12, 7 pm	Mission Commission
Dec. 13, 6:30 pm	Chimin' In Practice
Dec. 13, 7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 17, 2-5 pm	Caleb's Cocoa Café
Dec. 17, 12 pm	Sunday Lunch Bunch
Dec. 20, 6:30 pm	Chimin' In Practice
Dec. 20, 7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 21, 12 pm	Senior Luncheon
Dec. 24, 7 pm	Candle Light Service

MCC Calendars and gift guides are available on the Welcome Table. Get one before they're gone!

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

Christmas for Code Blue: During the month of December you are invited to purchase individual \$5 or \$10 gift cards from WaWa, Walmart, Giant or Burger King. The cards benefit the homeless guests and are given to them for any extra purchases they need. Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please mark the card's amount and put in the Christmas Gift Box in the fellowship room.

Senior Luncheon is **Dec. 21, 12 pm**. All those 60 and up are invited to this time of festive food and fellowship. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Reminder from the Cemetery Committee: If you are an active member of the church and would like to reserve a plot in the WSMC cemetery you have until Dec. 31 to reserve a plot at no cost. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2024 the cost to reserve a plot will be \$500 for active members. Each plot can contain 1 full casket, 1 casket with 1 cremation, or 1 cremation or 2 cremations. To choose a plot or if you have any questions please contact John Gwilliam at gwil@comcast.net or 215-260-1291 (cell call/text). If you have already chosen a plot it has been recorded and there is no need for further action.

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

All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for new Mosaic Conference staff member, **Andrés Castillo**. Andrés has been working temporarily for the Conference this fall, but will now begin working full-time as the **Intercultural Communication Associate**. Pray for his work in this role as he works to build bridges between different communities within Mosaic.

2024 Summer Camp registration at Camp Men-O-Lan is open! If you register now through the end of 2023, you will pay 2023 pricing!! Find online registration at menolan.org under Summer Camp or call Beth at 215-679-5144 x321 for details and more information.

Save the Date for the **Family Christmas Program at Camp Men-O-Lan Saturday, Dec. 16**. Tours begin at 6 pm. This year's Journey Through Bethlehem will include time with Simeon, the Wise Men, Joseph, and Mary as we travel through the village. There will be hot chocolate to keep us warm as we walk. We will close our tour at the Auditorium and share the Gospel, reflecting on what it would be to give baby Jesus our all. We'll enjoy hot chocolate & cookies and sing carols. Watch for online registration at menolan.org or call 215-679-5144 x320.

Caleb's Cocoa Café, an annual fundraiser to benefit the Quakertown Code Blue Homeless Shelter, is **Sunday, Dec. 17**. Stop by 207 N. Ambler Street in Quakertown between 2 and 4:30 pm for hot cocoa and baked goods. Everything is \$1 (you can always donate more). You might want to time your visit for one of the on-the-hour live music spots. Dia Lowe (Jane Burkett's granddaughter) is one of the singers! Look for more info in the Dec/Jan newsletter.

Job openings at Everence: Interested in a career with purpose? Take a closer look at Everence – a faith-based company offering meaningful careers with opportunities for advancement and a friendly, flexible environment. See open positions at everence.com/careers.

Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Monday-Thursday, 9-4.

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