



PROCLAIM LIBERTY

I
the
Lord
love
justice.

— Isaiah 61:1-8

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Preludes Advent Noel ~ *arr. Michael Ryan*
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring ~ *J.S. Bach, arr. Dorothy Wells*
Be Still My Soul ~ *arr. Lani Smith*

We Gather around the Word

Opening Song My soul is filled with joy

Welcome

Call to Worship Screen

Songs of Praise Hark! the glad sound #184
To us a Child of hope is born #189
Build your kingdom here

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Drama How will we know,,,what's next?

Worship Music Mountain of God *Choir*

Offering Come, Thou Almighty King~ *arr. Gerald Peterson*

Scripture Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon God Loves Justice *Pastor Michael*

We Respond to the Word

Song The kingdom of God is justice and joy

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Song My soul cries out

Benediction

Postlude Good Christian Friends, Rejoice~ *arr. Paul Laubengayer*

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Sue Gwilliam
Greeter: John & Sue Gwilliam
Organist: Joan Hallman
Musician: 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

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: SADRA (Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency) Conflict Transformation is a Mennonite Mission Network partner that offers a Christian response to injustice in South Africa. Pray for the conflict mediators, who train members of their communities to de-escalate situations that could lead to violence.



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

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

December 17, 2023

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

Calendar

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

Thank you for supporting the Community Commission's Christmas poinsettia sale! There are a few extra plants left, so if you missed the order deadline, you may still get one. They will be available in the kitchen today after church. The proceeds will be sent to MCC to be used for emergency food to people in war-torn countries.

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

~ What's Happening at West Swamp ~

We received a big **Thank You** from the coordinator of the Salvation Army Christmas event, held Dec. 9, to all of our West Swamp cookie bakers. The volunteers there distributed 100 boxes of cookies to the registered families. The organization also provided toys for the children, some craft activities to take home, and a gift card for groceries. Our cookies are very much appreciated by everyone, and they definitely added a festive touch to the day! Thanks again.

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.

Directory Updates: The secretary is deeply embarrassed that she never got the 2023 updates done, so wants to get a good jump on 2024 ones. If you need a picture taken for the directory, please contact Lynne ASAP.

Candlelight Service, Dec. 24, 7 pm: Invite family and friends to this special time of song, scripture and story as our Advent waiting culminates with the birth of a Savior!

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.

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.

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.

Donor advised funds: Do you have a donor advised fund? The end of the year is a great time to replenish your funds. Get in touch with your Everence financial consultant to learn how your gifts of cash, stock, real estate and more can make a difference. Learn more at everence.com/daf.

Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Monday-Thursday, 9-4.

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