

West Swamp News

Volume 9, Issue 4

June '20

Let's get back to church!

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FYI

- MCC's Centennial June celebration weekend has been canceled. They will hold a modified weekend in October.
- Contact the church office if you would like to coordinate maintenance of the courtyard garden.

Bucks County transitions to the yellow phase on June 5, so we will resume services at church on June 7, though we will not use our church building yet.

As we work to ensure the health and safety of our congregation, the Ministry Team has decided to start off with "drive-in" services. We are still working out the details, but here are the basics:

- Park facing the pavilion in every other space, compact cars in the first rows, vans and taller vehicles in the second row.
- The secretary will email the bulletin on Thursday. It will include song lyrics. Please print your own copy; there will be a limited amount printed for those who need them.
- Those who need a bulletin, have an offering envelope to drop off, or have

food for the Caring Cart (see pg.), should drive under the portico, or next to the portico if there's a line. You will not need to leave your car for any of this.

- Please bring a face mask along. You are not required to wear it during the service, but should wear it for any of the above mentioned picking up of dropping off.
- If you have prayer concerns or joys to share, please email or call Pastor Michael or Lynne before Sunday.

We know this will be hard; many elements of our worship can't be done in the "usual" way right now. So why do it this way?

According to Pastor Michael, the answer is simple: "Love for one another. Day by day, we live into Jesus' command in John 13:34 to

love one another as he has loved us. And love for one another means that we do everything possible to safeguard each other's health, especially the health of our most vulnerable members."

If you or your family think you should stay home even from drive-in worship, you definitely should. We will record the service and make it available online so you can continue to participate in that way. (We are currently looking for someone who has a video camera that uses an SD card. If you have one we can use, please contact the church office.) The secretary will continue to transcribe the sermon for those who need it.

As situations and recommendations surrounding this pandemic evolve, so will our worship. Through it all God's presence remains constant!

Stewardship update—from home

While Pastor Michael and Lynne continue to keep the church offices running smoothly so that we may have meaningful online services on Sunday and stay connected during the week, so too the congregation has continued to be good stewards of the blessings our Lord has entrusted us with.

The most recent Treasurer's Report revealed that \$20,568 was received in offerings for April, which was an above average month. Also, as of April 30, we had a year to date surplus of \$178. We thank you for your continued support during this time

we are physically apart, and we pray that all will continue to unite in a spirit of good stewardship.

As we all have been attuned to the COVID-19 news in the past few months, many of you have heard about the Paycheck Protection Program that the federal government has offered to small businesses, including non-profits such as churches. Leaders of our newly merged conferences encouraged churches to apply for the program. So West Swamp applied for and was granted a \$19,250 PPP loan in early May.

The basic parameters of the pro-

gram are that if the loan is used for salaries and wages, including benefits, and utilities, during an eight-week period, the loan principal will be forgiven and designated a grant. The basic parameters, as I have summarized here, oversimplify a somewhat complicated process of applying for forgiveness that can begin in July. It is the Stewardship Commission's intention to pay back any unforgiven loan balance that was not used in the eight-week period as soon as possible.

Hope to see you all soon.

~ *Randy Rush*

Stewardship Commission recommendation for elevator repair

Notice is herewith given that on Sunday June 14, after the worship service, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on this above budget proposal to repair the elevator.

As most of you know, we have been having performance issues with the elevator since early January. Technicians from Otis Elevator have been on site twice to address the problems. After the second service call, in early March, we were told the elevator hydraulic pump would probably need to be rebuilt or replaced and that the original warranty had expired.

At this point the Trustees determined the elevator was unsafe and took it out of service. After several weeks, and a change to

our account manager at Otis, we received a \$12,464 repair order proposal from Otis Elevator to "complete the troubleshooting of the power unit." The proposal included a clause that indicated the prospect of additional material costs if a component in the power unit needed to be replaced.

The Stewardship Commission sought a second opinion on the repair and were referred to Alex Kuch from the Elevator Construction & Repair Co., Inc. Alex has experience servicing Otis elevators and has access to the required Otis component parts. Alex has made several visits to the church to do diagnostic analysis and has concluded that the entire hydraulic pump com-

ponent does need to be replaced. We have a proposal from Elevator Construction & Repair for \$8,500 to replace the hydraulic pump and related components. The \$8,500 proposal is in addition to the diagnostic services already performed in the amount of \$1,118.

We expect to have discussion as best we can and conduct a hand vote during the parking lot meeting on June 14. It is the recommendation of the Stewardship Commission to request an above budget spending authorization of \$9,618 and to move forward with the proposal from the Elevator Construction and Repair Co., Inc.

DISCO: While events are on hold, trust God

With summer quickly approaching, we are normally looking forward to summer vacations and summer breaks. But it feels like we have already been on a long break and a lot of us are eager to get back to normal life. We are eager to get a haircut, go out to dinner or even back to face-to-face meetings.

However we still have a way to go until we can return to life as normal. Some think we will never be able to go back to life as it was. Maybe that's a good thing. We are all more aware our surroundings and "CDC guidelines" and good hygiene. But we are also more appreciative of the little things.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again and worshipping our Lord together. I expect it will be somewhat different than what we have been used to and so I ask for your prayers as the Worship Commission and the Discipling Commission determine how to safely resume our worship, Sunday School and small groups.

In the meantime, we have been able to stay in touch whether by phone or email or Facetime or Skype. During this time that the church has been closed, we have continued the Bible Project Sunday School class that Lynne started in January. We've been meeting via Zoom on Sunday

mornings, and I have been enjoying the discussions. We started in the book of Genesis and the group has been working their way through the Bible. We are currently finishing up the book of Deuteronomy and will start on Joshua in June.

I encourage you to join us. I gain new perspectives and understanding every week and enjoy catching up with everyone. As we resume worship together—at church, but in new ways—we want to keep these great discussions going in a safe manner.

Wishing everyone love, peace and good health.

~ *Lori Farrell*

Everence offers support

COVID-19 financial resources support. As COVID-19 continues to affect everyone, our church's faith-based partner, Everence, offers financial tips, relief and support. You might need help for your family or want to know how to support others in need. Find these resources at everence.com/covid-19-support.

Graduating from school? COVID-19 unexpectedly changed your graduation, but the basics of how to get off on the right financial foot remain the same. Become independent, explore new experiences and share generously with the world with

small steps from Everence at everence.com/getting-started.

Money Magic for youths! They can jumpstart their savings during Money Magic, this year's Youth Savings Week, July 6-10. They can earn an extra \$5 when they deposit \$15 in a new or existing youth-savings account with Everence. The youth savings account currently earns 4.00% APY for the first \$1,000. Learn more at everence.com/youth-savings-week.

Staying connected



Pov Sar Loch: Alicia and her boyfriend moved to Ephrata in May and I got to visit her on Mother's Day!

Mission: A new normal

We have been hearing so much about the new normal because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The face masks hav gotten to be so common that seeing someone without one seems strange. Seeing a hand shake on a TV show seems so weird. Hearing someone cough, or heaven forbid sneeze, almost sends panic waves out. Seeing a loved one from 6 feet away seems like miles, when normally we hold give each other a big hug.

So getting back to normal—at least for now—has to be different. The AHUB Code Blue Shelter had to close its doors to overnight guests in mid March because of the virus. But that did not stop the ministry. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, they were able to safely put together take-out meals for guests twice a week through May. These meals will continue once a week at this point. Not the normal hot meal and a warm bed, but it still

met needs.

Camp Men-O-Lan had to make a very tough decision about their normal summer camp weeks. For the safety of all, they decided to cancel their summer over-night and day camps. Keep the many children that look so forward to their week of camp in your prayers. In the words of Richard Brewer, Men-O-Lan executive director, “Pray that the campers would be encouraged even with their normal time at camp not happening and that we [camp staff] would have wisdom and creativity to have alternate programs this summer as things open up.” As things do open up, camp should be able to safely host smaller groups to use their facilities. Richard is so thankful the God provided PPP funds to help keep staff employed and that all of the camp staff has been kept safe from Covid-19.

So as we figure out our new nor-

mal at West Swamp here is the new twist for the “Caring Cart” food donations. To go along with our drive in church, we hope to have a drive thru food drop off. To do this safely, here is the plan: Have your donation in your trunk or back seat and pull under the portico. A masked, gloved, healthy person will unload for you and say, “Thank You.” We’ll see that your donations get to the Trumbauersville and Quakertown food pantries. So as you are safely doing your grocery shopping, remember to pick up a few extras for the “Caring Cart.” We want to continue to care for those that may need a little help, especially during this time of mass unemployment.

As we figure out the new normal, we can be sure of one thing: Jesus loves us, this we know, for the Bible tells us so!

—Rod Rush

Staying connected



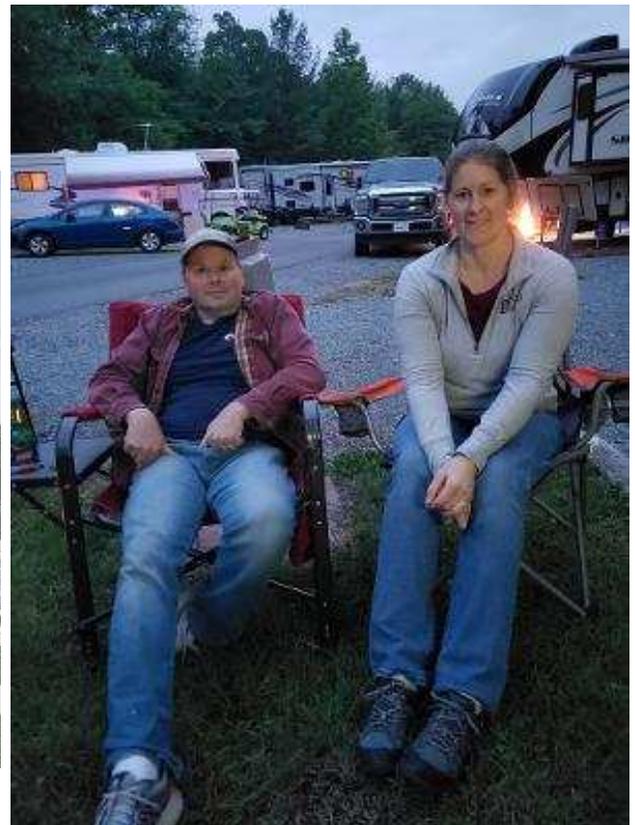
Sue Conrad Howes: Here’s what we did on Memorial Day! Sue painted and Michael mowed.

Staying connected

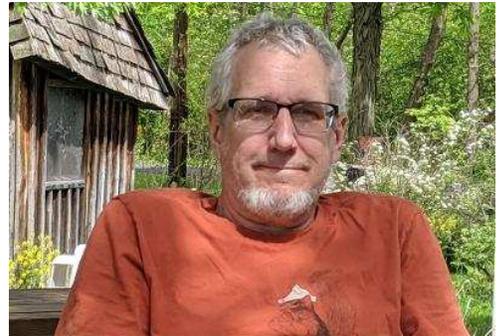


Anita Husvar: Kinsley Searfass enjoys some time with Grandma and Aunt Jordan.
Above: Shawn & Anita celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary—“Making the best of it, out to dinner ‘COVID style’ in the parking lot in TGIFridays in Quakertown.”

Lori Farrell: Chris and I were camping Memorial Day Weekend in College Park, MD. We were originally supposed to be camping in New Jersey, but the campground cancelled. We were lucky to find this campground, and since it was near Washington, DC, we spent Saturday seeing the sights!



Staying connected



Gretchen Isaak: On May 17 my family and I celebrated my birthday and my nephew Noah's college graduation (his grad ceremony is postponed). Also pictured are my niece Anna Rose, sister-in-law Melissa and brother Garth.



(Above) Nancy Jacobs: Don and I had the week off and spent a lot of time working on the flower beds. We had great weather for spending time outdoors. If you look closely you can see a frog Eli Mood made from horseshoes!

(Right) Linda Rice: Here's Les in his happy place—his garden. I made doughnuts using my mom's old baking board and recipe. Yum!

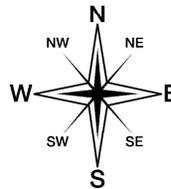
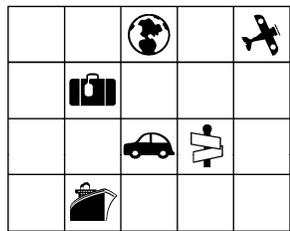
Kid's Page



Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.



Start at the SHIP.

Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N _ _ _

Start at the WORLD.

Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE _ _

Start at the SUITCASE.

Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E _ _ _

Start at the PLANE.

Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W _ _

Start at the CAR.

Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW _ _ _

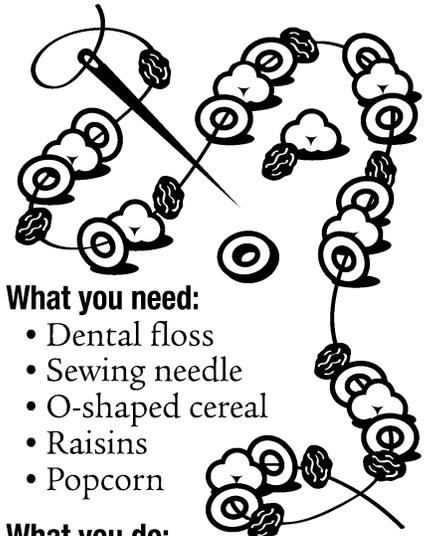
Start at the SIGN.

Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW _ _ _ _ _

The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng both no_ and for_ vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

ROAD TRIP TREAT

Make this snack necklace to enjoy during summer travels.



What you need:

- Dental floss
- Sewing needle
- O-shaped cereal
- Raisins
- Popcorn

What you do:

1. Carefully thread a yard of floss through the needle.
2. String a pattern of cereal, raisins and popcorn on the floss until only 4 inches remain on either end. Tie the two ends together.
3. Repeat to make necklaces for your whole family.
4. When you're ready to eat, simply bite off each "bead." Experiment with other non-perishable foods.

Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV



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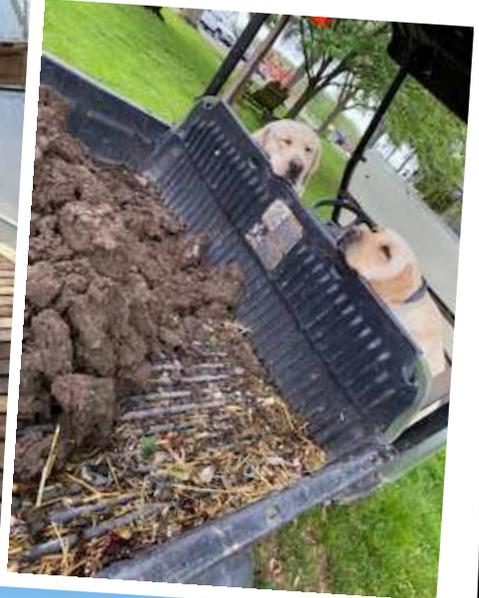
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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

More Pictures from the Mood Farm

Katie Mood shares these photos: Case and his cousin Austin work in the greenhouse. Do even the dogs know how to drive the golf cart?! Matt is well into another busy day of farming. [Still too early for a calendar schedule! -L.R.]



**JUNE
BIRTHDAYS**

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 6/3 | Joel Bauman | 6/14 | Michael Howes |
| | Mike Opdyke | 6/17 | George Mellan |
| 6/4 | Linda Rice | | Eileen Riley |
| 6/6 | Allison Bevan | 6/22 | Brook Stauffer |
| | April Huff | 6/25 | Adam Wieand |
| | Michael Opdyke | 6/27 | Shawn Husvar |
| | Jeff Searfass | | Eli Mood |
| 6/9 | Leon Propst | 6/29 | Judy Leister |
| | Isaac Scheetz | | Cindy Raub |
| 6/12 | Kaitlin Moyer | | |