

# West Swamp News

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May 2021

## Charting the course for the rest of 2021

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### FYI

- \* Knotting resumes on Tuesday, Apr. 27 at 8 am. Please wear a mask.
- \* As we move back inside, greeters are needed. Contact Evelyn High if you can take a turn. Friendly, smiling eyes are highly encouraged.



As spring continues to unfurl and we look forward in anticipation of continued gains in the battle against COVID-19 and the restoration of our church building, I wanted to give you a progress report on the work being done.

Our newest Trustee, Matt Mood, has graciously agreed to be our primary contact with the general contractor, Yoder Construction. Inside work began the week of April 12 and the stone mason is expected to be on the job the week of April 19.

We also are looking to upgrade the outside sign to an electronic digital sign. Several the tables and chairs were

damaged and so replacements are being ordered.

We were very fortunate to find a contractor that could get on the job so quickly and

they have committed to staying on the job to get everything done as soon as possible.

Now for a quick look at our standing on the 2021 budget: At the end of March our offerings and other receipts total \$50,308; compared to \$43,382 last year. That increase has helped to limit the March 31 deficit to \$3,123 compared to \$10,010 in 2020.

Thank you for your con-

tinued good stewardship.

As for our return to indoor worship services, Pastor Michael and the Ministry Team have assessed the survey responses and the county statistical data available. We have set May 2 as our target date to return to the sanctuary. We will again be roping off the pews to accommodate appropriate distancing and will require masks to ensure the safest environment for everyone.

Please continue to pray for an end to this deadly virus.

*~ Randy Rush  
Moderator Deacon  
Stewardship Commission*



## Pastor's Corner: Far away, but not from my heart

I'm on vacation now, stuck on a long layover. And it has me thinking about West Swamp and its people. While I've been away, people I see ask after you continually: "How is the church?" So I tell them how we're being persistent in connecting with one another and Jesus through a global pandemic. I tell them about the hole in the church, now being rebuilt. And I tell

them about how I pray for you all. How I pray for you to flourish spiritually, to be overflowing with love and good deeds. And I tell them how blessed I am to be your pastor. How continually encouraged I am by your resilience and faithfulness. Know that even when I'm far away, you're close to my heart. Peace,

~ *Pastor Michael*



## Mission: My Coins Count



Above: Lynne Rush has been using their coin jar as a ruler weight when she cuts fabric for quilting. What will she use now?!

Left: Don and Nancy Jacobs collect their coins in a water bottle; Jan and Denny Wieand use a beautiful box.



Might as well keep collecting coins for a few weeks more. Then we'll get them delivered by the end of the month. Coins turned in to the Material Resource Center in Harleysville before June 1 will be matched by a generous donor.

This year's coin collection supports MCC's Water Initiatives around the world.

## Community: Celebrating any way we can

Community Commission members collaborated with the Worship team to connect with our church family on Saturday, Mar. 27 with a special Palm Sunday delivery. Many delicious cookies were baked by volunteers, goodie bags were filled, and drivers



were given their “Palm delivery routes.” Thanks to Katie Mood for planning special surprises for children! Palm branches and colorful cookies were delivered to as many homes as possible, and we were able to visit safely in person with many of the recipients. It was so good to see some of you in person!

College students have again faced a challenging year with virtual and hybrid learning requirements. We applaud them for their determination to push through these changes! They will

**Pauline Stelmach (left) and Tim Butenuth (right) receive their “palm packet.”**



be receiving cards of encouragement and a small gift just to remind them their church family cares about them. Wishing them good luck with year-end projects and finals!

We are also planning a lovely Mother’s Day remembrance gift for all adult women on Sunday, May 9. We are looking forward to seeing you then!

*~ Nancy Jacobs*

## May happenings

**Moving back inside:** The Ministry Team has targeted May 2 as our time to worship in the sanctuary again. Masks are required, physical distancing observed, and use of hand sanitizer encouraged. Pray that we can all work together to keep everyone safe.

**Outdoor Youth Auction:** The Discipling Commission will host the Youth Auction on Saturday, May 15 in and around the pavilion. Starting at 6 pm, light refreshments will be available.

Donations of handmade items, baked goods, delivered meals and gently used items are welcome. How creative can you be! (We have a start already with some items that have been waiting a year to be auctioned off!) Donations can be dropped off at church or we can arrange a pickup.

In case of inclement weather, a silent auction will be held inside the church that same weekend. But let’s hope for good weather.

**All-Conference Pentecost Service:** On Sunday, May 23 Mosaic Conference will hold its second conference-wide virtual Pentecost service. Did you know that Mosaic Conference stretches from California to Florida to Vermont? What a joy to be able to worship together, while being so far apart.

You can choose to take part at home or come to church to watch it on the sanctuary screen. Look for more details in May bulletins.



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Reflecting God in our  
living, loving and serving

## Knotting resumes!



Hurrah! After a more than year-long hiatus, it's time to start knotting again on April 27. These comforters have been waiting patiently to get into frames and look forward to the return of the knotters. Masks are required and for now (sadly) the usual snack time will be on hold.



## Birthdays

### May

- 5/5 Griffin Bear  
Gretchen Isaak  
Tim Scheetz
- 5/6 Stephen Shelly
- 5/7 Tanja Prosock
- 5/11 Jane Burkett
- 5/15 Lee Hallman

- 5/20 Judy High
- 5/22 Matt Mood
- 5/23 Tim Butenuth
- 5/26 May Keiser
- 5/29 Don Jacobs
- 5/30 Charlene Smoll