

Note from the artist: "The image of Christ as a mother hen is revolutionary. Instead of using a hypermasculine, militaristic, menacing image in response to Herod's death threats, Jesus upends the expected posture of violence and chooses to identify with the nurturing, protective, feminine image of a mother hen. He explains his love for Jerusalem as a mother hen who desperately desires to lovingly shelter her young. This image drips of rejection, however, because the chicks are unwilling to be protected. In Jesus' attempt to love the world he meets unwillingness, distrust, mockery, and violence.

Jesus' use of this simile is wonderfully subversive because at first it seems like a harmless, warm, and fuzzy kind of reference—a cuddly, plump mother hen wanting to snuggle her young—but mother hens will protect their young at all cost. A mother hen will put her whole body on the line to keep her chicks safe; if danger nears, she will meet it head on, striking with her beak, with claws raised high.

Jesus wants that fox (Herod) to know that death threats will not keep him from fiercely bringing healing and restoration to the world."

Attribution: Pittman, Lauren Wright. Mother Hen, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57093> [retrieved March 10, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.lewpstudio.com> - copyright by Lauren Wright Pittman.



*...how often I have longed to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.*

Luke 13:34

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Seeking God's Ways

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

—Isaiah 55:8

Prelude

“God Is in Control” ~arr. Carol Tornquist

“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” ~arr. Phillip Keveren

“On Eagle's Wings” ~arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome & Call to Worship

Songs of Praise “Blessed assurance” #332
 “Blessed be the name”
 “Amazing grace (My chains are
 gone)”

Worship Music “The Lord Is My Light” *Choir Ensemble*

Scripture Genesis 15:1-11, 17-18
Song “The God of Abraham praise” #162
(Children 4 yrs-5th grade dismissed for Children's Church during song)

Scripture Luke 13:31-35

Message *Pastor Michael*

Song “The Compassion Hymn”

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Song “Step by step”

Benediction

Postlude “In Thee Is Gladness” ~Dale Wood

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Katie Mood
Greeters: Don Rosenberger, Edna Rosenberger
Pianist: Joan Hallman
Musicians: Lynne Rush, Brenda Landt
Videographer: Mark Kemmerer
Visual Technicians: Marsha High, Emily Rush
Sound Technicians: Glenn High, Tim Scheetz

Nursery Service is not being offered at this time.

Sunday School Classes for Spring Quarter

The Bible Project continues to meet in Room 104 and via Zoom at 9 am. We are currently studying Acts. Contact Lynne Rush if you would like to join this class.

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

Mission, Glenn High

Community, Nancy Jacobs

Stewardship, vacant

Discipleship (DISCO), Katie Mood

Worship, vacant

Church Secretary: Lynne Rush

Treasurer: Pat Bevan

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Prince of Peace Mennonite Church and the Service Adventure unit in Anchorage, Alaska, as Zaden Issah, Sam Setiawan and leader Michael Oyer recently welcomed three new participants from Germany: Sarah Huber, Alexander Mantler and Daniel Schumacher. Ask God to bless their transition to a larger household.



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing prayer requests.

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

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church
March 13, 2022
Reflecting God in our living, loving & serving

Calendar

- Mar. 13, 6:30 pm Movie Night
- Mar. 15, 8 am Knotting & Quilting
- Mar. 15, 7 pm Ministry Team
- Mar. 16, 6:30 pm Chimin' In
- Mar. 16, 7:15 pm Choir



Weekly Prayer Focus:

Pray for MCC Partners in Ukraine who are doing their best to meet individual and community needs in the midst of this violent conflict.

~ *What's Happening at West Swamp* ~

My Coins Count: Bring in those coins! We will be collecting coins each Sunday in March. Coins and donations will be taken to the PA Relief Sale in Harrisburg on April 2. This year moneys raised through My Coins Count will go towards MCC food and water projects.

Children's Church (pre-K through Grade 5) will be happening during the worship service each Sunday during Lent. Join us for puppet videos and crafts!

Second Sunday! Join us **tonight** at 6:30 pm for a family movie night in the sanctuary to watch "The Stray"—and see how one dog can change everything. Light refreshments provided.

Sermon Discussion Small Group: Remember that you can join this group anytime. It meets on the first and third Thursday of the month. Contact Katie Mood if interested.

~ *What's Happening in the Community* ~

All Mosaic Conference congregations are invited to pray for Midian Leadership Program, a Conference-related ministry in Charleston, WV. They specifically request prayer for their building renovation and for Jeff Biddle and the leadership team, in their mission to develop leaders in their Charleston community through education, community, and faith.

Ukraine Emergency Response from MCC: On February 24, Russian military forces began an invasion of Ukraine by land, sea and air. Missiles struck several major cities in Ukraine, including the capital city Kyiv. Casualties continue to grow as Russian soldiers move through the country. **MCC is accepting donations for a response in Ukraine.** We are assessing the changing situation with local partners to determine the appropriate response. MCC's response will be focused on longer-term scale up of existing programs that support vulnerable people and extending those services to internally displaced populations. It will likely include psychosocial support and trauma healing, temporary emergency housing, emergency distributions of locally purchased emergency supplies such as blankets, and distribution of food packages. MCC also plans to resume shipments of material resources once the in-country conditions are stable enough to do so. Donation checks can be mailed to: MCC, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500. For on-line donations, go to donate.mcc.org/cause/Ukraine-emergency-response.

The 66th annual **Mennonite Central Committee PA Relief Sale** will be held Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg, PA. All proceeds benefit MCC. The craft stand committee is looking for donations of new, quality items made from fabric, yarn, thread, wood, paper or your specialty medium. Drop-offs can be made any time at the Ephrata MCC Material Resources Center or bring them to the craft stand during the sale. For more info, contact Janet Runion Patton at 717-926-4008 or jcpatton99@gmail.com.

Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Monday-Thursday, 9-4

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