

West Swamp News

Volume 11, Issue 6

October/November 2022

Taking church "on the road"

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FYI

- Mosaic Conference Assembly is Nov. 5. Assembly Scattered events are planned for Oct. 8-20. Talk to Pastor Michael if you want to know more.
- Daylight Savings ends at 2 am on Sunday, Nov. 6. Don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night!

The Fifth Sunday in October (Oct. 30) will get us out of our building and into the homes of some of our members who can't attend in person. In other words, since they can't come to church, we're going to "take church" to them!

Sign up sheets will be up Oct. 9; we encourage you to sign up to join one of three or four groups (we're still working out details). Each group will go to a

different location and have an informal worship service with one of our homebound members.

Services will be simple: scripture, prayer, sharing, a devotional, maybe even some singing (that might depend on the group).

Groups will be limited in size to what the different spaces can handle. People who don't get into a "traveling" group are invited to an

informal service of their own in the fellowship hall.

We have more homebound members than we will be able to accommodate on Oct. 30. Maybe you would like to pay one of them a visit that week. We'll have that info available with the sign up sheets.

Worship happens when "two or three are gathered in my name," wherever that may be!

Together in solidarity and harmony

A small group of West Swampers and a large group of Solidarity & Harmony enjoyed worship, baptisms, fellow-

ship, fun and lots of good food on Aug. 21. Did you miss it? Plan on attending next year!



Left: Matt Mood discusses yellow watermelon.

Above: Joan Hallman and Deb Stevenback enjoy the pool with chil-

Pastor's Corner: Pursuing faithfulness

During October and November, we're going to be exploring in worship the New Testament book of James. James was written by one of Jesus' brothers, who was a leader in the church in Jerusalem after Jesus' death and resurrection.

James feels different than most of the letters in the New Testament—it has a different structure and organizational plan. In many ways, it is like the Old Testament books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, full of wisdom.

One of my favorite things about the book of James is that it is intensely practical—it is filled with advice for daily living. One of my favorite parts of the book is in the first chapter. In verse five, James writes: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

What amazing good news! We so often feel like we lack the wisdom and insight to make the difficult decisions that we encour-

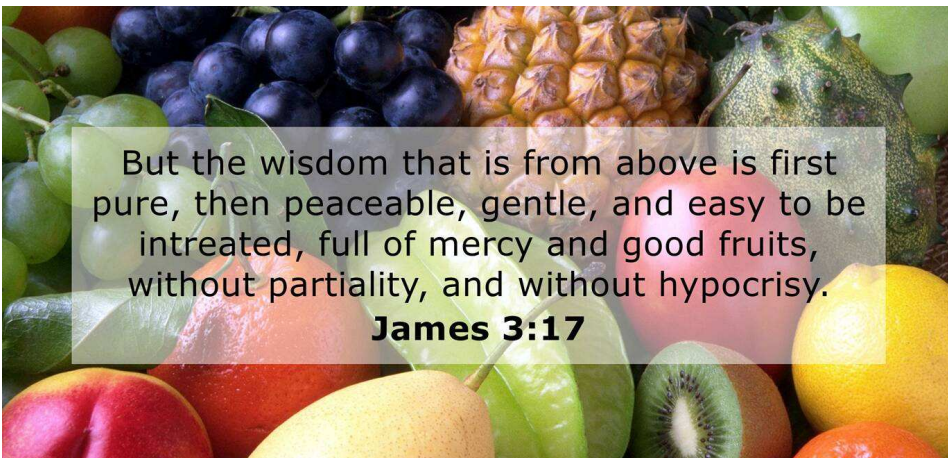
ter in our daily lives.

Our perplexity is no surprise to God. God has already provided what we need. All we need to do is ask! And God doesn't find fault with us for asking. How often have you been reluctant to ask for something you needed, because you felt like you would be teased or ridiculed for being needy. But God knows what we need even before we do, and God never reproaches us for being needy. All we have to do is ask.

The certainty that God will meet our need for wisdom should embolden us to seek insight for the daily issues we face. I hope this week you will be encouraged to ask God for the wisdom you need to face your unique challenges, confident that God desires to give us what we need to make good decisions and walk in the way of Jesus.

Peace,

~ *Pastor Michael*



But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17

Mission: Opportunities to invest in

Thanks to all who contributed to the MCC School Kit collection. We donated 67 complete kits, plus some surplus items.

We will be posting the dates of the Care and Share work evenings each month. Please keep an eye open for announcements in the bulletin. Work evenings are now on the last Tuesday of the month (next one is Sept. 27). These evenings for anyone to

come and work 5-8 pm and help with sorting, pricing, etc. Enter through the Welcome Center and stay for as long as you like.

West Swamp will host another dinner at Ripple on Oct. 9. We're looking for volunteers to donate items for the meal, people to help serve the meal, and also people to attend the service and to interact with the congregation during the meal. We are supposed to

arrive between 3:00 and 3:30; the worship service is at 4 pm.

This is a great way to get more familiar with the Ripple congregation, see first hand one of their services, and meet some of the people who attend.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall.

~ *Karen Parzych*

DISCO: Welcome to fall, y'all!

We are moving in to my favorite time of year with warm days, cool nights, beautiful colors, and Thanksgiving ahead. It feels good to start a new season. Are you looking to start a new “spiritual” season? Ready to get back in the groove after an enjoyable summer? What opportunities are you looking for from Discipling Commission?

Just last week, a young boy asked me a question at my farmers market in Easton. He stood in front of my table full of a beautiful produce display and asked, “Shouldn’t fruits and vegetables be free?” I took full advantage of this teachable moment! After explaining the hard work, long hours, and that this was my job, the boy was not convinced. His mindset was that this produce was healthy so it should be free. Our perspectives could not have been further from one another.

I tell you this story in hopes of extending it beyond tomatoes, sweet corn, and watermelon to the fruits of the spirit. Are you of the mindset that patience and kindness are free? Or that love, joy and peace take hard work and long hours? Does a person need to labor hard to plant, irri-

gate, and harvest these fruits so they can freely give them to others?

How can DISCO support your spiritual fruits? I look forward to hearing from you! k34auckland@gmail.com

~ *Katie Mood*



The latest from Stewardship

As we wind down summer and look forward to fall, we have been busy of late with a couple of clean-ups and fix it tasks.

Recently, Sue Gwilliam headed up a small group to declutter the library and wherever else clutter could be found. Thank you, Sue.

Also, just this week, the restoration work on the chimney began. It is being done by a contractor found by Matt Mood.

As the 2022 growing season comes to an end, we will be looking for someone new to take over the mowing and trimming in 2023. Please contact one of the Trustees with any candidates you may now.

Please remember to be faithful with your tithes and offerings as we all enjoy God’s bounties this fall season.

~ *Randy Rush*

Code Blue: How can you help?

As Code Blue approaches its 10th year of operation, they are excited about their move into larger facilities. It's the same building, the Masonic Lodge in downtown Quakertown—it's just a bigger space.

As the unhoused population in Bucks County continues to grow, the Quakertown homeless shelter usage increases. The shelter provides a warm bed, plus supper and breakfast, on cold winter

nights when the temperature is 26 degrees or lower. They can't open without enough volunteers to staff the shelter.

After nine very successful years for the program, AHUB (Advocates of the Homeless of Upper Bucks) hopes to broaden their volunteer base for the season. Is this the year YOU volunteer.

Volunteers help in all kinds of ways—admissions, food prepar-

ers, overnight chaperons in two shifts, site coordinators, task force members, and morning aides who clean the facilities.

While the shelter needs donated items of all kinds, West Swamp has been asked to focus only on donating new twin sized blankets this year.

If you have questions about volunteering, talk to Les Rice. If you have questions about blankets, talk to Louise Butcher.

Reminders about creation care and recycling

It's good every now and then to remind ourselves of past decisions. In 2019 we passed a motion to be more ecologically aware of the resources we use. This includes:

- NOT using Styrofoam products
- Avoiding the use of plastic utensils
- Recycling as much as possible

In the time since that motion passed in our congregation, Pennsylvania passed a mandate that businesses and institutions MUST have a recycling plan for paper, aluminum, plastic and corrugated cardboard.

Help us be faithful stewards both of God's command to care for the earth and PA's recycling mandate. Please put recyclable items in the appropriate bins

(wash or rinse aluminum and plastic first). Remember that the bin by the mailboxes is for paper ONLY, no trash or other recyclables.

God gifted the human race with a beautiful, incredible planet. When we take care of the gift, we honor and show our love for the Giver!

A Prayer to Love the World Again

By Sarah Bessey

God of herons and heartbreak,
teach us to love the world again.

Teach us to love extravagantly
knowing it may

(it will) break our hearts
and teach us that it is worth it.

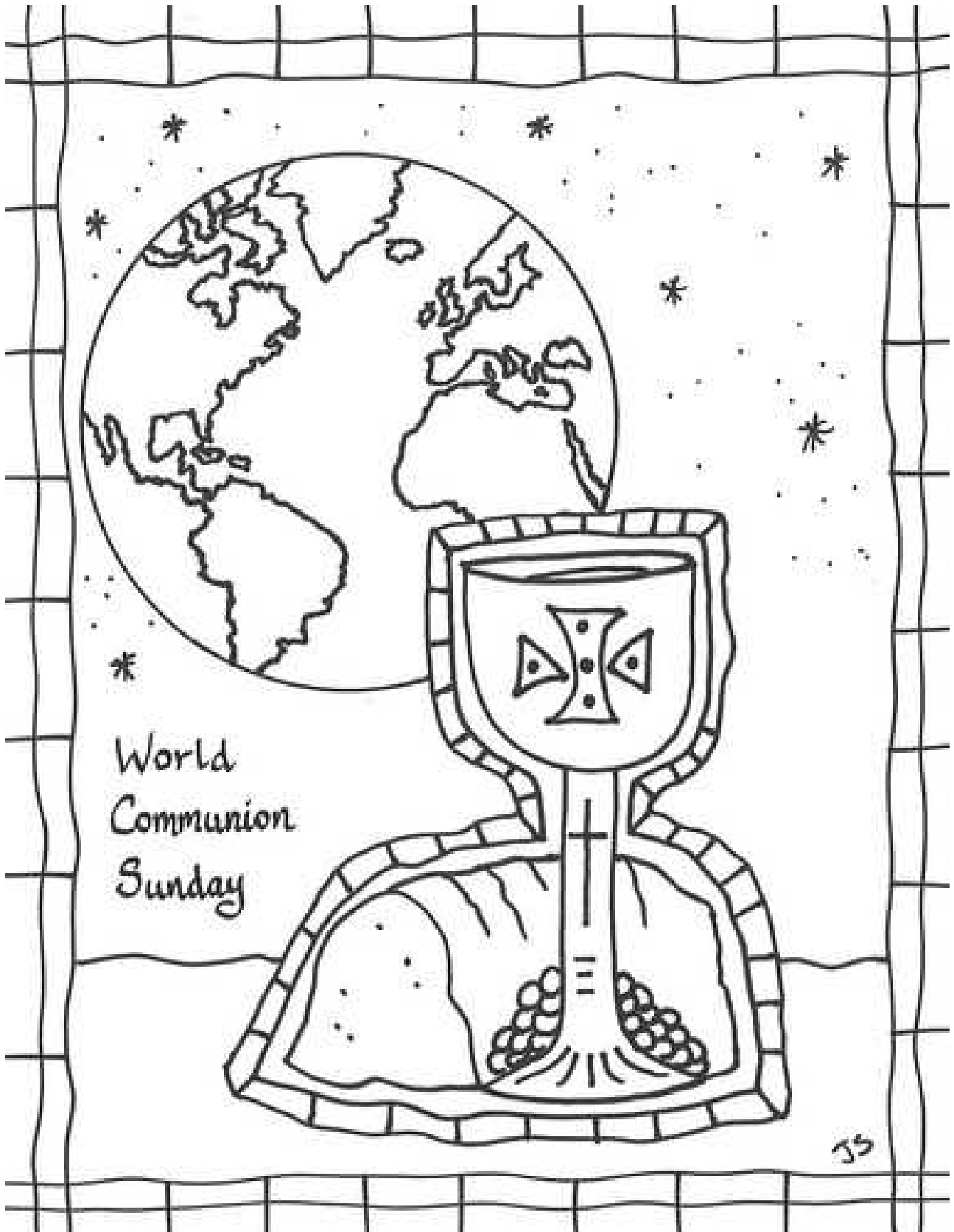
God of pandemics and suffering
ones,
teach us to love the world again.

God of loneliness and longing,

of bushfires and wilderness,
of soup kitchens and border
towns,
of snowfall and children,
teach us to love the world again.

Amen

World Communion Coloring Page





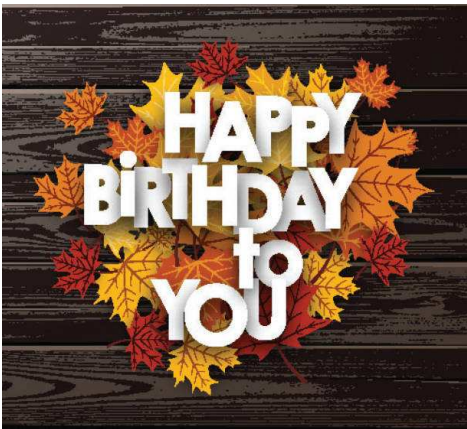
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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving



October

10/6 Matthew Opdyke
10/7 Deb Stevenback
Jan Wieand
10/14 Don Rosenberger
10/17 Case Mood
10/18 Paul Heimbach
Joann Rush
10/20 Amanda Wieand
10/21 Randy Rush
10/25 Corinne High
10/27 Dick Landt
10/29 Dale Loch

November

11/3 Nancy Jacobs
John Riley
11/05 Olivia Mood
11/06 Jordan Husvar
11/08 Alex Parzych
11/18 Andrew Spiess
11/19 Pam Grube
11/20 Don Butcher
11/21 Bernice Keller
11/26 Les Rice
11/28 Kitty Stauffer
11/30 Mary Bittenbender