

Cover Art: *Annunciation to Mary*, 1963. A detail from a large mural in the Abbaye de Keur Moussa in Dakar Senegal, by Father George Saget. Attribution: Saget, Father George. Annunciation to Mary, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56338> [retrieved December 19, 2023]. Original source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:KeurMoussaAutel.jpg>.



You shall bear a son

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Preludes O Little Town of Bethlehem ~ *arr. Pepper Choplin*
Angels We Have Heard ~ *arr. Mary McDonald*
Something Beautiful ~ *Gaither, arr. Fred Bock*

We Gather around the Word

Opening Song Gloria #204

Welcome
Call to Worship Screen

Songs of Praise Your love is amazing
Love came down at Christmas #208
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming #211

We Hear God's Word

Scripture 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Worship Music He shall reign forevermore *Impromptu Choir*

Offering In His Time *with* Be Not Afraid ~ *Diane Ball, John Bell*

Scripture Luke 1:26-38

Drama Why me? Why *not* me?

Sermon No word from God will ever fail *Pastor Michael*

We Respond to the Word

Song The angel Gabriel #180

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Song Don't be afraid

Benediction
Postlude Sing We Now of Christmas ~ *arr. Stan Pethel*

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Sue Gwilliam
Greeter: John & Sue Gwilliam
Pianist: 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: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus’ message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.



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

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

December 24, 2023

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

Calendar

Dec. 24, 7 pm	Candle Light Service
Jan. 2, 7 pm	Community Commission
Jan. 7	Epiphany Sunday
Jan. 9, 7 pm	Mission Commission
Jan. 10, 6:30 pm	Chimin’ In Practice
Jan. 10, 7:15 pm	Choir Practice

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

~ *What's Happening at West Swamp* ~

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 raised over \$5000 last Sunday, with more donations coming in. Thanks to all who attended for their support of Caleb and his mission to raise funds for Code Blue!

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

The church offices are closed Monday for Christmas.

Pastor Michael: Tuesday-Thursday, 9-4.

Lynne: Tuesday, Thursday, 8:30-1:30. Lynne will be away Dec. 29-Jan 1.