

Cover Art: *Jesus is tempted*, JESUS MAFA, 1973.

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

In this painting, Jesus has been taken to the top of a mountain in the final temptation described in Matthew 4:1-11 where the devil whispers in his ear the promise of all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus is confronted with the temptation to seize power—to live by the rule(s) of the world. We know from this one gospel story that he refuses every temptation, but we know from the remaining narrative that the temptation to be the messiah people expected must have haunted him to his death on the cross. Jesus instead is a new kind of messiah, one who exemplifies non-violent resistance, trusting in the love he embodies.

Attribution: JESUS MAFA. *Jesus is tempted* - Matthew 4:1-11, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48312> [retrieved March 7, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).



Terrible and beautiful?!

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

First Sunday of Lent

March 9, 2025

10:30 A.M.

Prelude Out of the Depths ~ *Martin Luther, arr. Goldstein*
Forty Days & Forty Nights ~ *M. Herbst, arr. Goldstein*
Wondrous Love ~ *American Folk Hymn, arr. Goldstein*

We Gather around the Word

Lighting the Candle
Welcome

Singing Sing praise to God #59
Shout to the Lord
Blessed be your name

Blessing for Lent
Worship Music I know that my Redeemer lives *Chimin' In*

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Offering Fill us with your feast ~ *Phil Campbell-Enns*

Scripture Luke 4:1-13

Sermon Terrible and beautiful?! *Pastor Michael*
Confessing Screen

We Respond to the Word

Song of Response I want Jesus to walk with me #439

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Song Come, walk with us

Benediction
Postlude

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Joan Hallman
Greeters: Denny & Jan Wieand
Musicians: Brenda Landt, Lynne Rush
Videographer: Mark Kemmerer
Visual Technicians: Marsha High, Emily Rush
Sound Technicians: Carl Raub, Rod Rush, Tim Scheetz

Sunday School Classes for Winter Quarter

The TLC Class (Topics, Learning and Conversation) is studying curriculum based on The Chosen TV series, 9:30 am.
Bible Project—Genesis: 8:45 am, Room 104 or join us through Zoom.

West Swamp Mennonite Church

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215-536-7468

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Website: www.westswamp.org

Pastor: Michael Howes

717-419-4228, howes.michael@gmail.com

Commissions & Deacons:

Ministry Team, Carl Raub

Community, Nancy Jacobs

Discipleship (DISCO), Katie Mood

Mission, Glenn High

Stewardship, Alex Parzych

Worship, Joan Hallman

Church Secretary: Lynne Rush

Treasurer: Pat Bevan

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Ecuador partnership meetings that are being held in Quito this week. Linda Shelly, regional director for Latin America, and Andrew Suderman, director of global partnerships, have joined representatives of the Colombia Mennonite Church and Central Plains Mennonite Conference in meeting with Ecuadorian partners to discern how to best carry out God's vision in their communities.



Notes:

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

March 9, 2025

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

Calendar

Mar. 9	First Sunday of Lent
Mar. 9, 11:30 am	Special Congregational Meeting
Mar. 9, 3 pm	Ripple Meal
Mar. 10, 7 pm	Community Commission
Mar. 11, 7 pm	Mission Commission
Mar. 12, 6:30 pm	Worship Commission
Mar. 16, 12 pm	Sunday Lunch Bunch
Mar. 19, 6:30 pm	Chimin' In practice
Mar. 19, 7:15 pm	Choir practice
Mar. 20, 12 pm	Senior Luncheon

Thank you to everyone who donated toward the Relief Kit collection for MCC. We delivered 10 complete kits to MCC.

~ *What's Happening at West Swamp* ~

Special Congregational Meeting: Please stay after the worship service today for a brief meeting. There are two items of business: reviewing and voting on proposed updates and revisions to our Constitution/Bylaws, and approving the minutes from the Special Congregational Meeting on 6-2-24 about the playground (the minutes missed getting in the annual business meeting report).

Ripple Meal: The Mission Commission will be doing a meal for Ripple Church **today**. You are welcome to accompany the group to attend Ripple's 4 pm service and/or help prepare or serve the meal. Questions? Ask Karen Parzych.

Sunday Lunch Bunch: You are invited to join the group next Sunday, **Mar. 16**, at Santiago's in Coopersburg for lunch and fellowship after the worship service.

Senior Luncheon, Mar. 20: All those 60+ are invited to a time of great food and even greater fellowship. Sign up in the fellowship hall.

Directory Updates: If you have changes to your directory information, please let Lynne know. Also, let Lynne know if you have knowledge of information changes for people in the directory who don't attend regularly. Also, contact Lynne if you need a new picture. Thanks!

~ *What's Happening in the Community* ~

All Mosaic congregations are asked to pray for the many people within Mosaic congregations who are feeling vulnerable at this time, and for their pastors to be able to lead well, trusting in God, who says, "Fear not, for I am with you." (Isaiah 41:10)

Souderton Mennonite Church (105 W. Chestnut Street, Souderton, PA 18964) would like to invite you to join us for **An Irish Heritage Afternoon**, a free concert Saturday, Mar. 15 at 3 pm featuring Celtic Caravan and the Irish dancers from Pride of Erin School of Irish Dance. For more information visit our website <https://soudertonmennonite.org/2023-concert-series/>

Everence is hosting a workshop, ***Your Path to Medicare and Social Security***, Mar. 25 at 6:30 pm, at Zion Mennonite Church, 149 E Cherry Ln, Souderton. Everence financial consultants will discuss how to enroll in Medicare and explain what is covered by the government health care plan. They will also cover issues and planning considerations related to health care costs in retirement and how to understand and maximize Social Security benefits.

Save the date: The MCC Canning Event in our area is Apr. 22, 23 & 24. You can be one of over 30,000 people who volunteer with the MCC mobile meat canner each year to fill, weigh, wash and label every can.

Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Monday-Thursday, 9-4.

Lynne: Working remotely from home and in the office when possible. If you need to reach me quickly, call me at 215-538-5311, or text 267-272-3089.