

West Swamp News

Volume 6, Issue 1

February/March '17

New West Swamp website is up & running

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FYI

- Valentine's Day is a good day to do some random acts of kindness. How will *you* show God's love to the world?
- Sunday Lunch Bunch is set for Feb. 12 & Mar. 12.
- Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on Sunday, Mar. 12. Don't forget "Spring forward" and set your clocks an hour ahead.

Want to keep up on the latest 300th Anniversary plans? Been out of town on a Sunday and wondered what you missed? Interested in seeing photos from a recent church event? Then check out the new church website at www.westswamp.org.

With the help of Rethink Creative Services our website has a new look and even better than that—is now easily managed and updated.

Check it out! You can look at weekly bulletins, read Pastor Kathy's sermon or the latest newsletter, check out what our commis-

sions are doing, view photos from church events and more.

Interested in helping with the site? The church secretary will be doing most of the updates, but can always use some help. If you would like to help keep a particular commissions page updated, please contact Lynne or that commission's deacon.

Do you like taking pictures? Bring your camera to church ac-

tivities and give us your best shots. We need good, high quality photos to post on our site. The more people taking photos, the more options we'll have to use.

Give it a look and tell us what you think!



One of the pictures you'll find on the website: Pastor Kathy and Cindy Raub at the 2016 June Social.

Lent 2017: Restore us, O God

Lent is a time of reflection and preparation. Just as the earth journeys through winter to the new growth of spring, we journey with Jesus through the wilderness to the cross,

and beyond the cross to resurrection and new life.

Journey with us this Lenten season, beginning with an **Ash Wednesday Service**

on **Mar. 1**, through each Lenten Sunday as we hunger, wonder, thirst, see, breathe, hope and live. And through it all we ask, "Restore us, O God!"

Pastor's Corner: Who we spend our time with MATTERS



The above title is a recent quote from Christena Cleveland. She is a social psychologist and theologian from Duke Divinity School who spoke at the School of Leadership I just attended at Eastern Mennonite Seminary last week. She, along with Drew Hart, theology professor at Messiah College, had me thinking deeply about who I spend my time with, how we get along, and how I remain true to myself even as I relate to very different kinds of

people.

Because February is a month focused on our Love toward others and March will find us itching for warmer days to get outside and connect with our friends and neighbors, I challenge you to think about who you spend your time with.

In the meantime, here are a few quotes from Drew & Christena for you to ponder....

“Imitate God by identifying with others.”

“Our liberation is bound up with that of others.”

“We have a place at the table - and its last.”

“Martin Luther King challenged us to ask ourselves two questions:

1. What will happen to me if I stop to help?
2. What will happen to me if I don't stop and help?”

“We are challenged to:

- Notice the struggling
- Take risks
- Be self-aware
- Be aware of others
- Be prepared & Know how to help
- Practice conversation across the boundaries.”

Jesus was constantly placing himself in the path of others – those of the marginalized, the vulnerable, the stranger, the sick and the disabled. These are the folks central to what God is doing. With Valentines in the air, let's ponder who we spend time with and where we place ourselves in the path of those different from ourselves.

~ *Pastor Kathy*



*“But a Samaritan,
as he traveled,
came to where
the man was;
and when he saw him,
he took pity on him.
He went to him and
bandaged his wounds,
pouring on oil and wine.
Then he put the man on
his own donkey,
brought him to an inn
and took care of him...”*

Luke 10: 33 - 34



Change to Church Secretary's Schedule

Starting Jan. 30, the church secretary will be in the office **Monday**, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30-1:30. She will **not be in on Wednesdays**. Please have any items for the bulletin in by Thursday mornings at 9 am.

Why Knot! Week—300 Comforter Challenge

300 comforters! One for every year the West Swamp congregation has been worshipping in this corner of the world. That is definitely quite the challenge since the highest amount ever done before is 211. That means...

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The only way this will ever be possible is with many people taking part. We're sending out letters to area churches, we'll be advertising for community help in local

newspapers, and we're giving a special plea to all West Swampers. We can't do it without you.

The knotting marathon is Mar. 6-11; we've added Saturday to increase the odds of reaching our goal. Can you commit to coming for an hour, an evening, a day or even more? Can you invite some friends to knot with you? Chatting around the comforter frame is a great way to catch up or re-

connect. Or make it a family affair, intergenerational.

We need many, many people willing to knot (obviously), but there are other tasks essential to our success. For example, people to reload the wrist pin cushions are incredibly important. (That's another good job to do while having a good conversation with a friend.) See below for other tasks you can fill.

Something for everyone to do: Tasks for WKW

Knotting: As mentioned above, we'll need a lot to do this. No experience necessary, we'll show you how.

Pinning to the boards: This is the first step to getting a comforter ready. We've got adjustable stands to make it easier on the back for any height and we'll show you how.

Framing: This is the second step. Work with an experienced person to get the comforters all ready to knot. (Pins, but no needles involved.)

Kitchen Manager: Put out daily snacks, make coffee and drinks, set out meals as needed, clean up when needed.

Kitchen Help: Help with the above.

Provide meals: A sign up sheet will be up soon. Whether you just provide the meal or help to serve it too is up to you.

Food Donation Solicitor: Are you away Why Knot! Week? Then how about working ahead of time to solicit local restaurants and grocery stores for meal

donations? Requests on church letterhead are available from the church secretary.

Greeter: Be a friendly face to those who come and help them get settled in a good place to work.

Finishers: This includes people to pin for binding and people to stitch the hems.

Drivers: If the weather gets iffy that early in March, some of our older knotters may appreciate a ride to church.

Men's Bible Study preps for WKW

Men, if needle and scissors are not your tools of choice, how about screwdrivers, staple guns and hammers? Maybe even a wrench and some WD-40?

At their February meeting (Feb. 18 at 8 am) the Men's Bible Study will take on the task of

making sure all the rolling chairs, frame stands and boards are in good working order for Why Knot! Week.

They invite any men to join them that day to help. (Warning: you might just find out what a great group of guys they are and want

to join them every month for their Bible Study!)

They've been promised a good breakfast for their work, but we're sure that had nothing to do with their willingness to help.

300th Anniversary Kick-Off Sunday

On Jan. 8 we started off our milestone Anniversary year with a reminiscing celebration!

We have many blessings to be thankful for at West Swamp...

Several artifacts were displayed in Fellowship Room for all to pe-

re-use; including a deed from 1790. Several photos were the topic of many conversations. Silver Communion pieces and wooden organ pieces were on display as well.

And up in the sanctuary Pastor Kathy had a seat in the pulpit chair from yesteryear (below). Look for this chair and other pieces on display for the year in the near future; they are on loan from the Mennonite Heritage Center.



A big THANKS to Bonnie, Gayle, Deb and Joan (right) who gifted us with a vocal treat by the Mohr Sisters; it was enjoyed by everyone! Such a great memory of their harmonic voices giving praise to

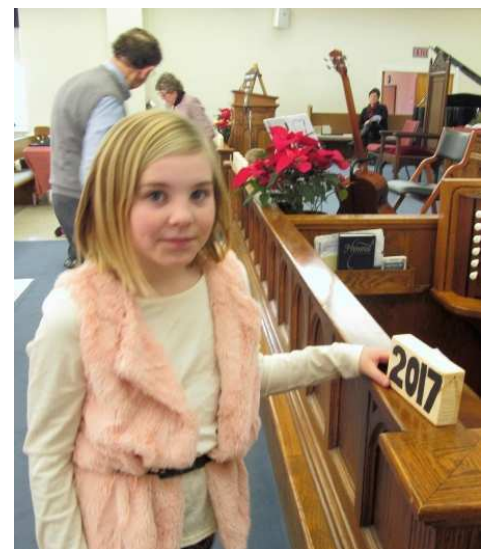
God. We also thank Bonnie Simcox as the guest organist. We were blessed by the offertory number: a duet with Bonnie on organ and sister Joan on piano.

We so much appreciate Dean Mohr lending his wisdom, passion and history of our Swamp area! Everyone was intrigued by the history presentation and Dean's mix of facts and humor!



Wieand for the beautiful and delicious pound cake! Amongst balloons and festive napkins we enjoyed a time of fellowship and taking a step back in time as "We Are Looking Back and Moving Forward!"

~ Barb Moyer



Pastor Kathy's Children's Spot gave a tangible look at the scope of our history. Her meditation on *Empowering the Church* gave us much to consider as we walk through our historical year.

And what is a celebration without a cake? Thanks to Amanda

Mission (& DISCO): Where will our goats go?

For their Advent Giving Project in 2016 DISCO chose something out of the MCC Giving Catalog promoted by the Mission Commission: Goats.

The collection brought in enough for 7 goats. So—where might these seven goats end up. Below

are some possibilities, taken from an article entitled, “Animals of MCC,” compiled by Emily Loewen. It begins:

Around the world, MCC supports projects that help families make a better living, helping them pay for food or school for their chil-

dren. Sometimes those projects involve animals — getting loans to buy them or learning new techniques to raise them. Here's a glimpse of some of the MCC animals and how they're at work across the globe.



(MCC Photo/Silas Crews) This goat belongs to Denenadji Josephine in Chad. Josephine was trained with other women of her village to raise healthier goats, chickens and ducks by MCC partner Baobab. Training on how to use vaccines helps people in the village maintain healthy animals, which earn more money when they're sold at market.

(MCC Photo/Matthew Sawatzky) This goat survived the earthquake that destroyed or damaged 488,000 homes across Nepal in April of 2015. Anjana Nyasur's family, in the village of Dalchoki, purchased the goat with a loan through a project funded by MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



(MCC Photo/Matthew Sawatzky) Maryam, Ambiya, and their mother Aisha Darsa with the goats they received through a goat restocking project. The project targets two communities in the Afar region of Ethiopia that were severely affected by the onset of drought from 2012 onward. 470 households received 10 breeding goats, as well as short term food for the goats as needed.



(MCC Photo/Melissa Hess) Amina Begun received goats as part of an income generation project in Bangladesh. She breeds the goats and then sells them to others as a source of income. She sometimes has as many as 10 breeding females at a time along with their kids — so many that people in her village call her “the goat lady.”



(MCC Photo by Silas Crews) Yavana (left) and Khaled's family received a pregnant goat from MCC partner Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training(LOST) as part of a project that offered families a goat along with training on how to care for and raise more goats. Families can increase their income by selling the milk or breeding more goats to sell.

These goats also are one way to help build peace between Syrian refugees fleeing conflict and the Lebanese communities that are hosting them. Ideally, as families increase their own financial security, they will feel less threatened by the Syrian presence. The training encourage cooperation among the Christian, Shia and Sunni participants.



Youth Auction set for April 1—no fooling!

The 2017 Youth Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 1. Doors will open at 5:30 for dinner and the auction will begin promptly at 6:30.

The Youth are counting on donations from West Swamp members to auction off. Items that have sold well in the past are baked goods, handmade crafts, dinners hosted by members, tickets to sports events, gift baskets, etc. The youth will gladly accept any donations you have to offer. Donations can be put in the youth room in the basement, or

given to one of the youth on a Sunday. (Please put your name on your items, in case we have any questions about them.)

We'd like to display some auction items on Mar. 26, so please have them in by then—or at least let us know what's coming. We'll of course accept items the day of the auction too.

This year's proceeds will go towards covering expenses associated with the 2017 convention in Orlando, Florida in July.

Mark your calendars and plan to come hungry to this year's youth



auction. The youth always appreciate your support!

~ *Lori Farrell*

Mission: You can help “meat” a hungry world

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) mobile meat cannery has provided millions of pounds of canned meat to areas of need in countries around the world. A single can of meat can feed a family of five for a day.

Every year MCC's Mobile Meat Canner travels across the United States and Canada meeting volunteers who prepare cans of turkey, beef, chicken and pork to be sent around the world. Over 30,000 people a year volunteer to fill, weigh, wash and label every can.

Finished cans are shipped to MCC partners, providing important nutrients when meat is hard to purchase. For example, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), where meat is scarce, MCC canned meat supplements meals

for children as well as patients with tuberculosis or hepatitis.

The MCC Mobile Meat Canner will be at the Mennonite Resource Center in Harleysville on **Mar. 24, 25, 27 & 28**. (New Saturday hours to include more volunteers!)

Community support is critical. To help the Souderton crew sus-

tain the lives of the hungry, tax-deductible donations may be made payable to “MCC Canner Project” and mailed to MCC Material Resource Center, 737 Hagey Center Drive, Unit C, Souderton, PA 18964. To volunteer to work at the canner, contact the MCC Material Resource Center at 267-203-8074.



2016-17 canning crew (from left):
Lucas Hiebert
 from Goessel, KS;
Matthew Blosser
 from Goshen, IN;
Claudio Regier and
Carsten Wiebe,
 both from Neu-
 land, Paraguay.
MCC Photo/Brenda
Burkholder

★ Kid's Page ★



Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love.
How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

- (1) You really like ice cream! _____
- (16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____
- (21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____
- (4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____
- (11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____
- (17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____
- (6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



"Honor _____ and _____, and _____ your _____."

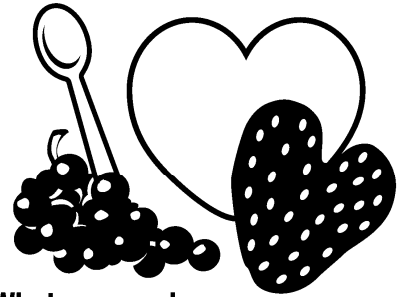
Matthew 19:19, NIV



Answers: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



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mennonite church

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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

Calendar of Events

February

- 1, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 2, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 7, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 7, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 9, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 12, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 14, 1 pm—Worship Commission
- 14, 7 pm—Mission Commission
- 15, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 18, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
(Why Knot! Prep)
- 21, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 21, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 27, 7 pm—DISCO
- 27, 7 pm—Anniversary Committee

March

- 1, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 1, 7 pm—Ash Wednesday Serv.
- 2, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 5, 12 pm—Potato Bar Lunch
- 6-11—Why Knot! Week
- 7, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 7, 7 pm—Community Com
- 9, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 12, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 14, 7 pm—Mission Commission
- 15, 6 pm—Chiming In
- 18, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
- 21, 6:30 pm—Junior Youth
- 21, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 28, 7 pm—DISCO
- 28, 7 pm—Anniversary Comm.

Regular Activities

- Tuesdays, 8 am—Quilting & Knotting
- Tuesdays, 6 pm—Joyful Noise Choir
- Wednesdays, 6:30 pm—Youth Group
- Wednesdays, 7 pm—Adult Choir



Birthdays

February

- 2/4 Karalynne Parzych
- 2/6 Nancy Propst
- 2/9 Ann Marie Kemmerer
- 2/10 Paige Mood
- 2/11 Brandon Mininger
- 2/12 Sue Keller
- 2/22 Michaela Wieand
- 2/26 Jim Bevan

March

- 3/3 Shirley Mindler
- 3/5 Judy Scheetz
- 3/7 Kathy Smith

- 3/9 Jason Stevenback
- 3/11 Rick Hinkle
- 3/12 Alicia Loch
- 3/14 Julia Huff
- 3/16 McKenzie Huff
- 3/17 Chris Farrell
- 3/19 Earl Miller
- 3/22 Erin Farrell
- 3/25 Jonathan Mood
- 3/27 Bruce Bauman
Katie Stauffer
- 3/29 Pat Bevan
- 3/31 Lori Farrell