

West Swamp News

Volume 6, Issue 4

June/July '17

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FYI

- Stay healthy this summer: drink plenty of water, wear hats and sunscreen, and take time to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect!
- Stay healthy for the July 13 Miller Blood Drive too!
- Stay for a pavilion picnic on July 2

300th Anniversary—Join the celebration!

As our church's anniversary celebration continues through 2017, please plan to join the extended church family the weekend of June 23-25 for events that will be one of the highlights of our church year.

The celebration begins Friday at 7 pm, with a bonfire held on the church grounds, beginning at 7 pm. This will be a time for casual fellowship and catching up with out of town guests and fellow members. There will be all

the ingredients needed to roast s'mores, and beverages.

Saturday starts off with a miniature golf tournament at 9 am at Putt U, located on 309, just north of Center Valley. Sign up yourself or a team—up to six golfers per team. The anniversary committee will pair up individual participants into teams for a friendly morning of golf, with some prizes awarded. Light breakfast of bagels and muffins will be available.

The cost is \$5 per person. Please let Barbara Moyer or Donald Rosenberger know if you're interested in coming, so we can get an idea of headcount. Payment can be made the morning of the golf. No obligation if it rains.

Midday, feel free to stop into the church to be part of a historic mission project as we look to assemble 300 grocery bags for MCC and prisoner care kits

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300th Anniversary Challenge

The Anniversary Committee has been meeting for over a year to plan the 2017 activities celebrating the church's 300 years. Our Kick-Off Sunday in January was followed by the hugely successful Why Knot! Week in March, where we well exceeded our goal of 300 comforters. The 10th Annual

(and final) Clash of the Choirs was held in our church in April, raising monies for the American Cancer Society. In early May, we held an enjoyable Hymn Sing.

What's left? Two big events: 1) our Anniversary weekend, June 23-25, and 2) a community picnic that we're host-

ing on Saturday, Sept. 30 at Molasses Park, Milford Township. This picnic will be open to the public, as a way for our church to give back to the community we have been a part of for 300 years. The outreach will feature a three-hour bluegrass

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Pastor's Corner: Summertime sermons

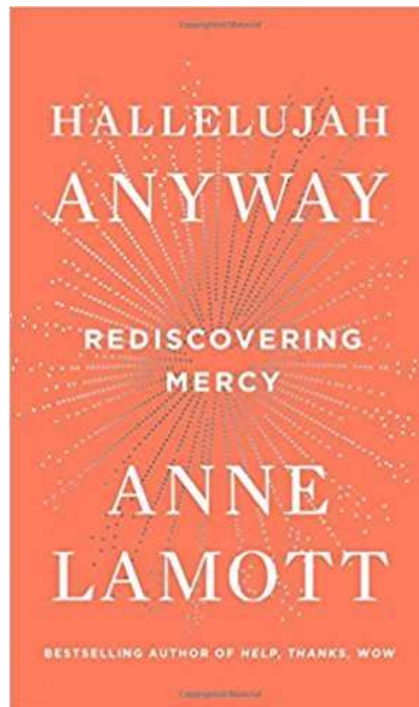
The Lord will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; fear and respect of the Lord is the key to this treasure.
Isaiah 33:6

Summer Sundays are like the rest of summer; they are slower, simpler and lazier. But summer Sundays are also like any other Sunday in that they are still full of worship, songs and prayer. They are centered on Christ and God's salvation, wisdom and knowledge for us all.

This summer I plan to preach on some books I've been working my way through. They are an odd assortment: some are by my favorite authors, others were recommended to me or are books from featured speakers I enjoyed. Summer gives me the chance to enjoy a different kind of reading for my sermon preparation and hopefully it will

stimulate your thinking on a number of various topics.

Below is my summer preaching list. Hopefully it will make you curious. And hopefully your summer will include time to take in a few (or more) of these summer



sermons. God looks forward to meeting with us every moment of every day. And God looks forward to meeting us on summer Sundays as much as any other Sunday all through the year.

~ Pastor Kathy

Summer Preaching List

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>
June 11	"Hallelujah Anyway"	Anne Lamott	"Embracing Mercy"
June 18	"Dirty Faith"	David Nowell	"Dirty Faith"
July 16	"Wearing God"	Lauren Winner	"Faces of God"
July 23	"Big God"	Britt Merrick	"Trust is so Hard"
July 30	"Learning to Walk in the Dark"	Barbara B. Taylor	"God in the Dark"
Aug. 6	"Trouble I've Seen"	Drew Hart	"Church & Race"
Aug. 20	"Disunity in Christ"	Christena Cleveland	"Getting Along in Church"
Aug. 27	"Very Married"	Katherine Pershey	"Happily Ever After?"

Hot Dog Social

It's time to celebrate summer with a good old-fashioned picnic and since this is West Swamp's 300th anniversary, this year's hot dog roast is going to be big!

Come join us on June 7 at 6:30 pm at the Gwilliams' Ladybug Farm. You are invited to bring games to share and there will be lots of activities: the pool will be open and including fishing in the pond (bring your own towels) and fishing is available in the pond. Please bring a rod if you would like to participate in the Fishing Derby. There will be prizes awarded for participation, number of fish caught and, of course, the biggest fish. Bring lawn chairs too if you are able.

It goes without saying that there will be plenty of delicious food.

The Social Committee will provide hot dogs with all the fixings and ice cream for dessert. The Moods' will provide their awesome fries. Please sign up on the Bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to let us know how many are attending and if you are able to bring a side dish.

You can either park in their front yard (might be nice to save those spots for those who need them most) or park at the church and take a hayride to the

Gwilliams' provided by the Moods.

This is a perfect opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors!

~ *Lori Farrell*



A West Swamp Sunday School Picnic in the early 20th century.

DISCO: Summer Sunday School

We're taking it easy this summer with one combined class. We hope you'll come whenever you can.

June 4 & 11 we'll finish up our Reformation series with "The Radical Reformation" and "William Tyndale." Other topics throughout the summer include

a Bible Blitz, Criminal Justice Reform, Church Music, Race in America, and Family: Abraham, Isaak & Jacob.

~ *Lori Farrell*

Worship: YOUR chance to be creative

For most of the year we use bulletins supplied by Herald Press. But the last few summers the church secretary has opted out of the service for two reasons: to use up accumulated left over bulletins and to save a little on the church budget.

Well, the left over bulletins have run low, but we'd still like to keep the worship budget down and here's your chance to help.

The church secretary is looking for submissions for summer bulletin covers. It can be original artwork or a photo. Maybe you've taken a beautiful photo on

a vacation, or maybe you have an old photo from West Swamp's history—very appropriate as we celebrate our anniversary.

I've got 13 Sunday bulletin covers to come up with. I hope you'll help.

~ *Lynne Rush*

Mission: MCC Grocery Bag Project

We need everyone's help to make the Grocery bag project a success. The *300 Extra Hours of Service* bulletin board has the sign-up sheet for items to donate. The bags will be assembled on June 24 as part of the big 300 Anniversary Celebration, so please sign up and bring your items before that day. The best way to accomplish this will be to sign up to bring maybe 20 of one item. If we all sign up for different items, we can get enough to fill 100 to 150 bags.

Swamp Mennonite will be doing the same type of collection for prisoner care kits. Between the two projects we hope to assemble

200 to 300 kits. Our goal of course is 300 in celebration of 300 years. If we do come up short, we can make up the difference with a school kit collection in August. One way or another we will get to that 300 goal!

Money donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase items needed to complete full kits.

This should be a fun way to help spread the love of Jesus by meeting the needs of many. Question can be directed to Rod Rush or any mission commission member.

~ Rod Rush

Grocery Bag Item List

vegetable oil 32 oz
 pasta 2 lbs
 raisins 1 lb
 white rice 32 oz
 2 cans meat
 (Spam/tuna etc.)
 1 can tomato sauce 14-16 oz
 2 cans fruit 14-16 oz
 2 cans vegetables 14-16 oz
 2 cans kidney beans 14-16 oz
 box cereal 14-16 oz
 peanut butter 28 oz

300th Anniversary Challenge

(Continued from page 1)

concert, children's activities, and food--all at no cost to the public. It is a way the church will reach out beyond our doors for our celebration.

The costs of the anniversary celebrations will only partially be raised by ticket sales and sponsorships. The decision was made to keep the ticket costs low to allow wider participation. The bulk of the expenses will be part of the church general fund, and have been included in our 2017 budget that was approved at the annual meeting. Even so, we

would like to see if we can raise the money required to cover the year's events above and beyond the general fund budget, to allow the regular weekly offerings to cover other important church and mission expenses.

This is where the "300th Anniversary Challenge" comes in. We would like to find 10 individuals (or families) to take on \$300 each of additional giving this year to help cover the costs of the celebration. Could you include an extra \$300 in your offering envelope between now and October 15, in one, two or three installments, to be part of meeting this

historic challenge? I would like to find nine people to join me in raising this money. Please mark "300th Anniversary" on your offering envelopes. With it, the ticket sales and a generous corporate contribution we have received should cover the estimated \$5,000 costs expected in 2017. We'd certainly appreciate your careful consideration of this. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to be part of this challenge.

~ Don Rosenberger,
 Anniversary Committee

Stewardship: How are we doing on that “To Do” list?

With Memorial Day now upon us and our big 300th Anniversary Weekend quickly coming up in June, I thought it would be a good time to brief you all on the progress being made on the Stewardship Commission’s to do list.

The sanctuary stairwell and vestibule painting was completed and looks great. The painter also restored the finish on the stairwell banisters and repaired and painted a stucco wall in the

prayer garden. That was three checks on the to do list.

And speaking of the prayer garden, a special thanks to George & Beverly Mellan for the flower bed work and Mark & Ann Marie Kemmerer for the spring revival of the fountain.

The deep cleaning of the fellowship hall carpet is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, so plan to steer clear of that area for a day.

As for the elevator shaft conversion to closets, looks like that

will be done in the second half of the year.

More recently, the outside landscape got a fresh layer of mulch and Jim Bevan has the grass and edging trimmed nicely.

We are really trying to put our best foot forward and be good hosts, as we all welcome our guests in celebration of our 300th anniversary during the rest of the year.

~ *Randy Rush*

Clash of the Church Choirs: Ten years of success

It’s been over ten years since Barb Moyer had a brainstorm while watching the reality show “Clash of the Choirs” on TV. Why not invite church choirs to sing and “compete” to raise funds for Relay for Life?

The TV show lasted one season—Barb’s version had a 10 year run! Ten years of wonderful choir music, hymn medleys, grand finales and a whopping \$36,283.90 raised to fight cancer. Here’s the breakdown:

2008	\$1,700
2009	\$ 2,583
2010	\$ 3,734
2011	\$ 4,532.35
2012	\$ 3,341.25
2013	\$ 5,120
2014	\$ 4,225.29
2015	\$ 3,633.01
2016	\$ 3,467.00
2017	\$ 3,948

Though it took them ‘til the 6th Clash to win, the West Swamp

Choir then went on to win four years in a row.

Thanks, Barb and the choir, for a great 10 years!

(Right) Louise Butcher recognizes Barb Moyer for 10 years of organizing the Clash.

(Below) The West Swamp Choir—and friends—get ready to perform.



A big weekend to celebrate

(Continued from page 1)

(with the help of Swamp Mennonite) for Crossroads Community Center. The church will be opened from 10-3 for this project; stop in at any time. We'll also have a couple comforter frames set up in the fellowship hall, so take time to tie a few knots.

Another option is to visit Camp Men-O-Lan to see how it looks today. Take a self-guided tour any time between noon and 2 pm. Camp personnel and Lynne and Emily Rush will be available to answer questions. Stroll around the lake, hike a nature trail, or visit cabins that are named in honor of past West Swamp members. See Nancy Jacobs for more information or to express interest in attending.

At 3 pm, join everyone at the church for our Pig Roast! The entire meal will be provided, catered by Moyers' Packing. Roast pork, side dishes, drinks and ice cream are all included. For those who do not care for pork,

chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs will be available. Tickets for the pig roast are \$10 per person, children 12 and under are free; reservations are due June 11, so we can provide a count to the caterer in mid-June. Please turn in your ticket order and payment at the church office or Donald Rosenberger's mailbox at your earliest convenience

Games and activities will be available for children (and the young at heart), and there will be plenty of shade under the pavilion and a tent set up for the occasion. Anyone wishing to take part in an intergenerational choir for Sunday's worship service will practice at 4 pm under Lynne Rush's guidance.

Swamp Mennonite is also celebrating their 300th Anniversary, and we have invited them to be part of our day's activities. Some of their members have been helping with our preparations and promoting their mission project—the Prisoner Care Kits.

Come and visit with our congregation, out of town guests, Swamp members, and others. We encourage you to invite extended family and local friends who might enjoy the day.

Sunday, June 25, our morning services start off with a light breakfast at 8:30. A special Sunday school hour begins at 9 am and features guest historian Dean Mohr. He'll talk about some interesting pieces of West Swamp history and have a Q&A time. Worship begins at 10:30 and will focus on our 300 year history of serving as a church community. We welcome Karen Schlabaugh (Arlene Bauman's daughter) as our guest organist.

We would like to see everyone at this special weekend. Don't forget to turn in your pig roast ticket orders and sign up for the mini golf tournament. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

~ Don Rosenberger

Miniature Golf Tournament sponsors



Would you or your business be interested in sponsoring a hole at the Putt U golf outing on Saturday, June 24? Hole sponsorships are \$20, get your company name and logo posted or your own name recognized.

We're also interested in Prize sponsors. Prize sponsors can either provide funding for us to purchase a prize or donate a suitable prize that can be awarded. See Barbara Moyer or Donald Rosenberger for details.

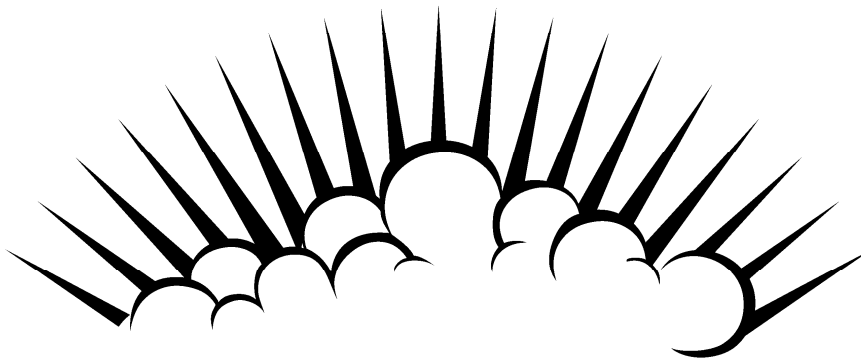
Kid's Page



Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.



"H_ w_ll c_ll _ _ t t_ m_,

'Y_ _ _ r_ m_ F_th_r, m_

G_d, th_ R_ck m_ S_v_ _r."

Ps_im 89:26, N_V

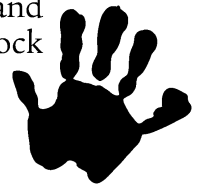
Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

What you need:

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



What you do:

1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift — and a hug!



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mennonite church

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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

Calendar of Events

June

- 1, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 4—Pentecost Sunday
- 6, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 7, 6:30 pm—Hot Dog Social
- 8, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 11, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 13, 1 pm—Worship Com.
- 13, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 13, 7 pm—Anniversary Com.
- 18—Father's Day
- 20, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 23, 5:30 pm—Men-O-Lan Staff Picnic
- 23-25—300th Anniversary Celebration
- 27, 7 pm—DISCO

July

- 2, 11:30 am—Pavilion Picnic
- 4-8—MCUSA Orlando
- 13, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 13, 3:30—Miller Blood Drive
- 13, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 16, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 18, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 25, 7 pm—DISCO

Regular Activities

Tuesdays, 8 am—Quilting & Knotting



Birthdays

June

- 6/1 Joyce Rosenberger
- 6/3 Joel Bauman
- 6/4 Linda Rice

- 6/6 Allison Bevan
April Huff
Michael Opdyke
- 6/9 Kassie Mohr
Leon Propst
Isaac Scheetz
- 6/12 Kaitlin Moyer
- 6/13 Kermit Rush
- 6/17 George Mellan
Eileen Riley
- 6/18 Owen Troxell
- 6/20 Robin Spiess
- 6/21 Kathy Yoder
- 6/22 Brook Stauffer
- 6/24 Michelle Green
- 6/25 Adam Wieand

- 6/27 Shawn Husvar
Eli Mood
- 6/29 Judy Leister
Cindy Raub

July

- 7/2 Haley Stauffer
- 7/3 Richard Rosenberger
- 7/5 Pov Sar Loch
- 7/12 Karen Wieand
- 7/14 Lindsay Baver
- 7/22 Kevin Riley
- 7/27 Marian Heimbach
Evelyn High
Mark Kemmerer