



# **Big Questions:**

Why do bad things happen?

# WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

## Worship Service

***August 24, 2025***

***10:30 A.M.***

***Prelude*** Come, ye disconsolate ~ *arr. Dale Wood*  
The Comforter Has Come ~ *arr. Victor Labenske*  
Since I Have Been Redeemed ~ *arr. Mary McDonald*

### **We Gather around God's Word**

Opening Song Open our eyes, Lord

Welcome & Prayer

Praising Blessed be your name  
In thee is gladness  
How can I keep from singing

### **We Hear God's Word**

Scripture Genesis 3:1-19

Offering Whispering Hope ~ *Alice Hawthorne*

Scripture Romans 8:18-23

Sermon Big Questions: *Pastor Michael*  
Why do bad things happen?

### **We Respond to God's Word**

Song of Response Tears of suffering

Sharing & Praying

Sending God be with you till we meet  
again

Benediction

Postlude Go, My Children, with My Blessing ~ *Welsh melody*

### **This Sunday**

**Worship Leader:** Sue Howes  
**Greeters:** Edna Rosenberger, Don Rosenberger  
**Pianist:** Joan Hallman  
**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 Fall Quarter**

The TLC class begins Sept. 7, 9:30 am, and will be looking at the Sermon on the Mount. The Bible Project class will begin their deep dive into Exodus on Sept. 14, 8:45 am.

#### **West Swamp Mennonite Church**

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**Pastor:** Michael Howes

717-419-4228, [howes.michael@gmail.com](mailto:howes.michael@gmail.com)

#### **Commissions & Deacons:**

**Ministry Team,** Carl Raub

**Community,** Nancy Jacobs

**Discipleship (DISCO),** Katie Mood

**Mission,** Karen Parzych

**Stewardship,** Alex Parzych

**Worship,** Joan Hallman

**Church Secretary:** Lynne Rush

**Treasurer:** Pat Bevan

**Mennonite Mission Network** requests prayer for Austin Roberts, who is completing his doctoral dissertation on youth and the church. Pray that he will have the time he needs to prepare to defend his dissertation, while overseeing the kitchen and mentoring participants with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Northern Ireland.



**Notes:**

## Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

*August 24, 2025*

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

### Calendar

Aug. 26, 8 am	Knotting
Aug. 31, 10:30 am	Worship in the Pavilion
Sept. 2	NO Knotting
Sept. 7, 9:30 am	TLC class begins
Sept. 10, 6:30 pm	Chimin' In practice
Sept. 10, 7:15 pm	Choir practice
Sept. 14, 8:45 am	Bible Project class begins
Sept. 14	New deadline for school kits

### ~ What's Happening at West Swamp ~

**Worship in the Pavilion:** This year Labor Day is as early as it gets. Mark the unofficial end to summer at a relaxed worship service in the pavilion on **Aug. 31**. Bring a packed lunch for some extra fellowship with your church family and/or stay to learn how to properly pack a school kit. We'll pack what's been collected up to that day.

**Join the TLC Sunday School Class** on **Sept. 10** at 9:30 am for Topics, Learning, and Conversation. After a check in to see how everyone's week was, the class will look at the Sermon on the Mount.

**Make some music!** Chimin' In and Choir practices begin Sept. 10. There is always room for more ringers and singers. Chimin' In practices at 6:30; Choir at 7:15. Contact Lynne if you're interested in either group—or both! (Past Chimin' In players: please confirm if you are ringing again this year.)

**We need some help!** We will have a presence at **Milford Township Ag Days** on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 11 am-4 pm. If you can spend part of the day sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors, go here to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4EAEA7238-58098663-agdays>. (The link is in Pastor Michael's Thursday email.)

**Take a deep dive into Exodus** with the Bible Project Class starting **Sept. 14**. What does Moses' name mean? How many times is Moses' life saved by women? How does the story of Moses foreshadow the story of the Hebrew nation? And how do we make sense of that strange story in Exodus 4:24-26? We'll look at these questions together at 8:45 am. First class will be Zoom only. Contact Lynne if you want the Zoom link.

**MCC School Kit Challenge extended:** Mission Commission will collect items for school kits **until Sept 14**. Take advantage of Back to School sales. Here's the list of items needed:

- 4 spiral notebooks (70 sheets each)
- 8 new **unsharpened** pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality, centimeter markings)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all-metal** pencil sharpener

Donate whole kits or individual items. We still have pencil sharpeners available for kits.

### ~ What's Happening in the Community ~

All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Iglesia Menonita Encuentro de Renovación (Miami, FL)**, one of the five congregations that is part of the first Vibrant Mosaic cohort. Pray for learning, deepening relationships, and discernment around the Spirit's leading for mission.

Wrap up your summer by serving your community at Care & Share Thrift Shoppes **Volunteer Open House, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 5-8 pm**. Ages 8+ are welcome to try out volunteering! The evening begins at the Welcome Center, located in the middle of the shopping center. Active volunteers are welcome – even if this isn't your regular volunteer time! See you Tuesday in Souderton!

### Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Monday-Thursday, 9-4.

Lynne is working mostly from home. If you need to reach me, call 215-538-5311 or text 267-272-3089.