



Summer Sermon Series: Solitude

Unified Budget Monthly Income Needed		\$18,228.33 (\$4,206.54 per week)
June Receipts		\$13,059.05 (avg. \$3,264.76/wk)
June Disbursements		\$14,892.01
YTD Receipts		\$106,209.53
YTD Disbursements		\$107,997.63
2026 Budget Total		\$218,740
May	Deficit	\$1,832.96
YTD Budget	Deficit	\$1,768.10

*Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Bevan, Treasurer*

WEST SWAMP MENNONITE CHURCH

Sunday Worship

July 5, 2026

10:30 A.M.

Prelude

We Gather around God's Word

Opening Song In the secret

Welcome & Prayer
Greeting One Another

Responsive Reading *Prayer for National Occasions*

Songs of Prayer Shine, Jesus, shine
 In the garden
 They that wait upon the Lord #584

Scripture Isaiah 30:15-18

Offering Open, Lord, my Inward Ear ~ *Charles Wesley*

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Mark 1:35-39

Sermon Drawing near to Jesus through spiritual practices:
 Solitude *Pastor Michael*

We Respond to God's Word

Song I must tell Jesus

Sharing & Prayer

Sending Be still

Benediction

Postlude

This Sunday

Worship Leader: Emily Rush
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 Spring Quarter

The TLC class, 9:30 am, Room 104: The book of James
The Bible Project class, 8:45 am, on Zoom: Leviticus

West Swamp Mennonite Church

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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, Carl Raub

Community, Nancy Jacobs

Discipleship (DISCO), *vacant*

Mission, Karen Parzych

Stewardship, Alex Parzych

Worship, Joan Hallman

Church Secretary: Lynne Rush

Treasurer: Pat Bevan

Welcome to West Swamp Mennonite Church

July 5, 2026

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

Calendar

July 7, 8 am	Knotting & Quilting
July 14, 8 am	Knotting & Quilting
July 18, 12 pm	Sunday Lunch Bunch
Aug. 9, 10:30 am	Men-O-Lan Sunday



Notes:

~ *What's Happening at West Swamp* ~

The knotters need help! They are running short of tops. If you are interested in sewing patches together, or helping with that process, contact Lynne.

Mark your calendar now: Men-O-Lan Sunday is Aug. 9. This is another way to support our Haitian brothers and sisters during a difficult time. We will worship together, share a meal, and enjoy what MOL has to offer—the lake, the pool, recreation, etc.

Directory Updates:

Carl & Cindy Raub no longer have their land line. Reach Carl at 610-554-5057 and Cindy at 610-554-5200. **And a correction** to Rod Rush' number. It's 267-490-7626. (His wife, who can dial it without thinking, accidentally put 215!)

Need assistance or company? Or know someone who does? Corinne High is available as a helper who can help around the house and assist with grocery shopping.

~ *What's Happening in the Community* ~

All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for the following young adult **Ambassador participants** and the congregation or ministry they are serving: **Karen Ann Walojo** of International Worship Church (San Gabriel, CA); **Heydi Perez** of Iglesia Menonita Shalom (Tampa, FL); **Demarcus Daniels** of Midian Leadership Project (Charleston, WV); and **Santiago Gomez** of Iglesia de Liderazgo y Fe (Barranquilla, Colombia). Pray that the Ambassadors will grow in faith, leadership, and their love of Jesus as they serve and learn.

The **Mennonite Heritage Center** invites you to savor history at its **Semiquincentennial Celebration Feast** on **July 11**, 11 am to 1 pm. MHC will provide the main dishes, and we ask each participant to prepare a historic dish item. When participants register, they select the item they'd like to bring. The cost is \$10 to help cover the cost of the mains. Registration is required. To register, contact Regina Wenger at atwengerr@mhep.org.

Care & Share Thrift Shoppes is moving to Harleysville and needs **volunteers** to assist with the move and setup! Help support Mennonite Central Committee and sign up today at caresharethrift.org.

Pancake Breakfast at Bally Mennonite Church, Route 100, Bally, July 18, 7-10 am. Pancakes & French toast, scrapple & sausage, eggs, and beverages. All are welcome. Cost: Donation. Proceeds will support global refugee relief efforts through Mennonite Central Committee. Questions: 610-845-7780 or visit www.ballymc.org.

Church Office Hours

Pastor Michael: Tuesday-Thursday, 9-4.

Lynne: Tuesday-Thursday, 10-12:30.

Church offices are closed on Monday, July 6.

Journey Inward/Journey Outward - Solitude

Mark 1:35-39

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” ³⁸ Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Ruth Haley Barton: “Solitude, at its most basic and profound level, is simply an opportunity to be ourselves with God.”

Kallistos Ware: “Stillness is a state of inner tranquility or mental quietude and concentration. Not simply silence, but an attitude, of listening to God and of an openness to God.”

Henri Nouwen: “Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life...We do not take the spiritual life seriously if we do not set aside some time to be with God and listen to him.”

Dallas Willard: “Solitude and silence are the most radical of the disciplines for the spiritual life because they most directly attack the sources of human misery and wrongdoing...Silence is required to complete solitude, for until we enter quietness, the world still lays hold of us.”

In solitude, we experience three encounters:

- an encounter with ourselves
- an encounter with our enemy
- an encounter with our God

Matthew 26:36-39

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

In solitude, Jesus does three things:

1. He gives God his feelings
2. He gives God his desires
3. He gives God his trust

Action step: Spend half an hour with Jesus in solitude. When your mind wanders, use a Scripture phrase to recenter yourself.

Isaiah 30:18—The Lord longs to be gracious to you.

Hebrews 13:5—Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.

Jeremiah 31:3—I have loved you with an everlasting love.