

West Swamp News

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October/November 2026

A time for everything

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 (NIV)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

FYI

- Senior Luncheons are on **Oct. 15** and **Nov. 19**. All those 60+ are invited.
- Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 1 at 2 am. Don't forget to move your clocks back!

There truly is a time for everything. They say we don't like change, because when things seem to stay the same, we get into a comfort zone and do like to have a routine. I guess that makes us creatures of habit. Yet here we are! God has grasped his mighty paintbrush and is preparing to give us all the vibrant reds, yellows and oranges of the season that we will start to see around us. Yes, fall is here in all its mighty

glory and splendor with the changing of colors and the return of crisp, cooler temperatures. It's the annual transition from hot days of summer to the chilly days of winter.

Meanwhile, there is an abundance of the sight and scent of pumpkin items everywhere. It's hard to escape it. Maybe it's in that slice of pie (don't forget the whipped cream), or perhaps it's in your bread, doughnut, muffin, cream filled roll, cup of

coffee or even your ice cream!

Then there are the annual fall rituals. The annual rite of raking of the leaves, decorating for the various holidays, or the winterizing the outside of the house. Don't forget all the high school, college or pro football gridiron action.

Here at West Swamp, we are in a new season as well. The season of Pastoral Transition.

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A new season of transition

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Earlier this past summer, the Ministry Team unanimously chose an option of establishing new goals and long-term transformation when deciding on the type of Interim Pastor we would look for. For the time being, your Ministry Team has been busy picking up some of the Pastoral Duties until an Interim Pastor is chosen. We have been finding guest preachers and speakers, taking on Pastoral Care by checking in on members with health-related issues, and other responsibilities.

With the Pastor Search Committee formally in place, they will begin their role of finding a new pastor to lead our congregation,

by either meeting in-person or by Zoom. Our Mosaic Mennonite Conference Leadership Minister Jeff Wright will be available to provide them with assistance and answer any questions as they arise. They will provide updates to the Ministry Team as things progress.

Your Ministry Team has been busy taking care of the normal day-to-day business of the church. While a few items remain on the back burner, we are now actively involved with the Bean Bag Food Program. This program assists food-insecure households with school children in the Quakertown Community School District. We are becoming a distribution site for their pro-

gram here in the Quakertown area which continues our rich history of mission work in the local community.

As we continue to work through our transition process and other ongoing projects, your Ministry Team will keep you advised by providing updates, as needed. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of your Ministry Team: Joan Hallman, Nancy Jacobs, Alex Parzych, Karen Parzych, and Carl Raub. I ask for your continued prayers and support for the Ministry Team, Pastor Search Committee, and our church as we continue to plan for our future.

Happy fall!

~ *Carl Raub*

Farewell to Pastor Michael

Sisters and brothers,

Thank you so much for the amazing send-off celebration you gave us. We felt deeply loved and affirmed by your expressions of care. Thank you also for the wonderful fraktur, the amazing quilt, and your very generous financial gift. You will always have a place in our hearts.

With fierce love, Sue & Michael



Worship Commission: Filling the pulpit

We are looking forward (even though the clock is “falling back”) to new voices in our services. Until the Ministry Team gets a part time interim pastor in place, we are getting different preachers in to share the Word each Sunday.

Until then, we will hear from Pastor Jeff Wright, as we celebrate World Wide Communion on Oct. 4. Oct. 11 we will have Music Sun-

day, looking at the Psalms. Jenny Fujita Alderfer will also bless us with a sermon in October.

Though we hope to have an interim pastor by November, these Sundays are already filled: Pastor Wright will bless us with a sermon Nov. 1. Nov. 15 is Mission Sunday, and our guest speaker is a familiar face. Pastor Tim Weaver will grace us with a sermon. And let's

not forget about Thanksgiving, and all we have to be grateful for.

Believe it or not, Nov. 29 starts Advent—time to be thinking about the upcoming Christmas season.

We will continue to follow God's leading, and fill the pulpit each Sunday, while we await the calling of our interim pastor, and subsequently, our next pastor.

~ *Joan Hallman*

Community Commission: Staying connected



September saw the return of our monthly Senior Lunch-eons! On Sept. 17, a group of over 30 guests were treated to a delicious meal pre-

pared by Denny and Jan Wieand. Join us on the third Thursday of every month for food, fellowship and fun at noon in the Fellowship Room. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Bring a friend!

Our Community Commission is looking for volunteers to help with Fellowship Hour refreshments.

We'd like to provide snacks twice each month, so if you are able to bring a package of cookies or a bag of pretzels to share, please sign up on the Fellowship Hour sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We'll help with drinks and serving. Thanks very much!

~ *Nancy Jacobs*

Mission Commission: Many hands

Thanks to Carl and Cindy Raub for heading up the AG Days in Milford Township. We had a beautiful day, and the Plinko Game was a big hit with the children and even some of the adults. Thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help. This was a great way to connect with the community.

The first distribution for the Bean Bag project is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17. We will be filling the bags and setting up on Friday, Oct. 16. We will need approximately 10 people to help. Ask your

friends if they would like to help. There will be a sign up sheet on the fellowship hall bulletin board. The other distributions will take place in December, February, April, and June. Please keep the donations coming.

Code Blue is gearing up for another year. Training for volunteers takes place in October. Their new AHUB website will be up and running before November, giving an explanation of the services offered to the folks within the community.

~ *Chris Allem*





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mennonite church**

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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

Calendar of Events

October

4, 10:30—World Communion
6, 7 pm—Community Com.
13, 7 pm—Mission Com.
14, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
14, 7:15 pm—Choir
15, 12 pm—Senior Luncheon
16—Packing bags for BBP
17, 9 am—BBP Distribution
18, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
20, 7 pm—Ministry Team
21, 6:30 pm—Worship Com.
28, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
28, 7:15 pm—Choir

November

3, 7 pm—Community Com.
10, 7 pm—Mission Com.
11, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
11, 7:15 pm—Choir
15—Mission Sunday
15, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
17, 7 pm—Ministry Team
18, 6:30 pm—Chimin' In
18, 7:15 pm—Choir
19, 12 pm—Senior Luncheon
22, 11:45—Decorating for Advent
26—Thanksgiving
29—First Sunday of Advent

Regular Activity

Tuesdays, 8 am—Knotting & Quilting



October

10/6 Matthew Opdyke
10/7 Deb Stevenback
Jan Wieand
10/14 Don Rosenberger
10/17 Case Mood
10/18 Paul Heimbach
Joann Rush
10/20 Amanda Wieand
10/21 Randy Rush
10/25 Corinne High
10/27 Dick Landt
10/29 Dale Loch

November

11/3 Nancy Jacobs
John Riley
11/5 Olivia Mood
11/6 Jordan Husvar
11/8 Alex Parzych
11/19 Pam Grube
11/20 Don Butcher
11/21 Bernice Keller
11/26 Les Rice
11/28 Kitty Stauffer