

Willow Springs Zoom Worship, Sunday, January 21, 2024. 9:30 am

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

Welcome and Call to worship – Cal

Call to worship VT#381

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him

— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house

to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession,

that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Songs - Ellen Davis Zehr

Here in This Place VT#10

Teach Me Thy Truth VT#776

You Are the Salt for the Earth VT#297

Children’s time – Connie Kauffman

Scriptures – 1 Peter 3:8-18

Reflections/MDS update - Ronn Franz

Song

Will you Let Me Be Your Servant VT#778

Love the Lord Your God

Sharing/Pastoral prayer After prayer times “Lord, in your mercy” respond with “hear our prayer.”

Song Love the Lord your God SS#55

Announcements:

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for January is Mennonite Disaster Service/MDS. If you would like to give to MDS write a check to Willow Springs with the organization's name included on the Memo line. Today we welcome Ronn Frantz to share with us about MDS. Ronn serves as the **MDS Region 2 Board Chair**. Thank you all for supporting organizations connected to the Mennonite Church.

Our church building desperately needs a new roof sooner than later. We plan for a new steel, hidden fastener roof to last for decades to come! If you would like to the project, please mark your check – Building Fund.

The FreedUp program is a way for everyone to get their finances in order at any economic level – and gaining a deeper faith perspective on your money.

FreedUp is an app-based lesson series that includes a workbook and opportunities to share with others over seven weeks. Each person or couple completes their lessons on their app and follows up for discussion with interactive small group sessions.

Everence facilitators will lead the group sessions, including the first get-acquainted session. There are several days of the week and times to choose from so you can find a time that fits your schedule:

- Mondays at 8 p.m. ET, starting Jan. 29
- Tuesdays at 8 p.m. ET, starting Jan. 30
- Wednesdays at 2 p.m. ET, starting Jan. 31
- Saturdays at 11 a.m. ET, starting Feb. 3

CALENDAR

Cal and Carol's reflections from Greece is postponed for now.

February 24/25 Willow Springs Retreat

What happened 499 years ago on this date?

Sending: #1056 God dearly loves us, and through Christ left us an example, that we might follow his footsteps. Christ is the light that has come into the world; may God grant that this light shine around you, and that you walk in it. Amen!

Go in peace!

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

1Peter 3:8-12 *Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. **Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.***

*Whoever wants to embrace life
and see the day fill up with good,
Here's what you do:
Say nothing evil or hurtful;
Snub evil and cultivate good;
run after peace for all you're worth.
God looks on all this with approval,
listening and responding well to what he's asked;
But he turns his back
on those who do evil things.*

*13-18 If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. **Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are,** and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath. It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.*