

Willow Springs Worship, Sunday, February 18, 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 – Pam Kaufmann

Call to worship *based on Psalm 25:1–10*

One: Teach us your pathways, O God — our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

Many: For you are the greatest guide, and your map is always good.

One: Other paths have left us lost; other ways have left us confused.

Many: You guide us along the trail of your mercy, drawing sinner and saint down this well-worn way.

All: All your paths are love, made smooth by your faithful walking. We are led into your truth by following the tread of your feet.

Songs - Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Pam Kaufmann

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered our humanity, our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance. Today, we come to you with this fresh on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey.

People: Be with us in this wilderness.

Leader: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

People: Forgive our self-focused minds.

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

People: May we partner with you and your church to remember.

All (looking at one another): You are beloved.

Scriptures – Hosea 6:7, Malachi 2:14, Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25, 2 Corinthians 3:6, and Hebrews 9:18

Sermon- *Covenants - the Materials of a Strong Foundation* by Warren Searles

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer After prayer times “Lord, in your mercy” respond with “Hear our prayer.” - Ellen Davis Zehr

Announcements: The Willow Springs Discernment Committee has asked **Dale Bachman to serve as an elder.** The Elder Job description and a sample affirmation ballot were posted in the bulletin board on 2/4/24. His name is presented today for congregational affirmation.

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for February is the Gideon's International. If you would like to give to **the Gideon's, make a notation on the memo line of a check.** Thank you all for supporting organizations connected to the Willow Springs.

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

Willow Springs Retreat

Saturday evening, February 24

5:45 pm Gathering

6:00 pm Puerto Rican Supper - Please sign up TODAY.

Fellowship – bring table games, collage/color, cards, music, conversation, puzzles, children's activities.

Evening Prayers - *Anabaptist Prayer Book*

Sunday morning, February 25

9:30 am Worship – Morning Prayers, *Anabaptist Prayer Book*

Fellowship – table games, collage/color, cards, music, conversation, puzzles, children's activities.

Lunch – Sandwich Salad Carry In Meal

The retreat concludes after lunch.

Please bring magazines and other color material that can be cut up to make collages or cards.

Bring Sandwiches and salads to share for lunch on Sunday.

Goals: Fellowship, Eat together, Anabaptist Prayer Book worship.

CALENDAR

February 18 First Sunday of Lent

February 24/25 Willow Springs Retreat

March 28 Maundy Thursday - Supper, communion, foot washing

March 31 Easter Sunday

Sending: Do not enter the wilderness alone. May God be with you, and may God draw us closer to God's self as we walk in community with one another through this time. Go in peace!

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

Hosea 6:7 As at Adam, they have broken the covenant; they were unfaithful to me there.

Malachi 2:14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth.

You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

Matthew 7:24-27 The Wise and Foolish Builders

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

2 Corinthians 3:6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Hebrews 9:18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.