

Willow Springs Worship

May 4, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5879843427>

Dial by your location (Chicago): +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 587 984 3427

Welcome and Call to Worship

Voices Together #185 – Eldon Eigsti

Prayer VT #1009

Songs – Phil Kaufmann

Children's time – Andy Krabill

Scripture – Psalm 148, Job 12:7-10

Meditation – Anna Zehr

Centering Creation and Gratitude

Wandering and Reflection Outside

Songs

VT #145 Touch the Earth Lightly

Sharing and prayer – Pam Kaufmann

Song

Announcements

Sending – VT #886

Sending Song

Calendar

May 7 Church Board, 7:30 pm

May 9 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

May 11 Input by Elaine Good, Everence Stewardship Sunday

May 14 Elders meeting, 7:00 pm

June 1-2 Vacation Bible School

Thank you for participating in connecting with God through creation today!

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for May/June is Hungry World Farm ([HWF](#)). If you would like to give to the organization, write a check to Willow Springs and **make a notation on the memo line**. Thank you for supporting organizations ministering to many.

We will be having Vacation Bible School on Sunday and Monday, June 1 and June 2. We invite the whole congregation to experience Bible School through joining us on Sunday. For those who are available and wish to help on both days, there will be more information in the coming weeks.

The Illinois Mennonite Conference is currently seeking a **part-time or volunteer Bookkeeper** to support IMC's financial operations. (Compensation is available for those preferring a paid role, though it may also be filled as a volunteer opportunity.) This is a flexible, remote role that requires just 10–12 hours per month and includes full training. This position plays a vital role in maintaining the financial health and integrity of the Conference, and they welcome applicants who are detail-oriented, organized, and aligned with the mission of IMC. Interested? Contact Anna Zehr for more information.

Amy Cline is looking for a good used recliner chair for her apartment. If you might be able to help her out with this need, you can contact her directly or contact Ellen or Dennis.

3/16 transitional pastor update: Pastor Phil Waite will join us in mid-July, to assist as we discern what comes next for Willow Springs. This process will require time, thought and energy. We hope all of you will be willing to put in this energy. We have work ahead of us! If you have questions about this process, please talk with one of the Elders.

If pastoral care is needed, please contact an Elder: Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Pam Kaufmann, or Elvin Krabill

Things to reflect on:

What ways do you express gratitude in your life already? What practices of expressing gratitude do you want to add to your life?

How has or how could expressing gratitude have an impact on your life?

As you wander, what are you grateful for? This could be physical things you experience in creation or anything else you are grateful for.

How could you engage in reciprocity with creation?

Reflect on all the parts of creation found in Psalm 148. Consider writing out what you are grateful for, as the Psalmist does.

Reflect on a time when you were in creation and felt connected to God through that experience.

Psalm 148 NIV

1 Praise the Lord.^[a]

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
6 and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
9 you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
10 wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
11 kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
12 young men and women,
old men and children.
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
14 And he has raised up for his people a horn,^[b]
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

Job 12:7-10 NIV

- 7 "But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
8 or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.
9 Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
10 In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.