

## **Willow Springs Worship**

**September 28, 2025 9:30 a.m.**

### **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Voices Together #864 – Anna Zehr

**Songs** – Phil Kaufmann

**Children's time** – Steve Thomas

**Scripture** – Genesis 2:4b-9, 15 NRSV

**Sermon** – Steve Thomas

*Trees of Life to Restore God's Earth*

**Songs** – VT 788 The Garden Needs Our Tending Now

**Sharing and prayer** – Pam Kaufmann

**Song**

### **Announcements**

Sunday School ends at:

### **Sending**

- L: For the glory of trees in your creation and their place on the Earth,  
**P: We praise you, God.**  
L: For the gifts of trees with all that they contribute to our life,  
**P: We thank you, God.**  
L: As trees are rooted in the earth, reach for your light, and bear abundant fruit,  
**P: So may we be in our life with you, God.**  
L: That we as stewards may care for trees and all of your creation,  
**P: Fill us with your Spirit, God.**

### **Sending Song**

#### **Calendar**

Oct. 5-19 Phil Waite in Tiskilwa  
Oct. 5, 12, 19 Phil Waite Preaching  
Oct. 5, 12 Heritage Sundays  
Oct. 10 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am  
Oct. 19 Farewell for Marilyn and Eldon

Tuesdays at 10:00am: Praise, Prayer, and Pacing: If you would like company getting in your daily walk join the 10:00am Tuesday group at the church to Praise, Pray, and Pace. If you want to receive a text reminder, let Beth know.

Thank you to Steve Thomas for bringing the message today!

Please remember to place your gifts in the basket towards the back of the sanctuary.

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for August/September is Mennonite Disaster Service ([MDS](#)). 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.

Starting last week, children's Sunday School begins after the worship service ends. Adult Sunday School will meet in the sanctuary. Both Sunday Schools will end one hour after the end of worship. Today during the adult Sunday School hour, we will have a time of connecting in conversation with Steve Thomas.

### **Interview Signup Sheet**

If you haven't already, please sign up for a time for Phil Waite to meet with you as part of our transitional work. We want everyone's voice to be heard! You can sign up on the sheet at church or contact Phil directly. Please sign up by October 12.

### **Heritage Sundays**

As part of our transitional work we will have two Heritage Sundays during the Sunday School hour on October 5 and 12. This will be a chance for us to tell our common story together.

There are copies of this year's affirmation ballot underneath the mailboxes for you to take home for your reference throughout this year.

**MCC webinar: Detained and imprisoned - Immigration and mass incarceration in the U.S.:** On September 30, from 1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT, MCC will host a webinar to discuss the overlapping systems of immigrant detention and mass incarceration. Through guided panel conversation, speakers will consider the shared historical underpinnings, current manifestations, and spiritual ramifications of our approach to enforcement in the U.S. Join this free webinar to learn why solidarity with affected communities is important and how you can get involved to interrupt systems of harm. More information and registration: [mcc.org/solidarity-webinar](https://mcc.org/solidarity-webinar)

**Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge!** Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 25,000 school kits for the 2025 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed **29,639 school kits!** Each of the 29,639 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year! Willow Springs contributed 39 school kits towards this total!

The Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center in Metamora has an upcoming meeting on October 18, starting at 10:00 am. Speaker Elizabeth Miller will be sharing with the focus of **Anabaptism Goes Global**. Meal to follow. All are welcome to attend!

This fall you have 3 options to come for a Work Day at Menno Haven and experience some fall sights and sounds. We have two mid-week days (Wednesday, October 22 & Thursday, October 23) for those who have free time in the middle of the week and one Saturday (November 8) for those who are available on the weekend. It is most helpful if you could register at [mennohaven.com/work-day](https://mennohaven.com/work-day) so we know how to plan projects for each day.

**Everence:** FreedUp personal finance training: Are you looking for financial training based on Biblical principles? Discover personal finance training with the FreedUp financial program, which helps people develop strong habits for personal finances. Learn more and sign up at [GetFreedUp.com](https://GetFreedUp.com). Through Everence®, we have access to a discount code: pay \$19 instead of \$99 when you use code fru24eve.

If you are interested in learning how to run the sound and zoom system at church, please let Pete Andriotis know.

### **Let's read the Psalms together!**

Phil Waite and the Elders encourage each one in the congregation to read through The Book of Psalms in 60 days, beginning September 1. [Find the schedule online](#) here or hard copies underneath the mailboxes for how

the Psalms can be grouped together to read in 60 days. If we follow this schedule and start on the same date we can then share together on Sundays what we have gleaned from our common reading.

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

**Genesis 2:4b-9, 15 NRSV**

*Another Account of the Creation*

In the day that the Lord[b] God made the earth and the heavens, **5** when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, **6** but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— **7** then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground[c] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. **8** And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. **9** Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**15** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.