

Willow Springs Worship

Nurturing Faith Together

August 9, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship – Pam

HWB 813 – Psalm 19:7-11

Songs – Phil K.

Children's time – Elvin

Scriptures – Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12 NRSV

Sermon – Phil Waite

Be Perfect, Not a Perfectionist

Song – VT 61 You Are Holy, You Are Whole

Sharing and prayer – Ellen

Song

Announcements

Sunday School ends at:

Sending Blessing – VT 1057

Sending Song

Calendar

Aug. 9, 16 Phil Waite preaching
Aug. 14 Mennonite Women, 9:30 am
Aug. 23 Menno Haven Swim, 2:00-4:00 pm

Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Praise, Prayer and Pacing:
If you would like company getting in your daily walk
join the group at the church.

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

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for June/July/August is Freedom House. Freedom House provides compassionate, confidential, and free services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as community outreach, prevention education, and professional training. Learn more about Freedom House here: <https://freedomhouseillinois.org/>. If you would like to give to the organization, make a notation on the memo line of a check. Thank you all for supporting organizations ministering to many.

This summer we will devote our adult Sunday School time to a discussion of the sermon, scripture texts, and other peace theology topics. The class meets in the sanctuary.

The **Menno Haven Summer Staff Reunion** is happening in one month - on September 4-7. Plans are getting finalized and we are getting excited. We have over 50 folks registered representing all of the decades.

Registration closes in 2 weeks, so register today!! We need everyone who plans to attend to register. Former Summer Staffers and Year Round Staffers who served from 1959-2026 are invited. Former staffers are welcome to come and bring their spouse and any minor dependent children.

We still have overnight lodging available in our dorms and a few spots left in hotel rooms. The cabins and RV/Tent spots are wide open. Housing Assignments will be assigned on a first come first serve basis and will be assigned based on registrations and on the number in your family. If your family does not fill the suggested minimum for the room, you will be asked to share housing with another family if registration numbers do not allow for single family lodging.

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

Matthew 5:38-48 (NRSV)

Concerning Retaliation

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to the one who

asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 12 (NRSV)

The New Life in Christ

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.^[a]

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Marks of the True Christian

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in

prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;^[b] do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God,^[c] for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.