

NEWS & VIEWS

April 2, 2023

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Spring is a beautiful time of year. The daffodils are in full bloom and the forsythia is about to burst forth. The aroma of hyacinth fills the air. Even after a mild winter, the transformation of the gray earth is a tremendous gift. All of these wonderful signs of spring pale in comparison to the resurrection hope celebrated at Easter.

Not only does Christian faith, but all of human history pivots on the resurrection. Without the resurrection, Jesus is seen as one more misguided prophet put to death by his contemporaries. Without the resurrection, the disciples remain silenced by fear and confusion. Without the resurrection, death and evil are victorious over compassion. Without the resurrection, there is no boldness by the disciples declaring He is alive!

Our Easter celebration must point to the great resurrection hope that transformed everything in its path. From the silent disciples, to the denying Peter, to the loyal women who went to the tomb, the resurrection changed everything. Because of the resurrection, we believe that all those who die in Jesus will be raised again to new life. While I firmly believe and proclaim this truth, I invite us to believe that the resurrection invites us to trust that God's power is able to transform all of life in the midst of chaos and loss.

Because of the resurrection, we proclaim that love, not force, is the greatest. Because of the resurrection, we believe that God will redeem all suffering. Because of the resurrection we believe that God will make life meaningful again in the face of loss. In the last several months, as I have touched

grief and loss in a variety of ways I have chosen to trust that God will redeem and make life meaningful again.

As I have pondered what Easter may mean for some friends who have recently experienced significant loss, I have sensed God inviting me to pray and hold the resurrection hope on their behalf. Rather than encourage others to believe in the resurrection hope, I have felt called to pray and speak this very hope into their lives. At times, I have simply prayed that God will keep them until they can see the possibility for meaningful life in the future. Yet at other times I have prayed that the resurrected Jesus will appear to them to assure them of his loving presence.

In celebrating Easter this year, may you believe in the power of the resurrection to be made real in your life! May you pray and speak for others of your resurrection hope.

-Pastor Randy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Louise Beyer	4/2
Mark Reiff	4/9
Sandra Maldonado	4/25
Cesar Garrido	4/29
Cindy Strauch	5/3
Sam Reiff	5/4

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 7:00-10:00pm, October through June. All events are also livestreamed.

April 1 was the Annual Comedy night, with Christian McCartney and K-Mack. This event benefitted Battle 4 Children's Charities.

April 15 - Amanda Nolan, with special guest Lisa Reiff.

May 6 - Face Value



FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

What is your prayer for the people and places where you go to school, work, play and live? We all have a context, some of us spend time volunteering, some at a paid job, some connection with family and friends in our neighborhood and school. Wherever God has us currently, there are people all around you whom God loves. How does God want to bless those people and places where we are? As Randy

preached in his sermon on Sunday, we have been given authority to release the love and grace of God. What is the prayer God is giving you for your context? I would like to pray that prayer with you.

I am open to coming to your space, whether it is your home, workplace, or school for a short visit to pray with you. I am willing to meet you at a convenient time whether it is at the beginning, middle or end of your day. I am available on a Tuesday or Friday. I would commit to joining you in prayer as we partner together. While I anticipate praying "on site" with people, I am also open to meeting via zoom.

Please contact me if you have interest or questions.

Blessings, Pastor Sandy

CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team (Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Aimee Gourley and Freida Myers) met via zoom on Tuesday evening, March 21. Our Biblical focus was Philippians 2:6-8. Jesus had authority from his Father but willingly became a human and then death on a cross.

We began discussing Andy Crouch's ideas about authority and vulnerability in his book Strong and Weak. Jesus was flourishing in his ministry because he had authority but gave up privilege, was vulnerable. Crouch's definition of authority is "The capacity for meaningful action." He describes his niece Angela who has a condition called Trisomy 13 affecting every cell in her body. He says the question is "not whether Angela *alone* is flourishing or not—the question is whether her presence in our midst leads us to flourishing *together*." Each of us has some authority and can take "meaningful action." As Care Team members we want to support and encourage the pastoral team and other congregants so we all can flourish. We prayed for persons who have challenges right now. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 25.

-Freida Myers

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY—BOOK REVIEW

As much as school was (or is) a pain sometimes, what if you were not permitted to attend school? How would it feel to be illiterate?

I Am Malala is the 2014 autobiography of Malala Yousafzai, an inspiring young woman born in 1997 in the Swat Valley, a once-peaceful area of Pakistan. It chronicles Malala's journey, when, at the age of 10 years, she heard the still, small voice in her heart saying, "Why don't you do something for peace, for women and girls, and for every child's right to an education?"

Malala's bravery throughout her young life is clear. Her recovery, her attitude, and her actions following a point-blank gun shot to her face, by a Taliban soldier, is remarkable. However, I found there to be more than one hero in this story. Malala's father had a steadfast belief in educating children. Because there are no public schools in this area of Pakistan, in 1994 Mr. Yousafzai founded and ran a modest private school for both female and male students, on a very low budget. Malala's mother supported this endeavor, providing a strong foundation in their home, while both Mr. Yousafzai and Malala spoke at local and national events, and participated in internationally published media platforms and documentaries.

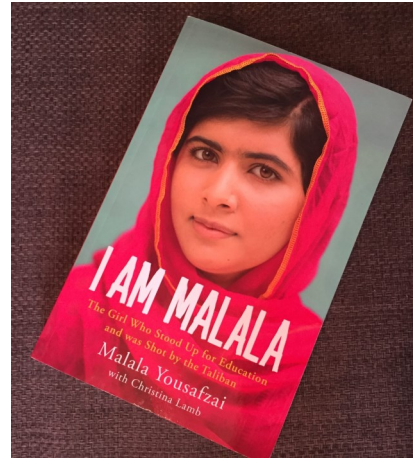
Underpinning everything is the family's deep faith in God as their support through the horrors of Taliban terrorism and war in their village and region. The book provided some insight on the Muslim faith. My favorite line? The mother answered Malala with a verse from the Quran. "Falsehood has to die. And truth has to come forward." Her mother said, "God will protect you, because [your] mission is a good one."

I always find it humbling to read memoirs of people who have had a positive impact on so many. I think, "Why can't I have such dedication and strength?"

Malala's book makes it pretty clear: one day at a time, stay steadfast in your goal. Small steps, day after day after day. Sounds like our journey towards Christ!

I would highly recommend this book to readers of all ages, for a boost in one's faith and inspiration. My rating is 10/10!

-Joyce Zuzack



SPRING GETAWAY at Spruce Lake

This year participation in DMC Spring getaway involved at least 40 of us for a delightful time together on March 10-12. Those who arrived early were able to watch it snow and greet others as they arrived. When Nancy passed out our room keys for Homestead, Spruce Lodge, etc. we could retire for the night. The next morning we awoke to snow plowing, a gorgeous display of clear blue skies and snow covered trees. Little blobs of snow fell on us as we went to breakfast. Those who played disc golf or went sledding enjoyed the new fallen snow. Others had plenty of time to visit by the fireplace, play games, enjoy a puzzle, or read. At mealtimes we had the opportunity to see the many other guests from several other groups, which completely filled the dining room and kept the kitchen crew scrambling. Saturday evening there was a volleyball game, with fruit and s'mores by the campfire. Sunday morning found us gathered by a TV to watch the service Randy and KrisAnne were leading back at church. The pictures tell it better (more on the back page)...





A little note from Susie Churchmouse,

Hey, Easter breakfast – I can hardly wait. It gets dull around here and I really miss seeing the room filled up, not to mention those wonderful crumbs. I'll be up early so I don't miss anything!

Deadline for submitting items for the May News & Views: May 2

PARTING THOUGHT:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. -Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

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