

NEWS & VIEWS

April 7, 2024

Volume 23 No. 4

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN:

The Gift of Sabbath

Recently I was reminded about the gift of Sabbath. Maybe the first thing that comes to our mind is the fifth commandment to honor the Sabbath by keeping it holy. Jesus honored the Sabbath by setting aside time to worship, but he also “broke the rules” by healing on the Sabbath. What is God’s intent for us related to Sabbath? Is it just a day off from work?

How do we set aside the time needed to stop and rest, not only our bodies but our minds and spirits? How do you find yourself to be rejuvenated spiritually? For some people, attending worship is a way to be restored in your faith, to be re-centered in Christ. I want to propose that there may be many “Sabbath” practices that will restore us and help us to honor God. Jesus says in Mark 2:27, *Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”*

I wonder if we who are followers of Jesus can think differently about how to practice Sabbath, modeling the pattern God set when he ceased his “creating work” on the seventh day. God looked at His creation and declared it “very good.” Just as God stopped

to enjoy all that God had done, so God also asks us to stop and enjoy God’s presence and his creation.

Our prayer practice for the month of April is centered in Matthew 6, including the Lord’s prayer and Jesus’ invitation to pray in a posture of simplicity and fewer words. I wonder if praying with a listening mind and heart can be a “sabbath” practice where we don’t have to worry about having all the right words or lengthy prayers. I wonder if we can learn to rest in our listening prayer practice and if just being with God will restore us? Isn’t that what God meant when he commanded the Hebrew people to practice Sabbath? It is with the intent of restoration and renewal in our relationship with God, ourselves and the world in which we live.

God is good and wants us to live with a sense of joy and purpose. Along with a posture of listening prayer, invite God to show you what Sabbath practices might be helpful for you to experience the renewal and restoration we all need on a regular basis.

It may be that we are discovering anew the gift of Sabbath any day of the week.

- Pastor Sandy

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Louise Beyer 4/2
Sue Croll 4/6
Mark Reiff 4/9
Amber Youssef 4/14
Sandra Maldonado 4/25
Cesar Garrido 4/30
Cynthia Strauch 5/3
Sam Reiff 5/4



KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Doylestown's only underground Christian café - upcoming events:

- April 20 - Once Called Saul - Their name reflects the story of Saul, who became Paul after meeting the Lord
- May 4 - Wendy Schettig, with music for your soul

All events are livestreamed.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

In the weeks leading to Good Friday we brought crosses from home to be placed on the front table and window



sills. Easter morning started with breakfast in the fellowship hall, to which we welcomed friends and the community. In the service we sang joyfully and participated in communion after the message.

FROM THE CARE TEAM

Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock and Freida Myers met as a Care Team on March 19 via Zoom. Sandy led in an opening prayer and then directed us to consider Psalm 90, a prayer of Moses. Several lines are "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." and "May the favor of the Lord of God rest on us; establish the work of our hands..." We want our work to be for God's glory.

We had read Exodus 18 and Acts 6:1-7 in preparation for discussion about the open position on the Care Team. In Exodus 18 we read that Moses' father-in-law gave him advice. Moses was wearing himself out taking care of everyone's complaints. Jethro advised selecting persons who could help. Moses was humble enough to follow that advice. The early church in Acts chose gifted persons who were trustworthy and had integrity to help care for those in need. We will invite the congregation to consider who might be a good team member, to pray for that person, and then submit that suggestion to the Care Team.

We mentioned some visits Care Team members had made, noted some compassion funds which had been given recently, and then closed in prayer for congregational participants who are experiencing grief or other challenges.

Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday evening, April 30, via Zoom.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team

SPRING GETAWAY AT SPRUCE LAKE

This year participation in DMC Spring getaway involved almost 35 of us and our guests for a delightful time together on March 8-10. On Friday evening after Nancy passed out our room keys for Homestead, Spruce Lodge, etc. we could retire for the night. It rained all day Saturday but hardy souls climbed Spruce Mountain and played disc golf. Mark and Jackie Swartley visited us at breakfast, then Mark drove some of us in a camp bus to the wilderness area, where we saw cabins under construction like the one being built with the funds we donated. There was time to visit by the fireplace, play games, or read. At mealtimes we enjoyed the bountiful and delicious food. We also had the opportunity to see the guests from several other groups, including Heidi Swartley who was with a group of people planning to lead during the upcoming Joni and Friends event. In the evening there was a volleyball game and playtime for children with s'mores by the fireplace. Sunday morning found us gathered by a TV to watch the service Randy and Lisa were leading back at church. The pictures tell it better.



SUGGESTIONS FROM KARL

Following are timely passages that I plan to use in my bi-monthly Bible studies at Neshaminy Manor on the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons during April and May. Coincidentally, I found out while doing research on our Doylestown Mennonite Church at the Mennonite Heritage Center that we used to occasionally lead services at both the county home for the aged and the county prison 100 years ago. They still appreciate our ministry. May God richly bless you as you read each one of these passages in your own personal translation Bible. - Karl Strauch

Scriptures to consider between Easter and Pentecost from "Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts"

Easter Sunday (March 31, 2024):

Women visited the tomb in Jerusalem - Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-11

Peter and John saw the empty tomb Luke 24:12, John 20:1-10

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene - Mark 16:9-11, John 20:11-18

Jesus appeared to other women - Matthew 28:9,10

Guards reported the resurrection - Matthew 28:11-15

Jesus appeared to 2 disciples on the way to Emmaus - Mark 16:12,13, Luke 24:13-35

Jesus appeared to 10 disciples without Thomas - Mark 16:14, Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-25

One week later (April 7, 2024):

Jesus appeared to disciples including Thomas - John 20:26-31

During remaining days until His ascension :

Jesus appeared to 7 disciples by the Sea of Galilee - John 21:1-25

Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:44-49

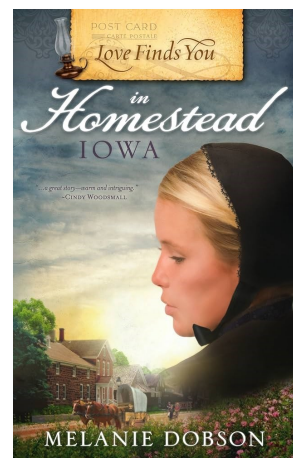
The Ascension at Mt Olivet (May 9, 2024) – Mark 16:19,20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

Pentecost (Sunday May 19, 2024) – Acts 2:1-47

FROM THE LIBRARY

Love Finds You in Homestead, Iowa, by Melanie Dobson takes place in the Amana Colonies in 1894. The colonies were focused on “‘Inspiration of the Bible’ but also wanted to hear God’s voice in the present day.” It was a strict but caring community which shared everything in common. It seems more restrictive than Amish communities but each member was provided with daily food, work and security. They raised most of their own food, had a flock of sheep and flour mill. We meet Liesel who is assigned to work in the gardens although she would much prefer working with the young children. She goes to the train to see off her dear friend who had married and was leaving the community. As the farewell crowd departs, she sees a man who is wounded and can hardly walk or carry his young, sick daughter. Liesel helps the wounded man Jacob and child cross the tracks to the doctor’s office. Liesel stays in the doctor’s house to care for the child and ends up being quarantined when the child was diagnosed with diphtheria. The story notes the temptation of the world, where one lives for oneself and getting ahead financially. But these characters knew that following God in the Amana communities offered more. I recommend this book.

- Freida Myers



A little note from Susie Churchmouse

Hey, Easter breakfast - it was worth the wait! It was wonderful to see the room filled up, and all that bountiful food, with plenty of crumbs for me. To top it off, there was that GORGEOUS cake. I didn't recognize all the folks who came but we certainly welcomed everyone.

PARTING THOUGHT:

If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's day honorable and you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord ...

- Isaiah 58:13 & 14a

**Deadline for submitting
items for the
May News & Views:
April 30, 2024**

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