

NEWS & VIEWS

October 1, 2023

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN -

Praying with a Partner

How do you like to accomplish a task? Do you prefer to work alone? Do you like to work with a team or with another partner? Certain tasks are a lot easier with another person, such as moving a piece of furniture or caring for a person who needs 24/7 care. Steve and I made applesauce recently and I was grateful for the help, especially with the cleanup when I was getting tired.

When it comes to prayer, we may wonder if we are praying alone. I think Jesus taught his disciples and us that we are not alone when we pray. In fact, it might be helpful for us to think of Jesus as our prayer partner. A theme scripture for the prayer ministry at DMC is Hebrews 4:15-16, *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

These verses tell us that Jesus understands our weaknesses. We all know what it means to struggle and to feel weak at times. And maybe that happens when we are praying. We may not know how to pray, what to pray, or if our prayers are even making a difference. It may be at those times that it helps to remember that Jesus is our partner in prayer. Jesus is already aware of the needs before us, our struggle with temptation, and our worries and fears. I believe we can ask Jesus how to pray and to give us his thoughts in our time of need so we can pray in line with what

heaven wants for the situation before us. These verses also remind us that we can come with confidence to God knowing that Jesus is already there making intercession for us, as it says in Hebrews 7:25b, *"He always lives to intercede."* This thought can be a comfort for us, knowing we don't pray alone.

Jesus also modeled for us the value of praying with others. DMC is a congregation that prays together. You are invited to join the Zoom prayer group that meets every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9 am. You are welcome to stop in for just a few minutes or stay for the whole session, usually about 45 minutes. The zoom link is always in the bulletin. Reach out to the church office if you have questions.

The prayer ushers are a committed group of people that are available every Sunday morning to pray confidentially with you about a need or a thanksgiving. Serving as a team of two, the prayer ushers are available during our Sunday worship service, except during the morning message. Sometimes it is said we need Jesus with "skin on." Perhaps praying with another person will help you to sense God's presence.

However we choose to pray, remember that we don't pray alone, but with Jesus as our prayer partner, guiding our words, thoughts, and feelings. May we all come boldly to the throne of grace, knowing our confidence rests in his promise to be with us always.

- Pastor Sandy

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Glenn Wyble 10/6
Dean Bartels 10/6
Sierra Ryan 10/9
Mike Ryan 10/10
Freida Myers 10/17
Lisa Reiff 10/19
Abe Landis 10/21
John Landis 10/24
Karl Strauch 10/28
Nancy Heacock 10/31

Anniversaries

Angel Mejias & Sandra Maldonado 10/3
Garry & Cyndi Landis 10/12

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Karen's Place reopened on October 7 with Blue Sky Falls. Coming up:

- October 21 - our 25th anniversary celebration; a big event with prizes and giveaways, featuring The Eddy Mann Band, Jim Winder, Wendy Schettig and Liz Collins.
- November 4- Basic Connection

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team (Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Aimee Gourley and Freida Myers) met via Zoom on September 19. Our scriptural focus was Philippians 2:1-11 – which related Jesus' taking on the nature of a servant, humbling himself and becoming obedient to death. We continue reading Strong and Weak by Andy Crouch and talked about Jesus' humanity and suffering. Crouch says, "The fear of loss has robbed our world of more life and more flourishing than any actual loss we could ever suffer." He also suggests that only those who have suffered can be trusted to lead. We concluded with prayer for individuals in our congregation. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 via Zoom.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team

A MESSAGE FROM NOEL

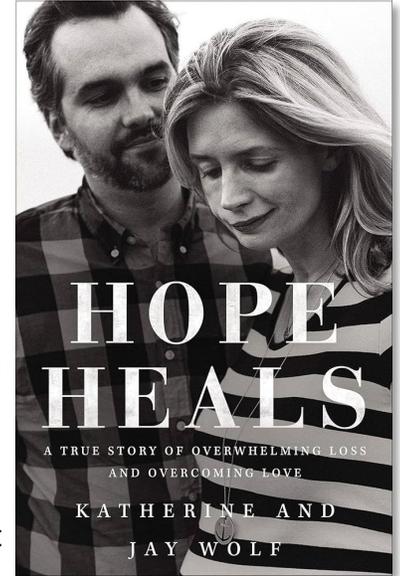
On September 3, Noel Santiago, our Conference Minister, preached for us. He reminded us that Jesus is present with us and sometimes we don't recognize him. What prevents us from seeing him? He reminded us that we need to keep asking Jesus for his perspective.



Noel Santiago, preaching at Doylestown Mennonite Church on Sunday, September 3

FROM THE LIBRARY - Book Review

Hope Heals by Katherine and Jay Wolf is a “true story of overwhelming loss and an overcoming love.” Meet Katherine and Jay as a young couple with big dreams as they plan their wedding. She did some modeling; and Jay was going to law school. Their young son James was almost one year old when Katherine experienced a brain stem stroke and called out to Jay. The ambulance takes Katherine. Jay picks up son James to follow the ambulance. A surgeon does sixteen hours of dangerous surgery. Prayer vigils around the country begged for God’s mercy. To those gathered near the hospital Jay read Romans 8, concluding with verse 38 where he sensed God’s peace as he surrendered to God’s love. Katherine lives. Jay is a model husband; about ninety percent of couples with strokes end up in divorce. A few miracles along the way include Jay’s sister who comes back from a term in Africa to care for James. Katherine is paralyzed on her right side and was not expected to walk again. When Katherine struggled to walk down the hallway, seeing her was an encouragement to the medical staff who knew this was a miracle. She eventually can talk, swallow and eat—but it takes so very long. Their hope is in Jesus. Katherine says she believes “we are all here for purposes beyond ourselves and beyond our comprehension.” This is at the top of my list of “best books read this year.” I hope you add it to yours.



Freida Myers, librarian

PARTING THOUGHT:

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Jesus – Matthew 18:20

**Deadline for
submitting items for the
November News & Views:
October 31**

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