

NEWS & VIEWS

May 3, 2026

Volume 25 No. 5

Doylestown Mennonite Church

DISCIPLE'S PEN:

In the history of humankind, it is fascinating to reflect on how God has communicated with those seeking Him. In our age of information overload, discerning God's voice amongst all the noise requires selective tuning.

For me, note-taking from my school years has evolved from 'hopefully' writing down what may be asked on the next test to a means of staying **focused** on what is shared during worship and the sermon.

There may be an insight for a present issue or suggestions for the upcoming week. Writing something down is a bookmark to learn something new or reflect if I am staying on the correct course in my life's journey. Details such as the prelude, a sketch of the flowers and the vase they are in, and weather conditions are included in my notebook to add a little 'color'.

Junior Brodie has commented on my note-taking and has encouraged me to continue. I changed from using loose leaf sheets that were easily misplaced to using notebooks in 2021.



Karen has been keeping a daily diary for the last 65 years. When read by our children or grandchildren years later, the memory of what she wrote down comes to life once again. In the same vein, what I write down is a means of hearing what God is saying

to me in the moment and a reference for someone to review later (if they can read my handwriting).

- Bill Fennell

Birthdays

Cindy Strauch 5/3	Junior Brodie 5/25
Sam Reiff 5/4	Bonnie Leatherman 5/26
MaryLee Chittick 5/6	Sally Landis 5/31
Angel Mejias 5/8	Garry Landis 6/1
Bill Fennell 5/9	Gideon Youssef 6/1
Kendrick Garrido 5/13	Camille Garrido 6/5
Lois Myers 5/24	

COMING UP : SOME SPECIAL DATES

Anniversaries

Mike & Coleen Ryan 5/9
Gideon & Karen Youssef 5/13
John & Sally Landis 5/26

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met Tuesday, April 21 via Zoom. After opening prayer we read Galatians 6:1-10 titled "Doing Good to All." Each person has unique, important gifts. We should not compare ourselves to others, but "do good." For us that may mean sharing food/meals, asking how they are, spending time with them, or driving them to appointments. We began reading and talking about chapters 1 and 2 of Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life by Kenneth C. Haugk. The author notes our hesitation to offer care and uncertainty of others' needs. We should ask another's needs, not assume we know what they are. Chapter two emphasizes that "Christians are responsible for care; God is responsible for cure."

We talked about our visitation efforts. Sandy reported on classes for transferring membership and/or baptism. We talked about the use of the compassion fund and its use in the past. We concluded by praying for some persons with health or grieving issues and the Pastoral Search Team. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team
(Gary Garges and Sandy Landes)

REMEMBERING MARGE SWARTLEY

Marge passed away from us on March 31 after being married to Ray for 71 years and well known to us during that time. She served in a variety of ways during her lifetime. During the last several years she was unable to sit with us in worship, but she was with us online and was always happy to have us visit her at home. After a private graveside service at our cemetery there was a celebration of her life at Souderton Mennonite Church fellowship hall, where we met with family and friends.





SPRING GETAWAY: From Rainbows to Snowflakes!

As we approached Spruce Lake on Friday evening April 17, we were awed by a bright double rainbow glowing in the east. It continued its brightness long enough for many of us to watch it from Spruce Lodge. We settled in and by morning were eager for breakfast. Being only one of seven church groups meeting for the weekend, we found a dining hall filled with 300 or more people.



Plans for the day included a hike up Spruce Mountain, disc golf with Steve, and other less formal activities. Stephanie Gehman gave a tour of the wilderness area, showing off the



climbing wall, high ropes and other areas in Mountain View. There was gym time, enjoyed especially by the Garrido and Reiff children. In between there were games and puzzles and time to fellowship with each other and peruse the gift shop. In the evening there were s'mores around the campfire.



On Sunday morning we dodged snowflakes on our way to breakfast, then met for a service in the lower level of Homestead, joined by Jesse and Stephanie Gehman and their children. Lunch was another of those wonderful meals before we left for home.



APRIL WORSHIP

April 3 - We gathered in the dimly-lit room for a Tenebrae service. As scriptures were read, candles were snuffed out one by one and we left in silence.



April 5 - We met for Easter breakfast, followed by the Easter service. Rob Arner gave a message from Isaiah, moving ahead to Chapter 25 for a message of hope in the God who raises from the dead.

April 12 - Another message from Rob Arner from Isaiah, chapter 6 with a focus on God's holiness and what it means to be holy. "Holy" means set apart, unique and different. Our sin makes us unable to bear to be in God's overwhelming presence, but Jesus' sacrifice makes us holy so that we do not need to be afraid of him.

April 19 - At Spruce Lake (see previous page) we had a message from Mark Reiff, picking up from his earlier message on courage, ending with the declaration that God loves each of us. After a time of listening we wrote thoughts on a poster. Back in Doylestown a smaller group met in the fellowship hall for a message from Don Heckler.

April 26 - Rob Arner took us to Chapter 7 of Isaiah. Threatened on every side, the King of Judah was terrified and didn't know what to do. He was pointed to God's promise to David that he could trust him for the outcome.



POEMS FROM JEFF

4/29/26

Stepping on the rocks
Identify the car's speed,
Traffic flying by (At the Prayer Garden)



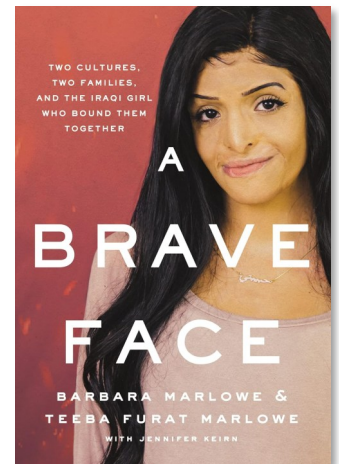
3/1/26

Kicking and screaming
In the darkness
Nice people around the world
Doing kind and thoughtful things
Nobody knows what will happen
Everyone has doubt
Sun on the horizon
Some day we'll pray together.

- Jeff Buckwalter

FROM THE LIBRARY: Book Review

A Brave Face by Barbara Marlowe begins with Barbara at home on a Sunday beginning to read a newspaper article headlined “War’s Scars Leave Dozens of Iraqis in Pain, Despair: Not Enough Surgeons to Fix Terrible Injuries.” Barbara is drawn to the picture of four-year old Teeba who had been severely burned on her face, head and hands in a roadside bombing. She was held by her loving father Furat who decried the poor medical care available in Iraq for pain or surgery. People who were disfigured were treated badly; there seemed no hope for her. Her hair could not grow; her face was disfigured. James Palmer, a freelance reporter, had heard about Teeba and decided to contact the family. Furat took a lot of risk to travel with Teeba to meet with Mr. Palmer in Baghdad. James Palmer told Furat that his article was “unlikely to be of any help for Teebe, in fact it would probably take a miracle.”



Barbara is drawn to Teebe’s eyes and contacts James Palmer and offers to “get this girl a wig.” This was not easy, especially since Teebe is in Iraq and the U.S. was at war with Iraq. Thus she begins a long journey to find help for Teebe and arrange a passport and visa. She prays a lot during so many blocks to progress. God provides so many helpful contacts. After some time Teebe and her grandmother make the trip to the U.S. with a different language, food, dress, etc. Barbara was able to find the best possible surgeon to do the extensive surgeries. It is a beautiful story of love across cultures and families: heart-warming, stretching, inspiring.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

KAREN'S PLACE

“Doylestown’s only underground Christian Café”

Next date: May 16 - check the church bulletin boards for more information.



Deadline for submitting items for the June issue of News & Views: **June 2, 2026**

PARTING THOUGHT

Happy are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.

- Jesus (Luke 11:28 CE)

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