

NEWS & VIEWS

November 7, 2021

Volume 20 No.11

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—Encouraging Discipleship

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. Which of you, if you son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"
-Matthew 7:7-11

When my children were very young, they communicated by crying...sometimes even screaming at me. It was up to me to figure out what they needed or wanted. As they grew and learned more words, they could communicate better, but there were still times when they couldn't quite put their need or desire into words, and I had to try to interpret their cries or help them find the words to explain what they needed. These were moments that tested my motherly patience, and I confess that sometimes I lost my temper and yelled "Would you just tell me what you need! What do you want?" That's not something I am proud of, to be sure.

I read a book a few years ago that made the argument that human beings are not first and foremost thinking beings, but rather, beings who are directed by desire. This is not to say that we cannot think – of course we can! We are capable of thinking clearly and deeply about things and forming coherent belief systems. But, if we examine our lives, we might find that much of how we live is directed by fulfilling our desires, rather than being directed by our thoughts or beliefs. We believe and know that our material possessions are not eternal, yet we desire nice things and therefore accumulate a lot of

them...bigger and better things all the time. We know that a balanced diet is best, but we desire salt and sugar and keep eating them. Our thoughts say that too much media consumption is not good, but the feeling we get when we take it in is a rush and addictive, so we keep going back for more. Almost all of advertising is directed toward sparking our desire...and it works! We are a consumer society.

Verse seven of this passage encourages us to ask, seek and knock because we have a Father who is ready and willing to answer our desires. But, I know my desires are not always good—I wonder, what am I asking for, what am I seeking? Is it good for me? Do I even know what I want? As we look forward to spending a month with these short verses, my first encouragement is to sit with your desires. What do you want to ask God for? What are you seeking? Can you put words to it? If you can put it into words, look at it with God and examine it...where does this desire come from? What might Jesus say about it? How might Jesus want to reshape your desires so that you can be healthy and whole and find freedom from unhealthy desires? May God speak to us through these powerful verses this month. -pastor KrisAnne



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Denny Bartels 11/11
Zachary Schwabe 11/21
Marge Swartley 11/25
Lucy DeJesus 12/4

Anniversaries

Michael & Aimee Gourley 11/11
Ray & Marge Swartley 11/27

KAREN'S PLACE

"Doylestown's only underground Christian Café"

Come and enjoy these upcoming artists, 7-10pm:

November 6 - Wendy Schettig

November 20 - Beauty for Ashes

December 4 - Eddy Mann

CARE TEAM REPORT

Sandy Landes, Robin Miller and Freida Myers met by zoom on October 25. We looked for ways of healing in the story of the Good Samaritan as recorded in Luke 10:25-37. This included touch, compassion, financial aid, and follow up. The Samaritan also asked the innkeeper to participate in the healing process.

We continued our discussion of J. R. Briggs' book, [A Time to Heal](#) (Offering Hope to a Wounded World in the name of Jesus). Jesus healed with attention, words and touch. Briggs noted that when there is tragedy, many offer their "thoughts and prayers." Persons don't want just thoughts and prayers, but help. Prayers with legs (action). When we pray we may be directed to help. We are challenged to look for "healers" in our midst and resources for help in our hurting world and local communities. We concluded by praying for some in our church family facing struggles.

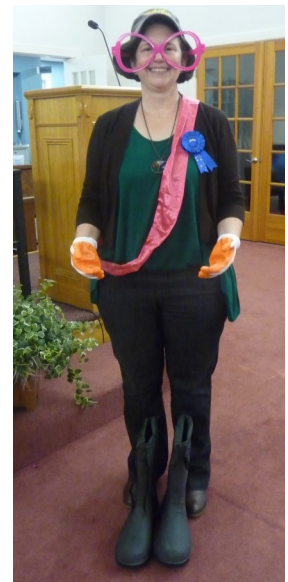
Our next meeting is scheduled for December.

-Freida Myers for the Care Team: Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Kendrick Garrido, and Robin Miller

FROM THE SERMON SERIES on HUMILITY

On Sunday, October 24, KrisAnne preached from I Peter 5:1-11 and examined the verses following the one that says, "all of you clothe yourselves with humility." From those verses, she described six ways we can clothe ourselves with humility in our relationships. She even put on a few costume items to illustrate those humble character traits. It was a fun and creative way to dig into the scripture text! Here are the six ways to "put on" humility and a humorous picture of KrisAnne in her humble costume:

- Humble trust (v. 7 cast anxiety on God - a pin near her heart)
- Humble self-awareness (v. 8 have a sober mind - a hat on her head)
- Humble conviction (v.9 resist the enemy - a sash that laid across her backbone)
- Humble confidence (v.9 stand firm in faith - boots for her feet)
- Humble service (v. 9 know the suffering of believers around the world - gloves for her hands)
- Humble hope (v.10 God will restore us - glasses for her eyes)



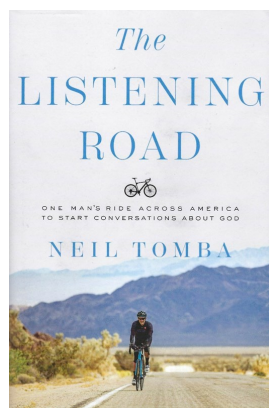
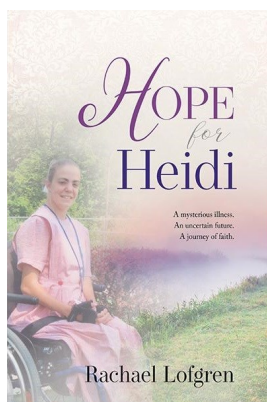
FROM THE LIBRARY– BOOK REVIEWS

Hope for Heidi, by Rachael Lofgren. Life is a series of challenges. Some are destined for greater challenges than others. Such is the fate of Heidi Weaver at the tender age of eleven years old. Her carefree childhood was snatched from her and replaced by mysterious paralysis, but she was not to be defeated. Her indomitable spirit and mature faith in God for someone her age, gave her the resolve needed for her daily challenges.

Proverbs tells us to teach a child in “the way they should go”. Heidi had certainly been taught. She came from a family of strong faith grounded in the Word. Their love and support were evident in the sacrifices made to adapt to Heidi’s limitations.

Freida gave me the opportunity to be the first to read this book. Autoimmune diseases can be swift and relentless. As a parent, I can draw some parallels with Heidi’s mother. Watching your child struggle is difficult. As parents, we are instructed to teach our children. Our children, however, can be remarkable teachers of faith to us.

-Judy Derstine



The Listening Road is an inspiring book written by a pastor concerned about a trend among people in a church to find it difficult to talk about God with people outside of the church. He also wanted to fulfill his years-long desire to travel across the country. With the help of several close friends to support him, his team left Santa Monica, CA in May 2019 and made the 3000-mile coast-to-coast bicycle trip to Annapolis, MD in 34 days.

Having made many cross-country road trips and been in all 50 states during the past 80 years, I’m a huge fan

of getting out on the road and enjoying the beauty of God’s diverse creations. I’d do it again in a heartbeat.

The part about doing it now on a bicycle, though, doesn’t seem as appealing as in a comfortable motorcar. Wouldn’t it take much less effort and eliminate the cost of traveling if we just focused on listening and responding to each person whom God brought into our lives each day talk about their stories, faith, and matters of their heart?

Wherever we are on any moment, whether here at home or far out on the road a long away from it, what would happen if we simply initiated a conversation with someone about God in a loving way and listened in humility to each response without making any critical judgements, even if that person had a significantly different background, belief and opinion than ours?

In chapter 33 Spaces of Grace the author sums up some of the highlights ... “at least 116 conversations with people from all walks of life: mechanics, young families, seniors, truckers, college students, fishermen, bikers, Native Americans, African Americans, men at a Bible study, a bartender, retired Admiral, Amish farmers, cowboys, pastors, hikers, and so many more ... people from every persuasion imaginable: Republicans, Democrats, independent thinkers, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, atheists, agnostics ... We had talked courteously, kindly, and respectfully – without arguing – about things that are so divisive. Politics. Passions. Race. Hopes. Faith. Jesus.”

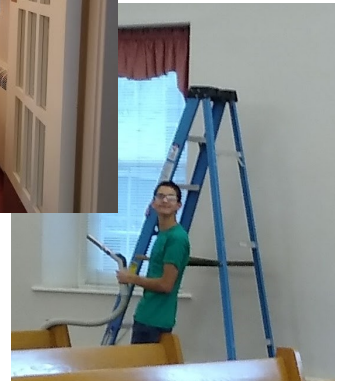
He concluded with “As exhausted as I was, I felt deep satisfaction in completing the dream that had gripped me for eighteen years. We had done it. We had taken the trip and dived into deep conversations with strangers from coast to coast. We had listened. And the conversations were just beginning.”

Both my wife Cindy and I enjoyed this book and highly recommend reading it. The various responses and testimonials about faith that Pastor Neil Tomba received from a widely diverse range of people during this journey were quite insightful and inspirational.

-Karl Strauch

FIFTH SUNDAY DAY of SERVICE

Sunday, October 31, was a day of service. People volunteered at one of two places: helping Steve Landes at the Disc Golf course at Pinebrook, or clean-up outside and inside the church building. Areas cleaned up outside the church included the prayer garden, flower beds, pavilion and playground. Inside- the windows, stairwells, baseboards and other areas were thoroughly washed and cleaned. Everyone worked hard and the work was done in good time!



LOOKING TOWARD THANKSGIVING

This year's Thanksgiving offering will assist Ripple Church and Ripple Community, Inc. These ministries reach people struggling with food security and homelessness in the city of Allentown. We can donate various food, clothing and personal items between November 7 & 28. See the donation list provided in the October 31 bulletin or on the table by the mailboxes for specific items to bring.



Deadline for submitting items for the December News & Views: November 30th

PARTING THOUGHT:

God's desire: *"For you to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

-Micah 6:8

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