

# NEWS & VIEWS

August 4, 2024

Volume 23 No. 8

*Doylestown Mennonite Church*

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## PASTOR'S PEN

The first commandment given to the people of Israel declares you shall have no other gods before me. Throughout the entire Old Testament, this theme of giving allegiance to God alone is repeated in a variety of ways. There is great clarity that God is a jealous God and demands that are to be no rivals. Jesus continues this theme both in describing his own vocation and in his teaching. When challenged, Jesus frequently articulated that he came to do the Father's will. In several teachings, Jesus pointed out that the need to choose to follow often came down to an either/or decision rather than a both/and opportunity. Jesus clearly stated that one cannot serve two masters.

In this context, we discover that God's command to serve God alone is not so much about God's desire for complete loyalty but rather, God's command is required because of our limited capacity to faithfully serve more than one God. None of us can multitask when it comes to serving God. There will come a time when we will have to choose between one or the other. During such circumstances, our choices reveal our true loyalty. It is critical to understand that our sole and complete loyalty is to be to God. .

One of the most common competing gods of our current day is the call to conform, to be a people pleaser. Some of us more naturally lean this direction and it is often taught in families and churches alike. The goodness of being a

people pleaser is rooted in a genuine care for others. However, an article that I read recently listed the following as traits of people pleasers: There is a desire to have everyone like you, they frequently over-apologize, they crave external validation, if they set boundaries they feel guilty or mean, they fear conflict, they don't know how to ask for help, they are a fixer and hate to see anyone hurt, afraid, sad or uncomfortable, and they are sensitive to criticism.

Do you identify with any of these traits? While many of the above are rooted in a genuine compassion for others, without absolute loyalty to God we unknowingly worship the opinions, thoughts, and feelings of others rather than the creator God who gives life. What might it be to submit your compassion for others to your obedience to God?

Many today get away with distracted driving by texting or looking at their phone when driving. As we do this regularly, it is not if we have an accident, but when. In a similar way, if we continue to be people pleasers we will be as Jesus declared devoted to making others happy and despise God.

May God give us the courage to serve God alone and remove all competitors from sight.

- Pastor Randy

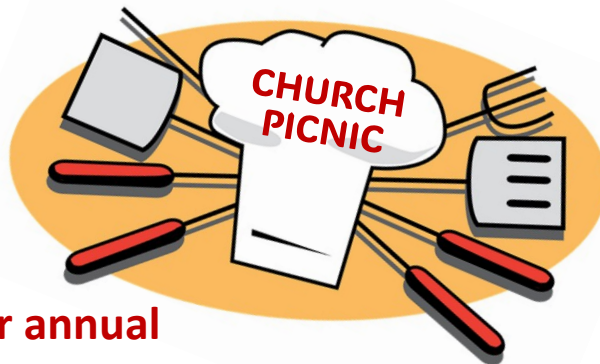
## COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Judy Derstine 8/13  
Cindy Balderston 8/17  
Steve Landes 8/18  
Derrick Garrido 8/25  
Sandy Landes 8/25  
John Moyer 8/29

### Anniversaries

Denny & Sue Bartels 8/9  
Glenn & Janice Wyble 8/15  
Jim & Louise Beyer 8/29



**Our annual picnic is scheduled for August 4 at Lost Acres Ranch on Creek Road. Worship takes place at 10 am with lunch to follow at 11:30.**

## KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Karen's Place has arranged these outdoor concerts for Monday nights in August, 7 to 9 pm:

- \* 8/5 *Mr Weaverface with Colin Wessel*
- \* 8/12 *Eddy Mann Band with Wendy Schettig*
- \* 8/19 *Basic Connection with Ray & Mary Bergy*
- \* 8/26 *Wind and Sail with Liz Collins*

Karen's Place re-opens in October to celebrate our 26th year!

## From Soccer Camp

This year, soccer camp will take place on August 10 & 17 from 9 am to 12 pm.



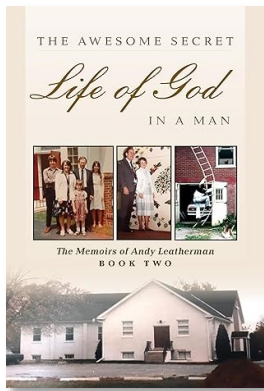
**For info, email [dmcsoccercamp@gmail.com](mailto:dmcsoccercamp@gmail.com)**

## FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met in person on July 16, welcoming our new member, Gary Garges. Our scripture focus centered on Romans 12:1-8, emphasizing the gifts the Spirit gives to the church to carry out the mission of the kingdom of God. We discussed the ways our mind is renewed through reading scripture and sharing our faith journeys with others. The Care Team seeks to encourage participants to use their gifts as sent people wherever God takes us. We trust God provides the gifts that are needed in a timely fashion for God's glory.

We planned that during worship on July 21, a Commissioning prayer for Gary and the Care Team will be shared. We also discerned the use of the Compassion Fund for some local needs and ways to respond to personal and relational concerns within our congregation. Prayer for DMC participants is always an important part of our meetings. The Care Team invites you to share any need with us, whether financial, spiritual, or relational. We will pray and discern how God would want us to respond. We will meet again on Tuesday, August 27.

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



## FROM THE LIBRARY: *The Awesome Secret Life of God in a Man* by Andy Leatherman, Book 2

This second book recording Memoirs of Andy Leatherman shares his prayers and God's clear responses as God calls him to full-time pastoral ministry. No other jobs seemed available. He had to give up his work as a social worker, the training and fulfillment of that calling, to something else for which he felt unprepared. He faces the stresses of weekly sermon preparation, administration, and multiple relationships within and outside of the congregation, in addition to family life. At one point he feels that God is anointing him. The anointing was not free; a cross came with it. He is honest about his feelings and God reminds him that God is taking care of distressing things in His time.

One chapter is entitled "Making the Choice to Hear God. Two subsections are: "Listening and Its Results" and "Choosing God's Presence When Neither Seen Nor Felt." As Andy resigns from the pastorate there are many uncertainties about what will be next for his work, home and family. Part of his prayer is "What am I going to do? I am responsible to support my family, and here I am leaving everything?... He records God's response: "Yes, My son, that is true. Be calm and serene. Everything is in order. You have been on this kind of path before." Sometimes it felt as though God was not doing anything, like when their dog was lost. A week or two later she was found. His prayers of praise even in very difficult circumstances and God's continual words of love are amazing. Although ministers would benefit from reading this book, those of us who want to care for and pray for our pastors can also learn a lot about prayer, pastoring, and God's great love for all.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

## What Are They Doing Up There?

As we sit in the service there are people in the balcony - but we don't know exactly what they are doing. It takes three people to support the service with sound, projected lyrics or slides, and livestream the service online. In the balcony you would see John Landis putting the video online, Dave Santopietro running the projector to make sure everything on the overhead is timely, and Jim Beyer or Don Heckler handling the sound system.



**Deadline for  
submitting items for  
the September issue  
of News & Views:  
August 27, 2024**

## PARTING THOUGHT:

You are salt for the earth, O people, salt for the kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people, life in the city of God!  
You are a light on the hill, O people, light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people, shine for the kingdom of God!

- Marty Haugen, 1988

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