

# NEWS & VIEWS

August 3, 2025

Volume 24 No. 8

*Doylestown Mennonite Church*

## DISCIPLE'S PEN:

### Listening Around the Table

Have you ever had an inspiration/calling in a certain direction and then find yourself hearing unexpected references to that very thing perhaps through a speaker, an article, or a real life situation? Since discussing the idea of welcoming the Doylestown community to supper once a month, I have been hearing a lot about the importance of listening to others in just that way, including an experience Layla, Cesar, and I had in Santa Anita. Providing a good meal for our neighbors who struggle to make ends meet is only part of the supper plan. It is also to provide a safe environment where relationships can develop, and where people can be heard and listened to as well.

A very impactful part of our two weeks in Santa Anita, Guatemala, was hearing community members tell us that they wanted us to hear their stories. This small community was comprised of ex-guerilla combatants from the 1960's to 1990's. The indigenous Maya people were targeted by the Guatemalan military, sadly with US support. There were widespread human rights abuses, including massacres, torture, and disappearances. The second day we were in Santa Anita we met Gloria (also known as Teresa, as all combatants assumed other names to protect family members, as well as themselves). We spoke briefly with her after a church service. She had tears in her eyes as she said, "I want to tell you my story. We all have different stories here and each one is different."

A few days later we had two days of meals provided for us in her home. I told her that we were eager to hear her story. So, at the table, she then shared that at less than five years old she witnessed the intrusion of government forces into her home. Her father was beaten, as it was demanded that he give up his military arms. Although he had none, they tied him up anyway and took him off in a truck. He was never seen again by

his family. One can only guess what other things he suffered before dying. At the age of 14, Gloria made the decision to join the guerilla warfare, remembering the atrocities committed against her father and so many other indigenous people. It was explained to her by the guerilla leaders how difficult her participation would be. There would be no place to call home. They would often travel by foot during the night. They would often be wet and cold as plastic could provide only limited protection from the rain. This 14-year-old girl was determined to defend the rights of her people and she served for about 10 years.

Some surprising details she shared related to how the combatants worked together as a community. Gloria said that there was no "machismo" as women and men were expected to share all tasks equally. Also, teaching took place in the guerilla community. Many learned to read and write during this time; Gloria was one. It was good to listen to Gloria around her table, and to others around their tables. Thankfully Gloria now lives in a peaceful community comprised mostly of ex-combatants and their families. They continue to be organized and to work together. Although they have struggles and challenges, they remain committed to providing a better future for people. *(cont'd on page 3)*



### **Birthdays**

Judy Derstine 8/13  
Cindy Balderston 8/17  
Steve Landes 8/18  
Sandy Landes 8/25

## **COMING UP : SOME SPECIAL DATES**

### **Anniversaries**

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

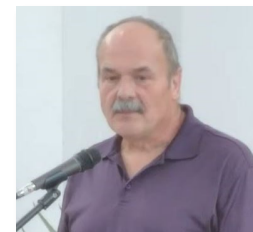
## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**



In our July worship services, we had three different speakers:

1) On July 6 and 13, John Chaffee was with us. He spoke about how Jesus showed compassion on the crowds, and then how God gave a future to the "remnant" - there's always hope.

2) On July 20, our own Steve Landes showed us that God gives us the invitation, then a purpose, followed by equipping us.



3) On July 27, Noel Santiago pointed out that discipleship and mission are not two different things, they are one and the same. We live out both as we relate to the people around us with gentleness and grace. God brings order out of chaos and we are to help bring about his order.

## **KAREN'S PLACE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES**

Karen's Place has arranged these outdoor concerts for Monday nights, 7:00 to 9:00 pm during the month of August: August 4-Once Called Saul with Colin Wessel, August 11-Eddy Mann Band with Wendy Schettig, August 18-Mr. Weaverface with Liz Collins and August 25-Redwords with Christian Simpson. Karen's Place reopens in October to celebrate our 27<sup>th</sup> year.

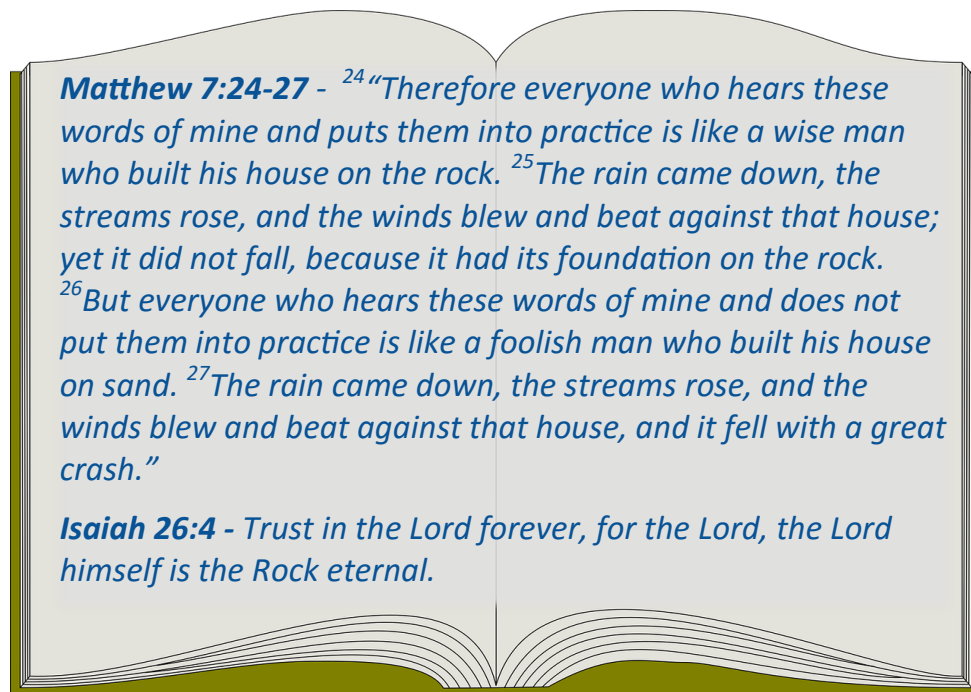
**Monday Nights  
In August  
Concert Series**  
**7:00 PM** [karenplace.org](http://karenplace.org)

8.4 - Once Called Saul with Colin Wessel  
8.11 - Eddy Mann with Wendy Schettig  
8.18 - Mr Weaverface with Liz Collins  
8.25 - Redwords with Christian Simpson

## FROM THE PRAYER CORNER:

Over the last 1½ years we have had a monthly prayer practice with a scripture text and a few questions to ponder. Dave Santopietro has graciously provided laminated cards for us to carry with us and use as needed. For the month of August 2025, the prayer practice will be included in the weekly bulletin beneath the prayer guide. Perhaps this will make it simpler and easier to access. Below is the text, a familiar one for us this year, based on our yearly theme, and the questions we will use for prayer during this month are to the right. Please reach out to me with any thoughts or questions. - Sandy Landes

- **August 3:** Ask God to help you clearly hear the words of Jesus so you can put them into practice.
- **August 10:** What storms of life are you facing and how does Jesus as your Rock help you to stand firm?
- **August 17:** When are you tempted to disregard the words of Jesus and build your house on the sand?
- **August 24:** What is it like for you to put your trust in God every day for the big and little needs you have? Give thanks for the trustworthiness of God as our Rock eternal.



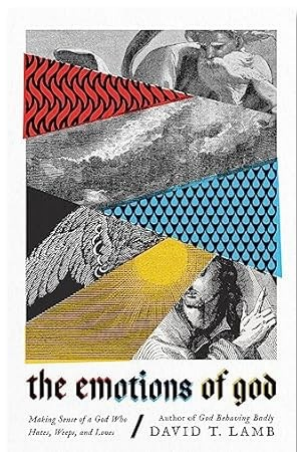
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### (Disciple's Pen - cont'd from page 1)

Jesus provides quite an example as so many times He took time to listen. He could have simply preached sermons and stated the rules. But no, He listened to so many people. At the well (John 4) He listened to a woman's story, acknowledged her struggle, and offered living water. On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24) He listened to two disciples and their concerns regarding the crucifixion. He listened to Nicodemus (John 3) and his questions. He had dinner with Matthew and others marginalized by society (Matthew 9). I wonder what Jesus listened to around that table. There are so many more examples throughout the Bible.

You don't have to go to Santa Anita to find people who have stories to tell. They are among us at DMC and in the wider Doylestown community. Would you consider being involved with the monthly supper and to take time to listen to others around the table?

- Judy Garrido



## FROM THE LIBRARY: Book Review - The Emotions of God

The Emotions of God by David T. Lamb presents some interesting ideas about God. Did you know that God has emotions? The first chapter is called Emotions are Divine. The next seven chapters describe each emotion. David T. Lamb finds all seven emotions of God listed in Psalm 69 and also Psalm 119. They are hatred, wrath, jealousy, sorrow, joy, compassion love. In a chapter about the hatred of God, Lamb notes that the God of love is also a God of hate. He hates evil.

If a family member is physically hurt we would be affected. The fact that the God of the universe is affected by evil—he hates it—means that he cares deeply. Ultimately, he hates intensely because he loves intensely.” I wonder whether God will use Lamb to teach us something about God’s emotions when he preaches here August 10.

- Freida Myers

## THIS MONTH @ DMC:



This year, the soccer camp will take place on August 2 and August 9 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, welcoming boys and girls ages 7 to 14.

Our annual picnic is scheduled for August 3 at Lost Acres Ranch on Creek Road. Worship takes place at 10:00 am with lunch to follow at 11:30.



## PARTING THOUGHT

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 2:4-5

**Deadline** for  
submitting items for the  
September issue of  
News & Views:  
**Sept. 2, 2025**

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