

# NEWS & VIEWS

February 1, 2026

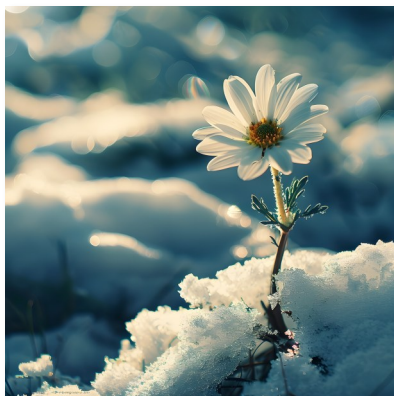
Volume 25 No. 2

Doylestown Mennonite Church

## DISCIPLE'S PEN

What is grace? Why is it such a big focus for us as Christ followers?

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV speaks of grace this way *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of*



*God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* A gift from God, meaning something He wanted to give to us that we did not earn. This is such an important part of what we believe. This also means we should live as if we believe this to be true. Christ has bought and paid for our salvation as the greatest grace He could give us. We must live as though we are the only messengers of this great news, and as if this is the only true gift we have ever received. We know how excited we can get when a gift from someone touches our hearts so deeply, we can't help but talk about the gift and the gift giver with that same level excitement. We tell others how amazingly kind and generous the gift giver is. As John 1:16 NIV says, *"Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given."* The abundant grace and love of Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11-14 NLT says *"For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.*

*And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally*

*committed to doing good deeds."* In this life God calls us to live into this truth, which must include showing how what Christ did has changed us. We must live as the blessed people we are. Through Christ we have a sanctified existence, which will forever be protected by Him. John 10:7-10 shows how Jesus describes Himself and what He is offering our lives: *"So, Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

Verses from Ephesians 3:20 - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us* - and 1 Corinthians 2:9 - *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him* - speak of this abundant life as something we can't imagine with our own minds. It may be a mystery to us, but it is guaranteed to fill us.

It is hard to see this abundant life that Christ has promised we can have, especially in this culture of comparison that we live in. We can get tripped up by our thoughts of superiority or inferiority. Both have us missing what Christ has really done for us. My hope is that this year's focus on abundant grace will bring us closer to trusting that the gift has been given to us and that it should lead how we live as Christians.

- Ronda Hestand

**COMING UP :  
SOME SPECIAL  
DATES**

**Birthdays**

Isaac Garrido 2/1  
Jeff Buckwalter, Jr. 2/3  
Macy Youssef 2/8

**Anniversary**

Don & Judy  
Derstine 2/14



**IN REMEMBRANCE**

One of our special people is gone from us. Mary Leatherman suddenly left us and went to be with the Lord on January 26. While she will be dearly missed, we are grateful for the confidence we have that she is now with the Lord and her dear husband, Bill. We are sure she is experiencing much joy in God's presence! Mary was deeply loved by her family, church community and many friends and she loved all of them well too! Everyone who knew Mary will have some memories and stories to share, including her gift of hospitality and compassion for all people. May we as a congregation continue to embody the kind of love in our world that Mary did.



**Mary E. Leatherman**  
February 26, 1941 - January 26, 2026

**FROM THE CARE TEAM**

The Care Team met on January 6 via Zoom. We read James 5:14-16 and talked about the ministry of anointing with oil. We have had minimal experience with anointing but see that it is urged in James 5. Asking for prayer or anointing calls for humility, surrender and confession. We want to learn and share about this blessing God may wish to use for healing of mind, body and spirit. As a Care Team we are always willing to meet and pray with individuals but are willing to offer anointing with oil as well. Sandy distributed a Mental Health Resource List which she will share with the congregation. She also prepared a Care Team Resource List listing local services available like FISH for housing, food pantries for food needs, etc. We each shared about visits with those not attending services. Sandy is meeting with two persons who are interested in serving as prayer ushers. In addition, Sandy plans to begin a class for persons interested in learning about baptism and membership. We concluded with prayer for persons who cannot attend or have health issues, and for the Sharing Table ministry.

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

## THE SHARING TABLE - January 7

The Sharing Table was open for a community meal. The food was good and people who came enjoyed the opportunity to visit around the table as they ate. They are getting acquainted and some of them are forming bonds with members of the congregation who join them. It becomes a special evening for all.



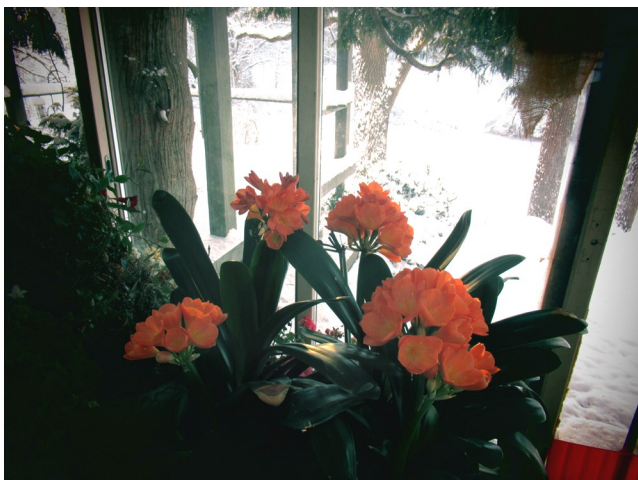
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## JANUARY WORSHIP



January 4 – John Chaffee gave us a lesson on Zacchaeus. He received salvation after his resolve to reverse the wrongs he had done; salvation defined as rescue, freedom, grace and making amends.

January 11 – Ben Walter spoke about being God’s justice. He delights in us so that we can delight in others. He gave us an acrostic for grace: G(entle), R(eceptive), A(nd) C(urious) E(very day).



January 18 – Service cancelled; watched it finish snowing instead.

January 25 – Snowing again! More snow this time, but around 15 people joined Sandy on Zoom for a time of sharing and prayer from the comfort of our homes.





## FROM THE LIBRARY - SNOWED OUT! Check this space next month ... and by the way, READ!

### FROM THE COMFORTER PROJECT

Twenty two comforters knotted in the fall and early January were delivered to MRC on January 22 and two more rolls of batting were received. Over 30 different people participated in the knotting, a few from the congregation with other neighbors and friends. That batting will be incorporated in a similar number of comforters to be produced in the coming months.



### KAREN'S PLACE

“Doylestown’s only underground Christian Café”

February 7 - The Laura Breece Band



February 21 - Wendy Schettig, a singer-songwriter who brings music for the soul, songs intended to offer hope



Coming in March: Blues Rock Madness Month

**Deadline** for submitting items for the March issue of News & Views: **February 23, 2026** (Please note that this is a day earlier than usual due to editor’s vacation.)

### PARTING THOUGHT

What mercy and divine compassion has God in Christ revealed to me!  
My haughty spirit would not ask it, yet he bestowed it full and free.  
In God my heart does now rejoice, I praise his grace with grateful voice.

- Philip F. Hiller, 1767

**Doylestown Mennonite Church**  
590 N. Broad Street  
Doylestown, PA, 18901  
Phone: 215.345.6377  
dmc@doylestownmc.org

**Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care: Sandy Landes**  
sandylandes1311@gmail.com

**Office Administrator: Kristine McClain**  
kristine.mcclain@doylestownmc.org

**Newsletter Editor: Lois Myers**  
Phone/Fax: 215.794.8327 | myersfm@juno.com