

# NEWS & VIEWS

July 2, 2023

Volume 22 No.7

## Doylestown Mennonite Church

### **PASTOR'S PEN— "Stay in Your Lane"**

Stay in the right lane except to pass. Why can't more people follow this simple instruction? While attending a seminar recently on the intersection of mental health and the faith community I heard a similar phrase. At that occasion, the speaker encouraged those present to "stay in their lane." Regardless of talking about mental health, developing positive self confidence, encouraging good relational patterns, or helping in the midst of an acute crisis, I am convinced as people of faith we have the most to offer when we learn to stay in our lane.

In perhaps an over simplistic way, I want to take the risk of identifying what our lane is and what it is not. Our lane does not include being an expert or carrying responsibility for the outcome. Even when we have specific experience or knowledge we need to be cautious not to come across as an expert. If the goal of our actions is to empower others, we need to refrain from the desire to control the outcome. One way to discover if you leave your lane in either of these ways is to ask a trusted friend or family member if they see any of these tendencies in you. Another question that may help self discovery is to ask when are you most tempted to get out of your lane? What circumstances cause you to leave your lane and get in the wrong lane?

In contrast, I want to suggest three simple ways one can stay in our lane to most effectively empower others. The first thing I would offer is to be a friend who listens well. Listen without needing/wanting to fix, give advice, or correct. While listening for clarity, asking questions is a way to communicate to the other person you both highly value them and believe in their ability to find a way forward.

Secondly, as you listen, expressing compassion for the person and the situation in which they find themselves. It may be helpful to identify an emotion you sense they are experiencing or one you feel as they share their story. Be cautious not to give any judgment about that emotion, but name it as a way to be present with the person. Minimizing does not communicate compassion.

Finally, in an authentic way encourage trust in God's presence and grace to lead. Please do not give a simple formula or quote faith language that dismisses the harsh reality a friend is experiencing. It may be helpful to ask the other person how they wish for you to pray for them. Perhaps your confidence and trust in God will help ground the other person.

How might you learn to stay in your lane so that you most effectively empower others?

-Pastor Randy



## COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Gary Garges 7/2

KrisAnne Swartley 7/5

Jim Beyer 7/6

Mia Gidley 7/8

Lorraine Landis 7/11

Cyndi Landis 7/12

Richard Sprague 7/19

Kaitlyn Jimenez 7/20

Layla Garrido 7/24

Annie Stewart 7/25

### Anniversaries

Cesar & Judy Garrido 7/1

Bill & Karen Fennell 7/24

Steve & Sandy Landes 7/26

Kendrick & Janey Garrido 7/29

## KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

*Open the first and third Saturdays of each month,  
7:00-10:00pm, October through June.*

Karen's Place outdoor concert series will again be held each Monday night in August from 7 to 9 pm. Come enjoy the summer evenings and some great music!

## CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual Church Picnic at Lost Acres Ranch is on August 6. Worship begins at 10 am and Lunch at 11:30 am. Stay for swimming and all kinds of fun and games!

## FROM OUR EVERENCE REPRESENTATIVE

I agreed in December 2021 to be our church's Everence Advocate and have been impressed by the people I have met in their Souderton office and the wide range of helpful services that they offer. Do you have a need for any of these services? I'd be glad to put you in touch with someone in their office who could help you.

The Everence mission statement is: "We help people and institutions integrate their faith and values into their financial decisions to accomplish their stewardship goals." When you work with Everence, you're making a difference in the lives of others. You're living out your values through responsible money management, and giving back through unique community investing, grant-making and charitable giving programs. Our members are real, inspiring people—like you—who are walking along their financial, health and other stewardship journeys, each and every day of their lives. We believe our investment choices can reflect our values and make a positive impact on communities around the world. It is a process and a practice that we call stewardship investing. Our members provide financial support to those in need, through the Everence Sharing Fund. It's one of the unique ways we support each other and our communities. We offer grant programs, scholarships and awards to help build up local communities and celebrate inspiring acts of stewardship around the corner and across the country. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we all work toward a shared tomorrow." Check out the many ways the Everence community is multiplying their impact in the communities and lives we share.

Everence has many services available: Financial planning, Insurance, Asset Management, Charitable giving, Personal checking and savings, consumer loans, mortgages and home equity loans, Business banking and loans, Digital banking, and Credit and debit cards. For more information, check with Karl Strauch. (cell: 607-738-1140 email: [STLMADMEN@aol.com](mailto:STLMADMEN@aol.com))

## FROM THE LIBRARY - Book Review

Turtle Heart is an introspective memoir written by Lucinda Kinsinger, a conservative young Mennonite woman. The true story documents Lucinda's friendship with Charlene, a 70 year old native Ojibwe woman.

The author clearly and honestly describes her responses and emotions, when it finally becomes clear that Charlene has led a lesbian lifestyle in her past. As only true friends can, Lucinda and Charlene openly share religious and cultural beliefs with one another. I felt that the author provided an honest perspective of a lesbian person who is not blatant, militant or "in your face" about her sexuality.

I appreciated that the book is not written in a persuasive style; it is simply the author's description of her relationship and friendship with Charlene, with a touch of humor sprinkled throughout. Charlene's bravery, in light of a very traumatic childhood, is inspiring.

I highly recommend this book, especially in light of our recent Sunday School series on LGBTQ+ issues. I rate the book 8/10.

-Respectfully submitted, Joyce Zuzack

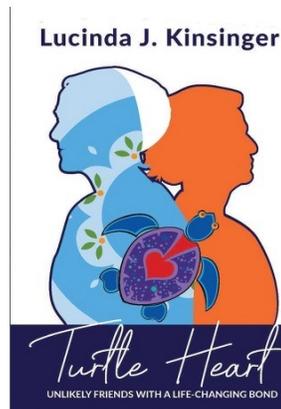
## FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

During May and early June, Sandy Ridge gardeners were dealing with a dry season, but still managing to harvest many healthy and delicious crops. A newly installed watering system, designed to save water yet keep crops healthy has been helpful, and we are producing our own compost to put on the garden beds.

Since we've gotten a few days of rain, it's a little easier to keep the garden going. So far this year, the garden has produced lots of strawberries, numerous bags of lettuce and snap peas, asparagus, and kale. The next major crop will be potatoes -- both red and white varieties. Cabbage and beets also are starting to be harvested. Soon, we'll have green and yellow beans, and later in the summer, many varieties of tomatoes, green and yellow squash, watermelons, peppers, carrots, onions, and winter squash will be harvested.

The garden consists of about 16 individual plots and 30 "community" plots, with the majority of the harvested items from the community plots being donated to two pantries and a local senior center. Strawberries, squash and pumpkins are grown in the open-space areas of the garden.

-Ellie Reader



## A THANK YOU

*The following is written by a person who attends a 12-step program that meets at our building.*

I want to thank you for the use of your facility for our 12-step addiction recovery program. If you don't know much about the program, it is a safe space for people that are or have struggled with addiction. We are people in your community with spouses and children and jobs. You would never know about our struggles if you saw us at church or a child's sports game or a restaurant. The program provides us with a safe space to discuss our struggles and the progress of our recovery. We pour our hearts out to each other in the safe bonds of fellowship, love and non-judgment. To me, it is Christianity personified. It is the story of the prodigal son at its various stages - realization, humility, return, acceptance. In the program, we are vulnerable, brutally honest, contrite and desiring deep change. The focus is not just on addiction, but on truly becoming a new person with the support of our Higher Power and fellowship. It changes lives. I know it has changed mine. Thank you again for your support.

## REMEMBERING A LIFE

Recently a memorial service was held for Ray Yoder, one of our former pastors. He was remembered for many personal and spiritual gifts demonstrated in his life. He had a deep love for scripture, a gentle leadership style, a love of music and nature. A couple from his first pastorate shared that the model of marriage by Ray and Edna changed their own lives. We remember his two daughters Juanita and Cindy as part of us through their teen-age years. He was a minister until the end, during a sleepless night he would sit and wait quietly for a word from the Spirit, and minister to the person brought to mind on the next day.



**LUNCH WITH FRIENDS-** On Tuesday, June 6 a number of us met for lunch at the Apple Orchard Cafe. We were delighted that John Moyer was able to join us to share fellowship, although he had already had lunch. He was in the process of being moved back to his own apartment.

**Deadline** for submitting items for the August News & Views: **August 2nd**

### PARTING THOUGHT:

Bless the arms that comfort, strong to shoulder care, gentle in their healing, reaching through despair  
Bless the hands that labor Martha's daily deeds, Mary's precious ointment, balm for different needs.  
Bless the ears that listen, sharing joys and fears, laughing in our triumphs, weeping with our tears.  
Bless the eyes whose wisdom sees through pride's façade, cherishing our weakness with the heart of God.  
Bless the feet that follow like Naomi's Ruth, constant friend through sorrow, speaking holy truth,  
Though our journeys lead us far in time and space, God anoints companions, ministers of grace.

-Mary Louise Bringle in Voices Together

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