

# NEWS & VIEWS

June 1, 2025

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*Doylestown Mennonite Church*

## **PASTOR'S PEN: Bearing Fruit for the Glory of God**



It is that time of year when gardeners have planted most of their garden. If you grow tomatoes in your garden, you know that warm weather and

sunshine are needed for the tomato plant to bear fruit. We have had cool weather and more cloudy days, so the tomato plants are growing slowly now, but there is the promise of warm weather to come. We plant in confidence that eventually we will have summer heat and fruit will be produced on the vines.

Jesus also promised a harvest of fruit in our lives as his followers. I have been pondering what he meant when Jesus said, "Remain in me and you will bear much fruit." Jesus wants us to be dependent on him and his love because following this sentence, Jesus says, "Apart from me you can do nothing." We live in an age of independence and human achievement, so those words seem so counter-cultural to the mindset surrounding us. How do you live depending on Jesus each day?

How do we live with the truth that without a life focused on Jesus, we can't really bear fruit? What does it look like to bear fruit? It is observable. When the tomato vine bears fruit, we first see the green tomatoes and then they turn red. I walked out to the Sandy Ridge

Community Garden today and chatted with the gardeners. I witnessed an abundant harvest of fruit, strawberries today! The aroma of the ripe strawberries reminds me that our presence as Christ followers in a place will bring an aroma of love and grace.

There is no mistaking the fruit, just like there is no mistaking the fruit when we as followers are connected to Jesus and the love is felt and communicated to those around us. A neighbor recently commented on the love they felt from certain persons in our neighborhood. It is also noticed when people call themselves Christians but don't manifest grace in their dealings with others. I have also heard that comment in our neighborhood. Sometimes that missing fruit can turn people away from God and the church.

This fruit bearing doesn't happen by our striving and pursuing esteem. It happens by a voluntary choice we make to stay connected and dependent on Jesus day by day. The Spirit is the growth agent within us. When I see love, courage and forgiveness being lived out in the life of a Jesus follower, I know the Spirit is at work bearing fruit for God's glory. The next time you notice a tomato plant, strawberry plant or any other fruit-bearing plant this summer, ask yourself, "How am I staying connected to Jesus, my life source?"

May we at DMC continue to remain connected to the vine, Jesus, and bear fruit for his glory.

- Pastor Sandy Landes

## COMING UP : SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Anniversaries

Karl & Cindy Strauch 6/15  
Don & Kathy Heckler 6/20  
Cesar & Judy Garrido 7/1

### Birthdays

Garry Landis 6/1  
Gideon Youssef 6/1  
Camille Garrido 6/3  
Madison Youssef 6/9  
Savannah Youssef 6/17  
Ronda Histan 6/21  
Ray Swartley 6/28  
Gary Garges 7/2



## KAREN'S PLACE

Doylestown's only Underground Christian Café  
featuring live Christian artists & bands

\* **June 7 – Eddy Mann:** the annual Hawaiian Night with prizes and giveaways features Eddy Mann, who is “a smile for the soul”. Eddy is an award winning and prolific singer-songwriter, whose music has touched the hearts of audiences all over the world.

\* No events in July, but watch for the announcement of outdoor concerts on Monday nights in August.

## FROM THE CARE TEAM:

The Care Team met May 20th for our monthly meeting with our Bible text from 1 Peter 5:1-11. This passage led our discussion on shepherding. It also spoke about being submissive to one another and clothed with humility, which tied in with our book study.

We also discussed a possible replacement to requests for gift cards; an alternative could be simple prepared frozen meals for persons asking for assistance and in need. This would be financed through the compassion fund. This was followed by a discussion around a concern that was raised with table fellowship and our 5th Sunday of Service.

We closed in a time of prayer for individuals who are experiencing difficult times & trials and for DMC as we continue our transition and search for a lead pastor.

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

## FROM THE COMFORTER PROJECT:

Since the beginning of this year, 28 comforters were completed and knotted with the help of at least two dozen friends and neighbors, as well as members of County Line Quilters, who are now using our fellowship hall for their meetings. In May these comforters have been delivered to the Mennonite Resource Center near Harleysville on their way to MCC headquarters. From there, they will join thousands of comforters sent by MCC to needy people worldwide.



## FROM THE LIBRARY



Jan Karon

I recently decided to read some Jan Karon's books again to remember why they are so outstanding. I took out the first one, At Home in Mitford, and started laughing at some of the conversations and thoughts expressed, reading it to Lois who eventually started reading these books too. Father Tim is an Episcopal priest who is loving, caring and human. He is "adopted" by a big dog who now encourages Tim to get his exercise and provides companionship. The only way to get Barnabas to obey is to quote scripture; that works most of the time. He takes in Dooley, an 11-year old boy who needs a place. Dooley and his siblings had been taken away from their addicted mother who was unable to care for them. Follow Dooley and searches for his siblings through the following books. Father Tim is challenged by the idea of "retirement." A New Song (book 5) begins with farewell parties which are difficult for Father Tim. Before he leaves Mitford, there is a newspaper article about Father Kavanagh which said, "Father Kavanagh treated everybody as if equal in intelligence and accomplishment, making his real church the homes, sidewalks, and businesses of Mitford. Whether we had faith or not, he loved us all." Follow along with Father Tim on his interim assignment in Whitecap, a foot-shaped island off the coast.

More than once as a pastor Father Tim was reminded: "Don't feel totally, personally irrevocably responsible for everything. That's my job. Signed, God." Other notable quotes were: "Don't look forward. He'll either shield you from suffering or give strength to bear it." Once when conversing with a man who had been hiding from the law in the church attic, Father Tim said, "The question is not whether He's up there but whether He's down here." "There are three stages in the work of God: impossible, difficult, done." A quote from George McDonald: "Man finds it hard to get what he wants because he does not want the best. God finds it hard to give because He would give the best and man will not take it." "Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future."

These books are entertaining fiction, but also give us a glimpse into what it means for a pastor to serve the people of his church and his town.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

**Deadline** for submitting  
items for the July issue of  
News & Views:  
**July 1, 2025**

## PARTING THOUGHT

"Remain in me, and I will  
remain in you. A branch can't  
produce fruit by itself, but  
must remain in the vine.  
Likewise, you can't produce  
fruit unless you remain in me".

- Jesus (John 15:4)



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