

NEWS & VIEWS

June 7, 2026

Volume 25 No. 6

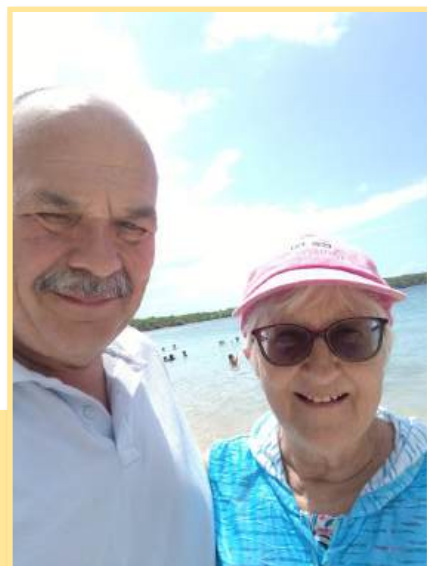
Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S CORNER: A JOYFUL CONNECTION

Steve and I had a lovely vacation in beautiful warm Puerto Rico. It was a place we had wanted to visit for a long time. It did not disappoint us with the beauty of the flowers, the birds, the sea, the mountains, the language and most of all, the people. We certainly experienced God's gracious kindness through the many people we encountered.

I had been thinking about how God has wired us to experience joyful connections in our relationships with each other and with God. You can see and feel a joyful connection when you meet a close friend or family member with whom you feel safe and loved. Even from infancy we are looking for that joyful connection with our parents and caregivers. Curt Thompson says, "We are born into this world looking for the face who is looking for us." I love to watch when people meet up and the facial expressions, the light in their eyes and their body language demonstrate the joyful connection they have with each other. God has created us to live life with joy as we connect with people who love us and we love them.

One day while we were in Puerto Rico we had an opportunity to play disc golf with a small group of people in San Juan. I was not enthused about it but felt after praying that God wanted me to open my heart to the ways I would experience joy in the opportunity. We met up with Antonio and Joy (her name spoke to me right away) and felt so warmly welcomed into this small group of teens, middle aged disc golfers and family members. As we walked and played that afternoon, I was reminded often of God's pleasure in creating beauty in relationships, in nature and in play!



Steve and Sandy, enjoying La Playa (the beach!) in Puerto Rico

Where are the places, the relationships, the opportunities for joyful connection in your life and in our congregation? What does it look like to nurture the joyful connections we have with others and with God?

Jesus talked about joy in John 16 as he was preparing to leave his disciples before his death. He reminded them that they would see him again and their joy would be complete. Joy is experienced in our relationships where we feel safe and loved.

How can we foster the joyful connections we have with others and with God today? Joy is not based on material possessions or external comfort; it is a by-product of safe and loving relationships. We each have an opportunity to invite God to help us nurture joyful connections and to choose to be open to the many ways God is providing new and perhaps surprising joyful connections with others. Let's pray and look for what God is doing in growing our capacity for joyful relationships.

- Sandy Landes

**COMING UP :
SOME SPECIAL
DATES**

Birthdays

Madison Youssef 6/9
Savannah Youssef 6/17
Ronda Histan 6/21
Debbie Warren 6/26
Ray Swartley 6/28
Gary Garges 7/2

Anniversaries

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

CARE TEAM NOTES

The Care Team (Gary Garges, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes) met in person on June 2. We discussed what it means to partner with Christ in caregiving, focusing on Philippians 1, where Paul is encouraging the church with prayer and the ongoing work in the lives of the believers. We are grateful to know God will keep working in each of us. As Christian caregivers, we are reminded that God is always present as we interact with people. We discussed two chapters in our book on Christian Caregiving by Kenneth Haugk. We especially appreciate his emphasis on relying on God's presence and the value of naming it out loud. We also discussed the baptism service planned for July 12, visitation opportunities, and some possible fall sessions on end of life and aging concerns. We closed with prayer for individuals and the leadership decisions for our congregation. Our next meeting will be July 7. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Care Team if you have any questions, needs or concerns.

- Sandy Landes

KAREN'S PLACE

“Doylestown's only
underground Christian Café”

June 6: Annual Hawaiian Night with Eddy Mann Band.
No further events until the five Mondays in August,
when there will be outdoor concerts from 7 to 9 pm.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for helping us celebrate Lois' 90th birthday on Sunday, May 24. About 120 people came from our DMC family, relatives, neighbors, hunters, knotters, and other friends collected through the years.



The cake prepared by Karen Youssef
was a special delight.
- Freida, Gerald and Donna Myers



MAY WORSHIP

May 4 - In her message, Sandy Landes urged us to keep saying yes to Jesus. We then received by transfer of membership Gideon, Karen, Madison and Macy Youssef.



May 10 - Rob Arner took us to Isaiah 11, the passage about the righteous branch coming from the root of Jesse, spoke of good King Hezekiah, son of the wicked Ahab. Beyond Israel and Judah, the message comes to the whole world in Jesus.

May 17 - John Chaffee preached from Isaiah 14 he focused on the taunting of Babylon. We have an imaginary voice in our heads oppressing us with taunts, but God's word to us is welcome and peace.

May 24 - Rob Arner took us to Isaiah 19, where Egypt is punished and turns to the Lord. He will bring healing, making Egypt, Assyria and Israel together a blessing on the earth.

May 31 - Service Sunday



SERVICE SUNDAY

Sandy led in a **worship service** for the residents at **Harborview**. The elevator was out of service so those on the upper floor could not come, but it was a good time for the few who came and they participated freely.



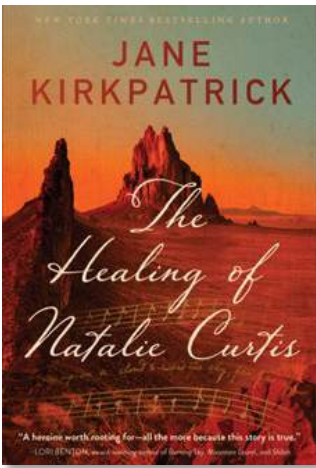
THE
HARBORVIEW
REHAB & CARE CENTER
DOYLESTOWN



MaryLee, Cindy S., and Judy G. worked together to **prepare food for The Sharing Table**. They assembled 6 spaghetti pies, as well as wrapped silverware and cleaned up salt and pepper shakers for The Sharing Table on June 3. It was fun to work on it together and to have this head start for the meal. Dave S.'s contribution of the burner liners made clean up more pleasant! Thanks to all! - Judy Garrido

Around six people were busy doing **yard work at Morningstar in Souderton**, mulching, landscaping and planting flowers.





FROM THE LIBRARY

The Healing of Natalie Curtis by Jane Kirkpatrick is a new book in our library. Natalie has spent years perfecting her piano and singing skills. She has “success” but no joy. Her brother takes her West where she encounters the Native Americans who suffer so much from the abuse and oppression of the white man in charge of the reservation. When a Navajo sang a song for Natalie against the rules and the community was denied food, she provided some for them. Natalie advocates and provides help for the Native Americans she grows to love. In the process she is healed from her depression. This historical fiction book is worth reading.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

POETRY FROM JEFFREY

Jagged rocks poking out
Earth blowing trees gently
Shadows over clouds
Unknowing what's next
Sins looking down on us

Happy to visit residents
Appreciate spending time
Remembering great conversations
Being blessed for one another

Opening our eyes to God
Reminiscing about life
Visions of a happy place
Identifying common things

Excited to sing with
What will we talk about next?

Gallops to the gate
Opens up peoples' eyes wide
Doing the right thing.
- Jeff Buckwalter



PARTING THOUGHT

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love. The fellowship of kindred
minds is like to that above.

We share each other's woes, each other's
burdens bear, and often for each other
flows the sympathizing tear.

- John Fawcett, 1782

Deadline for
submitting items for
the July issue of
News & Views:
June 30, 2026

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