

# NEWS & VIEWS

March 3, 2024

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*Doylestown Mennonite Church*

## PASTOR'S PEN

Spring is around the corner. Though there still may be a few cold days to endure and even a little snow, we know before too long buds will be popping and new life in nature will be



*A Lenten Rose*

evident. The signs of spring have already begun and we know it cannot be stopped. In a similar way, we are in the midst of

lent. For those

who are followers of Jesus, the focus of lent is the cross. The cross declares that though loss has visited and destroyed, new life will burst forth.

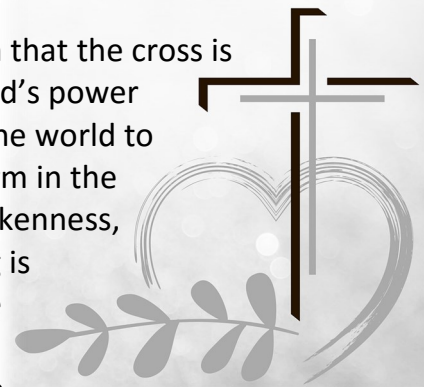
In I Corinthians Paul declares "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." The cross is the symbol of God's power. Clearly a very unique and interesting symbol because historically the cross represented defeat, betrayal, shame, weakness, and failure. However, the resurrection is evidence of God's ability to transform all that was intended to destroy via the cross into glorious hope. Hence, we view the cross as a symbol of hope

beyond all despair, loss, suffering and even death.

The cross is the symbol that sends us into the world with God's power. However, just like Jesus' path to the cross, God's power does not negate the suffering, disappointment, loss or betrayal we experience in life. We live our lives taking risk that bad endings may and do happen. As we submit to doing God's will as Jesus did, we trust the same power that raised him from the dead will continue to transform and bring forth new life.

As a tangible sign that the cross is the symbol of God's power sending us into the world to heal and transform in the midst of loss/brokenness, worship planning is inviting everyone to bring any cross you have to

worship. We want dozens of crosses to fill our worship space to forge in our minds the power of the cross in our broken world. We hope to place these crosses on the front table and on the window sills. We are looking for any cross regardless of size or beauty. On Easter, we will then take these crosses back into the world as a demonstration that God's power sends us to proclaim our glorious hope. Your participation in bringing crosses to worship and being sent into the world by God's power will enrich us all!



- Pastor Randy

## COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Coleen Ryan 3/3  
Timothy Landes 3/10  
Tiyanna Landes 3/16  
Karen Fennell 3/18  
Randy Heacock 3/30  
Louise Beyer 4/2

## KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Upcoming events:

- March 16 - Chip Mergott, a singer-songwriter who will present a night of acoustic blues and mesmerizing story telling
- April 6 - Annual Comedy Night features Mike Rykowski and Chris Clark with music by Art Salvagno

Proceeds from sales will be donated to [Battle4Children Charities](#), a Christian organization which helps and provides a voice for child victims.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation met on Sunday, February 25 during the Sunday School hour and approved the new spending plan for 2024. Pastor Randy gave his report, Kendrick Garrido gave the treasurer's report and Sandy Landes gave the Care Team report. Mark Reiff reported on his work on the Pathway Steering Team of Mosaic Conference.

## FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met on February 20 via Zoom. Randy Heacock, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes were present. We read the job description again as we do on a regular basis and considered ways we can encourage individuals to use their gifts within and beyond the congregation, especially in light of our 2024 theme, being sent with authority. One way we can encourage each other is to listen to the stories we have to tell of practicing our "sentness." Our biblical focus was Luke 10:1-20, the sending of 72 disciples by Jesus. It reminds us again that we are being sent to proclaim the kingdom of God.

We discussed ways that we use the Compassion Fund. We seek God's leading for every need and request and know that the gifts we give from the Fund are often just a piece of the puzzle that assists people in crisis. Having a personal relationship with people helps us to discern how best to respond. We continue to partner with Everence in applying for matching grants from the Sharing Fund.

We prayed for several families and individuals in our congregation and community as well as our congregation as we embark on the 6 month trial period. We pray for curiosity and vulnerability as we seek to be shaped as disciples following Jesus with power and authority. We plan to meet again Tuesday, March 19 via Zoom.

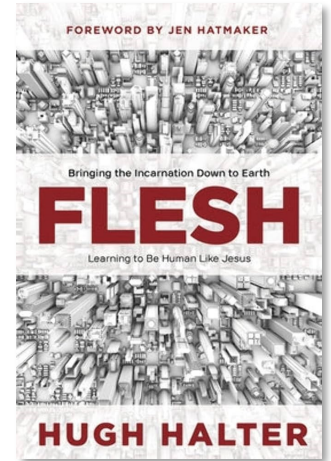
- Sandy Landes for the Care Team



## FROM THE LIBRARY

There are lots of good books in the library languishing for you to check them out. One particularly good during lent would be Hugh Halter's Flesh – Bringing the Incarnation Down to Earth which I read last fall. A note online says: "Christ's Body, Human Flesh If we're honest, no one really cares about theology unless it reveals a gut-level view of God's presence. According to pastor and ministry leader Hugh Halter, only the incarnational power of Jesus satisfies what we truly crave, and once we taste it, we're never the same." Please suggest any books you feel should be considered for purchase in 2024.

- Freida Myers, Librarian



## PARTING THOUGHT:

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontime heat and the burden of the day.  
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place.

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872

happy  
Easter

**Deadline** for submitting items for the  
April News & Views: **April 2, 2024**

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