

NEWS & VIEWS

March 1, 2026

Volume 25 No. 3

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN:

Seeing the Abundance

As we finish the February calendar and turn the page to March, we anticipate the longer days and warmer temperatures of spring. In some ways, this winter has been challenging for us at DMC. We have had to cancel three Sunday morning worship services because of snow. We expected a candidate to come and preach in anticipation of possibly becoming our lead pastor. We lost a dear friend when Mary Leatherman passed at the end of January.

We are ready to look ahead for the breath of spring, but at the same time it is important to reflect on the losses and how we will learn from them. I am grateful for the safety of everyone through the snowstorms. I am grateful for the Pastoral Search team and their willingness to begin again on the search process for a lead pastor. I am grateful for Mary's life and her imprint of love on us and so many in our community. At the same time we name our losses, we can also practice gratitude for God's abundant grace even when things are hard.

The word, resilience, comes to mind when I reflect on our life together as a faith community. Resilience is kind of a buzz word in our time. Perhaps it is a way of bolstering hope when life is hard. I believe resilience and hope come from God as gifts to keep us moving forward. What I am noticing more and more as we gather together are the many and abundant gifts within our congregation, some still to be discovered and nurtured. As I have been serving as a pastor and connecting with people, I am actually encouraged when I see the willingness of people to serve, to



care and to do things that may feel a bit risky at times, to move out of their comfort zone and maybe to do something they have never done before. It feels very much like God's grace when I see the myriad of ways people are serving each other in our congregation.

But then, I also think about the ways we are serving in other places, in our neighborhoods, schools, homes, workplaces, and the connections God has for us. We don't always know where and how God's grace is being shared, but I believe it is. When I see the giftedness of this congregation within the body life, I have no doubt that God is using us in unique and creative ways to share his grace.

As the snow melts and the spring buds on trees and flowers begin to open up, look for the gifts that God has placed within you and others to share his grace by the power of the Spirit. I look forward to seeing how God's amazing grace will be revealed in surprising and creative ways.

- Sandy Landes

COMING UP : SOME SPECIAL DATES



Birthdays

Coleen Ryan 3/3
Karen Youssef 3/8
Tim Landes 3/10
Karen Fennell 3/18
Louise Beyer 4/2

KAREN'S PLACE



“Doylestown’s only underground
Christian Café”

March is Blues Rock Madness Month!
**Check the church bulletin boards
for more information.**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

On Saturday February 21, we met to celebrate the life of Mary Leatherman, who passed away from us rather suddenly before we were ready to lose her.

After heavily attended calling hours and harp prelude by Sally, the service was opened by a procession of the “Nurse Honor Guards of Bucks County”. They shared in a tribute ceremony honoring Mary for her nursing service.



Music was led by Toshi Imchen and his family; Bill and Mary had continued to be in touch with them after they moved away, acting as

honorary grandparents. Many memories were shared by people who remembered her as a nursing classmate, Doylestown Hospital nurse, mother and grandmother, friend, serving with Bill in Algeria, helping in church as Sunday school teacher and in many other areas. It showed up clearly the next day when others had to step in and do preparation for communion, which had been one of the many ways she was always ready to serve.

A TRIBUTE : Woman of God

You are a beacon that draws us toward Christ and gives us hope when we stumble. You love us like a friend, breaking bread and sharing your home with us. You love us like a sister, wanting us to share our stories, to laugh and cry together. You love us like a mother, guiding us with love and mercy through life’s ups and down. You showed us how a wife should love with the way you let God lead you into patience, kindness, faithfulness and love. May we honor you, a woman of God, for the example you set for us. You showed us how God can perfect the imperfect if we stand in his light. May that light continue to shine as it shone through her, guiding us home to the safe and secure arms of Jesus.

- Ronda Histand



FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met via Zoom on Tuesday, February 3 with all members present. In light of the recent losses our congregation has experienced (Mary Leatherman's death and Ted's withdrawal of his candidacy) we read some psalms of lament - Psalm 31, 6, and 34. These psalms give voice to some of the emotions we feel in times of loss. We also reflected on ways to support those who are grieving, including listening, being present and not offering clichés, which often are given to try to make us feel better. We are continually grateful for a caring congregation that offers support and compassion to those experiencing loss of any kind. The prayer ushers are always available to pray with us and help us to name our loss.

We also spent time in prayer for DMC participants, the Sharing Table and the Pastoral Search Team. We will meet again on Tuesday, March 17. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Care Team for any supportive care needed, financial assistance, prayer or a listening ear.

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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP



February 1 - Our speaker was Rob Arner. He pointed out the irony of the name Barabbas, which means "son of the father" and that the given name of Barabbas was Jesus, when the real son of the father was the Jesus on the cross.



February 8 - Our speaker was Ben Walter, whose title was Sabbath Shalom. He spoke about the need for Sabbath; do we know how to rest? We were challenged to take a 5-minute Sabbath each day, to sit and do nothing. Delight in God and find rest.

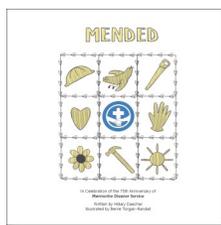


February 15 - Sandy Landes brought a message about abundance and scarcity, starting with Elijah, who asked the poor widow for food when she had only enough for one meal for herself and her son. Because she gave it, the meal and the oil never failed. When God asks us to give, may he be asking us to give away what we think we need in order to bless us with abundance?

February 22 - KrisAnne Swartley brought a message on the transfiguration of Jesus before Peter, James and John. She pointed out that while it was a spectacular affirmation of his identity, the ordinary, human, day-to-day life showed just as clearly his identity.



FROM THE LIBRARY: Book Reviews



Mennonite Disaster Service recently published two books in honor of their 75th anniversary and sent them to DMC for our library.

Mended: A Story of Hope written by Hillary Daecher and illustrated by Berrie Torgan-Randall tells the story of Tyler who lost his home when a big storm knocked down parts of their house. The worst part for Tyler was that he lost his stuffed bear Leroy. His mom assured him that the important thing was that they were safe. I smile when I read how MDS salvages Leroy. It is a great book to show a child, no matter our age. The pictures are fun.

Many Hands: Being Good Neighbors in Time of Disaster was written by Julie Kauffman and Susan Kim. Pictures show devastation, and volunteers from U.S. and Canada who worked together after hurricanes, fire, flooding and storms to remove fallen trees, muck smelly basements, even build bridges. I was amazed to learn how MDS works with other organizations. Kevin King, MDS U.S. Executive Director, says, "We're just a part of a larger network of many other national players, such as the Salvation Army, Red Cross, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Lutherans. We all have our niche. And that's the beautiful thing that's rarely talked about. If I need a warehouse, I'll call the Seventh Day Adventists. I need some more chain saws, we'll call the Baptists. I need some ice and water, I call the Red Cross and Salvation Army. It's amazing the 64 of us national agencies know each other on a first name basis."



There is a section on bridge building to delight the builders and engineers among us. Pictures and drawings show plans and progress in building an access bridge enabling 20 families to get safely to and from home in Iron Station, North Carolina. One photo shows seven Old Order Mennonite women who carried five-gallon buckets filled with river mud out of a basement in Vermont. The lower third of their long dresses shows the results of their efforts. Read and enjoy. - Freida Myers, Librarian

SUZIE CHURCHMOUSE

Things have gotten a lot more interesting around here since there is a lot of activity on the first Wednesday of the month. Karen's Place livens up some Saturday evenings but the Sharing Table produces a lot more activity. There's table setup, hours of food preparation and people doing a lot of different things. The result is a delicious meal offered to community members, especially those who have various needs. Some people come back again and again. They seem to appreciate not only the food, but the enjoyment of connecting with others around the table. I don't join in those conversations; I'd rather hang out in the kitchen for those lovely crumbs that fall when they put out the desserts!



PARTING THOUGHT

I am come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly.
- Jesus (John 10:10)

Deadline for submitting items for the April issue of News & Views:
March 31, 2026

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