

# NEWS & VIEWS

May 11, 2025

Volume 24 No. 5

Daylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN:

### Trusting in God in Times of Transitions

Acts 1:3-6: <sup>3</sup>He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

In this passage, Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of God, but the disciples are still focused on their own understanding of what that kingdom should look like. They had walked closely with Jesus, yet struggled with letting go of their expectations. We can relate to the disciples, especially during times of transition when we feel a sense of loss or uncertainty. It's hard to imagine what comes next when we hold on tightly to what has been.

Much like the disciples had to let go of their limited vision, we too are invited to open our hearts to what God is doing now. This process can feel painful and challenging, but it's also part of the journey of spiritual growth. Even in moments of uncertainty, God is at work, preparing us for a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Him.

William Bridges, in *Leading Transition*, explains two types of change: the Linear model and the Chaos model. The Linear model works for

situations that are clear and uncomplicated, but the Chaos model deals with more complex, emotional changes. This type of transition isn't just about external circumstances; it touches our hearts and minds, calling us to adjust both our thinking and emotions.

Transition occurs when we must let go of what's familiar and step into a time of uncertainty - a "neutral zone." This is a time when we might not know what's next, and that can feel uncomfortable. It's a time of both loss and growth. During this time, we have the choice to close ourselves off or open ourselves to God's work. It's about embracing change, though it may not always feel easy.

As we walk through this transition in life or ministry, it's important to remember that it's a journey of growth, even when it feels difficult. Letting go of what we've known, stepping into the unknown, and learning new ways of living takes time. It requires patience, faith, and trust.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will be with us, guiding us through this time of change. Even when it's painful or confusing, we can trust that God is preparing us for a new season of life and growth. While it may be unsettling now, it's ultimately leading us to transformation in Christ.

Just as Jesus called His disciples to focus on the Kingdom of God, we too are invited to let go of our past comforts and trust that God has something beautiful ahead for us, even if we can't fully see it yet.

- Noel Santiago, Leadership Minister

## COMING UP : SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Anniversaries

Mike & Coleen Ryan 5/9  
Gideon & Karen Youssef 5/13  
John & Sally Landis 5/26

### Birthdays

Sam Reiff 5/4  
MaryLee Chittick 5/6  
Angel Mejias 5/8  
Bill Fennell 5/9  
Kendrick Garrido 5/13  
Michael Gourley 5/19  
Lois Myers 5/24  
Junior Brodie 5/25  
Bonnie Leatherman 5/26  
Sally Landis 5/31



## KAREN'S PLACE

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

\* **May 17 – Jay Davids:** his music is rooted in a family tradition of singing. His original compositions invite peace and strength in worship. More than entertainment, it is a ministry. Jay has a new single called “Good Bad Day”.



## FROM THE CARE TEAM:

The Care Team met on April 15. After our opening prayer we focused on Philippians 4:1-3 where Paul pleads with two sisters in the church to “be of the same mind in the Lord.” Paul asks his coworker there to “help these women” since they have worked with Paul in the cause of the gospel. We continued our discussion on humility from Dennis Edwards’ book, *Humility Illuminated*. Edwards told the story about Tommy, a man who would come to their small church in NY for the snacks after a meeting. On one occasion two church members voiced some disappointment over an issue and tensions mounted. Finally Tommy’s lilting voice broke the silence with, “well, you can’t please everybody!” People laughed and relaxed. It was a prophetic pronouncement from someone lowly in the eyes of the world. Often pride or self-promotion cause conflict. Humility is a “lubricant to decrease friction.” Serving others and listening can bring about reconciliation. Edwards invites us to listen to those considered weak. “Weak people are often the best witness to God’s strength.” When grounded in Jesus we can listen and not be defensive.

We continue to watch for anyone who may need help from the compassion fund. Sandy is also planning to start a small grief sharing group. Each team member will deliver an Easter care bag to a few persons. We shared in prayer for those having difficulties now.

We closed by offering blessing to Randy for his years of service. We are grateful for Randy’s encouragement, listening and the way he sees the capacities and strengths in people. He is grateful to leave in a good way, and is hopeful for DMC. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20.

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

# SAYING GOODBYE TO RANDY



On Saturday, April 12 we gathered in the Fellowship Hall at Blooming Glen Mennonite Church for a party honoring Randy and remembering the 24 years he spent with us. We enjoyed the pig roast and food that went with it, topped off with cake. Memories were shared by several people. Several little skits showing imaginary interactions between Randy and Nancy greatly amused them and everyone else.



April 27 was Randy's last Sunday with us as our pastor. He had preached over 1000 sermons, beginning exactly 24 years ago on the Sunday after Easter. His sermon focused specifically on our congregation. A large stone and his own backpack stood on the front table, and he told us we need to tell the difference between backpacks and boulders.

Each person has to carry the burdens in their own backpack but all must join together in carrying the boulders. We need to watch that we do not try to please people but focus on our true calling. He will no longer be with us as a pastor but will not disappear off the face of the earth. While we won't see him we will continue to know him as a friend and neighbor. A total of \$570 in gifts had been received and donated in his name to Spruce Lake.



## From the Prayer of Blessing for Randy and Nancy Heacock April 27, 2025

God, we ask you to give Randy and Nancy the energy and the vision to see a path of plentitude opening before them. Help them to trust you in the promise of your grace for that which may feel unclear at this time. May they sense our love for them and have the courage and confidence of your empowering presence for each part of this new journey.

We acknowledge our feelings of grief and sadness, and anticipate that you as our Shepherd, will guide us with comfort and hope.

And now we bless you, Randy and Nancy. May God bless you and keep you, May the very face of God shine on you and be gracious to you. May God's presence embrace you and give you peace. Amen

Greetings All,

I want to send one more communication expressing my gratitude for your gracious attitude demonstrated to me and my family during my time here at DMC. I walk away with treasured memories that have shaped my life and given great joy. Though I continue to believe God is leading, I also admit it feels quite heavy to be done as your pastor. I will simply say that I have thoroughly enjoyed serving and working with you.

I do not know exactly what is next but I do plan to pursue a few things. As I continue to work with Towamencin Mennonite Church, I hope to have more time to mentor both pastor and elders. I have had some conversations with a few other churches to do the same. I also hope to experiment with being a praying presence in some local businesses.

Finally, God has brought some people in my life that I feel called to give more individual time. May and June are set aside to get a few things done, like establishing/organizing a home work space and doing some projects that have been requested by others.

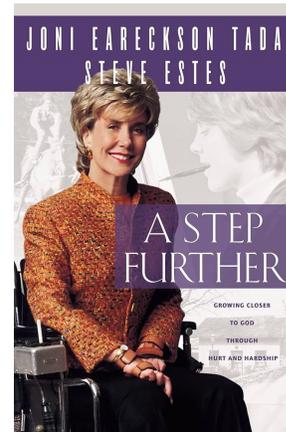
Know that I will pray for DMC and specific individuals as God brings you to mind. I believe God will continue to be present and use DMC to be a light for God's Kingdom.

Thanks again for a great journey,  
Pastor Randy

## FROM THE LIBRARY

Keep reading. We have some wonderful treasures to entertain and inspire you. For example, see Joni Eareckson Tada:

[A Step Further](#) by Joni Eareckson Tada and Steve Estes is challenging to each of us, even if our suffering is not as great as hers after an accident leaving her a paraplegic. Joni says God uses suffering to glorify himself when sufferers praise God. God inspires His followers' loyalty. "My power shows up best in weak people." Luke 15:10 says that angels rejoice over one sinner who repents. Joni says she believes angels are watching. "It says there that God's angels actually get 'emotionally excited' when men choose to do what's right." That thought intrigues me; read more about that on page 62 ... She says that "God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains." We don't have trouble with big sins like murder, drunkenness, or adultery. But it is the little sins that we try to hang onto, sins like worrying, complaining, or bitterness ..." She notes that Peter was upset with Jesus who said Peter might have a rough life ahead. Peter wondered about John. Joni feels that Peter was doubting that God's plan was good. She refers to Hebrews 11:6 and adds, "To doubt God's good intentions is to sing: 'Jesus hates me this I know for my unbelief tells me so.'" Joni says we should not compare but rather share. "Sharing with other Christians - it's one of the best responses to suffering I know."



### EASTER WEEKEND

On April 18 at 7:00 pm we gathered for a Good Friday Service. On Easter Sunday we enjoyed breakfast together in the Fellowship Hall, joined by several guests.

Following that we had a worship service focused on the resurrection, including communion.



**Deadline** for submitting items for the June issue of News & Views:  
**MAY 27, 2025**

### PARTING THOUGHT

"I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 1:6  
(Common English Version)

**Doylestown Mennonite Church**  
590 N. Broad Street  
Doylestown, PA, 18901  
Phone: 215.345.6377  
[dmc@doylestownmc.org](mailto:dmc@doylestownmc.org)

**Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care: Sandy Landes**  
[sandylandes1311@gmail.com](mailto:sandylandes1311@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator: Kristine McClain**  
[kristine.mcclain@doylestownmc.org](mailto:kristine.mcclain@doylestownmc.org)

**Newsletter Editor: Lois Myers**  
Phone/Fax: 215.794.8327 | [myersfm@juno.com](mailto:myersfm@juno.com)