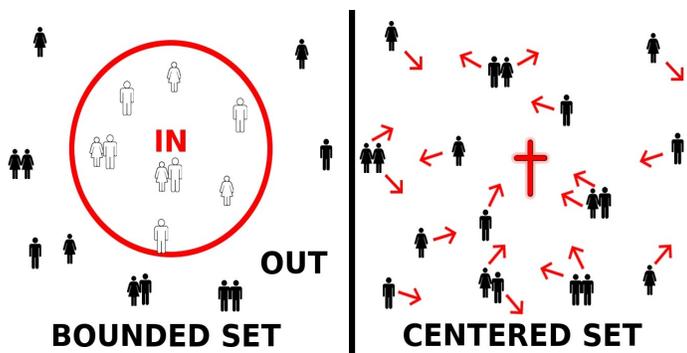


PASTOR'S PEN

This past Sunday, October 27, Tim Moyer from Bally Mennonite Church spoke of their journey as a church in moving toward a centered set approach. I am guessing that some of his sermon sounded similar to much of the missional language we have used here at DMC during the past several years. One of the main tenets of a centered set church is the joyful engagement of secular culture. Though this approach may both challenge and bring fear to many, I wonder what it would take for us to adopt this approach.



Historical patterns, practicality, and theology have shaped a different practice for most Christian churches. However, I want to explore the Biblical mandate for this approach. Being Anabaptist, it seems that Jesus would be the appropriate place to start. After his resurrection, Jesus instructed the disciples how to go on living. In John 20:21 Jesus said, "Peace with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The first thing to comprehend is that the church is first and foremost sent.

For many of us, me included, the church is about gathering either in a particular building or with a certain group of people. We go to church and solicit volunteers to keep the church going. A good church is a place with much activity and many people. What if we began to understand the church as primarily being sent? How might we measure success? How might we organize church structure and Sunday morning worship? Post-resurrection Jesus declared that the church is sent.

Jesus gave us a picture of what that being sent looks like. He said that we are sent as the Father sent him. Staying with the gospel of John 3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" We have countless examples throughout Jesus' life of his encountering individuals to give hope and life from God. The woman at the well, Zacchaeus, the woman caught in adultery, and tax collectors are all examples of people Jesus met as he engaged the non-religious people of his day. He met each one in love and offered hope. Any representation of Jesus that brings a condemning declaration is not in line with the pre-or post-resurrected Jesus.

Finally, I believe it is essential that we not gloss over Jesus' opening statement in this declaration, "Peace be with you." Jesus' resurrection demonstrated that in the midst of pain, evil, chaos, hatred and violence God's love overpowers all. Jesus offers this peace to us again and again to ground us in the hope that our God is greater than the problems of our world. It is only as we fully receive and embrace this peace from, with and of God that we will have the courage and confidence to joyfully engage those who do not yet know the resurrected Jesus.

In a chaotic and conflict-torn world, what a tremendous opportunity we have to joyfully engage all people. It is my prayer that we will let Jesus' words soak deeply into our hearts and minds. What actions and attitudes might need to be altered? How will we respond to Jesus' post resurrection instructions? "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

-Pastor Randy

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

Sara Heacock	11/6
Dennis Bartels	11/11
Zachary Schwabe	11/21
Marge Swartley	11/25
Hunter Ryan	11/30
Lucy DeJesus	12/4

November ANNIVERSARIES

Phillip & Heather Zeo	11/5
Michael & Aimee Gourley	11/11
Ray & Marge Swartley	11/27

KAREN'S PLACE

November 16 - Patrizsha and the Soultierior Motives World Wide Web Band performs "One woman's Walk," an original musical power-driven gospel rock show that brings hope to the hearts and souls of all ages and cultures. Patrizsha wants people to know we are chosen by God. He loves us and no matter what we have done he forgives us and we all belong!

SECOND SUNDAY SENSATION

On **Sunday, November 10, 10:30 - 11:45 am**, children grades K-6 are invited to a thrilling and suspenseful event presented by "Mr. Mike" an experienced teacher and storyteller. There will also be a snack, a craft and lots of fun. Come and hear about God's faithfulness in an intriguing true story and learn that God is always with us!

SPECIAL CHORUS PROGRAM

The Rockingham Male Chorus will be performing on November 10 at 11:am in the Sanctuary. They are a group of volunteer musicians from a variety of backgrounds, careers and denominations who welcome the opportunity to travel and sing the gospel of Christ. They travel hundreds of miles on an annual basis giving 20-30 concerts covering an area from Pennsylvania to Florida. Admission is free; a free will cash offering will be received to help with their administrative and travel expenses.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 27 @ 7:30 pm - Come and hear stories of harvest and generosity from the Community Garden. We will be collecting a monetary offering as well as items for Mennonite Central Committee grocery bags. All items will be taken to the MCC Material Resource Center in Harleysville.

Already filled MCC grocery bags can be purchased at Landis Supermarket for \$25. Or bring any of these items to the service to donate-

MCC GROCERY BAG ITEMS:

- ◆ Vegetable oil (32 oz)
- ◆ Pasta (2 lbs)
- ◆ Raisins (1lb)
- ◆ White rice (32 oz)
- ◆ 2 cans meat (such as tuna or chicken)
- ◆ 1 can tomato sauce (15 oz)
- ◆ 2 cans fruit (14-20 oz)
- ◆ 2 can vegetables (14-16 oz)
- ◆ 2 cans kidney beans (15.5 oz)
- ◆ 1 box cereal (15 oz)
- ◆ Peanut butter (28 oz)

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The trustees would like to thank all who helped on Saturday for the excellent response to our fall cleaning day at DMC. It was encouraging to us to have so many participants be so actively involved between 8:00am and 11:00am. It was a fun time for working together and now our church building shines!

-Dave Chittick, head trustee

NEW OFFICE VOLUNTEER

If you happen to stop by church on a Friday morning, you will have the opportunity to meet Colin and his aid, Maike. Colin is an autistic young man from the community who will be folding our bulletins each week, and refilling the pens and cards in the auditorium benches. He enjoys volunteering in the community in a variety of ways. We met Colin through his mother, who attends one of the groups that uses our building each week. Though he does not communicate very much verbally, Colin is friendly and a hard worker. KrisAnne is grateful for his presence and help in the office!

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

What is the Bible and How Do We Understand It, by
Dennis Edwards

Many of you may remember when Dennis was here to preach in September of 2018 for one of our Mission Sundays. Months ago, pastor Randy and I were both privileged to read Dennis' manuscript of the book before it was published. We gave feedback and comments to the publisher and were sent complimentary copies of the book when it was finally published. I have decided to donate my copy to our church library.

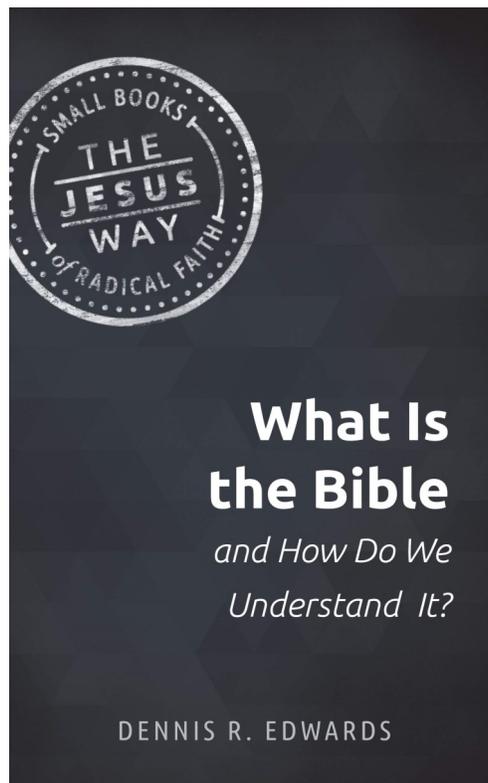
This book is so helpful and written in a very accessible style. Dennis does a beautiful job of explaining where our Bible comes from and its importance in the life of the church. I especially appreciated his thoughts on the

challenges of interpreting this ancient text and applying it in diverse places around the world. The last chapter, especially, entitled "What impact does the Bible make," is a powerful essay on the call for the church to read, interpret and obey scripture as a community through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be witnesses to the Gospel in the world.

At the end of this little book (it is only 78 pages long!) is both a glossary of terms and discussion questions that correspond to each chapter. This makes the book great for Sunday School classes or small groups to engage. I hope you check out this book and allow it to invite you to delve even deeper into the Bible, with curiosity and humility.

-KrisAnne Swartley,

Minister of Worship & Administration



INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

I'd like to share an update on our church interior renovation progress. I'm sure you have enjoyed seeing the changes to our interior design over the past months (or is it years?!). The next long-awaited stage is to have doors replaced on the main floor- at the classrooms, restrooms and offices as well as entering the sanctuary. This has been a long process and many details needed to be worked out- measurements checked and re-checked- before ordering the doors. We are now at that point thanks to the expertise of Jon Swartley and his supplier. Although there is no definite ETA, we are hoping to see the doors in place near the end of the year. They will be a custom order, so it is possible it will take longer than that. The area for hanging coats will also be done at approximately the same time. Thank you for your patience during this process.

-MaryLee Chittick, for the interior renovation committee

DEADLINE for submitting items to the December News & Views: **November 26**

PARTING THOUGHT-

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son"; those who were invited ignored it, so he said, "Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find".....The servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:2, 3, 10

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