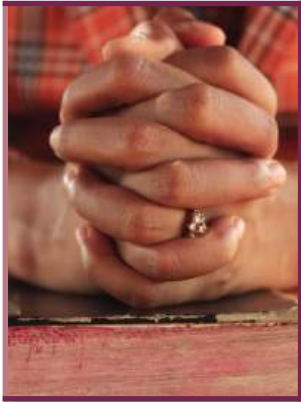


PASTOR'S PEN: August Prayer Focus



Doylestown Mennonite Church is a congregation that prays together as we gather in worship, in Zoom meetings, in the prayer room, and in many other ways and places. Prayer is how we listen to and connect with

God. As we continue on this journey of searching for a lead pastor, the Pastoral Search Team has communicated their trust in God's provision and invited us to pray. During the Listening Prayer session in July, we spent some time listening to God for his promises for us in the lead pastor search process. Tami Good's sermon on July 19th reminded us of God's faithfulness in keeping his promises.

I am inviting the DMC congregation to give thanks for these promises from God as we continue to seek to be faithful followers of Jesus. I am also inviting each of us to choose a day in August to fast, perhaps just one meal if all day is daunting. As we set aside time to fast, we can focus on God's strength and faithfulness by thanking him for these promises to us. Fasting may make us feel weak, and that in turn reminds us we are dependent on God to be our source.

Here are the promises we sensed God giving us. We join as one during the month of August to give thanks that:

- God promises to help us to be a people of peace, to be peacemakers and to rest in God's peace.
- God promises to help us to wait and to see the goodness of the Lord - Psalm 27:14
- God promises to help us grow.
- God promises to send us what we need.
- God promises to fulfill the mission he has for this congregation in his time.

God will shape us as we fast and pray. It is a mystery to me how God uses this practice, but we place ourselves in God's loving care and trust his goodness.

Please share with another person how you choose to fast, and what you experience as you pray and give thanks. May God receive all the glory as we worship him and give thanks for his faithfulness.

- Pastor Sandy

Birthdays

Judy Derstine 8/13
Cindy Balderston 8/17
Steve Landes 8/18
Sandy Landes 8/25

COMING UP: SOME SPECIAL DATES

Anniversaries

Denny & Sue Bartels 8/9
Glenn & Janice Wyble 8/15
Jim & Louise Beyer 8/29

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team, consisting of Sandy Landes, Freida Myers and Gary Garges, met in person on July 7. Our time together opened up with prayer concerns that came about unplanned, but we were glad for the availability to do this.

We spent time discussing our Bible text of 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 12-13, and 27-31. The focus revolved around the gifts of the Spirit and how each one has different gifts, some may have multiple gifts and talents, but all are distributed as he determines. We as a body offer quite a diverse selection of gifts, but through the unity of the Spirit they can all be used to glorify God.

The meeting came to a close with continued follow-up of some events in the planning stages for the fall via email communication.

- Gary Garges, for the Care Team

A SPECIAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

This summer I started volunteering at a local primary care clinic in my neighborhood. I was looking for an opportunity where I could use my skills and experience with working with people in order to better my community. This clinic was the perfect fit. With a large population of disabled patients and people struggling financially or living in poverty, there was no shortage of help needed. The most valuable part of this experience, however, hasn't been the amount of people I got to help.

Instead, it has been the lessons I've learned by listening to all of the different stories. Every patient I've listened to has shown their own complexities. As I am someone who hopes to study social work and serve the community, learning how to understand people better has been very beneficial.

- Layla Garrido

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE

You may remember reading last December's "News & Views", where I mentioned that I had undertaken a clean-up of our DMC cemetery database. It's been a 15-month project, but with a nod to the record-keepers of the past (like Lester Heacock), a 1984 transcription of the stones that existed at the time by the Bucks County Historical Society, and with help from the online database FindAGrave.com, I've now completed a comprehensive listing of the burials in the cemetery, which will serve the church and community well into the future. The database is now available ([CLICK HERE](#)) for use in research and has been shared with MHEP, the Bucks County Historical Society, the Doylestown Historical Society and the Bucks County Genealogical Society, who have been thrilled and grateful to have this resource to use going forward. If you have updated information on any of these listings, please don't hesitate to contact the office! - Kristine McClain





WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Mark your calendar and join us at DMC for these exciting events!

SOCCER CAMP

This year, the soccer camp will take place on August 1 and 8 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, welcoming boys and girls ages 7 to 14.



CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual picnic is scheduled for August 2 at the pavilion on the church property.

Worship takes place at 10 am with lunch to follow at noon. There will be food to share with each other and the friends and neighbors who have been invited to join us.

IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS

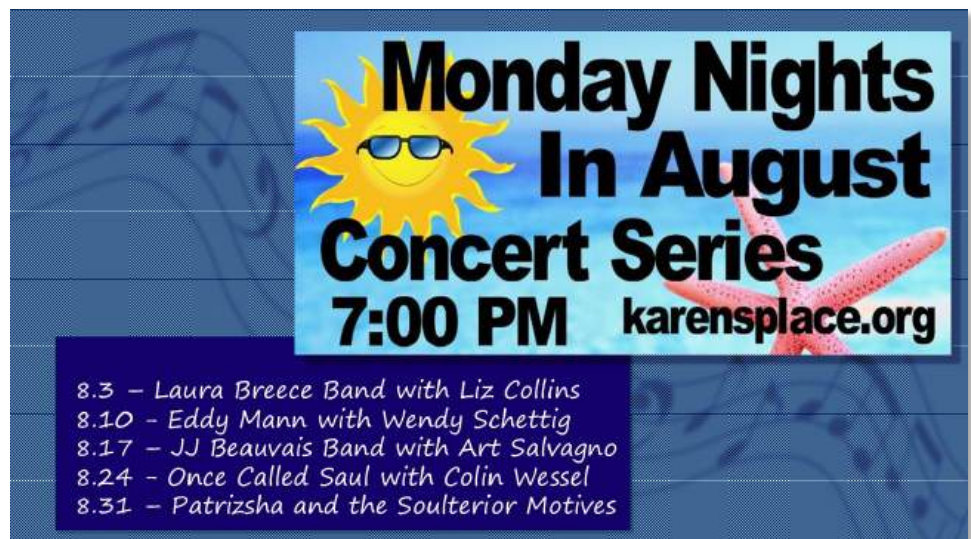
In the month of October during our Sunday School hour, we will offer an optional learning opportunity around the topics of aging and end of life. This series is entitled "Important Conversations." While these topics might be difficult for some of us to talk about, they are important and impact everyone either currently or in the future. It is helpful to think about these issues considering our faith. Mark your calendars and look for more information in September. The topics and speakers are as follows:

- October 4 - Lisa Reiff, Director at Dock Woods – retirement communities/Medicare/financial considerations
- October 11 - Rob Arner - theological reflections on death/dying/burial customs
- October 18 - Joyce Zuzack, RN - medical understandings about advanced directives, health care options, hospice
- October 25 - Wren Miller, Funeral Director at Huff and Lakjer (Lansdale, PA) - an overview of funeral planning

KAREN'S PLACE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

Karen's Place has arranged these outdoor concerts for Monday nights, 7 to 9 pm, during the month of August

Karen's Place reopens in October to celebrate their 28th year.



JULY WORSHIP

July 5 - We enjoyed Table Fellowship. As we shared food, we considered a passage from Isaiah 30 and talked about hearing the word of the Lord in our lives. What makes it difficult to hear the word, and what helps us to listen to him?

July 12 - We celebrated the baptism of Cami Garrido and Brad Hewitt; then Rob Arner brought us a message from Isaiah 35. He connected the streams in the desert, spoken of by Isaiah, to the waters of baptism. He listed the three dimensions of baptism as cleansing from sin, sharing Jesus' death and resurrection and being a new creation. The advice is to always remember that you are not the same, not how you were.



July 19 - Tami Good had a message about promises. She spoke of her father, showing pictures of the cars he had promised to make ready for her to drive. She knew that he would keep that promise because she knew what he was. Then she led us through the Bible and the promises God had made, many of which were fulfilled in Christ. We have hope in the future because we see that he keeps his promises. We know who someone is by the way they keep promises.

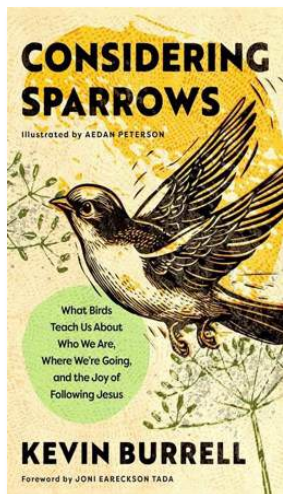
July 26 - Rob Arner took us to Isaiah 40, a message to exiles in captivity in Babylon. In speaking about the greatness of God's creation he showed pictures of the numerous galaxies taken by the Webb telescope and pointed out that they are billions of light years across with multitudes of stars. Even in our own galaxy there are a trillion stars, all of which he knows by name. He also knows each of us by name and even the number of hairs on our heads.



THE SHARING TABLE

Again, we invited our community to The Sharing Table on July 1. There was plenty of food for a somewhat smaller crowd. A variety of food had been donated in addition to food brought by our own people.

FROM THE LIBRARY: Considering Sparrows, by Kevin Burrell



A new book has been added to DMC's library: **Considering Sparrows** by Kevin Burrell. The author is both a pastor and an enthusiastic birder. His intent is to present Paul's letter to the church at Philippi using various members of the bird kingdom to illustrate key points for the church at the time and present applications for us as followers of Jesus. The book has an extensive bibliography that includes "everything" from quotes from ancient scholars to a quip from Groucho Marx.

Each chapter begins with a description of a bird followed by a deep dive into what Paul is saying to his



friends at the Philippian church, and suggestions as to how it applies to us in our everyday lives. It is a comprehensive collection of thoughts and insights that **entertain, instruct** (are these baby robins from our son's home of the precocial or the altricial persuasion? The answer is in the book.), and **challenge**.

Whether you consider birds to be the descendants of dinosaurs, pests that make it necessary to frequently wash our cars, or delightful creations of God to watch and listen to, consider checking out this good read. And yes, each chapter begins with a hand-drawn illustration.

- Bill Fennell

PARTING THOUGHT

... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

Deadline for
submitting items for the
September issue of
News & Views:
September 1, 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