

# NEWS & VIEWS

December 5, 2021

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN—

### Encouraging Discipleship

*"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

*"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* -Philippians 2:1-12

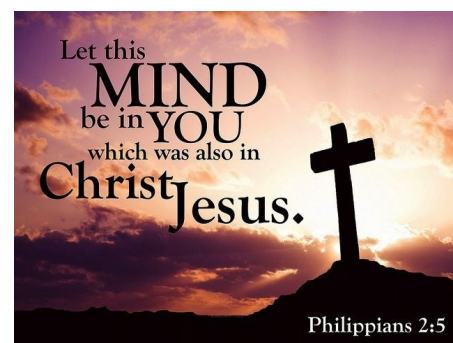
We are in the season of Advent, pondering the coming of Christ to earth as a human being, yet still being God. This scripture describes the posture Jesus took, one of service and humility. It also invites us to consider how we live together as followers of Jesus. It names the gifts of being united with Christ, being comforted by his love, and the Holy Spirit bringing us together. In our world today, where there is so much division, it seems difficult to think about being united. We struggle to walk alongside of each other

when we disagree about masks, vaccines, political stances, theology, immigration policy, etc. The list can get quite long when we stop to think about our differences. But, how might we focus on our common needs as humans for connection, safety and most of all love?

I wonder if we can stop long enough to pray as the zoom prayer group prayed today, for an attitude like Christ toward others. In this passage we are told to do nothing out of selfish ambition, but to consider the interests of others. That might mean taking the time to just listen to another person without trying to convince them to see things your way. Jesus often demonstrated his love to people without lots of words.

You are invited this week to pray for those with whom you might disagree. See if you have an opportunity to demonstrate the kind of humility described here, where we look to the interests of the other person and seek understanding. God, help me to see this person as you do. I need help with my attitude toward those who think differently. Help me to experience your joy as I learn to value others. Amen.

-Pastor Sandy



## COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Lucy DeJesus 12/4

Robin Miller 12/10

Kathy Heckler 12/13

Blanche Althouse 12/22

Robert Schwabe 12/25

Doris Garges 12/28

MaryEllen Schade 1/1

### KAREN'S PLACE

The last Karen's Place event of the year was the appearance of **Eddy Mann** on December 4. It will resume again on January 16 with the appearance of **Jim Winder and the Race**.



### CHRISTMAS IN THE LIBRARY

Come and visit our new Christmas collection on loan from Judy Derstine: Christmas stories to warm your heart and brighten the season. Additional "Christmas" books from our regular collection, including books by Max Lucado and Thomas Kinkade, were added to the Christmas shelf for your checkout. Judy or I will be glad to help you find something you would like.

-Freida Myers, Librarian

## FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

What is an intercessor? Every Sunday as DMC gathers for worship there is an intercessor serving before and during the service. We have very dedicated people who enjoy this behind-the-scenes ministry. Here are some of their own words that describe why and how they pray:

I count it a privilege to serve as a prayer intercessor for DMC. In my own lifetime, I know that many times I have come to church with distractions of various kinds. One of the things that I pray for is that members of our congregation be able to listen and focus on the pastor's message. I also pray that the Holy Spirit will be present in our service for encouragement and to release God's power in each life. I alternate between sitting downstairs or sitting in the balcony section and many times standing for a good bit of the time near the railing to be able to see and pray for each one present -Mary Lee Chittick

Intercessory prayer is praying to God for the benefit of the congregation and the leaders of the service. I pray that the Holy Spirit will dwell among us, opening our hearts and minds to what God wants us to understand, and helping the leaders convey God's message. -Dave Zuzack

Why I Pray: I serve as prayer intercessor because God encourages and instructs us to pray (I Thessalonians 5:17). James 5:16 says we are to "pray for one another". I pray for those who lead us in worship and those of us who participate by listening to what God has for us. I am humbled as I pray for the needs of those around me. God changes me and circumstances when I follow his leading. -Karen Fennell

This is a great opportunity to bless those in leadership as well as the whole congregation as we gather on Sunday morning together. If you are interested in serving as an intercessor or have questions, please speak with pastor Sandy.

## DISC GOLF & COMFORTERS

Doylestown Mennonite Church (DMC) started an experiment some years ago. We started by looking “out there.” We assembled a team to explore, ask questions and identify God’s work that DMC could support. The team in this process began to see that there was fertile soil here within us, that God was doing work here within our own souls. We began to see that being Missional was our own calling and not something to be hired out. I am sure each of us have our own story of how this shift in our Missional Experiment impacted them personally. I will tell some of my own story and how it is leading me now.

A major shift happened for me in how I viewed my faith journey. My faith is to be an integral piece that is a common thread in all the boxes of my life...Home, Work, Church and Play. Jesus is present in all my boxes, encouraging, convicting and transforming. I began to look for ways to bring these boxes together. I began inviting people from these different boxes to gather together for coffee, football games on TV and meals. Risk and vulnerability are present when you have your work friends and neighbors meet your church friends. Risk and vulnerability are present when you begin to open your thoughts and dreams, your failures and struggles. I John 1:5-10 invites us to walk in the light, to live an authentic life, to experience forgiveness and to have fellowship with one another.

Disc Golf and Comforters are examples of fellowship that intentionally cross over boundaries. I use these two examples because I have knowledge of them. I know that there are other examples of these happening within us here at DMC. Lois and Freida Myers have for some time gathered folks from various boxes in their lives to create some interesting mixes of people to knot comforters. We know that when you put people together that fellowship and connection will develop. Ask them to share their stories of the work that God is doing in their lives and in the lives of those who come to knot.

My own story with Disc Golf is doing something that I enjoy and invite others to join me. The fun begins by expanding the others to include random strangers, friends from church and work and friends of friends. I am a self-proclaimed disc golf evangelist, trying to convert those who don’t plan to those who do play. The Missional Experiment that DMC experienced challenged me to invite anyone who would listen. MY Vision - Build community among a diverse group of people, to create space for trusting relationships to grow and where ministry to one another happens.

Fresh Expressions is what happens when we move from a missional outlook to a more intentional gathering, listening, loving and caring. A Fresh Expression is where we experience God and have connection or fellowship with one another, a church but not looking like the traditional church. Fresh expressions come about by following a passion, building trusting relationships, sharing ourselves authentically and sharing our faith journey. Fresh Expressions is a movement, it is a thing. It is in dog parks, restaurants, tattoo parlors, yoga studios, disc golf courses and living rooms knotting comforters.

Fresh Expressions are birthed out of the traditional church, they are supported and encouraged by the traditional church and not so surprisingly, they are revitalizing the traditional church. Fresh Expressions become a new distinct entity and are not intended to be a new church growth scheme building the church’s roster. The fresh expression is church. I am pleased to talk with anyone interested in learning more.

–Steve Landes

*The Fresh Expressions Movement began in England and became international as a form of church in our changing culture for the benefit of those who are not yet part of any church. More information can be found online.*

## THANKING A FAITHFUL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Near the end of the service on November 21 the prayer ushers were called forward to a place just outside the prayer room. Mary Leatherman was surprised, mystified, perhaps astonished; to have a chair placed there for her facing the congregation. She had been pleased but a bit puzzled, to receive several notes of thanks from former Sunday School students during the preceding weeks. She also felt that more people were present than usual for worship but had no idea of any significance.

Judy Garrido read a recognition of Mary's 30 years of teaching the youth class, providing treats and a listening ear each Sunday and many times between. Many who had been part of her class had been contacted and invited to attend for the occasion. Though retired from Sunday School teaching, Mary is not done! She continues to give encouragement and serve in many gracious ways.



## THANKSGIVING

Included in our Thanksgiving offering this year was collection of items for Ripple Church and Ripple Community, Inc. in Allentown to support their ministry to homeless people. Each Sunday in the month of November we brought clothing, personal items and non-perishable foods. By November 28 there were two overflowing boxes filled with the items donated week by week.

**Deadline** for submitting items for the January News & Views: December 28th

## PARTING THOUGHT:

“Help us to help each other, Lord, each other’s load to bear,  
That all may live in true accord, our joys and pains to share  
Help us to build each other up, your strength within us prove,  
Increase our faith, confirm our hope, and fill us with your love.” Charles Wesley, 1742

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