

# NEWS & VIEWS

February 2, 2020

Volume 19 No.2

Doylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN

### "Wait" Training

Some of us already do weight training at the gym, but the kind of "wait" training we will be doing as a congregation this year is a bit different. In a culture obsessed with getting things instant, fast, one-click, and express; our waiting muscle might be weak and in need of exercise.

The temptation in a culture like ours can be to treat prayer like a formula: I pour out my desires to God (tell him what I want), and then wait for Him to do what I asked. Hopefully, I won't have to wait too long. But perhaps this is a view of prayer inspired more by our culture than scripture.

Psalm 25 models something different for us. David does pour out his heart's desire for deliverance from his enemies, but in the very next breath says, "make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long." David is honest about what he wants, but seems to hold that desire with open hands and humility. More than safety and victory, he wants to know God's Presence and God's ways. He waits for God all day long; not for his desired outcome.

There is a song we sometimes sing during worship called "Enough." The chorus says, "All of You is more than enough for all of me; for every thirst and every need. You satisfy me with Your love, and all I have in You is more than enough." Those are challenging lyrics! Often the voice in my head does not sound like that. It can sound more like, "if I just had a little more time, that would be enough for me. If I had more energy, more money, more house, more health, more intelligence, more friends, more fill-in-the-blank, then that would be enough for me." The tricky thing about our human nature is that will probably never be true. Nothing will ever be enough for us; we will always find a way to want more even after we get what we wanted.

Until we find rest in Jesus, that is. In relationship with Jesus, who is God-with-us and who knows us and loves us deeply, is the only place we will experience true contentment and peace. Not in getting what we want, what we think we so desperately need. And so we can train our hearts to wait differently. We can learn to be content and at rest in God, as we pray with David, "God, do not let my enemies exult over me! ... yet make me know Your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths... for You I wait all day long." And we can pray with Jesus in the Garden before his arrest and crucifixion, "Father, let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will, but Yours be done." We can learn to train our waiting muscles to wait for God's Presence and God's ways to be revealed to us. Are you ready and willing to do some "wait" training?

-KrisAnne Swartley



## Upcoming BIRTHDAYS

Isaac Daniel Garrido	2/1
Jeff Buckwalter, Jr.	2/3
Jon Swartley	2/4
Mary Leatherman	2/26
Suzanne Schwabe	2/26
Kirk Garrido	2/27
Ruth Hart	2/27
Coleen Ryan	3/3

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Donald & Judy Derstine 2/14

## FROM KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE



**The Movie "Right Before Your Eyes" directed, produced and written by David Vincent Bobb was screened at DMC on January 11 .** There were 209 people in attendance! The film was a powerful presentation of overcoming addiction through finding God. A quote from lead actor Adam Ratcliffe, who was in attendance, "Man, what an amazing night.. Makes so much of the hustle worth it.. The blessing of having met so many ridiculously incredible people on this journey NEVER ceases to amaze me. Thank you all who came out!! One proud Buckstonian right here!! God is so good!"



### **Coming up on Saturday, February 15th-**

a Valentine Dinner & Concert featuring Juliana Schnee.

You'll need tickets for this one - contact the church office or Karen's Place at dlhkp@verizon.net.

## **Kicking off Blues-Rock Madness Month-**

Saturday, March 7th, the coffeehouse features Obadiah

-Don Heckler

## **SECOND SUNDAY SENSATION**

Children were invited to come on January 12th to see a presentation of exciting illusions, along with music, stories and snacks.



Featured on February 9, 10:30-11:45 am, will be the movie called, "The Miracles of Jesus" including calming the storm, healing the sick and raising the dead. They show his love compassion, mercy and service. They will also enjoy games, snacks and more!

## **A Lenten Opportunity for Growth**

During the season of Lent, beginning Sunday March 1 through Sunday April 19, there will be an opportunity to read and pray the scriptures together during the Sunday School hour using the practice of **Lectio Divina**, which is Latin for "divine reading."

Rather than treating the scripture text in just a study format, Lectio Divina helps the reader to encounter the text of scripture as the "living word." Using a different text each week, we will open our hearts to God through reading, meditating and responding. You will be welcome to join as you are able, in the upstairs prayer room. For more information, speak to Kris Anne Swartley or Sandy Landes.

## FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

### Learning to be a Self in Relationships

Every family has a way of functioning, whether it is large or small, rich or poor, young or old. In the context of our family and other relationships, we each have a self and at times we may find relationships both fulfilling and frustrating. It is easy to look to others to meet our needs, but ultimately as adults we are responsible for our own selves, our own emotions and thoughts. Jesus himself declared this in the gospels, "If anyone wants to be my follower, let them deny themselves and follow me." No one else can walk our journey of following Jesus for us, although we can gain support and encouragement from others. I am learning more about this process of self-differentiation in an online seminar this year. As a mom, pastor, wife, friend, sister, etc., I find myself asking these questions:

What is my guiding principle in this situation that will help me respond thoughtfully, rather than just react with my emotions?

How can I communicate a sense of confidence in the other person and in God to help them on their own journey?

In what ways does my anxiety cause me to over-function or to distance myself?

Paul writes in Galatians 6, "For all must carry their own loads." I believe God gives each of us what we need to be a self as we live in relationship with others. Feel free to speak to me with your comments or questions about these ideas.

-Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

## CARE TEAM NOTES

The DMC Care Team met on Monday evening, January 27. Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Kendrick Garrido, Robin Miller and Freida Myers were present. Sandy reminded us about Randy's sermon yesterday, the value of suffering and the life of Jesus within us. She led in prayer.

Randy brought a financial need to the care team. We approved using some compassion funds for that need.

Sandy presented information about Financial Peace University which has a nine-week video curriculum available for churches or discipleship groups. Dave Ramsey, a financial expert, incorporates small-group discussion which encourages accountability and discipleship. Sandy will do more research for further consideration.

Sue Bartels came to share some of her expertise related to

boundaries which are used by Big Brothers Big Sisters to protect children for whom they find mentors. She reinforced the need to provide child safety for those in our care.

Randy led in a closing prayer for persons in our congregation who are facing challenges.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, February 24.

-Freida Myers for the Care Team

## FROM THE LIBRARY

A number of books have been added to the library recently:

Seven from Heaven by Kenny and Bobbi McCaughey take us along on their miraculous journey to create a family. Eventually seven healthy babies survive a difficult pregnancy and delivery. The news media fails to understand or portray God's amazing story.

Heaven by Randy Alcorn is in the Christian life category. The author explores what the Bible tells us about heaven. He answers some questions but realizes that we won't know some things on this earth.

Saroo Brierley was born in India but lost track of his older brother and ended up on a train car traveling to Calcutta. The authorities could not find his family and placed him in an orphanage. A family from Australia adopted him. He had a good adoptive family but longed to find his birth family, In A Long Way Home, Saroo tells about his search as a young adult.

Historians may be interested in looking at A Modest Mennonite Home by Steve Friesen about the 1719 Hans Herr House, an historical site in Lancaster County. Another option is James Lowry's translation and collection of 17th century documents about Hans Landis, Swiss Anabaptist Martyr.

I try to read all the new books but still have more to go. Let me know if I can help you find something you would like, have a book to recommend, or would like to write a review.

-Freida Myers, Librarian



## WOMEN'S PRAYER RETREAT

The Women's Prayer Retreat held at DMC on Saturday January 11 was fun, pleasant, meaningful, focused, warm and welcoming. The retreat was attended by 33 women, from the DMC congregation as well as women from the surrounding area. It was gratifying to see so many attendees who were focused on growing in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The day offered an opportunity to shed off the tension and responsibilities of the week, and it seemed like calm and peace embraced many as the morning unfolded.



Delicious treats were served with morning coffee and a delightful lunch of salad and sandwiches was served mid-day. Lunch provided the opportunity to commune with new as well as familiar friends. An optional afternoon workshop continued the day, with additional opportunity to walk the labyrinth set up in the church pavilion. Special thanks and gratitude go to KrisAnne, Sandy, Christine Labrum, and all who prepared the space, making the day's events a haven of prayer and rest for this large group of women.

—Joyce Zuzack



Feedback from several women included an appreciation of the Lectio Divina practice that Ms. Labrum presented. The opportunity to gather and share with other women in a retreat atmosphere was a gift. The concept of walking a labyrinth invoked various responses from individuals. Some felt the labyrinth conveyed a sense that we take different routes, different paths, but we are all seeking God, aiming for Him as our center. Like the route of a labyrinth, we may feel like we go up, over, all around, but God is ever present in our journey. Others sensed, during their reflection while walking the labyrinth, that God is looking for us to journey with him, trusting him, even if we cannot quite see what is coming "down the road."

Christine Labrum, the Retreat Leader, led a thought-provoking program, basing some of the discussion on events and concepts that were included in the fictional book *Sensible Shoes* by Sharon Garlough Brown.



## THE COMFORTER PROJECT

During the year 2019, 57 comforters were finished, and have been delivered to MRC . These were knotted by a total of 44 different women on Saturdays through the year. Some of the supplies and some of the knotters were furnished by DMC, but many friends and neighbors, and other friends they bring with them, were also happy to contribute. The project is on-going but much changed since the "sewing circle" ladies met monthly on Thursdays to quilt for the quilt sale and knot the comforters for MCC. Have you tried it? Let us know when you can come!

-Lois & Freida Myers

## Working Together to Worship

Typically there are 4 Sundays each month. However, four times a year we get a bonus fifth Sunday in a given month. Over the past several months, MLT has discussed how we might use that 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday to try a different way of worshipping. Believing that service and fellowship are key elements of a worshipping community, MLT has decided to designate the fifth Sunday of March, May, August, and November 2020 as Service Sundays. Rather than gathering for worship and Sunday School these days, we will join together to work alongside one another as a way to worship. In addition to having at least one and possibly two service opportunities for a given Sunday, a time of prayer and scripture reading will held at our building for those who may not feel able to participate in the designated service.

For some this may seem like we are breaking the Sabbath. Yet Jesus repeatedly taught that it is appropriate to do good on the Sabbath. We are suggesting to change our routine on the fifth Sunday of each month, in order to experience the good we can do in serving others and working together. Though this may be a new practice, it connects to traditional values of service and working together.

Service projects may include volunteering at a local nursing home, helping at a community event, a day trip to Pine Brook, or helping a local person/family with a special project. The purpose is to do this during our regular time of worship so we have the time to do it together. We welcome your suggestions and help in planning these service encounters. If you have any ideas or thoughts please speak to any MLT member or staff. Please look for more details in early March as plans are already in the works for March 29!

-Randy Heacock, on behalf of MLT

**DEADLINE** for submitting items to the March News & Views - **March 3rd**

## PARTING THOUGHT-

"Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light....."

Jesus (John 3: 19-21)

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