

NEWS & VIEWS

January 12, 2025
Volume 24 No. 1

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

Welcome to 2025! As I have done for the past several years, I once again have identified a theme to guide our community life together. This year's theme is "Listening to and practicing the words of Jesus: our rock and firm foundation" centered on Matthew 7:24 and I Corinthians 3:10-11. Throughout the year, we will focus on various aspects of this theme. The overall hope is to increasingly center our individual and community life together on Jesus.

At we begin this journey, I think it is important to identify the many competing interests that seek our attention that we may confuse as providing a solid foundation. Some things that come to mind include securing financial stability, obtaining a good education, maintaining good health, and having good marital/family relationships. All of these are worthy and merit our attention; however, they cannot take the place of or compete with our loyalty to Jesus. The challenge is to recognize that these things cannot provide the rock solid foundation that is available through Jesus.

It is therefore essential that these other things are pursued recognizing our sole dependency on Jesus. Unfortunately, we frequently only discover that we look to other things to provide a foundation when

we lose or feel threatened that we could lose them. For example, it is when we take a hit financially that we suddenly discover the extent to which we trust wealth for our security. The same can be said when our health fades or begins to fail us.

At times our prayers indicate our desire to have multiple foundations. We pray asking God to direct things so that our health remains strong or our finances secure. Perhaps such prayers demonstrate that we want God to provide tangible signs in our physical world to build our confidence? Do we trust God or do we trust in the outcomes we desire God to provide?

If we are to increase our confidence in Jesus as our rock and foundation, we need to identify and remove other sources we rely on for a foundation. What do you look to in order to provide confidence that makes you feel secure? Will you ask God to show you anything that hinders you from placing your sole foundation on Jesus?

- Pastor Randy

*Happy
New Year* ★★

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Anniversaries

Dave & MaryLee Chittick 1/25

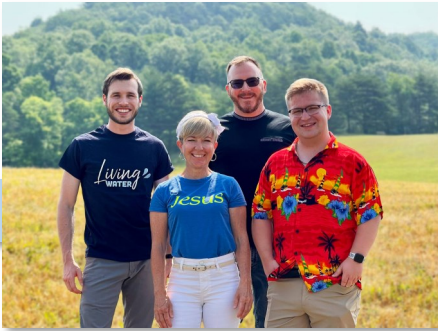
Birthdays

Dave Chittick 1/10
Janey Garrido 1/13
Karry Bull 1/14
Judy Garrido 1/14
Don Derstine 1/31
Isaac Garrido 2/1



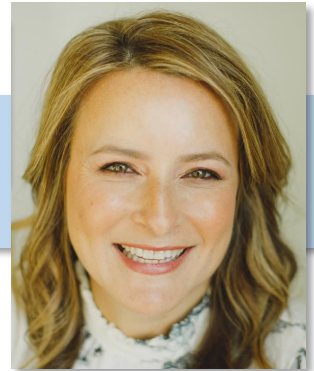
KAREN'S PLACE

Doylestown's Underground Christian Coffee House resumed in January. The next two scheduled events are:



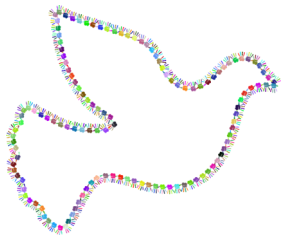
January 18: Melanie Waldman's "Songs and Stories" tour - she wants to share her story of restoration.

February 1: Blue Sky



FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met on December 3rd via Zoom and everyone was present - Sandy, Freida, Randy & Gary. Our scripture focus was James 3:13-18, with a focus on verse 17 and how it spoke to us: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, and without partiality and without hypocrisy." Time was spent sharing about Randy's resignation, what each one's reaction was and what is next. Care Team will continue under MLT.



We are reading the book "Humility Illuminated" by Dennis R. Edwards and will continue sharing what we learn and how humility is essential for a professing Christian.

A number of congregational members are experiencing difficult times with health concerns; gift bags were distributed to acknowledge that they are loved and prayed for. Time was spent in prayer for numerous persons and situations.

- Gary Garges for the Care Team

REMEMBERING SOME EVENTS OF 2024

January – We found out that we had reached the goal of \$50,000 to sponsor the construction of one of the cabins being built in the Wilderness area at Spruce Lake.



February – The annual congregational meeting was held on February 25 during the Sunday School hour, to hear reports of the year and approve the spending plan for 2024.

March – We had a Good Friday service on March 25, and on March 31 enjoyed Easter breakfast followed by the Easter service.

April – Noel Santiago was with us on April 7 for the first Mission Sunday of the year. On April 28 we met in the fellowship hall for table fellowship.

May – We met again for table fellowship.



June – On the 5th Sunday Day of Service we led a worship service at Harborview and Neshaminy Manor. Others did yard work for the Reiffs. Also a group met in the kitchen to prepare and freeze meals to give to several families experiencing difficult times.

July/August – Church picnic at Lost Acres Ranch on August 4; Soccer Camp was held on August 17. Karen's Place sponsored Monday night outdoor concerts.



September – The next Mission Sunday was September 22 with Phil and Pratiksha Tyson. We collected funds to assist in the Youssef mission trip to Egypt, leaving at the end of the month. The 5th Sunday Day of Service included a worship service at Harborview, cleanup around the church and prayer garden, and a car wash.

October/November – On November 24, Stephanie Gehman, representing Spruce Lake, was our Mission Sunday speaker. Our Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27 was a table fellowship. Randy announced his intention to retire on March 31.

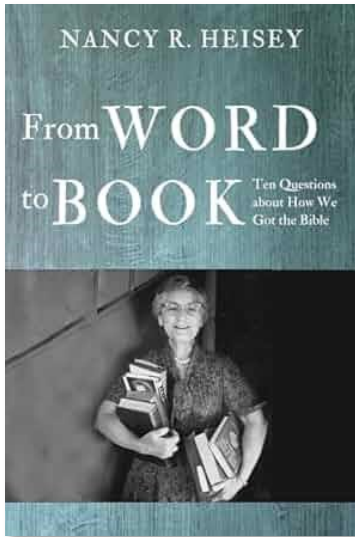


December – There were two special birthdays to celebrate. After the service on December 8 we were invited by the Reiff family to celebrate Silas' first birthday with cake and ice cream. He had not yet transitioned completely to eating by mouth but he enjoyed the ice cream very much. Blanche Althouse's family provided a birthday treat for her

96th birthday. We enjoyed a candle lighting service on Christmas Eve. Randy's entire family celebrated with us.



FROM THE LIBRARY: Book Report - *From Word to Book*, by Nancy R. Heisey



Adam and Eve didn't keep a journal of their visits with God as they walked with him in the garden, Abraham's tent didn't have an office desk, we don't have pictures of the stone tablets where God wrote the ten commandments for Moses, or a recording of the other words he spoke to him. Jesus didn't have a secretary who took down his sermons in shorthand, newspapers didn't send reporters to travel with him. So, how did we get the Word of God as we know it today? Nancy Heisey researched the answers to some questions her college students were asking about the Bible and put ten of them together in this book. Some of the questions are: What does it mean to read the Bible in translation; How did ancient stories become Hebrew scrolls; How do archaeological findings enhance the Bible's backstory; What are Bible canons and how were they formed; and finally, How does the Bible speak, and to whom?

Reading this book requires time for thought. The historical information in this book will expand your understanding of what a remarkable book we hold in our hands, and how it came to us as the Word from God himself.

- Lois Myers

PARTING THOUGHT

**"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."
- Jesus (Matthew 7:24)**

Deadline for submitting items for the February issue of News & Views:
January 28, 2025

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