

NEWS & VIEWS

January 4, 2026

Volume 25 No. 1

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

Well, 2026 is here! Some of us may be wondering what this year holds. Some of us are looking forward to some significant milestones in 2026; a special vacation, a new job, or anticipation of a new pastor here at DMC! Whatever you are anticipating for this new year, we can rest in the absolute and unending presence of God with us in all that 2026 brings. The 2026 theme for Doylestown Mennonite Church is as follows:

We share the abundant, overflowing grace of God by the power of his Spirit.

This theme was discerned by a small group of volunteers who reflected on the graciousness of God and the way God calls us to share that with others. We also recognized how God's grace is so abundant and full. The anchor texts for our theme are from John.

John 4:13-14: ¹³ *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

John 1:16-17: ¹⁶ *Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

I am curious to see how we will live this theme out this year in our relationships with each other and in all the different contexts we experience.

What does it look like to share God's grace with others?



How do we live with an abundant mindset?

In what ways do we live by the power of God's Spirit?

We will be inviting guest speakers to help us to think more about this theme and how God is inviting us to be abundant sharers of his overflowing grace. I also invite you to pray and ask God to make this a tangible reality as we continue our journey of following Jesus together.

We will also be writing a crafted prayer to help us live into the reality of God's grace. Two sessions are planned - Sunday, January 11 during the Sunday School hour and Tuesday, January 13, at 11:00 am. If you are unable to attend either session but have thoughts for the crafted prayer, please reach out to me to share those ideas.

I look forward to how God will use this theme to grow us as disciples of Jesus living out of the fullness of his grace.

- Pastor Sandy

COMING UP : SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

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

Anniversary

Dave & MaryLee
Chittick 1/25



ANOTHER MILESTONE



We're happy that Blanche Althouse is still able to attend some of our services with the help of one or another of her daughters. On December 21,

her family provided a party complete with cake for all of us to enjoy with her in celebration of her 97th birthday.

SOME THOUGHTS

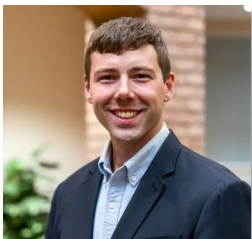
After thinking over the ways we heard about the Christmas story in recent weeks, Ronda Histand writes:



The amazing part of reading the stories in the Bible is that they can be meaningful even without knowing all that context. The Holy Spirit can give the word of God meaning and help us grow. But, as we learn about the history and traditions of the people in those times, we can be given even clearer eyes and stronger convictions that God was always moving closer to us, way more than we could ever imagine. The Messiah was always here, because without Him, we would not be here. He moves in ways to make Himself known, but also asking for us to trust and invite him in. Let us invite Jesus in as the creator, the Word of God, the God made flesh, the Messiah, the final sacrifice for our sins, and the LORD Jesus Christ.

- Ronda Histand

DECEMBER WORSHIP



December 7 - Colin Ingram spoke about Jesus nature being both fully divine and fully human, experiencing the human condition although a king with full authority.

December 14 - The snow was eight inches or so; we weren't together for worship that morning.



December 21 - Donna Godshall led in music and worship with a dozen familiar carols and thoughtful readings.



December 24 - Christmas Eve was bright with carols and readings led by seven of our teenage girls. Sandy had a message inviting us to Jesus and we sang Silent Night by candlelight.

December 28 - We held a service called "Witness to God's Goodness". Four of our congregation members shared incidents, experiences and writings on the theme, followed by a cookie social in the fellowship hall.

REMEMBERING some events of 2025

* January - Dale Nafziger was visiting on the first Sunday of the year and shared his continuing experience in Nepal.

* February - We celebrated the lives of John and Sara Faye Moyer in worship and song. They were remembered for their gifts of sharing and caring.



* March - Our Fifth Sunday Day of Service included a service at Harborview, yard work at Denny and Susan Bartels, and meals prepared for 60 people to be donated to St. John's Hospice Center in Philadelphia, serving homeless persons.



* April - We met on April 12 at Blooming Glen for a party honoring Randy and his 24 years with us. Randy preached the last of over 1000 sermons on April 27. We joined in a prayer of blessing for Randy and Nancy, acknowledging our sadness but asking God's blessing on them.

* May - Speakers Joel Horst Nofziger on May 4 and Charlie Ness on May 25 focused on the 500-year legacy of Anabaptism. We learned about the journey of faith, conviction and transformation in living out God's Word.

* June - Our speaker for the first three Sundays in June was Ted Ewing, who spoke about principles of building the church and the Great Commission. Rob Arner gave examples of events and patterns in the Old Testament which were repeated or echoed in the life and ministry of Jesus. The Fifth Sunday Day of Service included a service at Harborview, yard work for the Reiffs and partnering with Bridge of Hope to prepare and freeze meals to benefit six families experiencing difficult times.



* July/August - Church picnic at Lost Acres Ranch on August 3. Soccer Camp was held for two weeks and Karen's Place sponsored Monday night outdoor concerts.

* September - We said Bon Voyage to Gideon and Madison Youssef. We had collected funds to benefit their trip, taking assistance to the Coptic Christian Church of Cairo and an orphanage called The Mother of Peace. The Fifth Sunday Day of Service included a worship service at Harborview, cleanup around the church and prayer garden, and a car wash.

* October - We met on October 19 around tables to discuss two of the Beatitudes and share about how they speak to our lives. Speakers that month were Josh Meyer from Everence, Franco Salvatori and Joel Horst Nofziger, who listed three basic principles of Anabaptism: obedience, peace and hospitality.

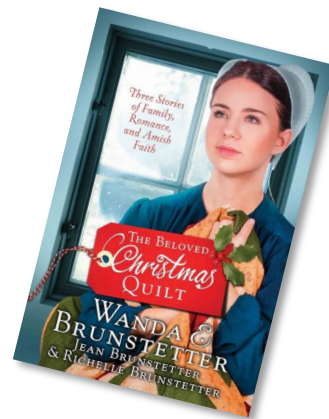
* November - On November 5 we began what is intended to be a monthly community meal called The Sharing Table. Participants included a variety of our community members. Members of the congregation shared around the table and helped with other tasks, such as providing and serving food. Our Thanksgiving service took the form of a Table Fellowship. We had challenging messages brought by five different speakers, including our own Mark Reiff. Mark told us to trust the one who says, "I Am" and not be afraid.



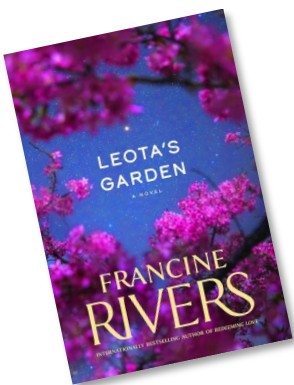
* December - Another Sharing Table meal was served on December 3 - a delicious menu ending with attractive desserts. On December 7 our speaker was Colin Ingram and on December 14 we were "snowed out". Eight people went caroling in Don and Kathy Heckler's neighborhood on December 17. On December 21, Donna Godshall led in a service based on carols and on Christmas Eve there was our candle lighting service.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Twenty-two books were donated and processed for the library this past year. The Beloved Christmas Quilt began with author Wanda Brunstetter telling about one woman who received a quilt which included "Psalm 31:3: Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name, lead and guide me." The second and third stories follow that quilt and scripture guiding a woman in a subsequent generation who needed direction in her life. I was intrigued that this scripture relates to DMC's theme for 2025.



There are also many treasures in our library including Leota's Garden by Francine Rivers. I am captivated by the characters in the story. Leota can barely manage with meager income and arthritis preventing her from caring for her life-giving garden. She's lonely, misunderstood and abhorred by her daughter, but not dumb. Leota pleads with God to take her home. One day Corban, a university student, came to volunteer some time to help her. He walks with Leota to town because she refuses to get into his fancy car. He ends up carrying bags of groceries for blocks. He spends several hours each week helping Leota with what she needs and actually ends up doing manual labor like digging in the garden and getting his hands dirty. He has a wonderful solution to her problems: a facility where seniors would live in safety and financial security. But his scheme is not to her liking and she expresses it honestly. I am eager to see how that relationship and others develop. How does God lead the different characters?



- Freida Myers, Librarian

KAREN'S PLACE - "Doylestown's only underground Christian Café"

Barbara Chen makes her first visit to Karen's Place on January 17. Barbara is a North Wales based singer-songwriter, crafting songs that blend rich theology with timeless melodies. DMC worship leader Lisa Reiff will open up the show .



Deadline for submitting items for the February issue of News & Views:
January 27, 2026

PARTING THOUGHT

Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

- Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787

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