

NEWS & VIEWS

July 4, 2021

Volume 20 No.7

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Encouraging Discipleship

I hope you have found the encouraging discipleship articles and weekly emails that Sandy, KrisAnne and I have been writing meaningful. Like anything else in life, they are only valuable if they are used. In this case I hope you have been willing to try some of the suggestions that have been given. For the month of July our focus will be on the familiar passage of scripture, **Proverbs 3:5-8**.

Proverbs is that collection of wisdom literature given to guide one and provide a solid foundation for making decisions. Beyond knowledge, wisdom is the art of learning from those who have gone before in order to make good choices in the present. Wisdom is always offered and encouraged, not demanded or commanded. Consider this invitation: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body."

Being summer, this a time when people are going to the beach or enjoying backyard pool parties. When I was about 3 years old, my family went swimming at a friend's house. Though I could not swim, I freely jumped into the pool, trusting my dad to catch me and help me to the ladder. My own understanding was rather limited so I did not comprehend the danger of being in water over my head. My trust in my dad provided me all that was needed to enjoy a day jumping in the pool. I trusted my dad without any reservations or second thoughts.

This is the very invitation we are encouraged to have toward God. We are invited to trust freely and completely. We are invited to trust that God will do what is best for us. This trust must be acted upon. It was my willingness to demonstrate trust in my dad that enabled me to jump off the side and enter the water with great joy. In a similar way, our trust in God must manifest itself in action. We must leave the safety of solid ground and enter the pool of the unknown.

I believe trust can both be learned and practiced. Like any other habit/pattern, the first time one chooses to trust can be scary and feel awkward. In preparing to live into this wisdom from Proverbs 3, I want to invite each one to consider how easily and with what frequency do you trust God? What might be one small way you can practice trusting God? It could be saying a short prayer throughout the day. It could be choosing not to remind someone of something you think is important. It could be letting go of feeling responsible for that thing which only you can do. How else might God call you to trust?

Let's practice trusting God so we can jump in with reckless abandonment and joy!

-Pastor Randy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Gary Garges	7/2
KrisAnne Swartley	7/5
Jim Beyer	7/6
Mia Gidley	7/8
Lorraine Landis	7/11
Cyndi Landis	7/12
Juliano Garrido	7/15
Kaitlyn Jimenez	7/20
Layla Garrido	7/24
Annie Stewart	7/25

Anniversaries

Cesar & Judy Garrido	7/1
Bill & Karen Fennell	7/24
Steve & Sandy Landes	7/26
Kendrick & Janey Garrido	7/29

KAREN'S PLACE

Karen's Place is hosting a series of outdoor concerts on Monday nights in August:

- ♦ August 2 - Eddy Mann Band with Liz Collins
- ♦ August 9 - Patrizsha and the Soultierior Motives World Wide Band
- ♦ August 16 - Sweet Mercy Band
- ♦ August 23 - Obadiah/ Wendy Schettig
- ♦ August 30 - Dana Isles & Facedown/ Paul and Mary Good

FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Several years ago there was dream to build a walking path, a pavilion and a playground here on the church property. God provided the funds and the people power to build spaces to bless our community. The spaces are all used throughout the week by lots of people, as well as the Sandy Ridge Community Garden and the outdoor Prayer Garden.

On Tuesday, July 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, we will meet together to pray in the pavilion and throughout the church property. Wear your walking shoes and plan to be delighted as we listen and discern together how God wants to use these spaces to bless our community.

—Sandy Landes



CARE TEAM REPORT

On the first full day of summer (June 21), the Care Team met via zoom. We centered our discussion around laughter and lament, recognizing the deep impact of the pandemic on our individual and collective well-being over this past year. We laughed together over some humorous encounters we have had recently and we also took time to lament losses. We read the children's book, The Giving Tree, noting the many losses experienced in the story, but also the joy present in the relationships. Psalm 13, written by David, gives us a model for lament as we reflect on the losses of this past year, and return again to declaring our trust in God.

We continue to oversee the Compassion Fund and have in the past year shared some funds with Dale and Beth Nafziger to minister to their neighbors and church family during the pandemic. They are extremely grateful.

-Sandy Landes for the Care Team: Randy Heacock, Freida Myers, Robin Miller and Kendrick Garrido

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

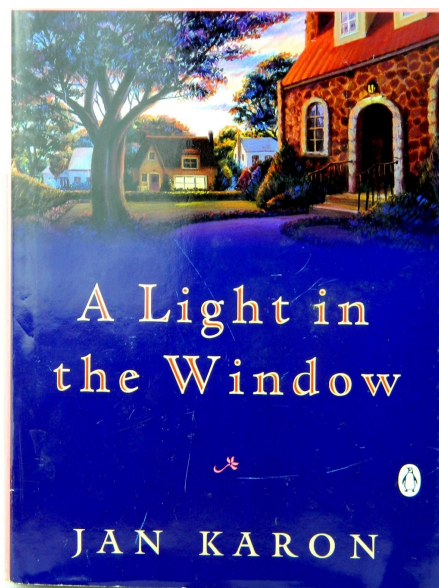
The first fellowship meal in over a year was enjoyed on June 13. Everyone brought their own lunch from home or a place nearby and we all ate together with time to fellowship. The church provided water for everyone. Wind and chill cut short any idea of lingering into the afternoon for games, etc. At least it was a start and we look forward to the next opportunity!



FROM THE LIBRARY

One of our library books is missing: A Light in the Window by Jan Karon. It is the second book in the Mitford book series about Father Tim. It would be wonderful to have this book returned or replaced. Please keep reading during these summer months. It helps if you enter a due date in the back of the book as well as signing out books on the record; that way we know the book is being used and should not be discarded.

-Freida Myers, Librarian



CHURCH PICNIC

We are anticipating the outdoor worship service and picnic on August 8 at Lost Acres Ranch, Creek Road in New Britain. We missed it last year, so we will enjoy it even more!

Enjoy these few photos from our 2018 picnic:



DEADLINE for submitting items to the August News & Views: **July 27th**

PARTING THOUGHT: "Whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he." -Proverbs 16:20

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