

NEWS & VIEWS

July 6, 2025

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Doylestown Mennonite Church



PASTOR'S PEN: Thinking Like Christ

Steve and I were present at DMC on Friday night, June 27, to offer any assistance for a group activity from A Woman's Place. Their young adult volunteers hosted an outdoor movie night in our pavilion. We were welcomed to watch the movie with the families and teenagers present, an enjoyable experience on a lovely summer evening. It was good to see the pavilion and playground being used with enthusiasm!

The movie, *Inside Out 2*, portrays a young adolescent coping with the changes brought about by puberty in her body and her brain. Her relationships go through turmoil as she tries to sort out her identity. One major theme in the movie is her set of beliefs about herself and how her beliefs, her way of thinking drives her behavior. Anxiety plays a big role.

The way we think about ourselves and God is a key part of how we live. Our scripture focus for July is from Romans 12:1-3, where Paul invites us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Our thinking is what guides our actions. In the movie, Riley, the main character, moves from a pattern of thinking that comes from being loved and loving others to a pattern of fear and anxiety due to skewed beliefs about herself. "I am not good enough." "I have to fit in." The movie is worth the watch, no spoiler alert here!

God invites us to take on God's way of thinking, the mind of Christ, so that our beliefs will be aligned with God's beliefs about us. When we submit to God's way of thinking, our actions will reflect a pattern that is an act of worship, just like it says in Romans 12. Because we have all been impacted by sin, we need to be transformed in our thinking. I don't see this as condemnation, but as an invitation to be renewed and restored. God has beauty in mind when he created us and that beauty is reflected in the body of Christ as we offer ourselves in service.

This scripture also says we need to think of ourselves with an honest evaluation based on how much faith God has given us, not to put ourselves up on a pedestal. The text goes on to highlight the value each of us has in the body of Christ, a message we heard so well in June from Ted Ewing.

As we pray during the month of July using the prayer focus of Romans 12, I invite us to consider how God thinks about us. I invite us to turn to God and ask God to direct our thoughts so that we are living out of truth and not lies about who we are.

May we each have our minds transformed by the renewing and transforming work of the Spirit in our midst.

- Pastor Sandy



Birthdays

Jim Beyer	7/6	Kaitlyn Jimenez	7/20
Cyndi Landis	7/12	Layla Garrido	7/24
Rich Sprague	7/19	Annie Stewart	7/25

Anniversaries

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

FROM THE CARE TEAM:

The Care Team (Gary Garges, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes) met on Tuesday, July 1 via Zoom. We opened with a litany of humility that reflects the theme of our current read, Humility Illuminated by Dennis Edwards. We discussed chapter 6 on the ways in which enduring suffering can foster humility. While suffering is caused by brokenness and sin in our world, it often leads to a greater dependence on God. We have seen this demonstrated in DMC participants.

We also reflected on the ways in which the 5th Sunday Day of Service is a challenge for some DMC participants, as we also recognize the value of building relationships while working together. We are curious if there are ways to provide opportunities for more people to participate. Please speak to any member of the Care Team if you have thoughts about this. The Care Team affirms the work Karen Youssef has offered by making frozen casseroles to give to persons in need from our community.

The Care Team offered praise to God and intercession for DMC participants and the Pastoral Search Team as they continue their work. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve together.

- Sandy Landes for the Care Team
(Gary Garges & Freida Myers)

JUNE WORSHIP:



Dr. Ted Ewing was our preacher for three Sundays in June. On two Sundays he listed five principles of body building, the body being the church.

The parts are accountable to the whole, they have to accept themselves and each other, they acknowledge their need of each other, and they care for and support each other. On the third Sunday he spoke to us about the Great Commission.

On June 22 we welcomed an old friend, Rob Arner, who is now a seminary professor. He showed us examples of events and patterns from the Old Testament which were repeated or echoed in the life and ministry of Jesus.



KAREN'S PLACE: *Doylestown's only Underground Christian Café featuring live Christian artists & bands*
Karen's Place outdoor concert series will again be held each Monday night in August from 7 to 9 pm.

5th SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE:

On June 29, our Fifth Sunday Day of Service took us to three places:

Church Service at Harborview

Our group of eight led a service, attended by around a dozen or so residents. They appreciated for the music, scripture and Sandy's message. They were happy to introduce themselves and were very responsive when asked to share their own stories.



Giving a Lift

Dave & MaryLee Chittick, Janice Wyble, Jim Beyer and Steve Landes spent the morning with Debbie Warren at her home. We boxed up extra clothes, shoes and books to be donated to a thrift store. We also pulled up carpet in a bedroom in preparation for new flooring. What a blessing to be able to work together at a task that can be a bit overwhelming when tackled on your own. We

recently heard several messages about the church being like a body made up of a lot of parts with each part having an important role and function. We together serve the head who is Christ. May we all be as quick to receive as we are to give, in this way exercising the body to become one in Christ.

Cooking Project

Six gourmet cooks made meals for 6 families who are participating in the Bridge of Hope program. Bridge of Hope BuxMont, headquartered in Souderton, is an organization whose mission is to support single mothers and their children facing homelessness, providing safe, sustainable housing and helping to develop strong, resilient families. We prepared 20 nutritious meals that included cookies home-baked by talented bakers in our congregation. A good time was had by all!



FROM THE LIBRARY:

Book review - Secrets of the Cross Trilogy

Elizabeth Musser has written this trilogy as a historical novel with accurate detail about the Algerian revolution to win their independence from France. Book 1, *Two Crosses*, happened in the 8 years, prior to when Bill and I were working in Algeria under MCC. We heard stories of the blood shed during those years. The book gives us examples of how lives were effected on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. She uses families separated, children smuggled to an orphanage, friends helping strangers and lovers. By the end of the book, I felt like the characters were people I knew. The book is hard to put down as the Christian values and political loyalties are tested in the many twists this story goes through.



Book 2, *Two Testimonies*, and book 3, *Two Destinies*, are next on my list to read. They will then be available in the church library. Since we spent 1965-1968 in Algeria, these books are probably more exciting to me. I do recommend *Two Crosses* to anyone who enjoys historical novels and details about the lives of people living through a long, bloody revolution.

- Mary Leatherman

PARTING THOUGHT

Create a clean heart for me, God;
put a new, faithful spirit
deep inside me.

- Psalm 51:10
(Common English Bible)



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submitting items
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