

# NEWS & VIEWS

July 3, 2022

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN—

It is hard to imagine that we are halfway through 2022. In conversation with other pastors, it is evident that many believe we are living in tense days. There are so many flash points of conflict and tension. The sheer mention of politics, mass shootings, inflation, January 6 hearings, Supreme Court decisions can cause many to feel anxious. These and more confront us daily on social media and news outlets.

The one thing of which I am convinced is our 2022 theme of searching for the source. I wish to remind us of the complete text from which this theme is based. Jeremiah 17:7-8 declares "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."

More than ever, I see our 2022 theme as a gift from God so that we seek to build our lives on a solid foundation. Since social media is so good at throwing phrases, imagery, and articles at us, we need to continually search for God as our sources. We need to be cautious not to rely on teaching, understanding, traditions, and history but keep trusting on God alone for our peace.

Notice the promise given to those who rise above the tension and conflict to trust in God. Fear will not over take them and their leaves will remain green in the heat of the day. Those who trust in God will continue to bear fruit. I have witnessed this fruit in those who keep their eyes focused on God rather than focusing on the challenges of our day. I see continued hope, love in action and peace that passes understanding.

At this mid-way point of the year, I encourage each one to take a sabbatical from all the concerns/ tension that grabs one's attention. Ask God to draw and direct you back to Jesus, the source. What daily practice might God call you to so that you keep searching for the true source throughout the year?

-Pastor Randy

2022 theme:  
**Searching for  
the Source**

*"like a tree planted by the  
water that sends out its  
roots by the stream"*

-Jeremiah 17:7-8



## 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 COFFEEHOUSE

On Saturday, June 25 from 11am - 6pm, Karen's Place held a benefit in support of John Accunzo, a strong supporter of Christian musicians, who has recently suffered serious illness and consequent loss of work. There were 17 vendors and 5 performing artists. Although the attendance was less than expected, the event went well and raised over \$2,000. Additional donations are welcome and can be given by check made out to Karen's Place and handed to Don Heckler.

Karen's Place outdoor concert series will be held again this year, each Monday night in August from 7-9pm.

## CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met via zoom on June 21. We welcomed Aimee Gourley as she discerns the call and opportunity to join the team. Our Biblical focus was John 11:38-44 where Jesus comes to Martha and Mary after Lazarus died. He tells them they will see the glory of God. We thought about how we see the glory of God. We talked with Aimee about responsibilities of Care Team members and asked questions. We talked about the compassion fund, how it is used and also that Everence provides matching funds. Sandy is working on updating the mental health handout which should be available soon. Several apps, a book title, and contact information have been added or corrected. Sandy reported some visits with those who are home-bound and encouraged others to visit them as well. We joined in prayer for individuals and our Mosaic Conference leaders. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, in person at DMC.

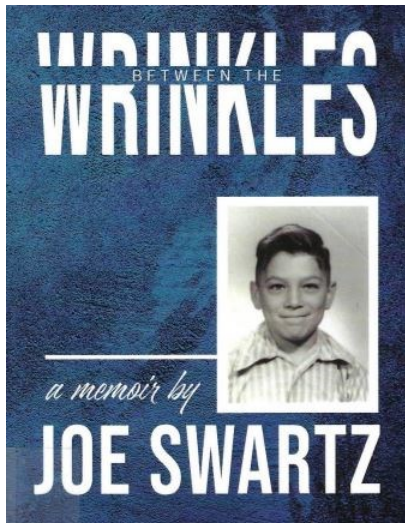
-Freida Myers for the Care Team (Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Robin Miller, Freida Myers)

## CHURCH PICNIC

We are anticipating the outdoor service and picnic on **August 7** at Lost Acres Ranch, Creek Road in New Britain. Here are a few pictures from last year's picnic:



## FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY— Book Reviews



Joe Swartz almost died when he was born two months prematurely. His parents told him all about this in detail when he was eight years old. Joe accepted Jesus as his savior about a year later.

Gayle Roper's Foreward in this book summarizes this memoir in a wonderful way: "It's fascinating when we look back on our lives to see the turning points, many of them not recognized at the time. Only the long view reveals their importance – and God's hand in them. In Between the Wrinkles, Joe Swartz gives us a chance to reflect with him on all those large and small turning points that made him the person he is. As I read this memoir, I was struck by several things: He has the wonderful blessing of growing up in a strong family who loves each other and the Lord. He trusts Jesus at a young age and follows Him consistently through the years. He marries well and loves his family well. He falls into elder care 'by accident,' led by the Lord each step of the way. His faith life and work life are balanced by his family life and love of sports and music. He is always willing to seek counsel, the Lord's and that of leaders who can teach him to be a better business leader and a better Christian. When things are difficult, he works harder, prays harder, and trusts harder. As I finished Between the Wrinkles, I found myself looking back on my life and my own turning points. I see with fresh eyes God's hand in the ordinary and unexpected. Through Joe's story I am reminded of the beauty of abandoned life, abandoned to God, to family, to service. Enjoy and be blessed. I certainly was."

I'm always reluctant to reveal details of any book or movie for fear of divulging how the plot line progresses and the adventure comes to its ultimate end. Only God could conceive and direct such an intriguing, interesting, challenging series of adventures and opportunities for Joe's life. If you read it quickly at a highly-speeded-up rate similar to a time-lapse film, it almost looks like riding the world's wildest, longest roller coaster. Reading it like the almost daily journal that it is, savoring each moment as it happens, and thinking about each person who comes into Joe's life and how he thoughtfully gives them credit for the opportunities and assistance they give him gives you a deep appreciation for all of the many ways our omniscient, omnipresent, loving God cares for us. Joe had a wonderful, amazing career and, even in his retirement, is still loving God and caring for people.

-Karl Strauch

PS – Memoirs such as this one by Joe make me wonder if I should ever try to write one. It would include many moments when God taught me lessons using other people and things in ways I could understand, such as miraculously winning a demolition derby 50+ years ago ...



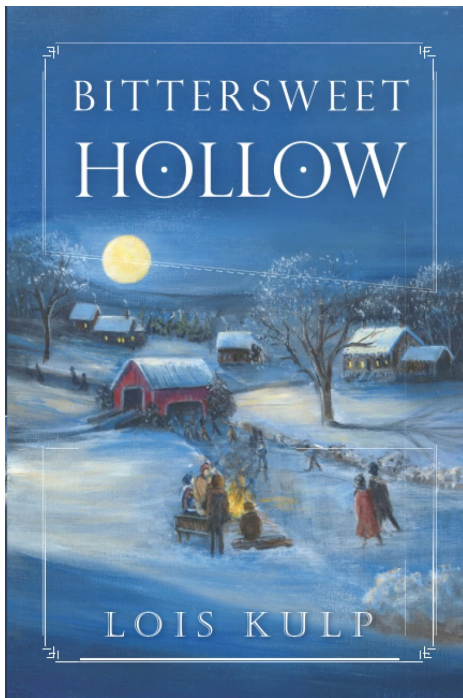
... and driving a race car for 9 laps on the 2.5-mile-long Pocono Raceway at speeds up to 150 mph last week at age 80. I'm constantly in awe of how much God loves us.



## BOOK REVIEWS CONTINUED

On Sunday we were challenged to write something about how we were influenced by the faith training groups. One month we focused on forgiveness; another month it was using our gifts. This coincided with my reading Bittersweet Hollow by Lois Kulp. Autumn is a young woman who is an excellent piano student. Her teacher insists that she play at his concert. She has just lost her mother and learned that her sister is terminally ill. She goes to the piano but cannot perform, leaving in tears, terribly embarrassed and shamed. She vows never to play in public. Autumn can't forgive her teacher and refuses to share her gift of piano playing. I really enjoyed this recent addition to our library and was intrigued by the way the author uses her story to show the impact when a person does not forgive and also does not share her gifts.

-Freida Myers, Librarian



## FROM OUR EVERENCE REPRESENTATIVE

The Everence mission statement is: "We help people and institutions integrate their faith and values into their financial decisions to accomplish their stewardship goals." When you work with Everence, you're making a difference in the lives of others. You're living out your values through responsible money management, and giving back through unique community investing, grant-making and charitable giving programs. Our members are real, inspiring people—like you—who are walking along their financial, health and other stewardship journeys, each and every day of their lives. We believe our investment choices can reflect our values and make a positive impact on communities around the world. It is a process and a practice that we call stewardship investing.

Our members provide financial support to those in need, through the Everence Sharing Fund. It's one of the unique ways we support each other and our communities. We offer grant programs, scholarships and awards to help build up local communities and celebrate inspiring acts of stewardship around the corner and across the country. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we all work toward a shared tomorrow. Check out the many ways the Everence community is multiplying their impact in the communities and lives we share.

Everence has many services available: Financial planning, Insurance, Asset Management, Charitable giving, Personal checking and savings, consumer loans, Mortgages and home equity loans, Business banking and loans, Digital banking, and Credit and debit cards. For more information, check the Everence brochure on the bulletin board or contact Karl.

-Karl Strauch, Cell: 607-738-1140 E-mail  
STLMADMEN@aol.com

## REMEMBERING DORIS GARGES

After her birth on December 28, 1931, Doris Baum grew up in Plumstead Township. After she was married to John Garges they made their home only a few miles away in Hilltown Township on part of the family farm. There she raised her sons Dean, Jay and Gary.

She was a faithful member of our church and enjoyed serving as Sunday School secretary, on the library committee, and ladies' sewing circle. Later she worked in the Pennridge High School in the food service department, and volunteered for the Care & Share Thrift Shops. She enjoyed baking and tending to her vegetable and flower gardens.

We celebrated her life on April 19 at a memorial service which included favorite hymns and scriptures and a moving tribute from one of her sons. We remembered a life well lived.



**DEADLINE** for submitting items to the August News & Views: **August 9th**

### PARTING THOUGHT:

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him,  
and he shall give thee thy heart's desires;  
commit thy way unto him, and trust in him,  
and fret not thyself because of evil doers.

O rest in the Lord.

(Quoted by Felix Mendelssohn from Psalm 37)

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