

NEWS & VIEWS

May 7, 2023

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Many of you have asked about the song I sang on Good Friday. It speaks of trusting God's Presence in the midst of struggle and failure and overwhelming circumstances that seem impossible. I'm including the lyrics here. May you find meaning in them, as I have. -Pastor KrisAnne

"Highlands" by Benjamin Hastings & Joel Houston

O how high would I climb mountains if the mountains were where You hide
O how far I'd scale the valleys if You graced the other side

O how long have I chased rivers from lowly seas to where they rise
Against the rush of grace descending from the source of its supply

'Cause in the highlands and the heartache You're neither more or less inclined
I would search and stop at nothing; You're just not that hard to find

Oh, I will praise You on the mountain; I will praise You when the mountain's in my way
You're the summit where my feet are so I will praise You in the valleys all the same
No less God within the shadows; no less faithful when the night leads me astray
You're the heaven where my heart is, in the highlands and the heartache all the same

O how far beneath Your glory does Your kindness extend the path
From where Your feet rest on the sunrise to where You sweep the sinner's past

And O how fast would You come running if just to shadow me through the night
To trace my steps through all my failures and walk me out the other side

For who could dare ascend that mountain, that valleyed hill called Calvary
But for the One I call Good Shepherd who like a lamb was slain for me

Whatever I walk through, wherever I am
Your Name can move mountains wherever I stand
And if ever I walk through the valley of death
I'll sing through the shadows my song of ascent

From the gravest of all valleys come the pastures we call grace
A mighty river flowing upwards from a deep but empty grave



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Cindy Strauch	5/3
Sam Reiff	5/4
MaryLee Chittick	5/6
Angel Mejias	5/8
Bill Fennell	5/9
Kendrick Garrido	5/13
Jennifer Gidley	5/13
Michael Gourley	5/19
Lois Myers	5/24
Junior Brodie	5/25
Bonnie Leatherman	5/26
Sara Faye Moyer	5/27
Sally Landis	5/31
Garry Landis	6/1
Cami Garrido	6/5

Anniversaries

Mike & Coleen Ryan	5/9
John & Sally Landis	5/26

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 7:00-10:00pm, October through June.

May 6 – Face Value

May 20 – Basic Connection

June 3 Hawaiian Night – The Eddy Mann Band

CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on April 25 via zoom. Randy Heacock, Aimee Gourley, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes were present.

Our biblical focus was Matthew 5:1-12, the Beatitudes of Jesus, which tied in with our conversation about vulnerability and authority, two seemingly opposite ideas. Our book study, Strong and Weak, centered around suffering and

withdrawal, two places people find themselves in life. We suffer when we are vulnerable with little authority to take action and we withdraw when we see ourselves with no authority and we are unwilling to take risks.

A few questions we pondered: How do we encourage people to live with a sense of authority that leads them to a life of flourishing even in the midst of difficulties? Where are we tempted to withdraw rather than take risks in serving and walking with others?

The Care team is open to having conversations with anyone who is seeking to further their own walk of discipleship with Jesus and is curious about what it means to live a life of flourishing. We also prayed for our congregational members who have particular needs. We give thanks for the many and varied gifts which are being offered for the kingdom of God through DMC. We will meet again on Tuesday, May 30, 7 pm.

-Sandy Landes for the Care Team

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday on April 16 featured Spruce Lake Retreat. Mark Swartley brought a challenging message on grace, then reported that the long-awaited project of building cabins for campers in the wilderness camp is about to begin. Sandy led in a prayer of blessing for Mark and Jackie as they continue their work for the ministry of pointing people to Christ. Sixteen cabins are planned, each having comfortable sleeping space and an indoor bathroom, making year-round camping possible. When this project was initiated several years ago, our congregation was interested in sponsoring one of them. No doubt we will soon hear more!



CHURCH LIBRARY

Please check out one of the eight new books being added to the library. Let me know if you will write a short review for an upcoming newsletter.

Angel in Aisle 3 – a good challenging read

The Awesome Secret Life of God in a Man: The Memoirs of Andy Leatherman

The Elephant and I by Mark Kimmet – a challenging adventure hiking the Appalachian Trail

The Elephant and I on the Colorado Trail by Mark Kimmet—another trek by Elephant and Noodle

Deeper than African Soil by Edith Eidse – growing up as a “Third Culture Kid”

No One Will Ever Know, A Journey through Abuse by Jill Waters

From Where I Stand: My Life’s Story by Paul W. Brubaker

Amber of Steeplechase by Lois Kulp, a novel

-Freida Myers, Librarian

learning more about one another. In addition, this was a huge blessing to Kathy and Denny’s family. Each of Denny’s siblings commented that they don’t have the type of connections to put together a work group. I am blessed to be a part of such a kind, caring, and giving church community.



FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE

Our service took us in three directions,

1. Worship service at Harborview in Doylestown. Seven of us led in singing, scripture reading and prayers and a message, followed by a time of visiting with the residents. They were responsive and appreciative, eager to tell their own stories.
2. Yard work at the home of Lucy DeJesus. Randy writes that nine people went and enjoyed weeding and mulching for about two hours, On Tuesday evening five people spent another two hours doing the same. It was a fun time.
3. Working at a house in Ephrata. Sue Bartels writes:

A huge thank you for the sixteen volunteers who came out to help clean up my sister-in-law’s house in Ephrata. We accomplished so much in the midst of rain showers- demolishing a shed, painting the pantry, fixing a ceiling fan, cleaning the house top to bottom, and cutting up a neighbor’s couch to name a few things. However, the best part of was the comradery, the laughter, working together and



Deadline for submitting items for the June News & Views: **May 30th**

PARTING THOUGHT:

Christ has no body here but ours; no hands, no feet here on earth but ours
Ours are the eyes through which he looks to this world with kindness
Ours are the hands through which he works, ours are the feet on which he moves
Ours are the voices through which he speaks to this world with kindness.
Through our touch, our smile, our listening ear embodied in us, Jesus is living here.
So let us go now, filled with the spirit, into this world with kindness

--Brian McLaren, from a prayer attributed to Teresa of Avila

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