

NEWS & VIEWS

November 5, 2023

Volume 22 No. 11

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

As we quickly head toward the end of another year, Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. For many, these holidays are steeped with tradition. Often these traditions only change when a death forces something new to happen. Many of us know that patterns and habits are hard to change

Though hard, I believe God is inviting us to develop new patterns. During the Sunday School hour as we have been discerning what God wants DMC to be about, I have repeatedly heard two themes identified. We have discussed that it is hard to listen. Alongside of this, we have owned that many are not comfortable being vulnerable/appearing weak

Like any new pattern or habit it can be hard to do or be different. There are many reasons we find it hard to be vulnerable. For some there is a fear of being judged or considered weak. It is not pleasant feeling weak or unable to help one's self. Often when we feel weak or vulnerable, listening is the last thing we do because we do not want others to know of our struggle. Consider what is recorded in 2 Corinthians 2:9-10. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power^l is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

Paul shares this as part of his prayer when he asked God to remove a thorn in his flesh, which without being specific, was clearly some type of struggle.

Like us, Paul wanted God to remove the obstacle/struggle. Noticed the outcome however was quite different. Paul listened to God's response "my grace is sufficient". I doubt this is what Paul wanted to hear but he listened in that Paul altered his own outlook. Paul trusted God's declaration that God's power is made perfect in weakness. In other passages Paul talks of boasting in weakness.

In our world of power this is a complete oxymoron. Faith in God demands we live in tension of two incongruent experiences. God not only suggests a completely different way of viewing weakness/challenges, but that such can become strength and opportunity to more fully experience God's grace. Hence Paul declared for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. Weakness was not seen as a personal reflection about Paul but an opportunity for God's power to be made evident. God transforms our weakness/inabilities into God's creative power.

The next time you feel weak or inadequate, remember it is not what others think about you but what God's grace can do. Are you willing to try forming a new habit of listening to God and trusting that God's power is made real in your weakness? This could make for a great Thanksgiving!

- Pastor Randy



COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Dennis Bartels 11/1

Zachary Schwabe 11/21

Marge Swartley 11/25

Anniversaries

Mike & Aimee Gourley 11/11

Ray & Marge Swartley 11/27

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

"Doylestown's only underground Christian Café" recently celebrated its 25-year anniversary. Coming soon:

- November 4 – The Ally J Band
- November 18 – Dana Isles & Facedown
- December 2 – Chip Mergott

FROM KRISANNE SWARTLEY

Dear DMC family, I just wanted to say a special thank you for the gorgeous little dogwood tree that we finally got planted about two weeks ago. It is thriving in this warm fall weather, and every time I see it, I think of all of you with love and fondness. Special thanks to Joyce Zuzack for delivering it and helping Jon plant it! It is the perfect enduring gift of life to symbolize our journey together. All my love, KrisAnne



WE LOST ONE

The beautiful lady pictured with her husband Pedro is Lucy DeJesus. She passed from us on September 30 and her funeral service was held here on October 9. We miss her enthusiastic presence in our worship service and Sunday School class. She loved to praise Jesus. For her funeral service she had chosen favorite hymns, and scriptures. She was remembered for her love of serving people with food and interest in what is happening in people's lives.



FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team, (Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Aimee Gourley, and Freida Myers) checked in briefly on October 24, but postponed their meeting until Tuesday evening, November 14.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team

LOOKING TOWARD THANKSGIVING

The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on November 22. We will gather in the fellowship hall for simple snacks and sharing around tables. Look for more details in the bulletin.

FROM THE LIBRARY

A Christmas shelf is to be set up soon. Please check out one of those books or another of your choice. There are many excellent selections on each shelf.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

FIFTH SUNDAY DAY of SERVICE - Sunday, October 29

People volunteered at one of three places.



1. Worship at Harborview. A group of nine led a worship service for the residents at Harborview, with singing, scripture readings and a message. When a Bible was offered, several people asked for them.

2. On Sunday, Pinebrook hosted the Pocono Disc Golf Club at 10 am for a round of disc golf on our course. It was a rainy day but we did play. Sandy, Blanche and I served lunch once the round was over. This was a great opportunity to spend time with a couple of the guys that play regularly. Danny and his family along with Joe enjoyed sausage and lentil soup and Blanche`s yummy chocolate cake. If you look closely you will recognize Tim as well; he has settled in nicely at Pinebrook. -Steve Landes



3. Nine people led by Judy Garrido went to the home of a woman with physical disabilities in Bedminster. She needs to prepare her property for sale. At times there was a drizzle but they were able to work. They did outdoor cleanup, lawn work and tree trimming, and also cleared out an old shed. She was very grateful.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Who is that pleasant person answering your calls to church or sending you those e-mails? We never see her but we see her work. To help us get to know her a bit, Kristine introduces herself:



Hello, Doylestown friends, and thank you for the kind welcome and friendliness you've extended to me! Since taking the office manager role at the end of July, I've had the pleasure of meeting and talking to a number of you. But obviously since I don't attend DMC, we're at a disadvantage in getting to know each other, so hopefully I can write a few words here to dispel the mystery! I was born and raised in the Lansdale/Harleysville area, graduating from Dock and Messiah College with a BA in English. Despite that degree, my vocational journey has been pretty broad, with jobs in pet care, accounts receivable, softball coaching and for 23+ years, Christian radio, just to name a few. I got to know Pastor Randy as a co-member of the Mosaic Conference staff, and came to DMC after almost 10 years as their administrative/communications associate. Currently I also hold a part-time admin job with a communications focus at Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, and I clean my church – Bridge Community Church in Lansdale – just to stay well-rounded, not to mention very busy!

I've lived in Souderton for almost 20 years, and my immediate family is all fairly local to eastern/central PA. At home I have two "kids" (most would call them cats) – Tucker & Ramona – who are my favorite people in the world! When I'm not spending time with them or working, I'm very active at my church, running sound for the worship team and serving on various outreach projects and mission trips. I'm a huge sports fan, optimistic about the Eagles, disappointed in the Phillies and wrapping up a long NASCAR season. I don't travel a lot, but when I do, I love visiting Alaska or one of our national parks (just returned home from Zion & Bryce Canyon a few weeks ago) ... but as vacations are few and far between, I enjoy local day hikes or just walking around town, doing audio & video projects and metal detecting; if you've lost anything, let me know!

I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on! As a reminder, I'm in the church office Mondays and Fridays, 9 to 1, and also do work for DMC from home on Wednesday mornings – drop me a note if I can be of assistance: Kristine.McClain@doylestownmc.org.

PARTING THOUGHT:

Wait on the Lord, be of good courage; he shall strengthen thee. The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I fear.

- Lillian Bouknight (from Psalm 27)

**Deadline for
submitting items for the
December News & Views:
November 28**

Pastor: Randy Heacock

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care: Sandy Landes

sandylandes1311@gmail.com

Doylestown Mennonite Church

590 N. Broad Street

Doylestown, PA, 18901

Phone: 215.345.6377

dmc@doylestownmc.org

Newsletter Editor: Lois Myers

Phone/Fax 215-794-8327

myersfm@juno.com

Office Administrator:

Kristine McClain

kristine.mcclain@doylestownmc.org