

NEWS & VIEWS

November 3, 2024

Volume 23 No. 11

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN: Forget Not

I often forget. I forget things like peoples' names, stopping on the way home from work for an errand, the details of events, passwords, etc. I am sure you can remember times you have forgotten something!

☺ It is certainly part of being human in our culture today when we have so much to carry in our brains. The writer of Psalm 103 states it so clearly in verse 2, *"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits."*

The opposite of forgetting is remembering. I like to sit with people as they remember what has happened in their lives. I enjoy the stories; some are stories of suffering and some are stories of joy, nevertheless as we remember these stories and retell them, they help to give meaning and shape to who we are. We can begin to look back and remember what God has done and anticipate that God will continue his work.

What helps you to remember? Sometimes other people help us to remember. How many times has another person reminded you of something you forgot? Visual reminders such as notes or photos are ways to help us to remember a person or a task. Celebrating birthdays and anniversaries are rituals that help us not to forget the value of relationships in our lives. Telling our stories to each other and recounting events from our lives gives us opportunities to reflect on all the ways we have experienced life, the difficult and the wonderful. I believe gathering for worship every week is a way to remind ourselves again of God's presence and his work in the world.

The writer of Psalm 103 encourages himself to remember God's benefits. In this season where we celebrate Thanksgiving, we hear the word gratitude often. Perhaps we need to start with remembering God's benefits to encourage our gratitude. "Forget not all his benefits," it says. I don't think it means just the food on the table, or the warm bed, but it goes on to declare God's forgiveness, God's compassion, God's healing, God's patience, and the list could go on because God is infinite and his goodness is beyond our understanding.



And Jesus understands our propensity to forget. In John 14 as Jesus was talking to his disciples about his imminent departure from earth, he encouraged them with these words, *"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."* We are not alone. The Holy Spirit will help us to remember the benefits that God gives us every day. We may be prone to forgetting but the Holy Spirit is good at remembering and is our Helper.

Remembering helps us. It helps us to be still, to trust in God's goodness and to remind us to live in God's grace. Remembering helps us to give glory to God and to lift our hearts and minds in gratitude. May we all remember to "forget not" all God's benefits and to praise the Lord each day!

- Pastor Sandy

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! - Psalm 136:1

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Marge Swartley 11/25

Anniversaries

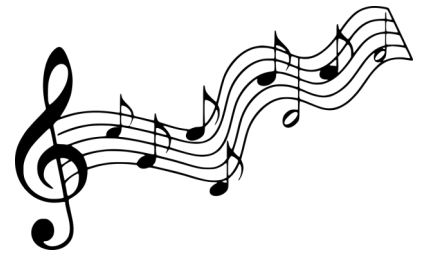
Michael & Aimee Gourley 11/11

Ray & Marge Swartley 11/27



KAREN'S PLACE

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



Coming soon:

- * November 2 – Featured was Vanessa Milanesi, a stellar artist from New Jersey
- * November 16 – Dana Isles & Facedown, a group dedicated to worshipping Jesus and showing the message of hope
- * December 5 – Eddy Mann Band, an old favorite, one of many appearances

FROM THE CARE TEAM

We met on October 1 via Zoom, with our scripture focus on James 4:1-12 and our discussion centered on humility. Sandy encouraged us to watch an interview with Dennis Edwards, sharing some of his insights from the book he authored – "Illuminated Humility". A good discussion followed on what we learned.

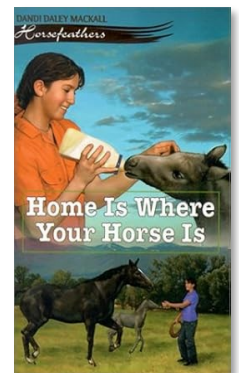
The Compassion Fund usage was discussed and we continue to discern how best these funds are to be used to help various individuals as an outreach of DMC as the needs arise. So far this year, funds were dispersed to approximately eight situations/individuals that were in need.

Time was spent in prayer, remembering many individuals of our congregation and community; also Mosaic Conference/MCUSA, and the current world and national events that are happening. So much we all can remember and bring to our Lord God in prayer.

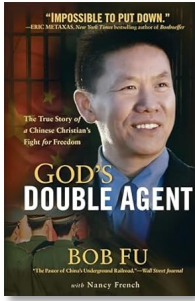
- Gary Garges for the Care Team (Gary Garges, Randy Heacock, Sandy Landes, Freida Myers)

FROM THE LIBRARY

I recently enjoyed reading a fun book, Home is Where Your Horse Is by Dandi Daley Mackall from the youth section. I found Sarah's experiences so heart-warming: a Native American running a small horse farm, bonding with horses and leading them instead of forcing or beating them, searching for her birth mother, and navigating with her faith in a non-Christian setting.



(cont'd on next page)



FROM THE LIBRARY (cont'd)

I am currently reading God's Double Agent by Bob Fu from the autobiographical section. Bob becomes a Christian after reading a tract someone had given him. He was very discouraged after his mother died and the college professor who had been on his side now turned on him, saying he was a troublemaker and an "enemy of the Communist Party which had nurtured him." The professor was no longer going to recommend him for the university. Shortly after becoming a Christian he was led by two agents who required him to "write his confession of involvement" in Tiananmen Square to which he had encouraged other students to protest in 1989. One day he was grabbed and asked if he had written some sort of Bible message on the blackboard at the English department. Bob said he had, and had become a Christian. The response was, "Don't you know that's illegal?" He knew there were state-run churches and didn't understand why it was illegal to join one. "Well, you're a university student, he said, "Don't you know the Communist Party forbids students from converting?" They considered him a counterrevolutionary student leader who was now going around asking other people to join in illegal religious activities.

However, he had committed himself to share his faith with all 17 fellow students. He and Heidi invited each one of them to attend their wedding. Although they only spent \$120 on the wedding, friends provided what was needed for about eighty people including those 17 students. The wedding was a long affair and the preacher delivered a simple presentation of the gospel. All 17 classmates had now heard about Jesus. Bob experienced a lot of suffering including incarceration. During that time when prisoners were not permitted to talk, he started singing a worship song. Gradually the other prisoners joined in the singing after hearing it repeatedly, one even in harmony. The guards put an end to that but then he started "humming." It seems there were several miracles along this road of following Jesus and I look forward to more as I finish the book. I encourage you to read it.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

PARTING THOUGHT: A Look at Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd (that's relationship), I shall not be in want (that's supply). He makes me lie down in green pastures (that's rest). He leads me beside quiet waters (that's refreshment). He restores my soul (that's healing). He guides me in the paths of righteousness (that's guidance). For his name's sake (that's purpose). Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (that's testing), I will fear no evil (that's protection) for you are with me (that's faithfulness). Your rod and your staff, they comfort me (that's discipline). You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies (that's hope). You anoint my head with oil (that's consecration), my cup overflows (that's abundance). Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life (that's blessing) and I will dwell in the house of the Lord (that's security) forever (that's eternity).

- Taken from Psalm 23 NIV, author unknown

**Deadline for
submitting items for the
December issue of
News & Views:
November 26, 2024**

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