

NEWS & VIEWS

November 2, 2025

Volume 24 No. 11

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

MAGA, Democrat, Right-Wing, Liberal, Conservative, Donald Trump, Charlie Kirk, Voting rights, Immigration, ICE, Palestine, Israel, Republican, Christian nationalism, Socialism, No Kings, etc.

Do I have your attention yet? I purposely used labels and words that have lots of emotional responses for some and are frequently used in our news feeds. We attach ourselves to many different groups depending on our response to what is happening in our culture. And we as followers of Jesus may find ourselves following a group. As I read the list, I probably could find some ideas from every single group or label that I listed above that have resonance for me even though I might disagree with some of their practices or ideas.

I understand that we as followers of Jesus want our culture to reflect godly principles and values. There are many different reasons for this, one being the idea that when our culture is more in line with our values, there will be more people who think like us, less conflict, and possibly make our lives easier. We may have altruistic motives and want to see our communities, nation and world experience greater peace and wholeness and a flourishing life of reconciliation with God. I think I understand why we would welcome a culture that reflects the ways of Jesus.

The reality is that we live in a world that reflects a spiritual battle between good and evil. The world uses power, political power, military power, economic power to exert control in every society. When we attach ourselves to these groups who wield earthly power, even in the name of Christ, I am afraid that we are losing our identity as followers of Jesus belonging to an eternal kingdom not of this world.

What if we could broaden the realities of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in the world and listen to our brothers and sisters here and around the world? Can we take the time to listen to people who have a different perspective? Who is Jesus calling us to love despite differences? In what ways is God opening a door for you to widen our understanding of what it means to be faithful to the kingdom, a kingdom not of earthly power but of humble following, of obedience, peacemaking and hospitality as Joel Nofziger preached on Sunday.

I welcome your feedback, your questions, your thoughts. My prayer is that we at DMC can continue to be a people who shine the love of Jesus to all people without coercive power, but with humble trust.

- Pastor Sandy

**COMING UP :
SOME SPECIAL
DATES**

Birthdays
Marge Swartley 11/25

Anniversaries
Ray & Marge Swartley 11/27



THE SHARING TABLE

On Wednesday, November 5, we will host **THE SHARING TABLE** - a community meal to benefit members of our area who may need food, companionship and encouragement. It is planned to be held the first Wednesday of each month. We have the opportunity to assist with the work and share around the table along with our guests. Judy Garrido will be happy to hear from anyone who can participate.



KAREN'S PLACE

"Doylestown's only underground Christian Café" recently celebrated its 26th anniversary.



November 1 - Fan favorite **Dana Isles and Facedown** from Southern New Jersey are dedicated to worshiping Jesus and sharing the message of hope. Gathering together from all walks of life, DIFD began almost 20 years ago with college friends learning how to play guitar together. Moving on to bass, drums and songwriting, the band has released four cd's - three of which are original music.

Check the bulletin board flyers at DMC for future Karen's Place events.

OCTOBER WORSHIP



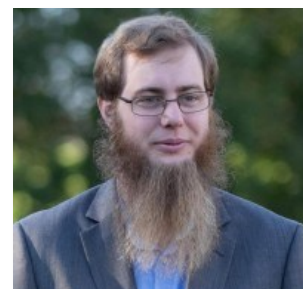
October 5: Our speaker was Josh Meyer from Everence. He spoke from Proverbs about wisdom and well-being, and honoring the Lord with our wealth. He pointed out that many people in the world have no access to clean water, a pair of shoes, a place to sleep or a change of clothes.

October 12: We heard from Franco Salvatori about how the context changes our view of an event. There is a way to look righteous but be a thief. God calls us to the outrageous, selfless displays of love shown by Jesus.



October 19: We met around tables in the fellowship hall to discuss two of the beatitudes and share about how they speak to our lives.

October 26: Our speaker was Joel Horst Nofziger, who spoke about the Anabaptist commitment to following Jesus. He listed three basic principles of Anabaptism, being obedience, peace and hospitality, and gave examples of how this had been lived out through the years.



A FEW LINES OF POETRY

Inspired in worship October 26 2025

Calling to the crowd
Humming songs of God
Uniting people around world
Running to the Lord gracefully
Chuckles through the air
Humble sounds of breathing

Inspired while sitting on a bench watching Glenn Wyble mow the grass

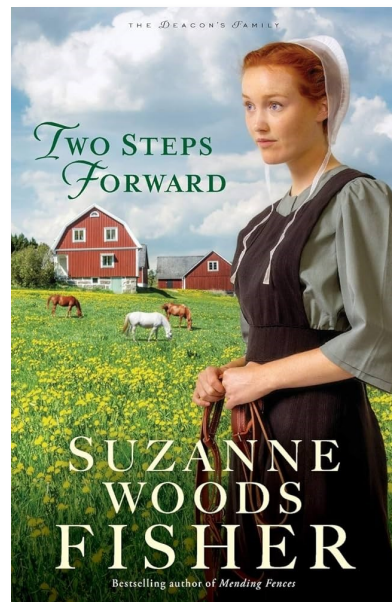
Been walking down the road
Everywhere people have seen
Near a graveyard
Clunking lawnmower blades
Hovering over grass

- Jeffrey Buckwalter

Might we have some other poets among us? We'll wait and see.

FROM THE LIBRARY

I am reading Two Steps Forward, a new library book by Suzanne Woods Fisher. I am intrigued by an incident near the beginning of the book. Bishop David comes to talk to Deacon Luke, who had been a juvenile delinquent. The bishop says that the way Luke set about making amends in the last few years was life changing. David says he thinks the church community should do the same: fence mending, paying back what had been borrowed ... no, he is not just talking about money. What about time and words, grudges. As they part, David quotes, "If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (pp 52-56). I am eager to find out whether there might be a revival in this Amish community?



- Freida Myers, Librarian

PARTING THOUGHT

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

- Jesus (Matthew 7:21)



Deadline for submitting items
for the December issue
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Doylestown Mennonite Church
590 N. Broad Street
Doylestown, PA, 18901
Phone: 215.345.6377
dmc@doylestownmc.org

Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care: Sandy Landes
sandylandes1311@gmail.com
Office Administrator: Kristine McClain
kristine.mcclain@doylestownmc.org
Newsletter Editor: Lois Myers
Phone/Fax: 215.794.8327 | myersfm@juno.com