

NEWS & VIEWS

October 4, 2020
Volume 19 No.10

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

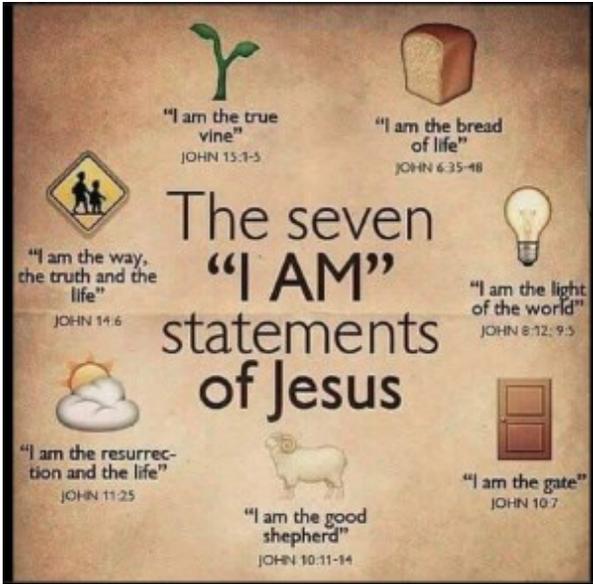
As I listened to KrisAnne's sermon of September 20, I was encouraged by her call to feed on Jesus as the bread of life. I want to invite us to focus on Jesus as this year winds down. While this sounds like a very typical thing for a minister to say, I want to call us to discipline ourselves to focus on the life and teaching of Jesus as we walk this road of 2020. In a period in which chaos surrounds us, more than ever we who claim to be followers of Jesus are invited to be guided by him.

Whether it be racial tension, the fear of contacting/spreading COVID, political debate, economic uncertainty, education for children, and an unknown future, it is easy to fill our minds and invest our energy in addressing these things. I would echo what KrisAnne said, that more than ever we need to feed of Jesus, the bread of life.

To help keep us from being distracted, for the month of October and November sermons on Sunday morning will center on the "I am" sayings of John's gospel. We will study such things as "I am the light of the world" and "I am the good shepherd." I pray this will help us to intentionally center ourselves in and on Jesus. As part of this theme, I want to encourage each one to reflect on how they have experienced Jesus as the true vine or any of the other "I am" sayings. It is as we personally encounter Jesus in this way that these teachings can deepen their meaning.

As you hear troubling news, read a disturbing post, or recognize that fear/worry is seeking to reside in your mind, allow that to serve as a reminder to feed on Jesus as the bread of life. While our sermons will cover all the "I am" sayings, it may be helpful to focus on one that really speaks to you. Reflect on how God has been this for you to encourage your own faith in Jesus. Please feel free to share your experience with others. While I and KrisAnne will preach, may each of us give witness to the living presence of God walking with us each step of 2020.

Pastor Randy



COMING UP...SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Dean Bartels	10/6
Glenn Wyble	10/6
Heidi Swartley	10/8
Sierra Ryan	10/9
Hannah Zeo	10/9
Mike Ryan	10/10
Freida Myers	10/17
Lisa Reiff	10/19
Mumtaz Bonyad	10/20
Abram Landis	10/21
John Landis	10/24
Karl Strauch	10/28
Ron Miller	10/31
Nancy Heacock	10/31

Anniversaries

Angel Mejias & Sandra Maldonado	10/3
Garry & Cyndi Landis	10/12

KAREN'S PLACE

Karen's Place will be "live streaming" our events for now. We will not be open to the public, however, we will continue to have events and live stream them so you can watch them live or at your convenience. Links will be posted on our web site and our Facebook page. We hope soon to be able to open our doors to the public. Thank you for your understanding.

October 3 - Mark "the Happening Hebrew" Pearl.

Mark will be singing his Messianic Jewish music praising our Lord and Savior. Also appearing will be Liz Collins. Watch live at 8 pm or check our website or Facebook page for link.

FOR CHILDREN

Children are now invited to the basement after the opening songs of our Sunday morning worship service, for some special activities.

The children's ministry and the worship service conclude at the same time.

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team resumed our meetings from a short summer break and met on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. We discussed the following items:

We opened our meeting with prayer and a reading from John 6:35-40; we studied this verse in church the previous Sunday. We discussed the challenge as far as the media and where we get our information from. There is a balance as we need to be informed, however we agreed that we need to be fed with God's word to transform our minds. Regarding our conversations we will not always agree but need to listen and be respectful of one another. We may disagree, but we need to love and care for one another regardless of our position on certain topics.

We reflected about the recent Stewards of Children training and talked about the importance of trust along with strong policy. Additionally we spoke about the Mental Health survey that will be distributed and how the results may lead to further knowledge transfer for our congregation. How we care for folks who have mental illness or addictions and how we ourselves can ask for help and be willing to receive help.

We have a standing agenda item at each meeting to discuss compassion fund needs. Additionally we prayed for our congregation and for church members in need.

Our next Care Team meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Robin Miller for the Care Team

FROM THE LIBRARY: BOOK REVIEWS

SENSIBLE SHOES by Sharon Garlough Brown

I have always claimed to be not much of a “for fun” reader. But, last year, before my diagnosis, when Kris-Anne recommended a women’s Sunday School class involving studying a book, I felt overwhelmingly led to join. I am forever grateful that I did. The timing of this book and our class was purely “A God Thing”.

The book began with flowing glimpses into both the formative past and the current day lives of each of the four main characters. Even the style of the book made it easy to follow with italic printing when stories were memories and simple titles so you knew which character was being referenced. Immediately I was drawn to each character and identified with little unique pieces of their lives.

Some things I empathized with, like Hannah’s exhaustion as a pastor who has always put others’ needs before her own, and Meg’s loneliness as her daughter went away to college. Other things I felt convicted of, like Charissa’s need for perfection and working harder to attain her goals, and Mara’s weight and rejection from past guilts. Every woman (and probably man) has at least a bit of each character in them. As these four women’s paths cross, they are guided by a retreat leader who models for them how to seek out their purpose and their peace as they begin to grow unintentionally closer to each other and as a result much closer to God. The story behind the title is woven through the story, beginning with one of the first interactions of the four main characters.

You will forever be reminded of this book when choosing the footwear for your next journey of life. There were chapters where I laughed so hard that I would cry, and pages where I cried so much that I thought I was dehydrated, so I recommend keeping a box of tissues handy when exploring this treasure, and ALWAYS wearing Sensible Shoes.

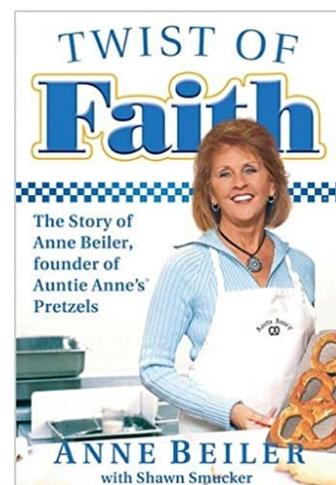
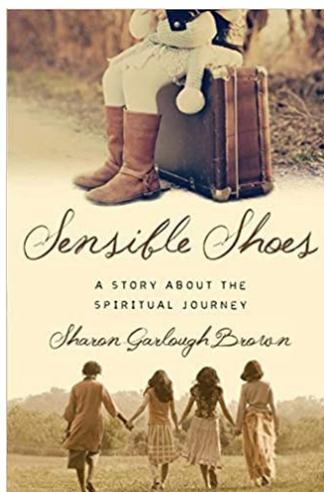
There are other books in this series which I haven’t yet explored. Despite not being much of a “for fun” reader, I DO plan to explore the next books soon. Especially since reading **Sensible Shoes** felt more like I was watching a spiritually recharging Hallmark Movie than studying for a Sunday School class discussion.

By Heather Zeo

TWIST of FAITH by Anne Beiler

I have eaten Auntie Anne’s soft pretzels over the years and they are very good! So, I decided to read this book because it is the autobiography of Auntie Anne’s Pretzels’ founder, Anne Beiler. I had heard she was from Lancaster and had a Mennonite background. I expected it to be about how she started the company and its growth over the years. I was correct that the book included these facets of Anne’s life - she’s a remarkable woman who built a very successful business in less than 20 years. However, I did not expect to read about a life that included heartache, brokenness, and a church split. I appreciated Anne’s openness and transparency in recounting her story. She did not sugar-coat any of it and was honest about the events of her life. She openly shared about her own pain, shortcomings and brokenness. Anne states that bringing sin and brokenness into the light helps to remove the shame. Secrecy allows shame to get a fester and flourish. I believe the sermon on September 27 focused on this concept as well. Anne allowed God’s love and redemption to transform her and in sharing openly she hopes others will allow God to do the same for them. I suggest you read the story about the “Pretzel Lady” and see how God’s amazing love worked in her life amidst the sorrow and brokenness as well as the wealth and success. Let me know if you read the book because I would love to chat with you about it.

By Nancy Heacock



REMEMBERING RUTH

Ruth Hart left us on August 22 at the age of 92. Her family and friends met for a funeral on September 19. She was remembered for love of gardening and animals, her hard work, loyalty, a life of service to her family and church, always positive and cheerful. She enjoyed playing games and was always ready for a game of dominos with anyone who came to visit. A woman who visited in their home as a child under the Fresh Air program, which brought inner city children to visits in the country, shared her experience and how it influenced her life ever since. She maintained contact with Ruth, occasionally visiting in person.



DEADLINE for submitting items to the November News & Views: October 27th

PARTING THOUGHT:

I hunger and I thirst; Jesus, my manna be!
O living waters burst out of the rock for me!
O true life-giving vine, let me your goodness prove.
By your life sweeten mine, refresh my soul with love.

John S. B. Monsell, 1866

Pastor: Randy Heacock

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

Prayer Minister: 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

Minister of Worship & Administration:

KrisAnne Swartley

krisanne.swartley@doylestownmc.org