

NEWS & VIEWS

September 1, 2024

Volume 23 No. 9

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN: The Art of Listening

God has blessed us with several senses with which to learn from our environment, touch, taste, smell, seeing and hearing. We use these senses every day, often without even thinking about it. Perhaps when we struggle with hearing or seeing well, we are more aware of how valuable these senses are in our daily lives.

The sense of hearing is related to the art of listening because we need the physical ability to hear what another person is saying to listen to them. However, I would suggest that we also need our heart and mind to listen to another person. It is not always an easy task to really listen to the other, particularly when we might disagree with them or think we have advice to offer. There are many times when listening involves paying attention to a person's body language, their tone of voice and countenance.

I have been challenged by a billboard in my travels on 309 these last few months with a photo of two girls who look like twins with their backs to each other and their heads together, with the tag line: *"The other person might be right."* LISTENING I really appreciate this message because it is a reminder to consider the perspective of others. Randy will be sharing a series of messages this month on the posture of humility with the purpose of

encouraging us to live in dependence on God, demonstrating a Christ-like attitude as we interact with others. Listening is just one of the ways we demonstrate humility. As we listen to each other, the invitation is to listen with a goal of understanding rather than just formulating my response to what they are saying. I have noticed that listening with compassion and kindness builds a sense of community with my neighbor. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we stop to listen to the other person, we will be open to learning. We may have to set aside our agenda to be more fully present with the other person. One place we can all start is to learn to listen to ourselves and to identify what we are feeling and thinking. That may help us to love our neighbor well too.

As we go through this season of elections and change, the encouragement for us all is to practice loving our neighbors as ourselves through the art of listening. No, we will not always agree, but the very act of listening well to the other may be a spiritual practice that helps us lean into God's love for our neighbor. May the posture of humility be evident in our relationships as we share life together.

- Pastor Sandy

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Aimee Gourley 9/7
Sue Bartels 9/17
Janice Wyble 9/20
Don Heckler 9/24
Joyce Zuzack 9/25
Betty Good 9/28
Dean Bartels 10/6
Glenn Wyble 10/6

Anniversaries

Mark & Lisa Reiff 9/15
Angel Mejias & Sandra Maldonado 10/3



KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, September 21, 2024 Doylestown's only underground Christian Cafe hosts a special annual event - Christian Musicians Against Child Sexual Abuse, produced by Battle4Children & Souled Out.

Welcoming two artist categories, which include :

Singer/songwriters category

Bethany Hanchett (Poughkeepsie, NY)
Julia Schmidt
Christian Simpson

Bands/worship team category

Clayrock7 (Bucks County, PA)
Delivered (Willingboro, NJ)
Mr. Weaverface (Bernville, PA)

After hosting an outdoor concert series on Monday nights in August, Karen's Place re-opens on October 5 to celebrate our 26th year with the band Red Words!

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met in person on August 27. After an opening prayer we looked at Colossians 1:9-11 as our biblical focus. We thought about the people God is putting on our hearts. We asked how we can recognize when we have been given the knowledge of God's will. A good mindset helps. Or considering our will in the situation versus what may be God's will. We each took responsibility to write a note of encouragement to one person.

The Care Team job description includes the following: "They will seek to support and encourage the pastor as part of a team approach, as this team is seen as an extension of pastoral work." Having a team to support the pastor gives greater discernment and confidence in working at difficult issues.

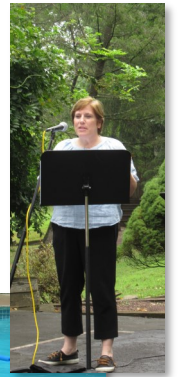
We talked about how we have recently used funds from the Compassion Fund, and when it might be most helpful to someone in the future. We closed our session in prayer for about eight individuals/families who are aging or having other struggles. We plan to meet via Zoom on Tuesday evening, October 1.

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

CHURCH PICNIC

On August 4 we gathered at Lost Acres for the annual church picnic. The weather was warm and cloudy but without rain, except for a sprinkle during Randy's sermon – he assured us that it would stop, and it did. "Lunch" did not disappoint, as usual.

The cooks at the grill prepared hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. The meat was supplemented by various salads and desserts, topped off by a beautiful cake. The pool and a bean bag game were enjoyed by some, while others were happy just to visit around the tables.



FROM SOCCER CAMP

Soccer Camp was held on two Saturdays, August 10 and August 17. Approximately 20 children learned and practiced soccer skills at each season of Soccer Camp. They were attentive to the Bible application lesson, and almost all returned with the scripture verse memorized; an awaiting prize helped provide motivation. It was good to see familiar faces from previous years, as well as new ones.



Many parents expressed appreciation for this opportunity for the kids. Meaningful interactions and connections also occurred between adults present and DMC people. As the pizza was given to the kids, it was good to be able to share with the adults as well.



We give thanks to God for the success of the camp and the opportunities it provided. Those involved, and who helped make this work were coaches Kendrick, Derrick, César, & Kirk Garrido (behind the scenes work), Kyle Brucker, and Steve Ewer. Assisting with registration, snacks, lunch, shirts, memorization, and prizes were Cami & Ale Garrido, Kathy Heckler, Karen & Gideon Yousef, and Judy Garrido.

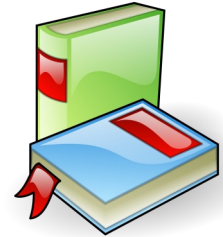
SENIOR PICNIC



Nineteen seniors enjoyed a pot-luck picnic on August 11 at the home of Lois and Freida Myers. The weather was all that could have been desired. The fellowship was delightful and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. (Sorry for the folks who have yet had that 65th birthday.)

FROM THE LIBRARY

We have a wonderful treasure in our church library which has been built over many years. There are books for all ages and interests. About thirty books have been donated and added to the library this year, including into the Bible/Bible study, biography-memoir and fiction sections. There are many in the Christian life section and the Anabaptist history/Amish section, plus a few in the sections for men, women, family, retirement, and prayer. Feel free to make suggestions or offer donations.



- Freida Myers, Librarian

PARTING THOUGHT

Give us strength to love each other,
Every sister, every brother,
Spirit of kindness, be our guide ...

- Marty Haugen, 1988

Deadline for
submitting items for the
October issue of News &
Views: **October 1, 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