

NEWS & VIEWS

September 6, 2026

Volume 25 No. 9

Doylestown Mennonite Church



PASTOR'S PEN: What is DMC Becoming?

As summer comes to an end, we who are part of DMC are anticipating God will continue to work among us and help us to become who God is creating us to be ... Even without a lead pastor, I have seen how God is doing a work among us as we continue to follow Jesus day by day. We are still the body of Christ in this place and time. I want to encourage us to look for the ways we see God at work in us and around us. Here is a partial list of what I see:

- Three groups gathered on Sunday to offer service to communities both near and far, a group prepared cards and gift bags for the children in Egypt, a group served in Allentown at Big Brothers, Big Sisters and a group worshiped with the residents at Harborview and Neshaminy Manor in Doylestown.
- We continue to gather for worship together with a variety of preachers and music leaders, both DMC volunteers and guests with the congregation sharing warmth and openness to all. Those serving in this capacity have shared with me how welcome they feel here.
- A small group of DMC volunteers and friends have organized and invited people to a community meal on the first Wednesday of the month, The Sharing Table. It has been well-attended and enjoyed by visitors and DMC participants alike.
- The Sandy Ridge Community Garden has had an abundant harvest this summer and has found creative ways to share it with food pantries, DMC and The Sharing Table.
- The students in our congregation have a person committed to pray for them on a regular basis and to encourage them.
- Volunteers serve in our congregation in a wide variety of roles, nursery, prayer ushers, sound and tech support, flowers, MLT team members, PST team members, worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, Care Team members, greeters, music leaders, intercessors, trustees, and all the ways we care for others. What did I miss?

(This space is blank for you to write in what you see God doing in us.)

I have been reading a book by Kevin Burrell, Considering Sparrows, and he writes about an epiphany he had as a youth pastor a long time ago driving on a country road to visit some students. He realized this was the place and time God had given him in which to love God and his neighbor. This is the place and time God has given to us. What are we becoming in this specific time and place? I believe what I see is a reflection of God's abundant grace as we continue to live out the mission of following Jesus and being faithful in the everyday and ordinary.

This verse encourages us to stay in relationship with Jesus as he does his work in us: "*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*" Philipians 1:6

- Pastor Sandy



Birthdays

Sue Bartels 9/17
Janice Wyble 9/20
Don Heckler 9/25
Joyce Zuzack 9/26

Anniversaries

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

**COMING UP:
SOME SPECIAL
DATES**

FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

The Pastoral Search Team (PST) continued its work throughout August, meeting three times during the month. As always, our meetings begin with prayer and reflection on what we are hearing from members of the congregation as we continue to discern what Doylestown Mennonite Church needs in its next pastor.

This month, the team reviewed, discussed several potential candidates, and moved forward with an interview with one candidate. Following the interview, the team spent time in prayerful discussion and discernment and ultimately decided not to move forward in the process.

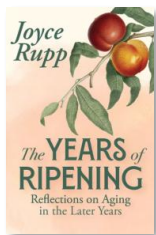
We also received some questions from the congregation about how Mosaic Conference supports churches during a pastoral search. We reached out to Noel for additional perspective. Since Mosaic Conference left MC USA, congregations no longer have access to MC USA's primary database of prospective pastoral candidates, and even prior to that change, the number of candidates actively listed had become fairly limited.

Mosaic is in the early stages of developing its own database. In the meantime, the broader landscape of pastoral leadership is changing. Increasingly, congregations are identifying leaders from within their own communities or through relationships with seminaries and pastoral preparation programs. Mosaic is also developing pathways such as the Ambassadors Program, Mosaic Institute, Preaching Cohort, and other opportunities that help individuals gain experience, formation, and training as they discern a possible call to pastoral ministry.

While the search continues to require patience, the PST remains committed to prayerfully and thoughtfully considering each opportunity. We are grateful for the congregation's continued prayers, questions, feedback, and encouragement as we move through this process together.

- Susan Bartels and Joyce Zuzack

FROM THE LIBRARY: The Years of Ripening, by Joyce Rupp



Joyce Rupp offers a warm and thoughtful look at the later seasons of life. Through gentle reflections, personal stories, and meaningful questions for contemplation, she encourages us to embrace both the joys and the challenges that come with growing older as well as the physical facts of our bodies aging.

I especially appreciated the gentle, hope-filled perspective that runs throughout the book. Rather than dwelling on what aging takes away, Joyce Rupp reminds us of the opportunities it offers for deeper faith, greater compassion, and continued spiritual growth. I found her reflections both encouraging and reassuring.

Whether you are experiencing these years yourself or walking alongside an aging loved one, this book offers comfort, encouragement, and hope. I believe many in our church family will find it to be a meaningful and worthwhile read.

AUGUST RECAP

CHURCH PICNIC



On August 2 we gathered in our pavilion for the annual church picnic. The service was led by Karl, and Wendy Schettig led us in singing. Derrick gave us a message and then we prepared for "Lunch", which did



not disappoint, as usual. Front and center was the roast pig. After that there was a long table loaded with various salads and other dishes, topped off by delicious desserts. There were a few games for

those who wanted to participate. The garden was available and a number of people enjoyed checking out the vigorous growth. There was plenty of time for good fellowship and enjoying the pleasant weather.

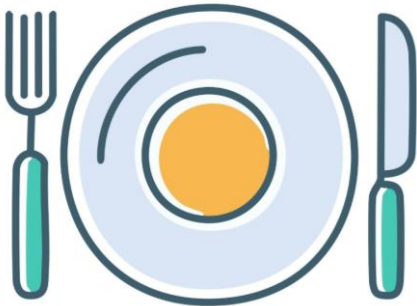
SOCCER CAMP

This year, soccer camp was held on Saturday, August 1 and 8 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Boys and girls ages 7-14 of all skill levels were welcomed. The soccer session also included time for a scripture lesson and lunch. Their coaches knew how to make it interesting and fun.



SENIOR PICNIC

Twenty-four seniors enjoyed a potluck picnic on August 9 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.



THE SHARING TABLE

On Wednesday, August 5, The Sharing Table was again open. Those who came were served generously with another delicious menu. Leftover food was packed up for taking home. A nice group attended but there was plenty of room for more.

KAREN'S PLACE - Doylestown's only underground Christian Cafe

After hosting an outdoor concert series on Monday nights in August, Karen's Place reopens on October 17 to celebrate the 27th year of coffeehouse ministry. Watch the bulletin board for more information!

AUGUST WORSHIP

August 2 - Our worship at the picnic was led by Karl, singing with Wendy Schettig and a message from Derrick, followed by time for fellowship before the meal.



August 9 - Rob Arner came with another message from Isaiah. He said that some people have confusion about the unity of scripture—but quite simply the central point of the Bible is Jesus. During his ministry he often referred to Moses, the prophets and psalms as they spoke about him, and that everything written about him will be fulfilled.



August 16 - Thomas Dressler talked about weakness and strength. We try to hide our weaknesses, but we need to see our weakness through God's eyes. Through it his strength is revealed. There are three steps: acknowledge our weakness; talk to God and ask for his point of view; and ask him how he wants to use that weakness for the glory of his kingdom.

August 23 - Rob Arner had a message from Isaiah with consolation for the doubtful. He said that faith is not just head knowledge, but placing our trust. He illustrated it by showing his sky dive. The diver has to not only believe in his head that he can safely dive but has to put his body into it and trust that he will be safe. Doubt can be turned into growth when we trust God, who seems to be hidden from us. He was hidden in Jesus: the only way we can bear his presence is for him to be hidden under a veil. We need to look at Jesus to see him.



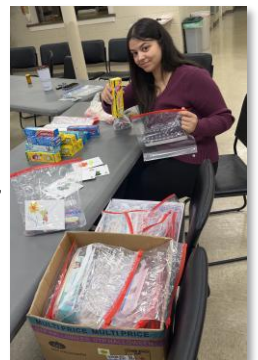
August 30 - Service Sunday - A group of ten people went to Harborview Rehab and Care Center to lead in a worship service for the residents. Derrick brought his children, which the residents enjoyed. Karl led the service, Jeff shared some of his poems and Derrick had a message based on the 23rd Psalm. The residents appreciated the music and a number of them shared freely.

Also, 11 volunteers gathered at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley. There was truly something for everyone to tackle—from defrosting a freezer, installing ceiling tiles, to assembling a Cricut cabinet, labeling supplies, cleaning kitchen cabinets, and completing a variety of other projects around the building. Many hands made light work, and we accomplished a great deal together! Just as importantly, the morning was filled with great conversation, laughter, and camaraderie. We are grateful to everyone who gave their time and talents to help care for a space that serves so many young people and families in the Lehigh Valley.

Back at DMC, a team of six people gathered around tables to put together care packages for the children at the orphanage that Maddy and Gideon will be visiting on their trip to Egypt in a few weeks. Included in the packages were toiletries



(toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant, etc.) as well as a little money, lollipops, candy, sticker sheets, and bubbles. When Gideon makes a currency exchange, he will provide a little money to give the children for spending money. The team also put together cards and put inside some great encouraging messages and handmade decorations. Over 50 care packages and cards were made!





FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met on August 4 at DMC. We read Psalm 139 which begins: “You have searched me and know me.” You, God, created me in the womb, and know my thoughts before I think them. We continued discussing Kenneth C. Hauck’s book, Christian Caregiving. Chapter 7 challenges us to think about touching spiritual depths. The author notes that our society is spiritually impoverished. How might we encourage someone to talk about their spiritual needs? Perhaps the person is suffering and this affects how he or she views God. The author provides some cliches to avoid, like “Don’t worry, God loves you.” We also want to avoid a “know-it-all” attitude. Sandy reported some recent visits and plans for discussions during the Sunday School hour about aging and end of life. We shared in prayer for some experiencing challenges. Our next meeting will be September 1.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team, including Sandy Landes and Gary Garges

The Care Team (Freida Myers, Gary Garges and Sandy Landes) met again in person on Tuesday September 1. We read and reflected on the story of Jesus healing the boy who was being thrown into the fire with convulsions by a demon. Jesus healed the boy and gave him back to his father, whole and well. It is a picture of holistic healing, spiritual, physical, social, etc., not just for the boy, but for his family. Our topic of discussion centered around the many ways we experience healing and need care as humans. God sees the whole person and offers a holistic salvation. We talked about our congregation as caregivers as we offer friendship, meals, financial help, prayers, emotional support and other ways of showing care. It is a gift to be a part of a caring community. We prayed for several people who are going through challenging experiences as well as the MLT and the PST. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 29 at 4:30 pm. Please know the Care Team is always available and willing to meet with an individual/family who need prayer and care.

- Pastor Sandy

PARTING THOUGHT

We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 6:10

Deadline for submitting
items for the October issue of
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