

NEWS & VIEWS

October 4, 2026

Volume 25 No. 10

Doylestown Mennonite Church



PASTOR'S PEN: Welcoming the Stranger

At our Table Fellowship in September, we spent some time reading and discussing the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19. The theme of welcoming the stranger is throughout the Bible and here Jesus demonstrates what it looks like to offer a warm invitation to someone who we believe was on the margins because of his unethical tax collecting. Jesus actually invited himself to Zaccheus' house that day, going out of his way to help Zaccheus feel known and loved. Spending time together around a table and sharing a meal is a significant way to learn to know someone. Our conversation centered around times when we have felt welcomed by God and others. How did that experience unfold and what were the actions and words that communicated welcome to us? When Jesus stopped and invited himself to the home of Zaccheus, he was taking a risk and crossing a social boundary. Jesus took a risk as it were because Zaccheus was probably hated by his community. He was not welcome.

So our conversation on September 20 also invited us to think about who are the people who might feel like they are "up in a tree" and not belong or not feel welcomed in our congregation, in our neighborhoods, in our communities, in our country? Can you identify people you have met or even noticed where you live and work? The conversation we shared around the tables on September 20 was not just about making people feel welcome when they join us for worship, walk on the DMC property, attend the Sharing Table or Karen's Place, but it

is a conversation to nudge our hearts towards the "strangers" we meet everyday.

What does it look like to have a welcoming attitude towards the "other"?

- the undocumented individual seeking safety and a home for their family
- the person with a disability who wants to find a place to belong
- the single mother who struggles to make ends meet and parents alone
- the lonely person waiting at the bus stop needing a conversation
- Who else comes to your mind? When are you the stranger who needs to be welcomed?

We started the Table Fellowship with a question about God's welcome to each of us. In John 15, Jesus reminds his disciples that he chose us first. God has taken the first step in welcoming us into his loving presence and now God has given us the model of Jesus welcoming Zaccheus. We each have the opportunity to offer welcome to the stranger. It is the love of Christ that moves us to this kind of lifestyle. How will you follow this call? Please feel free to speak to me if you have further thoughts or questions about this.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

- Pastor Sandy

**COMING UP:
SOME SPECIAL
DATES**

Birthdays

Dean Bartels 10/6
Glenn Wyble 10/6
Mike Ryan 10/10

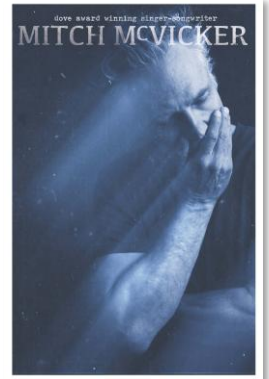
Freida Myers 10/17
Lisa Reiff 10/19
John Landis 10/24
Karl Strauch 10/28

Anniversary

Garry & Cyndi Landis 10/12

KAREN'S PLACE

Karen's Place celebrates its 28th anniversary on October 17, featuring Dove Award-winning artist Mitch McVicker. His newest album is called "Where the Earth Makes No Sound", focusing on God's involvement in our lives. The celebration includes prizes and giveaways.



November 7 brings us Lisette Shaffer for her first appearance at Karen's Place. She is an accomplished singer, guitarist and worship leader who has recently blossomed into writing and recording her own songs. She plans to play coffeehouses up and down the East Coast in coming months and will be our worship leader on November 8.



On September 26, Karen's Place and Souled Out Coffeehouses hosted the Battle4Children Summit, focusing on awareness and action against child abuse.



The Sharing Table was again open on September 2 with more delicious food and a good number of people in attendance.



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP



September 6 - Our preacher was Rob Arner with a message from Isaiah 49:1-13. He pointed out that fear and distrust are rooted in sin, selfishness and pride, the root cause is Satan, the Devil. "Devil" means "divider" but God's nature is community/relationships. God wants to rescue his creation by healing relationships.

September 13 was Music Sunday with Donna Godshall. She led ten songs which had been chosen by members of the congregation. There was one special number and we ended by singing, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".



September 20 - At Table Fellowship we visited over breakfast foods and talked about what makes us feel welcome. We looked at the story of Zacchaeus, how he and Jesus welcomed each other, then talked about how to be a welcoming people.

September 27 - Rob Arner had us back in Isaiah chapter 55: "There IS Such a Thing as a Free Lunch". He listed about seven times in a day when people might have food, for both pleasure and satisfaction. We should be giving thanks every time we eat. The ultimate food is God's word personified in Jesus, but we must RSVP, it is only available for a limited time, today is the day of salvation.



UPCOMING MISSION TRIP

On October 10-21, Gideon and Madison Youssef plan to visit Egypt, Gideon's home country. They will be going to the Coptic Christian Church of Cairo with relief supplies and also bringing food assistance to an orphanage called The Mother of Peace, as well as assistance for pastors. They'll take along over 50 care packages that a group prepared on Service Sunday, August 30, to send with them. We're looking forward to hearing more about this trip!



FROM THE LIBRARY

We have a section in the library called Death, Dying, Grieving (aging). The books have an orange line on the binder. It would be a good time to check out books that might relate to our Sunday morning conversations in October on aging and end of life. One example is The Years of Ripening by Joyce Rupp which was reviewed by MaryLee Chittick last month.

Do you have a favorite book or author, and why? With over one hundred books added in the last four years (most of them donated), the shelves are full. Let me know if you think any books should be removed or have another to recommend. I look forward to your suggestions or offer to review a book for the next newsletter.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

FROM THE COMFORTER PROJECT

So far this year, 68 comforters were taken to Material Resource Center in Harleysville: 22 on January 22 (12 from 2025), 23 on May 7, and 23 more on September 30. Around 33 different women were involved in 18 knotting parties of four to six women, coming from once to six times. Several of them have been from our church but most were other friends or neighbors and the friends they bring with them. They enjoy visiting with each other and some have found interesting connections with those they hadn't met before. Several members of the County Line Quilters have come, and the guild also donated fabrics for the cause.



Deadline for submitting
items for the November issue
of News & Views:
October 27, 2026

PARTING THOUGHT

Don't neglect to open up your homes to strangers, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it.

- Hebrews 13:2 (CE)

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