

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PASTOR'S PEN -

INCARNATIONAL LIVING – Being Jesus' presence in the world

Hopefully by now, most recognize this as my 2019 preaching theme. This both excites and challenges me. I am often perplexed at God's choice to solicit and even depend on human cooperation to carry out his will. Just as God risked sending Jesus into the world long ago, he continues to risk by inviting us to carry on Jesus' ministry.

One of the things John 1 declares about Jesus is that he dwelt with us. Jesus entered and engaged the world as it was known then. I am really struck by the imagery of Jesus living/residing in this world. The suggestion is that he put down roots in a specific time and place. Though he never sought to build an earthly empire, there is no doubt that Jesus was known as living in a particular context. He was known by his parents and from what region he hailed. These are evidence that he lived/dwelt in the world.

Often Christians use language that this earth is not our resting place but rather we are just passing through. While this is accurate, we are simultaneously called to genuinely live in this world, putting down roots. We are called to live in our specific context of time and place in order to make known God's love for the world. It is im-

possible to make known God's love to people with whom we do not connect.

I wonder how well we have done at living in our specific context of time and place. How well known are we in our communities? To what extent do people know us? For what are we known? As the little children flocked to Jesus, could the same be said of us?

Do not be discouraged as you consider these questions, rather pray about this, asking God to enlighten us as to how we are to live/dwell in this world. Where might God be calling you to live for a while?

-Pastor Randy

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Ellen Schade	1/1
Lester Heacock	1/8
Janey Garrido	1/13
Alverda Landes	1/13
Judy Garrido	1/14
Heather Zeo	1/18
Peg Freed	1/25
Donald Derstine	1/31
Dorothy Wartko	1/31
Isaac Garrido	2/1
Jon Swartley	2/4

ANNIVERSARIES

David & MaryLee Chittick	1/25
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KAREN'S PLACE

Doylestown's only Underground Christian Café. Open on the first and third Saturday nights, 7:00 to 10:30 featuring live Christian artists and bands. No admission charge.

January 19 - BLUE - Juliana Schnee. Juliana hails from Lancaster, a 23 year old singer-songwriter who is all about jazz and Jesus. She taught herself piano and ukulele and began writing songs at age 11. By 16 she released her own cd, since won awards for her songs and is now working on a new project.

FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Our theme for 2019 is Incarnational Living: Being the presence of Jesus in the world. What does it mean for us to dwell in the world and to be the representation of Jesus, even if that means going out of our comfort zone at times, trusting that God is at work in relationships and encounters? Do you take this seriously and are you willing to be intentional to seek out those ways God is inviting you to participate in his desire to reach out to the world?

You are invited to take advantage of the prayer ushers and ask them to pray with you about this idea of dwelling in the world and specific ways God is giving you opportunities. The prayer ushers are available every Sunday* and will pray confidentially with you about anything on your heart.

*Beginning in February, the prayer usher ministry will be available every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. This change will reflect our desire to offer this opportunity to our Second Sunday visitors, but also to offer another option for prayer ministry to regular participants. The prayer usher ministry will continue to be offered in the same space, the prayer room next to the sanctuary. Consider the ways you may explore this opportunity to pray with the prayer ushers in the coming year!

Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

FROM THE LIBRARY

A book review

MIRACLE IN SHREVEPORT, by David and Jason Benham

Twin brothers David and Jason grew up in Texas with dreams of playing baseball and an even bigger trust in God. What was it like to wake up with someone who looks like you, talks like you, walks like you and thinks like you?

Their Dad's love for baseball came from his father's love of the game. It was something they could share together as father and son. Their Dad played backyard waffle ball and catch many a day with them and the neighborhood kids. Their love and dream for baseball continued in high school, college, and hoping to make it in the big leagues. Their parents were always supportive of them.

Every summer as they vacationed in Georgia they passed by the Shreveport Captains' stadium, and their Dad would tell them, "That's where the big leagues play and that's where you'll play some day." He encouraged them to pray earnest prayers and dream big dreams. They both did get to play in minor and major league teams and in the Shreveport stadium. At twenty-two the time came when they needed to go separate ways. They had done everything together: played on the same team, slept in the same room, had classes together, had the same friends and drove the same car.

You'll find this book very interesting as you follow the brothers in their life of baseball and their deep commitment to Christ.

-Janice Wyble

REPORT FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met for our monthly meeting in December. The November meeting was postponed due to some schedule conflicts. Robin Miller shares a scripture focus from Luke 6:27-42, the teachings of Jesus to love our enemies and to treat others with kindness and respect. We pondered two questions: How do we see others? and How do others see us?

Our book study, Presence Based Leadership, led us to a discussion on hearing the voice of the Shepherd. We discussed ways we sensed God's leading us in decision making and what are some of the barriers to hearing God's voice.

As a care team we are grateful for the generosity of the congregation in giving and we administer the Compassion Fund to meet specific needs as they come to our attention. Everence matches these opportunities and this past year we were able to receive matching funds up to \$3,000 back into the Compassion Fund. We are also delighted to report that Nancy Heacock is now our Everence representative.

As a care team we always spend time in prayer for specific concerns and giving thanks to God for the ways we see God at work in the life of DMC. Please know that we are open to praying with anyone around specific needs or those in a process of transition. Feel free to speak to anyone on the Care Team to arrange this.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 28, 7:30 pm.

-Sandy Landes for the Care Team -

Randy Heacock, Robin Miller, Kendrick Garrido, Freida Myers, Sandy Landes.

From Ronda Histand

You Promised

Where are you, Lord, why have you abandoned me?

Why were we so close, and now it's like I don't know you at all?

You said I was your and You had plans for me that would show me

how much you loved me.

I know that I got caught up with my own stuff sometimes.

I know I ignored what you asked of me.

I really was trying to live my life and get the things I wanted.

I know I haven't been a good friend, but why did you leave me?

You promised so much.

I did promise you so much

I walk with you everyday and everywhere, so when you call on me

I will be right there.

I want to share with you all that I am, so I gave you my word and the

Holy Spirit.

You are my dear child, whom I formed with the greatest of care and for

whom I have the greatest of plans, if you follow me.

I have been patient while you do your own thing.

I have been saddened by how meaningless the things you want are.

I haven't left you, my dear friend, I was right there waiting.

Waiting for you to see all the ways I have done just as I promised.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Wednesday evening, December 13, a group met at Don and Kathy Heckler's house to go caroling in their neighborhood. A group of six was formed to sing at the houses along several streets around their house. People who answered the door received a Christmas card with an invitation to our Christmas eve service. Afterward, the singers enjoyed a visit over hot chocolate and cookies at Don and Kathy's house.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS EVE

This year an advent display on the front table depicted the "Branch of Jesse" from Jeremiah 33:14-16. We reflected on how God is faithful in keeping His promises, and how they were fulfilled in Jesus. People were invited to take a tag and add prayers to the tree in the foyer. The children sang for us on Sunday morning. On Christmas eve the Christ candle was lit within the four advent candles, more carol singing and the candle-lighting service followed.



REMEMBERING

A look at a few highlights reported in News & Views during 2018:

- January -Pastor Randy had surgery on both knees; others filled in for him during recovery
- Phase 2 of the outdoor project presented to the congregation at the annual business meeting. Plans include a pavilion, swing set and play area
- The community garden was filling up with many returning gardeners, who planted the first crops in early April
- The trustees presented plans for air conditioning parts of the building
- Christian Zeo began participating in a ministry internship program called, "Vocation as Mission"
- A learning session about the "Five Wishes" book dealing with end of life issues was held in June with Carlene Myers. Later, Jeff Buckwalter had a session on understanding the medical path.
- The Peace Works Camp sponsored by Doylestown Presbyterian Church was held in our building during the weeks of July 30 and August 6
- Soccer Camp was held in our field on two Saturdays, July 28 and August 4
- Church picnic at Lost Acres on August 5. The service focused on the relationship of fun and faith. People enjoyed bubbles and a photo booth in addition to plentiful and delicious food
- Community Day on October 13 started with rain, which stopped around 9 am when everything was ready. A favorite was the chili tasting booth.
- Mission Sunday on November 4 featured a presentation by Rhoda Keener of Mennonite Women, showing how women are being helped world wide
- History Sunday on November 25 included a look back with memories by long-time members, and a focus on how God has led through the years.

SUSIE CHURCHMOUSE writes:

Christmas is big for me—I love all the singing, especially Christmas eve. This year there was no Golden Agers' Dinner but the senior class brought their own food and enjoyed a fellowship time. After the morning service on New Year's eve there were cookies and punch here in the fellowship hall

DEADLINE: for submitting items for the February 3 News & Views: January 29

PARTING THOUGHT:

God the Invisible appears, God the Blest, the Great I AM,
Sojourns in this vale of tears, and Jesus is his Name.
See the Eternal Son of God a mortal son below,
Dwelling in an earthly clod, whom Heaven cannot contain.
Knees and hearts to him we bow; Of our flesh and of our bn bone

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