

NEWS & VIEWS

June 13, 2021

Volume 20 No.6

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Encouraging Discipleship—Psalm 34:8-14

These are probably some of my favorite verses in this Psalm. The idea that our relationship and connection with God could be compared to a really good meal is fascinating! In our house, the traditional Thanksgiving menu is a favorite. This is a meal when I intentionally cook way more than we need so that we can enjoy the leftovers all week long- extra turkey and gravy, extra mashed potatoes, extra stuffing and green beans. The smell of thyme, sage, rosemary and coriander fill the kitchen again and again. We “ooooh” and “aaah” over these foods; we linger over them and go back for seconds. Perhaps Thanksgiving foods aren’t your favorite (I’m looking at you, Randy), but think of a menu that is your favorite- that you don’t mind eating the leftovers, that you eagerly anticipate when you know it’s coming.

That is the kind of enjoyment David has when he communes with God, and that he hopes we experience when we connect with God. “Taste! See that the Lord is GOOD!” (verse 8) Linger in His Presence. Go back for seconds. Relax and appreciate the safe refuge that is there for you. We lack nothing we need (verses 9-10) when we are in His Presence. Perhaps this sounds strange and unfamiliar to you. Many of us approach prayer from our heads rather than our gut and understandably so. We read scripture to be reminded of The Truth (facts about God) and we list our prayer concerns and then.... what else is there? What is David getting at when he talks about “tasting” God?

Part of it is slowing down. Slowing down with scripture and slowing down in prayer to notice what God might be saying specifically to me, what I am longing for right there in that moment, how my heart is responding to God. If I scarf down my food,

I don’t taste it much. If I slow down, I appreciate the flavors. Could it be the same in my relationship with God? If I can slow down and be still with Him and listen to Him and to myself... what might I notice? I may become aware of sin or how God is reaching out to me through others in love or how God has been leading me through difficulty or how He is calling me to something new. I may simply get a new glimpse (a taste!) of the depth of His love, grace, power and peace for me.

When we regularly slow down to taste God’s Presence with us, we will be changed. The old saying goes, “you are what you eat.” When I allow God’s goodness to penetrate deeply into me, I become more like Jesus because I know Him better and more intimately. I am strengthened to “turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it” (verse 14) when I take Him in and go back for seconds and slow down to appreciate all of who He is.

How can you slow down and taste God’s Presence? Pick a certain amount of time (even if it’s only 5-10 minutes) to taste His Goodness this week.

-Pastor KrisAnne



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Garry Landis	6/1
Cami Garrido	6/5
Noah Gidley	6/6
Sushma Nafziger	6/8
Justin Christiansen	6/10
June Histan	6/15
Dave Zuzack	6/15
Ronda Histan	6/21
Ray Swartley	6/28
Rebecca Landes	7/1
Gary Garges	7/2

Anniversaries

Randy & Nancy Heacock	6/5
Karl & Cindy Strauch	6/15
John & SaraFaye Moyer	6/16
Don & Kathy Heckler	6/20
Judy & Cesar Garrido	7/1

KAREN'S PLACE

A nice crowd enjoyed Hawaiian Night at Karen's Place on Saturday evening, June 5. This was the first in-person gathering at Karen's Place since the pandemic began. The Eddy Mann band provided a variety of music, there were drawings for prizes and food and drinks were available. Karen's Place continues to live stream their concerts as well.

Coming up— Monday Night outdoor concert series—every Monday night in August at 7:30pm at the pavilion.

CARE TEAM REPORT

The care team met by Zoom on Monday evening, May 17. Sandy led in an opening prayer. Kendrick read II Cor. 4 as our scriptural focus and we considered: How does suffering transform us? It makes us depend on God more. It gives opportunities to share with others. We need a long view. We are treasure in clay jars—not us but God. The light of God can shine through us as broken pots.

We talked about the Compassion Fund and possible upcoming use. We prayed for many experiencing extra physical and emotional challenges right now. We also planned some personal contacts with these persons.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21 at 7 pm.

-Freida Myers for the Care Team, Sandy, Landes, Randy Heacock, Kendrick Garrido and Robin Miller

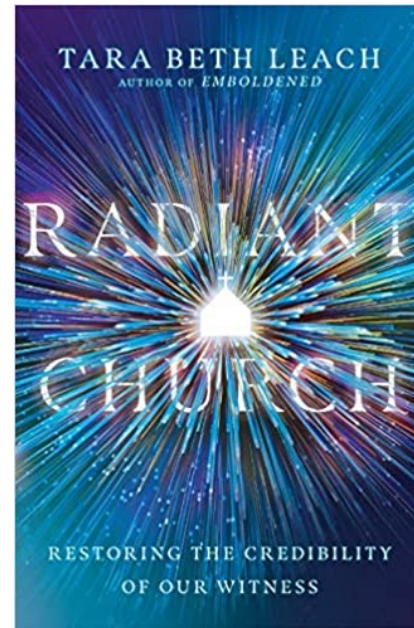
CELEBRATING A BAPTISM

On Sunday, May 23, our worship service included the baptism of Heidi Swartley. After Heidi gave her testimony, KrisAnne had the privilege of baptizing her daughter, and we welcomed her as our newest member. She was joined by some extended family members and a group of friends from Spruce Lake Camp who came to share in her celebration. There was an enjoyable (yet windy !) time of food and fellowship at the pavilion following the service.



FROM THE LIBRARY– BOOK REVIEW

The book Radiant Church: Restoring the Credibility of Our Witness focuses on the decline of attendance in the church, seeking to find the reason for this issue, as well the ways we can improve the situation. What intrigued me first during the beginning of the book in chapter 2 was the perspective that Tara Beth Leach gives on the decline, and the events preceding and following the decline. She contrasts the loss of numbers and “what the world calls ‘success’” with the gained “discomfort.” She compares the loss to the lessons of the wilderness, that of dependence and faithfulness even when it’s uncomfortable. In these times we’re forced to face the reality of the decline and gain a spirit of surrender. But even beyond that, we see the ways we grew complacent in times of “success,” and must come to terms with our shortcomings as a Church. We have to recognize where we’ve developed a “world-shaped heart,” and allow the Spirit to chisel away at it until we finally stop selling out for success.



One aspect that I really appreciated was the balance that Leach recognized is needed for proper evangelism. While it’s important to not sell out for success or lose sight of the true power of Christ and the need for genuine repentance, she also addresses that evangelism can be too aggressive at times. She addresses the problems of forceful evangelism and how in comparison to 27% of Gen Z, 47% of Millennials reportedly agree that “it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith.” The “fire and brimstone” approach to preaching steers people away from the love of Christ, while only loving without sharing the truth of our sin and the need for repentance boldly leads to an unawareness of why we so deeply need God. We can’t see people as projects or fear sharing the truth of Christ. We have to live the equally Radiant and Radical lifestyle of Christ.

-Christian Zeo

A BRAND NEW PERSON

On May 4th Mark and Lisa Reiff welcomed Samuel Mark. His parents were pleased to introduce him to us at church on June 6 for the first time.



FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE

Another fifth Sunday was upon us! There were three options for service on May 30: Pinebrook in Stroudsburg, The Simple Way in Kensington, and Lucy De-Jesus' home. As it turned out, weather was an issue for outdoor work at Lucy's house, so they rescheduled for June 14. We look forward to hearing about the work in Kensington in the near future.

At Pinebrook the group was greeted by Mark Swartley, and Chad, the Director. We were introduced to Martha Detweiler, who will be directing the Day Camp, and her husband Adam and children Colton and Elizabeth. Special attention was given to the preparation of the building and outdoor spaces to be used for Day Camp.

Robin Miller gave us this **"top ten list"** to share her experience:

10) Getting to Pinebrook was a lovely ride up route 309 to route 33, there were some beautiful back windy roads especially as you got closer to Pinebrook.

9) We received a warm welcome as we arrived, with hot coffee to enjoy! The camp was a really neat peaceful setting with many outbuildings and overnight guest rooms. It was a little bigger than I had visioned, it's over 125 acres, 6 conference type buildings, dining, and 92 bedrooms. Lots of activities available- not to mention the new 18 hole disc golf!

8) Our group met in one of the newly renovated spaces for Day Camp, met some folks that are working at Pinebrook, heard about their upcoming plans for summer camp and prayed to kick off the day.

7) We split up into groups : one group was cleaning up the indoor space and setting up the newly renovated work space to be used for campers to store their belongings for the day, as well as a meeting space for them . Group 2 cleaned up outdoor space, picking up branches, rocks, old junk. I wish I had taken before and after pictures – amazing work can happen when we come together!

6) Bug spray was not even needed, it was way too cold for the bugs!

5) Enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by the Pinebrook staff, and fellowship with our DMC group!

4) Got some great exercise and 10K steps!

3) Weather was wonderful, you did not even need sunscreen and the rain held off!

2) Major job security for volunteers, plenty of branches to clean up, plenty of cleaning and other opportunities – I think you're hired if you are looking for volunteer work!

1) God is amazing and Pinebrook's core vision is 'Pointing People to Christ.' It's a wonderful, fun space for families, groups, and kids! God's creation is wonderful and that can truly be seen at Pinebrook and our work day – working together - you could tell - all of the Glory goes to Him! A huge thanks for allowing me to participate in this awesome day!



MORE PHOTOS FROM PINEBROOK



DEADLINE for submitting items to the July News & Views: **June 29**

PARTING THOUGHT:

“O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,

On whom in affliction I call,

My comfort by day, and my song in the night,

My hope, my salvation, my all.”

-Joseph Swain, 1791

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