

# NEWS & VIEWS

August 1, 2021

Volume 20 No.8

Doylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN—

### Encouraging Discipleship

Matthew 6:32-33, *“For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

We are always seeking something, aren't we? What are you seeking for?

The word, seek, means: to try to obtain, **pursue**, go after, strive for, go for, push towards, work towards, be intent on, aim at, aim for, have as a goal. I have seen people seeking: healing through medical treatment, a partner on a dating website, increased wealth through the stock market, more skill at a sport/music/art through practice, improved living space by moving, better health by adding exercise and healthier food to one's diet.

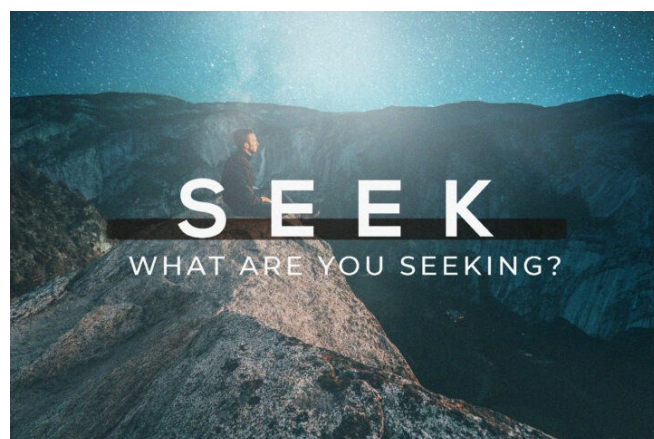
I would not disparage any of these pursuits, I am just noticing that these pursuits are important to people and maybe some of them are important to you. When we seek after something, we have a goal, we have an objective that is important to us and we often are willing to sacrifice other things to reach that goal. We will pay money, give up time and resources, say no to those things that impede our seeking. When I think about what it means to seek after something, I think it implies intentionality and an energy devoted to that pursuit.

Here Jesus is inviting us to seek the kingdom of God first. Jesus wants us to look for and pursue what Jesus wants for us. I know how easy it can be to ignore God's leading in life and how distracted I can become. We live in a world where we have stuff to take care of, our bodies, our families, our friends, our jobs, our ? and you fill in the blank.

But Jesus says, I will help you seek after the kingdom... Right before this verse where he invites us to seek the kingdom, Jesus tells us that God already knows what we need and will take care of us. So maybe seeking the kingdom is as simple as praying like this as often as you need to throughout your days this week: Jesus, help me to seek your kingdom today. God, I want to pursue your plans for me today. Holy Spirit, thank you for helping me to seek your kingdom today.

Who knows how God's peace and joy may flood your life as you pray one of these simple prayers over this next month?

-Pastor Sandy



## COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Judy Derstine	8/13
Steve Landes	8/18
Sandy Landes	8/25
Alejandro Garrido	8/25
John Moyer	8/29

### Anniversaries

Denny & Sue Bartels	8/9
Abe & Lorraine Landis	8/15
Glenn & Janice Wyble	8/15
Jim & Louise Beyer	8/29

## KAREN'S PLACE

Karen's Place has arranged these outdoor concerts for Monday nights, 7:30 to 9pm, during the month of August:

**August 2 Eddy Mann Band with Liz Collins**

**August 9 Patrizsha & the Soulterior Motives  
World Wide Band**

**August 16 Sweet Mercy Band**

**August 23 Obadiah with Wendy Schettig**

**August 30 Dana Isles & Facedown with Paul and  
Mary Good**

## SUMMER SERMON SERIES

We have spent the last few months in a sermon series about "The Lies that Bind Us." Randy kicked off this series on April 25 with an introductory sermon and focused on how the truth can set us free (John 8:31-47). Here is a summary of the rest of the lies and the truths that can set us free:

**May 2** – "Sin separates us from God." The truth is that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus (1 John 1).

**May 9** - "If you can't say something nice, it is best to

say nothing at all." The truth is that we are called to tell one another the truth in love (Ephesians 4:7-16).

**May 16** – "If we follow God's will, things will go well for us and we won't suffer." The truth is that in this world we will have trouble, but we will also have God's Presence with us ( John 16:32-33, James 1:2-4 & 5:7-11).

**May 23 & 30** (Baptism Sunday & Service Day)

**June 6** – "Persecution comes from outside the faith community." The truth is that persecution can come from anywhere including the faith community...and Jesus calls us to respond with faith and love (Acts 13:48-52).

**June 13** – "We won't experience true peace in this world." The truth is that we can experience God's peace in any circumstance (Philippians 4:4-9, Galatians 5:22-26).

**June 20** – "Forgiveness is easy." The truth is that forgiveness is hard work and means that we must name our hurt (Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 3:12-17).

**June 27** – "More is better." The truth is that we need to practice discernment in all things so that we can mature as followers of Jesus (Philippians 1:3-11, Matthew 19:16-26).

**July 4** – "The goal is to have a Christian nation." The truth is that God's Kingdom is beyond any one nation (1 Peter 2:4-17, Ephesians 2:11-22).

**July 11** (Mission Sunday)

**July 18** – "I must strive to keep God happy." The truth is that there is nothing we can do to make God love us any more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less; God's grace covers our past, present and future (Romans 5:1-11 & 6:13-14).

**July 25** – "Children are our future." The truth is that Jesus is our hope for the future and He will build the Kingdom with people of all ages (Matthew 16:13-23).

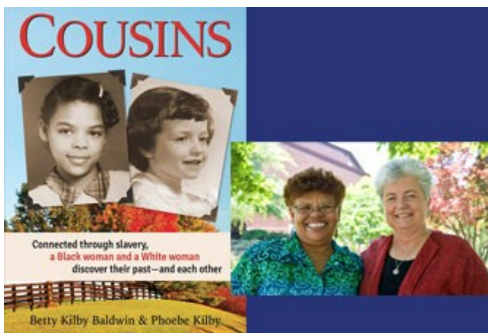
**August 1** – "Church people have all the answers." The truth is that God can surprise us with the faith and the insights of people outside the church walls (Matthew 15:21-28, Luke 7:1-10).

-Pastor KrisAnne

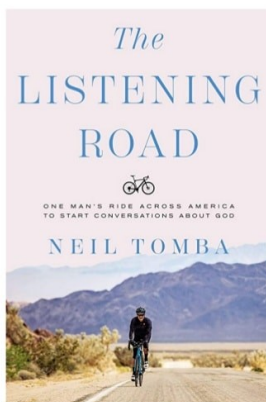
## FROM THE LIBRARY—

Please check out some of the ten new books added to the church library in July. In addition to five new novels there are five other appealing options which I can't wait to read. Some of these are available on Kindle if you prefer reading books that way. Let me know if you are willing to write a review of one of the following books for a future newsletter.

Cousins, by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby, is about two women (one Black and the other White) who discover they are connected through slavery in their past.

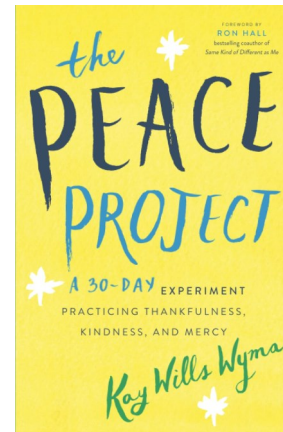


The Listening Road tells the story of a young pastor, Neil Tomba, who rides across America to start conversations about God.

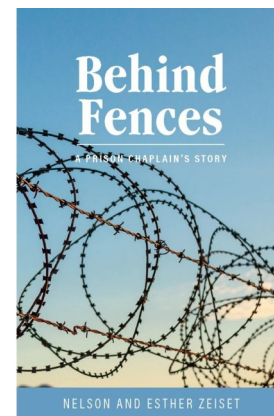


Taken at Birth: Stolen Babies, Hidden Lies and My Journey to Finding Home by Jane Blasio is her story of being taken as a baby; she was raised by a loving family after being taken at birth.

The Peace Project by Kay Wills Wyma invites you to experience lasting personal peace through the outward practices of thankfulness, kindness, and mercy.



Behind Fences: A Prison Chaplain's Story by Nelson and Esther Zeiset. God's call to prison ministry came to Nelson Zeiset when he was twelve years old.



Check the free shelf! Some older books in the Christian Living section were removed to make space for newer ones.

-Freida Myers, Librarian

## MISSION SUNDAY

On July 11 we met Franco and Stacy Salvatori and two of their three children, who will be going to the Dominican Republic to serve as missionaries with Bold Hope International. They will be working in Pastoral Training and Discipleship, Community Development and Advocacy and child sponsorships. The country is poor and there are great needs in all three of these areas. Franco gave a challenging message about the transforming power of the gospel, which must be shared to make it available.



**DEADLINE** for submitting items to the September News & Views: August 31

### PARTING THOUGHT:

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” - Jesus (Matthew 25:34)

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