

NEWS & VIEWS

February 6, 2022

Volume 21 No.2

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

We recently ended our first three-week focus in the Faith Training Camp groups. We meditated on Proverbs 3:5-8, which begins with these words, “trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” As we shared each week about what we were learning about ourselves and what it means for us to trust God, some shared stories of trusting God by moving ahead and others shared stories of trusting God by letting go. I was struck by this idea:

Sometimes trusting God means taking a step forward and sometimes trusting God means taking a step back.

There are times when God calls us to trust Him in taking a risk or starting something new. Perhaps this means to reach out to someone, to start a new project, to invest time and resources in a person or an idea, to speak up when others are keeping quiet. Whatever it may be, and my list here is very brief, at times to trust God means to take action. It means to trust that we are hearing from God and that God will be with us as we move forward, that He will empower us and give us wisdom for the task He as called us to. We do our best to trust His leading. I will call this “active trust.”

Then there are times when God calls us to trust Him by taking a step back. Perhaps we have been actively involved in shaping a project or leading a group; perhaps we have been trying to help someone deal with a challenging or new situation. Maybe we have even been trying to control how a situation works out or the choices that a loved one is making. Now, God is calling us to trust Him and let go. The invitation is to step back and release the situation, the project, the person, to the care of

God. I will call this “passive trust,” although the word passive makes it sound like this takes no effort. I can attest - because I felt God’s call this month to release control and take a step back in a number of areas of my life-that this takes a good deal of effort! I needed to re-learn some patterns of thinking and behavior...and I will need to keep learning them.

As you consider these two different types of trusting in God—active and passive—which stands out to you? Do you sense an invitation to trust God by stepping out and taking a risk? Do you sense an invitation to stop striving and trying to control things/people? I invite you to pray and consider those questions. Ask God for the courage to either step forward into something new or to step back and release control. *May you sense His strong and loving presence with you as you learn to trust Him more and more. Amen.*

-Pastor KrisAnne



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Isaac Garrido	2/1
Jeff Buckwalter Jr.	2/3
Jon Swartley	2/4
Helmut Wahl	2/8
Mary Leatherman	2/26
Suzanne Schwabe	2/26
Kirk Garrido	2/27
Coleen Ryan	3/3

Anniversaries

Don & Judy Derstine 2/14

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

*Open the first and third Saturdays of each month,
7:00-10:00pm*

February 5 - Patrizsha and the Soultierior Motives
World Wide Band will perform "One
Woman's Walk"

February 19 - Constitution & Ninth, a farewell
concert by this dynamic band formed by
three friends in 2016

March 5 - Stephen Bell Trio. The former guitarist of
Raging Grace opens with an evening of brand
new music both new and familiar



FROM PASTOR RANDY

See below our upcoming sermon series. The first and last Sundays represent areas of aligning our practice with our stated beliefs. The middle two Sundays are subjects where we will consider clarifying of convictions. These hearken back to the challenge of reproof and correction stated in 2 Timothy 3:15.

February 6: Practice of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Matthew 18:15-35

February 13: God saves...We do not! Matthew 16:21-23 and 26:47-56

February 20: Our Understanding of Suffering, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

February 27: Instant/Constant Gratification and Jesus' call to deny self. Matthew 13:44-46 and 16:24-26

CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Monday, January 10, 2022 and discussed the following items:

We opened the meeting with devotions and read the following Bible passage which focuses on lamenting: 2 Samuel 1:17-27. This verse shows how to lament. We talked about how it is important to not try to fix things for another person but to be present with them and commit to walking by their side.

Listening may be one of the best things we can do to support another person. Additionally we need to give people time on their own to work things out; in certain cases that may take awhile. Let them work through their own emotions. We also talked about how it may be harder supporting each other when we are not together in person quite as much right now.

The team started reading a book called '[A time to Heal](#)' by J. R. Briggs and we discussed chapter No. 7 of the book, "What are the marks of Wounded Healers?" Again, we discussed how we cannot fix people but we can encourage others. People around us are grieving and our life experiences and being vulnerable will help others. We need to accept that at some point in our life we will live with pain and suffering. Sometimes there are no words and just listening is the best we can do. Through joys and suffering God always walks with us!

We have a standing agenda item at each meeting to discuss compassion fund needs. Additionally we prayed for our congregation and for church members in need.

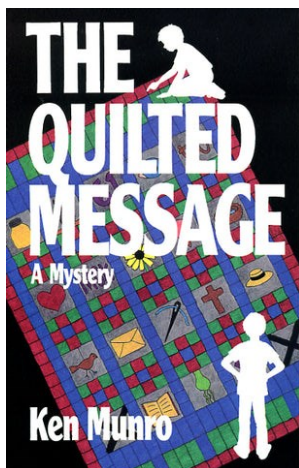
Our next Care Team meeting is planned for Monday, March 14, at 7:00 pm.

-Robin Miller, for the Care Team

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Book Review, [The Quilted Message](#)

This book by Ken Munro is a fun, light-hearted mystery book for young readers. An abundance of Amish detail throughout makes the book appealing for adult readers as well. The action centers around a mystery message stitched into the piecework of an Amish quilt. The plot is logically constructed, but not overly intricate - just right for anyone looking for a light read. I enjoyed the book. -Joyce Zuzack



In February, books on the Christmas shelf will be returned to the lender or re-shelved. Be sure to check out any you would like by mid-February. Please check out the “free shelf” for any books that may be of interest. Those not selected will be donated to Care & Share.

-Freida Myers, Librarian

FROM OUR EVERENCE REPRESENTATIVE

An old Pennsylvania Dutch expression states, ‘so soon we get so old and so late so smart.’ My wife Cindy and I both continue to be richly blessed by having joined Doylestown Mennonite Church in our late 70's just over 2 years ago. My parents came from a Congregational and Baptist background in New England when we briefly lived here in Buckingham during my high school years, so the only exposure I ever got to Mennonites was from a few classmates at CBHS. I don't recall ever having any contact with any Mennonites during the 58 years I lived in a number of

other states between 1960 and 2018. While researching Cindy's and my ancestries, we discovered that Cindy has several Mennonite ancestors that date back to the early 1700's and who settled in the Lancaster area. It felt like home the moment I walked into the sanctuary, thanks to God! Cindy attended with me and we continue to eagerly look forward to every visit after that.

I recently was asked to serve as DMC's advocate for Everence, a ministry of Mennonite Church USA. I'm extremely impressed by the range of services and programs that they offer: Credit Union, Banking, Personal Checking and Savings, Asset management, Individual retirement accounts, Trust and estate planning and management, Help with finances, Financial planning services, Getting started, Budget and debt planning, Debt and College loan payoffs, Building good credit, Overcoming shame, Buying a house, Starting a family, Preparing for retirement, End-of-life planning, Identity theft and scams, Living out your values through responsible money management, and giving back through unique community investing, Grant-making and charitable giving programs. Toolkit (a quarterly informational flyer).

Everence also offers a wide variety of webinars and educational programs. I recently listened to an hour-long “Financial Tools for Success” webinar that explained programs available through Everence. I continue to be amazed by the faith, dedication and talent of Mennonites.

The folks at Everence are available to counsel you by phone, video, online/email up to 6 free hour-long appointments per year to create a unique action plan to meet your needs, including transitions in life, relationships and money, credit report questions, debt as a barrier to savings, you have increased stress levels, concerns about scams, etc. (Coincidentally, a ‘Scam Protection’ webinar is scheduled at 8 pm on March 24th. Contact me if you'd like to participate.)

-Karl Strauch

See an additional article on the next page outlining the services of Everence as well as a bit of their history.

ABOUT EVERENCE

Integrating faith and finances. Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence is a Christian-based, member-owned financial services organization that offers banking, insurance, investments, asset management, financial planning and other financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches.

History of Everence. Founded in 1945 by the Mennonite Church, Everence grew out of a long tradition of church communities putting faith into action by sharing resources with each other. We started by offering loans to church service volunteers. Over the years, we added many more mutual aid and stewardship programs.

Everence leadership: Everence has more than 400 staff and advisors around the country and more than 1,500 advocates serving in congregations. Guiding their work is our Everence Executive Team, Everence Board of Directors and Affiliate boards.

Who we serve: Everence is the stewardship agency of the Mennonite Church USA, an Anabaptist denomination, and has long-standing ties to other denominations with historic Anabaptist roots. Many of our members belong to denominations that have historic roots or relationships with the Anabaptist faith community. Everence products and services are open to everyone who is interested in practicing stewardship.

Whether you are looking for your first job upon graduation or making a mid-life career switch, there are many reasons to consider working for Everence. Everence features a wide array of opportunities in many areas of interest - whether it's a corporate position or a career as a financial advisor.

Deadline for submitting items for the March News & Views: **February 28th.** **earlier than usual**

PARTING THOUGHT:

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure,
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

-Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1995

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