

# NEWS & VIEWS

August 14, 2022

Volume 21 No.8

## Doylestown Mennonite Church

### PASTOR'S PEN—

These past few months have been difficult for our larger body of Mennonites. The denomination held a special delegate session in May and passed a number of resolutions, some of them changing Mennonite Church USA's stance on sexuality (though our Confession of Faith still holds to a traditional view). Our own Mosaic Conference is grappling with a failure to hold credentialed leaders accountable for the sexual safety of minors at our schools, as well as questions over what to do with pastors and member churches that are practicing and teaching things outside of our conference guidelines.

I've been Mennonite my whole life. My ancestral roots go pretty deep into European Mennonite history. I consider the broader Mennonite Church part of my family - these are "my people." I've had the benefit of some of the best that Mennonites have to offer – the close-knit and encouraging community, mentoring, education, service trips, cross cultural learning experiences, a strong focus on Jesus and his teachings that shaped my values for life. I am deeply grateful for the way I grew up and the ministry experiences I have had in Mennonite churches. I wouldn't choose a different life path for myself, even when I think about some of the unhealthy patterns and woundedness Mennonite communities brought me.

I think I have been grieving. When I see us struggling, stumbling and failing, my heart hurts. I expect our actions to line up with our stated values. I want us to be the people we say we are – I know we can; I've seen us do it! It's also possible that I have been prideful, thinking we would handle leadership crises better than the other faith communities that have been in the news lately (the

Catholic Church, Willow Creek, the Southern Baptists, Hillsong). Sadly, we have proven to be just as fallible as so many religious institutions across the nation.

We are taught that there are at least five stages to grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. I can identify some of these within myself. I've been shocked and in denial that we would ignore the testimony of victims, angry at those who protect people with money and power, feeling a paralyzing sense of sadness over how far we have strayed. I am not quite at acceptance yet. Not that I would approve of the decisions that have been made, but I may need to accept the reality that these are the decisions of my broader community. The decisions may not change even if I wish they would.

With acceptance comes grace, the grace to speak truth without an edge of anger or pride. Good grief recognizes the beauty of what could be... and yet isn't. I hope to keep reaching for the beauty of my Mennonite heritage- the best of who we are as followers of Jesus- while also graciously accepting our human condition. Perhaps that is the gift my grief can offer.

-Pastor KrisAnne



## 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 COFFEEHOUSE

Karen's Place has arranged outdoor concerts for each Monday night in August, 7-9pm:

- August 16 Sweet Mercy Band
- August 23 Obadiah with Wendy Schettig
- August 30 Dana Isles & Facedown with Paul and Mary Good

## FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Listening prayer starts up again!. Some of you remember a few years ago when Noel Santiago taught a series of lessons on listening prayer. It was a time to practice listening to God and to be encouraged that God does speak to us and that we were made to hear God.

Here at DMC we had a small group that met regularly to practice listening prayer, but we have not met for a year or so. We plan to resume this opportunity of meeting in person to practice listening prayer,. Setting aside time to be with somebody is one way we show value to a relationship and we are always invited by God to enjoy his presence.

You are invited to join with others to practice listening prayer. The group usually meets for an hour with time allowed for scripture, listening to God and sharing what we are hearing.

We will meet on Tuesday, September 20, 4:00-5:00 pm at DMC in the upstairs prayer room or another appropriate space. Please reach out to Sandy with any wonderings you have,

-Sandy Landes, Prayer minister

## CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Tuesday, August 2 in person! After meeting via zoom for months it was good to meet in person this time. We welcomed Aimee Gourley officially to our team and are grateful for her willing participation. Our scripture focus was from Ephesians 1 and 3 where we read about God's power, which is always available to us as followers of Jesus. God's desire is for us to know how much he loves us and to live from that place of love. That is empowering!

The Care Team developed a Mental Health resource list two years ago for our congregation, to be available as mental health needs arise for us, our family members and friends. At this meeting we updated that resource and are grateful for the increased opportunities there are for mental health care. We believe strongly that the congregation can walk alongside individuals seeking support for their mental health and that professionals in that field are a great resource as well.

We also lifted up several individuals/families in prayer, including 5 college students heading off to college this month. Please feel welcome to come to the Care Team if you desire assistance in a relationship, finances or your spiritual well-being. We are grateful to serve alongside each of you. Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday, September 20.

-Sandy Landes for the care team: Randy Heacock, Freida Myers, Aimee Gourley and Robin Miller

## FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Check out a new book in our church library and let me know what you think:

Disarmed, The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp by Marshall V. King

To Be Made Well, an invitation to wholeness, healing and hope by Amy Julia Becker

Tongue-Tied, Learning the Lost Art of Talking about Faith by Sara Wenger Shenk

Not Quite Fine, Mental Health, Faith and Showing Up for One Another, by Carlene Hill Byron

Peanut Butter and Dragon Wings, A Mother's Search for Grace by Shari Zook

A Season on the Wind, by Suzanne Woods Fisher, fiction

The Dog That Talked to God, by Jim Kraus, fiction (Kraus also wrote The Cat that God Sent).

Turtle Heart-Unlikely Friends with a Life-Changing Bond by Lucinda J Kinsinger. I was impressed by this amazing story of Kinsinger and an old Ojibwe woman; both grew in faith.

The Beginning by Beverly Lewis, fiction, had been reviewed in "Anabaptist World."

-Freida Myers, Librarian

## FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE

### HANDS IN SERVICE

Hands In Service is dedicated to serving those in need. Ed Tornetta and his wife began it as an act of faith in 2012, that year donating a trailer load of goods. It has grown yearly since then to the total of over 40 trailer loads in a year. They send the goods to places around the world.

Our job on July 31 at the Warrington location, was to sort through a large bin of clothing donated by such stores as Walmart, Amazon, Target, and Costco. Items were sorted into categories of men or women, and boys or girls of various ages, and boxed for shipping. They also have a program which helps persons in several local areas with housing and furnishing needs.

The warehouse includes all sorts of donated household items to be distributed.

Hands in Service is assisted by people from many different churches who volunteer their time, and are always looking for more people to help. Enjoy the photos on the next page)

### SERVING at the GEHMAN'S

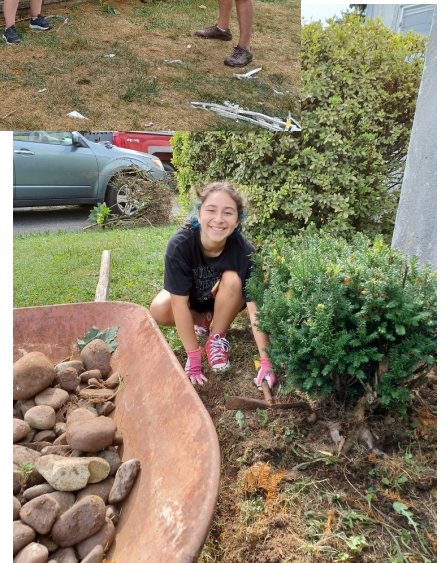
The group working at Jesse and Stephanie Gehman's newly purchased home took on a few projects: hanging drywall, cleaning up and planting flower beds and cutting up a fallen tree.

Here is a note from the Gehman's:

To our friends at DMC,

Thank you so much for coming to help at our house on July 31! It was an incredible encouragement to us and we are so thankful for your generosity. Our boys are excited about their new rooms and every time I walk past the flowers into our home, I'm reminded of God's love and provision for us. Thank you for sharing His love with us in such a tangible way. What a powerful demonstration of the church in action. Thank you!

Love, Stephanie & Jesse Gehman





## CHURCH PICNIC

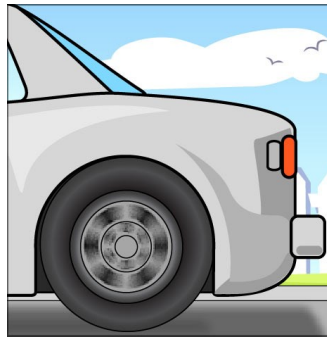
We again met at Lost Acres Ranch for Sunday worship and a picnic. The shade was good and the heat wasn't so bad on the basketball court during the service. It didn't take long for some of the younger crowd to jump into the pool! Angel and Sandra had the hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken ready early. There was plenty of food and room at the tables in the shade.



## From Susie Churchmouse

There was another one of those picnics, but not here at the church building — cousin Sammy said it was as big a feast as usual! I saw them take some things from the kitchen to help with serving.

I don't know why I didn't just hop along to see for myself—maybe not a good idea in case I didn't manage to hop a ride back. Anyway, it sounds like everyone had a good time in spite of the heat!



**Deadline** for submitting items for the September News & Views: **August 30<sup>th</sup>**

## PARTING THOUGHT:

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me." -Jesus (Matthew 25:40)

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