

NEWS & VIEWS

September 4, 2022

Volume 21 No.9

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Besides the traditional beginning of the school year, end of summer, shorter days and cooler temperatures, September begins with the Labor Day holiday. Though I do not know much about the origin of the holiday, I do know it began to celebrate the labor force of America and how labor aided our national development. I am guessing Labor Day parades and picnics abound across our country. I value the opportunity and ability to work. The older I become, the more I appreciate the value of work.

However, I want to invite us to spend some of this holiday thinking about the need for and the value of rest. I hear so many people talk about being so busy and the need to balance stress. It is not all work but activities and habits/patterns that can take much of our time and energy. Some things that take our time include caring for family members whether that be children, parents or spouses. Maintaining our properties and other things we own can keep us busy. Connecting with others via social media, Facebook, Twitter or text can take much time as well.

It is intriguing to me that God instructed an agriculturally based community to observe a Sabbath rest once every 7 days. God commanded them to work six days but on the seventh to rest from labor. The command is inclusive in that all slaves, sons and daughters and even the livestock are to rest. I wonder if instead of viewing this as a command we saw it as God declaring a weekly holiday from labor. What if we saw it as an invitation to step away from all that needs to be done to rest our bodies and minds?

From what labor might you need to rest? I encourage you to prayerfully take the time to ask God that very question. Listen to what God invites you to lay aside. When I find myself consumed with a concern/struggle and ask God not to fix but what I should do, I frequently discover I am to rest and trust God to work. It is amazing how energizing it is to rest and trust God rather than to work to produce.

As you celebrate Labor Day, may you hear God's invitation to rest from your labor!

Pastor Randy



COMING UP...SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Aimee Gourley | 9/7 |
| Sue Bartels | 9/17 |
| Janice Wyble | 9/20 |
| Ben Swartley | 9/21 |
| Don Heckler | 9/24 |
| Joyce Zuzack | 9/25 |
| Betty Good | 9/28 |
| Glenn Wyble | 10/6 |
| Dean Bartels | 10/6 |
| Heidi Swartley | 10/8 |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Mark & Lisa Reiff | 9/15 |
| Rob & Suzanne Schwabe | 9/25 |

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

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

After hosting an outdoor concert series on Monday nights in August, Karen's Place re-opens on October 1 featuring the band, Fair The Well.

The 24th anniversary of the beginning of Karen's Place will be celebrated on October 15.

FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

"I wonder if that is God speaking to me? God, is that you?" "How do I know if what I hear is really God's voice or my own?" "I wish I knew what to do in this situation. God, what do you want me to know?"

"God, how do you see this person?"

These questions and others often come to the surface when we are seeking to follow God everyday and wanting to grow as a disciple of Jesus. We have an opportunity this month to practice listening prayer together on Tuesday, Sept 20, 4 pm – 5 pm. We don't gather as experts, but as people who just want to practice together what it means to listen to God. We don't have all the answers, but we do come together in faith believing that God wants to speak to and we are blessed when we take the time to listen.

You are invited to participate! We will meet at DMC in a space that is comfortable for whatever size of group we have. Please contact Sandy Landes if you have any questions.

Sandy Landes, Prayer minister

SENIOR PICNIC

Twenty-five seniors enjoyed a pot-luck picnic on August 14 at the home of Lois and Freida Myers. The weather was all that could have been desired. The fellowship was delightful and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. (Sorry for the folks who are not yet old enough!)



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Not Quite Fine, Mental Health, Faith, and Showing Up for One Another by Carlene Hill Byron is a challenging book. As a person with a bipolar diagnosis, she experienced loneliness and reports how a women's Bible study began with 30 minutes of prayer in small groups of three women. These groups continued for 12 weeks. Each could share her needs and receive prayer. The group's structure made sure they practiced two of the three cornerstones of friendship every week—consistency and vulnerability. Her group was so bonded that they remained friends for decades.

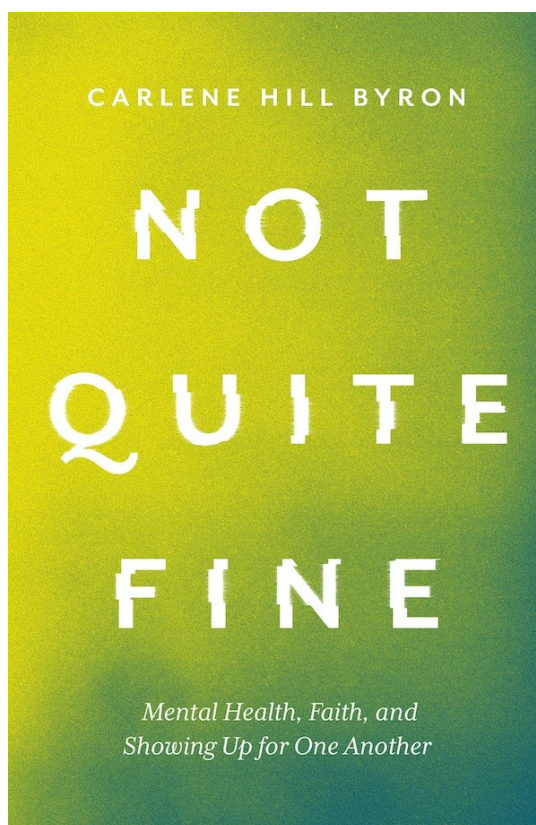
In a chapter called "I Don't Feel Qualified to Help!," she notes that mental health practitioners specialize, and usually prescribe medication rather than an exercise routine which might really help. "You don't have to be a health professional to encourage your friend to go for a walk." She talks about stigma and asks, "Do we believe that God can work through a person whose eccentricities cause us discomfort?"

Byron says, "When people feel loved, cared for, and safe, our mental health symptoms may become less challenging. Churches are called and gifted by God to be places of love, care and belonging." She reported that an agency she worked for looked at each student with a simple affirmation and question: "God, you sent this person to us. What do we do with this person?" not what do we do for this person or how do we fix this person? She says that belonging stabilizes mental health and is the best way to remove stigma. Byron claims the good news is this: "People with mental health problems are a sign that God values all that God has created," even fallen parts.

One chapter begins with a quote from John Swinton, "Where there are friends there is hope." She says "Knowing that I am fully accepted by God has been essential to my survival as a person with a bipolar diagnosis." She reports that there is a widely used study guide "Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help." It has been translated into more than 150 languages over nearly two decades of use... The North American edition also addresses suicide, domestic abuse, and addiction."

We too can value each person in our lives and offer friendship.

Freida Myers, librarian



A SPECIAL VISIT

Sunday, August 28 was one of our Mission Sundays. Phil and Pratiksha Tyson and son Evan were our guests along with some of their family members. Phil and Pratiksha graduated from college with degrees in business and nursing and were married in 2011. Over several years of following God's leading, they were led to Nepal in 2016.

Pratiksha began to work with Love Justice International, which works to fight human trafficking by monitoring transit areas to intercept persons headed for jobs that will take them into slavery. They continue to rescue hundreds from that fate. They are also providing a settled home life for orphaned and abandoned children in 16 homes in Nepal, Bangladesh and India, also operating schools. Pratiksha is now serving as director of those homes.

Phil worked for Love Justice for a short time, then put his business skills to work at Beauty for Ashes. They provide work for women, some of whom had been trafficked, or were living in villages without any means of employment, vulnerable to traffickers. They produce handcrafted jewelry and ornaments which are sold internationally. The women are then able to support themselves and their families.

After going to Nepal intending to stay for two years, Phil and Pratiksha have now been there for six years. They don't know what the next step will be but are following God as he leads. Phil challenged us all to look and see where God is leading and then follow him.



Deadline for submitting items for the October News & Views: **September 27**

PARTING THOUGHT:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go... Ps.32:8

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