

# NEWS & VIEWS

January 7, 2024

Volume 23 No. 1

Doylestown Mennonite Church

---

## PASTOR'S PEN

Once again we welcome a new year by naming a theme for the year. Our 2024 theme is based on Luke 9:1-2 and will focus on Jesus giving power and authority to the disciples. I am excited to focus on the many aspects and implications surrounding authority for the next year. I look forward to exploring and discussing the purpose and significance of having a common understanding and practice of authority. I may even be so bold as to suggest that the lack of such has greatly crippled both the church and society.

My energy regarding authority was fueled during 2023 when our DMC Care Team chose to read the book *Strong and Weak* by Andy Crouch. The premise of this book suggest that we flourish as individuals and a community when we experience both authority and vulnerability. This unique mix of power and weakness may seem odd but I believe has much to consider. Besides the Care Team, I have read this book with several other individuals, each time learning and appreciating more what the author has to say.

Like the discussion of which comes first the chicken or the egg, we may ask the same regarding authority and vulnerability. I have decided that a solid understanding and practice of authority is needed. Hence, I will focus our attention on authority for 2024. Jesus and the

entire Bible has much to offer on this topic so I look forward to what we can learn as we journey through 2024.

Perhaps a simple definition by help us get started. In his book, Crouch suggests that authority is the ability to impact a given situation, the capacity to act in such a way that causes change. According to a dictionary, authority is the power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes. It is the right to command, control, or determine. Often it is a right delegated or given. You may recall the many times the religious leaders questioned the source of Jesus' authority.

As we begin 2024, I invite you to consider the following questions.

- How do you understand authority?
- Where do you practice authority?
- What is the source of authority?
- Where do you lack authority?
- When do you submit to authority? .

Let us enter 2024 on a journey of seeking to understand and practice authority in a way that enables both individuals and community to flourish.

- Pastor Randy

## COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Dave Chittick 1/10  
Janey Garrido 1/13  
Karry Bull 1/14  
Judy Garrido 1/14  
Don Derstine 1/31  
Dorothy Wartko 1/31  
Isaac Garrido 2/1  
Jeff Buckwalter, Jr. 2/3

### Anniversaries

Dave & MaryLee Chittick 1/25

## KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Doylestown's underground Christian coffeehouse will resume in January:

- January 6 - Once Called Saul, playing rock music with gospel centered lyrics
- January 20 - Wind and Sail, a special couple in their first appearance here
- February 3 - Vince Martell, performing music of 60's & 70's and praise and worship with special guest Peg Pearl

## CARE TEAM REPORT - December 2023

The Care Team (Randy Heacock, Aimee Gourley, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes) met on Tuesday, December 5. Our biblical focus mirrored the Advent text of John 1:1-14, describing the incarnation of Jesus. We discussed how Jesus coming to earth as a human was both an act of authority and vulnerability. We too are called to live lives of authority and vulnerability. We read an article by Hendy Matahelemual, Mosaic pastor in South Philadelphia, entitled, "As a Leader I am Tempted." Hendy writes about the temptation to be powerful and relevant, but also describes the need to be vulnerable with his congregation so together they can grow in relationship. As Hendy and his family have taken risks in leadership, they have experienced growth in connection with God and their community. The Care team discussed ways that we can accompany others in taking meaningful risks. We are open to conversations and prayer with DMC participants about meaningful risks they are facing. We closed our meeting with prayer and discussed plans to visit seniors who are no longer able to worship in person. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 7:15 pm via Zoom.

- Sandy Landes for the Care Team

---

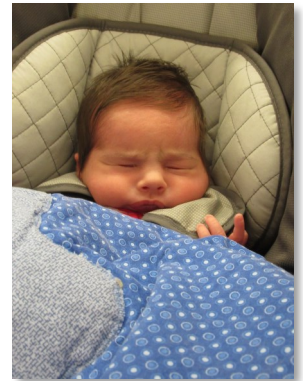
## FROM THE PRAYER CORNER - DMC Crafted Prayer 2024

Once again a group of DMC participants will gather to listen and wait on God for his leading in writing a prayer for DMC for the coming year. Two sessions are planned, one in person and one in zoom. The interesting thing about this process is how the Spirit brings us together in agreement with what God has in mind for us as a congregation to pray in alignment with our theme. It is helpful to have different voices from the congregation present in the process. Even if you have never joined before in this experience, I invite you to consider being a part of it this year. Your voice and your listening ear to God are valued! Join us Tuesday, January 16, 10:30 - 11:30 am in person at DMC or Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 - 8:00 pm via Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Sandy.

- Sandy Landes

## REMEMBERING SOME EVENTS OF 2023

- > January – Baby Catalina Danielle, child of Angela Mejias and Ryan Scholl was brought for a dedication service. Dale and Bethsaba Nafziger were present to give us a report of their work and life in Nepal.
- > February – We lost Grace Brenneman and celebrated her legacy of almost 99 years. We remembered the many talents she shared wherever she found a need.
- > March – We enjoyed a spring getaway at Spruce Lake, March 10-12. Our fifth Sunday day of service took us to three areas.
- > April – Mark Swartley brought a message and reported that final details are now in place for building of the sixteen wilderness area cabins at Spruce Lake. DMC has adopted one of them.
- > May – On May 7 we welcomed David Santopietro as a new member at his baptism, and Phil, Pratiksha and Evan Tyson were with us to share about their work in Nepal.
- > June/July – KrisAnne Swartley was in the process of accepting a lead pastor role for another church and was training Kristine McClain to take over office responsibilities on July 31. Soccer camp was held on July 15 and 22.
- > August – Church picnic at Lost Acres Ranch with special sendoff for KrisAnne and her family; she preached her farewell sermon on August 13. Karen’s Place hosted outdoor concerts on Monday evenings. Seniors enjoyed a picnic at the Myers home.
- > September – Noel Santiago brought us a challenging message. We lost both Lucy DeJesus and Lorraine Landis.
- > October – Karen’s Place celebrated 25 years. We served at three places on our fifth Sunday of service.
- > November – June Histan passed from us, the fourth person for this year.
- > December – Leading up to Christmas we had a display representing light coming to us, leading to the fruits of the Spirit. The Reiffs welcomed Silas on December 10 and he was with us on Christmas Eve morning - how wonderful to see a very young baby at such a special time! Morning and evening services provided opportunities to sing many Christmas songs and carols, ending with singing “Silent Night” by candlelight.



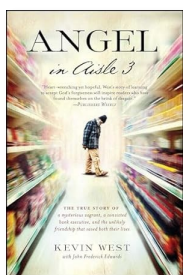
Welcome, Silas Reiff!

## Christmas @ DMC



## FROM THE LIBRARY: Book News

This past year, six new books were purchased and 23 others donated. Two of those are my favorites. Hope Heals by Elizabeth and Jay Wolf is a report of their experience when she suffered a massive stroke. Their son was 10 months old; he was motivation for her to recover somewhat eventually but it took several years and she never regained full use of her body. It is a wonderful account of God's faithfulness and provision throughout their



difficult years. Angel in Aisle 3 by Kevin West is the true story of a store owner who encounters a mysterious vagrant who knows and shares many scripture passages with him. He reports to a men's group and they wonder if he is an angel.

What do you think? Let me know which books you liked best. We will keep the books with Christmas themes on the shelves through January. Keep reading.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

## THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS

A kingdom came in the form of a small baby born in a manger. When we think of a kingdom we think of a wide-spread symbol of power. We think about how it is in its finished form, with a king who has loyal servants and soldiers, who help him project law and order. We don't think of the seeds that are sown to grow into that kingdom. The quiet but persistent and powerful purpose that draws in more and more believers in the cause, God sent his son, not to give power to the Jewish kingdom that was already in existence, but to ignite the growth of his true kingdom throughout the world and to all people. He started with a young couple, the parents of John the Baptist, the shepherds, a priest and a prophet. This kingdom started small, but continues to grow in love and power as it gathers believers.



- Ronda Hestand

## PARTING THOUGHT:

Great God, we sing that mighty hand by which supported still we stand,  
The opening year thy mercy shows; that mercy crowns it, till it close.  
With grateful hearts the past we own; the future all to us unknown,  
We to thy guardian care commit, and peaceful, leave before thy feet.

- Philip Doddridge 1755

**Deadline for  
submitting items for  
the February News  
& Views:  
JANUARY 31, 2024**

**Pastor: Randy Heacock**

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

**Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care:  
Sandy Landes**

sandylandes1311@gmail.com

**Doylestown Mennonite Church**

590 N. Broad Street  
Doylestown, PA, 18901  
Phone: 215.345.6377

dmc@doylestownmc.org

**Newsletter Editor: Lois Myers**

Phone/Fax 215-794-8327  
myersfm@juno.com

**Office Administrator:  
Kristine McClain**

kristine.mcclain@doylestownmc.org