

NEWS & VIEWS

May 5, 2024

Volume 23 No. 5

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN:

As we continue to live into our 2024 theme of being sent by Jesus with power and authority, I believe an important piece of this is to recognize the role of the faith community to develop confidence and clarity in using personal authority for the greater good. Ephesians 4 speaks to this calling given to the faith community. In this passage the apostle Paul refers to gifts given to individuals for the purpose of equipping the saints to carry out the work of ministry. I plan to pull out a few phrases that instruct us how the faith community can encourage individuals to exercise authority. Please feel free to read chapter 4 in its entirety.



Paul notes that a variety of gifts were given to equip the saints for the work of ministry. The definition of *equip* is “to make ready to complete or accomplish a task”. We can easily see that the call to make ready is similar to empowering by providing both knowledge and skills. I would add that in the faith community we make ready by providing opportunity and freedom to accomplish a task according to the gifting God has given a particular individual.

Another theme that Paul articulates in Ephesians 4 is the call to speak the truth in love and to put away falsehood. Being willing to give and receive honest feedback can help us gauge the impact of our authority. Such honesty can also help us learn where our authority ends and when we need to submit to the authority of others. When a faith community can practice honest empowering balanced with helping people to stay in their own lane, healthy understanding and practice of authority can occur.

One final note of encouragement from these verses is stated in verse 16. “As each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” The well-being of the entire body is dependent on each person contributing as God has gifted them. The goal of equipping each person to freely share their gifting with authority is not to gain praise for individuals, but so that love in the community increases. The purpose of individual authority is to bring about the common good as expressed in increased love.

May God give wisdom and courage to more fully live into our individual authority that promotes growth of the body.

- Pastor Randy

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

MaryLee Chittick 5/6
Angel Mejias 5/8
William Fennell 5/9
Kendrick Garrido 5/13
Jennifer Gidley 5/13
Michael Gourley 5/19
Lois Myers 5/24
Junior Brodie 5/25
Bonnie Leatherman 5/26
Sara Faye Moyer 5/27
Sally Landis 5/31
Gideon Youssef 6/1
Garry Landis 6/1

Anniversaries

Mike & Coleen Ryan 5/9
Gideon & Karen Youssef 5/13
John & Sally Landis 5/26



KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Doylestown's only underground Christian café -
upcoming events:

- May 18 – Jim Winder and the Race present Pilgrim's Progress: the Journey to the Celestial City; Jim Winder and his band of brothers present the storytelling concert with songs inspired by the most poignant characters of the story. Dialogues are adapted from John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.
- June 1 - Hawaiian Night w/ The Eddy Mann Band; Eddy Mann is an award-winning prolific singer-songwriter who has recorded 20 albums.

All events are livestreamed.

FROM THE COMFORTER PROJECT

Winter is a good time for gathering around a frame to knot a comforter. This winter has produced 30 more finished comforters from January through April. On April 3, 24 of them were taken to MCC's Material Resource Center and more batting purchased.



FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met on April 30 via Zoom. Randy Heacock, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes were present. We opened with a biblical focus of Daniel 2:20-23, which highlights God's wisdom available to us. We are recognizing the need for God's wisdom as we consider the open position on the Care Team and the need to discern how God might want to fill that position. We are very grateful for the names that have been submitted for our consideration. After a time of prayer of thanksgiving and praying the prayer of indifference, we listened to God as each name was read aloud. After sharing what we sensed from the Spirit, we felt led to pray over several names for the next two weeks after which we will communicate as a team for our next step. We appreciate your prayers for us as a Care Team.

We prayed for several families and individuals in our congregation. We plan to meet again on Tuesday, June 4 via Zoom.

- Sandy Landes for the Care Team

IN TUNE WITH THE LAW

Music has been a part of worship for centuries, but it's only been in the last several decades that the legalities of music have even been on the church's radar. While it existed before March 2020, the pandemic pushed many churches into the world of livestreaming – ready or not! – and suddenly there was an urgency to not only step up in technical capacity, but also to comply with copyright law. There has always been an exemption that allows churches to sing copyrighted music during a service, but that exemption does not cover rebroadcasting the songs online or reproducing the lyrics (formerly, making photocopies or overhead transparencies – and today, making lyric slides).



Fortunately, there are several licensing organizations that make it simple, legal, and affordable for churches like ours to adhere to copyright law. DMC holds several licenses through [CCLI \(Christian Copyright Licensing International\)](#), which allow us to project lyrics of songs that are licensed by CCLI



CCLI®

- a library of over 500,000 works - and also to include this music during our livestreamed worship services. However, even with valid licenses, there can be misunderstandings as to what is permitted.

For instance, owning a set of hymnals does not give us permission to create lyric slides from the songs in the book if they are not in the CCLI catalogue. While an older hymn CAN enter the status of “public domain” where we are free to do with it as we wish, the rights to these songs can be retained by publishing companies or copyright holders ... so we need to do our homework and find reliable documentation that an older song is public domain before we can reproduce the lyrics.

As such, any song lyrics that we project on the wall during worship are either covered by our CCLI license (with info in the bottom left corner of the first slide) or have been verified as being public domain. Any song we choose to sing that does not fit one of these two categories will have a slide that gives the title, hymnal and page number for you to turn to.



While some – particularly in small churches like DMC – may wonder “what’s the big deal”, we have to remember that as Christians, we are called to act in ways that are lawful and ethical, even if we don’t agree. We also need to realize that by streaming on the internet, we have a potentially limitless audience! Over the years, many churches have been fined for ignoring copyright laws, and penalties for infringement range from \$500 to \$100,000. It is much easier - and cheaper - to adhere to the law, retain our licenses, and to honor God and the writers/composers of the songs that we’ve been blessed with!

- Kristine McClain

MISSION SUNDAY - APRIL 7

Noel Santiago was our speaker and brought us a message from Acts 11 when the early Christian church was scattered by persecution. They were active in discernment and decision making, had multi-ethnic leaders and walls were broken. They sent out ministry teams and they also sent relief to other Christians in need.



TABLE FELLOWSHIP - APRIL 28

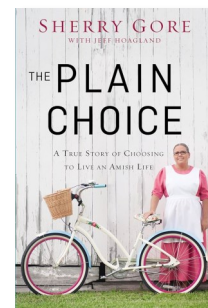


On April 28 we gathered at tables for worship and conversation. We shared simple foods and had a guided conversation, centered around our experience of forgiveness and repentance. We talked about times we had forgiven and been forgiven, times when it is harder or easier to forgive. Also, times we needed to repent and confess our need for forgiveness and make the necessary changes.

FROM THE LIBRARY: *The Plain Choice* by Sherry Gore

I found this book to be an easy read. It's not hard to figure out how the story ends, but the true beauty of this life-book is her journey. Sherry's life is filled with ups and downs, happiness and tragedy. Through it all, she still managed to find God by listening and trusting in what He had for her. I found her to be a strong woman of conviction and honor.

- Dave Santopietro



PARTING THOUGHT:

There are many gifts, but the same Spirit
There are many works, but the same God
And the Spirit gives each as it chooses
Praise the Lord, Praise God.

- From I Corinthians 12 by Patricia Shelly, 1977

**Deadline for
submitting items for
the June issue of
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