

NEWS & VIEWS

February 2, 2025
Volume 24 No. 2

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

How do you respond to change? Do you welcome it as an adventure and an opportunity to learn? Do you approach it with fear and anxiety, wondering what change will mean for you? DMC is continuing this journey of change, all of life is a journey of change. If you look back on your life in the last year, you can see and notice changes, in your family, in your body, in our world, etc. Sometimes we just want stability and for things to stay the same!! One of the things that can make change difficult is the pain of loss, a reality that impacts us all in different ways.

God says to us, I will never change, I am with you forever. Even as we at DMC will go through change this year, we will encounter new ways of being church, perhaps new ways of growing. As Pastor Randy leaves to pursue some callings God is giving him, God is also calling us as a congregation to be open to new possibilities. Our prayer practice in January reminded us that God is doing a new thing, maybe slowly, maybe behind the scenes, but nevertheless, God is doing a new thing in us. That is God's work, always transforming us more and more into the likeness of Christ.

A few weeks ago, a group met in the fellowship hall to share and pray together as DMC anticipates the upcoming change in pastoral leadership. The thoughts and feelings offered were varied:

- ~ We need to wait on God.
- ~ I feel grief and sadness.
- ~ I am hopeful and excited to see what God is going to do. I am optimistic.
- ~ Change brings growth.
- ~ Sometimes loss brings more value to what we are losing.
- ~ God is doing something.

This is just a sample of what was shared. There were also questions and statements of personal desires in the next phase of leadership. We spent time praying together after listening to the thoughts and feelings of each other without judgment or advice giving.

It is clear that change will happen, and we will experience the most peace as we rely on God for his leading and provision. It is also clear that we are not all in the same frame of mind as we contemplate this change. Let us learn to be patient with our brothers and sisters who may be having a different experience than ours.

How can we trust in God's unfailing love and faithfulness as we seek to be followers of Jesus together? Our theme is so appropriate for this year, "Listening to and practicing the words of Jesus, our Rock and firm foundation." Planting our feet firmly on Jesus, who promises to remain the same will give us hope and joy even as we experience change.

- Sandy Landes



COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Jeff Buckwalter, Jr. 2/3
Macy Youssef 2/8
Mary Leatherman 2/26

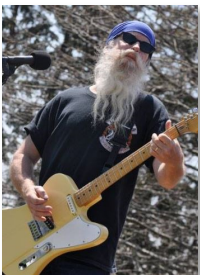
Anniversaries

Don & Judy Derstine 2/14

KAREN'S PLACE

Doylestown's only Underground
Christian Cafe

February 15 - Wendy Schettig,
a singer-songwriter who
brings music for the soul,
songs intended to offer hope



March 1 - Steve Bell Trio -
their annual trip to Karen's
Place begins Blues/Rock
Madness month

FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

A group of DMC participants planned together to listen and wait on God for a prayer for the coming year. Here is the prayer we crafted together:

Dear Heavenly Father, Open our hearts and minds to see and hear you as we surrender our will to yours. As your servants, help us to depend on you so we can let go of distractions and bring glory to you. We thank you, Jesus, for you are our Rock, our firm foundation, and our eternal salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen

- Sandy Landes

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met via Zoom on January 21. After an opening prayer we used Micah 6:8 as our biblical focus. God requires us "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." How do we act out those three requirements?

We shared reactions to Chapter 1 in Dennis R. Edwards' book *Humility Illuminated*. What makes it difficult to submit to God? Our culture, our pursuit of independence, forgetting God's holiness, power, goodness. What about God's character makes it possible for us to submit to God? His omniscience, kindness, loving, faithfulness, his superior ways and knowing what is best. How and where does submission to God shape our interactions with others? In remembering that God knows best and each person bears the image of God.

We reflected on Randy's retirement. What does God want for DMC? As God led in the past for DMC, He will be faithful now as well. Change is okay. We trust God will lead the Ministry Leadership Team and all of us to seek His leading. We encourage everyone to pray about future leadership and also to care for each other.

We closed our session in prayer for individuals/families who grieve the loss of John and Sara Faye Moyer or are having other struggles. We plan to meet via Zoom on Tuesday evening, February 25.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team (Sandy Landes, Gary Garges and Randy Heacock)

FROM THE LIBRARY

Book Review - *Son of Man*, by Charles Martin

With the heart of a storyteller, New York Times bestselling novelist Charles Martin illuminates key moments from Jesus' life and the early church in a way that awakens our faith, ignites our imagination, and rekindles our love for God (from the back cover).

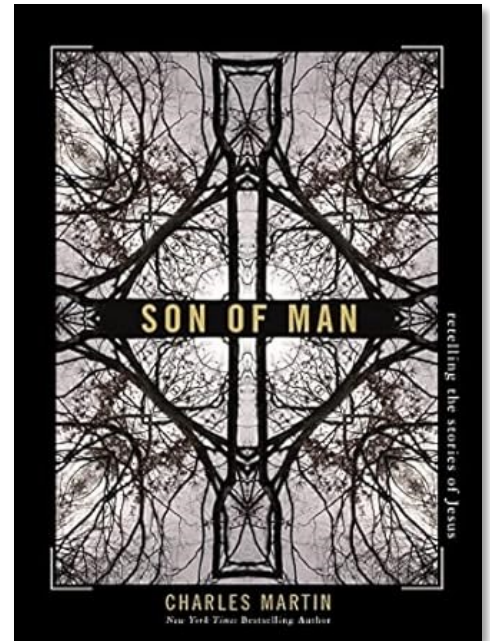
This very easy to read 177-page book contains 25 short stories based on Scriptural accounts of significant experiences involving Jesus, his interaction with various people, and the parables that he used in his teaching. The author uses a style similar to that of Mike Rowe in his popular TV series "The Story Behind The Story" on TBN and his podcast "The Way I Heard It". He re-imagines each story in a way that includes other details that possibly could also have been present as part of that story.

This book made me think about a paper I wrote during my senior year at Central Bucks. The homework assignment was to analyze one act of "Macbeth." I did not have a clue how to do that, so I just translated one act into common words we used every day at school and turned that in, hoping I wouldn't get an "F". My teacher gave me an "A" for it, along with a note saying, "This is marvelous. Without a word of explanation you have just proved that Shakespeare was a master of the English language, because your paper was lousy."

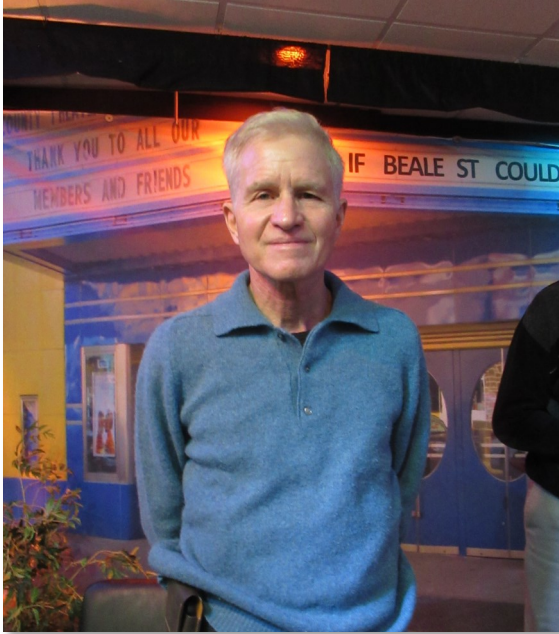
By contrast, Charles Martin is a master of Scripture and also a very masterful storyteller. His descriptions of each situation in this book are insightful and thought-provoking. People alive at those times might have witnessed and described details about them similarly to how Charles has done. Imagine how you would have reacted if you had been living there during the years that Jesus was and witnessed some of those events.

My takeaway from this is ... Jesus is still very much alive today. He always was alive right from the beginning of creation ... and always will be for eternity. How would you describe your relationship with Him today and the way that he shows his deep love or each one of us? How are we responding to the opportunities that he gives to us to serve him each day?

Do you still think of Jesus as an infant or as a key character in a 2000-year old book? There are a variety of shows on TV that are billed as "reality" programs. The truth is, nothing could be more real than Jesus' brief appearance here on earth to sacrifice himself for our sins and give us eternal life. Every word in Scripture is reality. While this "Son of Man" book imagines a number of details about each event, it does everything that is claimed in that initial back cover sentence.



SPECIAL EVENTS



Dale Nafziger was with us on January 5 for the first mission Sunday of the year. He gave us a review of his years of work in Nepal. Although he would like to retire, he must participate in some kind of business in order to remain in Nepal. His heart is there and he is continuing to be active in the coffee business. He brought with him his uncle Philip, who visited Nepal many times and added his own impressions from those visits.

PARTING THOUGHT

Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name, who was and is, and is to be, is still the same. The one eternal God, ere all that now appears, the first, the last, beyond all thought, through timeless years!

- Moses Maimonides (12th century)



Deadline for submitting items for the March issue of News & Views: **February 24, 2025**

(Please note that this is a day earlier than usual due to editor's vacation)

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