

# NEWS & VIEWS

March 2, 2025  
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*Doylestown Mennonite Church*

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## PASTOR'S PEN

Recently I was with someone who was sharing a struggle. As they described their experience along with the resulting disappointment and hurt, I was pondering what to say and what I might do. As the person kept speaking, I remained quiet long enough to hear God say, just keep listening. I turned my focus back to listening to the person rather than deciding what I should say or do. When the person finished, to my surprise they declared, "thanks for listening, that is just what I needed." Later in the day, the person texted me to express gratitude as my listening provided them the space to discern their next steps and confidence to keep walking a good path. This experience confirmed my growing awareness that listening is much needed in our culture. I, like many, often feel the need to say the right thing or take action to help, when listening has a power all its own.

As we begin this season of Lent, I invite us to give up speaking and replace it with listening. James 1:19 declares "You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, and slow to speak." What if we went through Lent with the goal of learning to become quick to listen? To be quick is to be rapid, prompt or immediate. How many of us are immediate to listen? When struggles appear or problems are identified what would it look like to be quick to listen as our first and most important goal?

In a desire to be practical, I offer the following suggestions as specific times when it may prove wise to be quick to listen. As in my example, it is most helpful to listen first when hearing the struggles of another person. Beyond trying to help or provide a solution, commit yourself to listen above all else. A second opportunity to practice listening is when someone is saying something with which you disagree. Perhaps they have a different opinion or perspective. By listening intently, the other person will know you heard what they said and you may gain a deeper understanding. The final time I will mention is when we are being corrected or being provide unsolicited advice. Often in such times it is natural to be quick to defend, shut down and even attack.

Finally, if we are willing to try this Lent challenge of giving up speaking and replacing it with listening what might we experience. We just may experience less stress and more peace. When we engage people to listen rather than fix others we carry less anxiety. Secondly, we will discover improved relationships. As humans we cannot help but to be drawn to people who listen. Finally, we may just discover we gain more wisdom and a better understanding of others and our world. Often it is quite amazing to discover what is learned just by listening.

- Pastor Randy

## COMING UP: SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Coleen Ryan 3/3  
Karen Youssef 3/8  
Timothy Landes 3/10  
Karen Fennell 3/18  
Randy Heacock 3/30  
Louise Beyer 4/2



**February 16th's Table Fellowship gave us a chance to dig deeper into our 2025 theme, "Listening to and Practicing the Words of Jesus: Our Rock and Firm Foundation."**



## KAREN'S PLACE

Doylestown's only Underground Christian Cafe

**March 15: Delivered** - They will bring music for the spirit, mind and body. Now is the time to dance, sing, worship and praise; listen and be blessed.

**April 5: Annual Stand Up Comedy Night** - Features Al Smith and friends, Tim Merkel, Ryan Roe and Dwight McCormick. The event will also benefit Battle4Childrens Charities.

## FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITY

... for those seeking service opportunities

We would like to make the congregation aware of an opportunity, supported by donations to our Christian Service Fund. For background, this fund was established in 2001 from the estate of Irma Nyce (MaryLee Chittick's mother) for the purpose of encouraging a period of voluntary service time. If anyone is considering service opportunities, there may be financial support available to assist! Some ways that the fund is already going to be utilized as we start the year:

- Spruce Lake Retreat Campership: Donation directly to the camp, which will cover the cost of one week of sleepover camp for approximately 10-11 children needing financial assistance.
- Forge America: Membership for teachings by practitioners cultivating practitioners, who join in the everyday mission of God



If you have any service opportunities, aspirations or ideas, please connect with MaryLee Chittick, Garry Landis or Kendrick Garrido to see how the Christian Service Fund can help towards them!

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

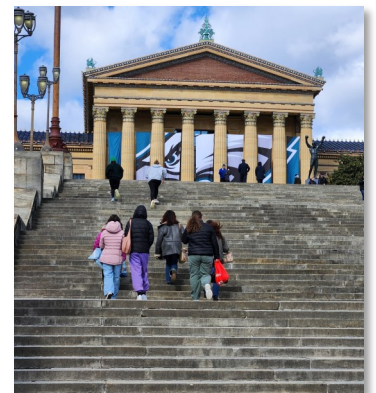
On Saturday, February 8 we met to celebrate the life of John & Sara Faye Moyer with an inspirational service of worship and song. Both of them demonstrated qualities that will be long remembered. Sara Faye's niece, a longtime friend of John's from childhood, and their son David shared from their experiences. Sara Faye was remembered for her caring spirit as a nurse and neighbor. Although her last years were clouded by dementia she continued to show a positive spirit. John was remembered as very gentle, caring, patient, and helpful. He was beloved by all his neighbors and his grandchildren remembered his genuine character, among other qualities. We were all blessed by knowing them.



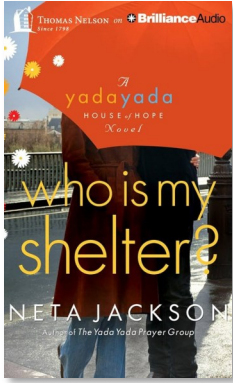
## TEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teen Sunday School, led by our own bon vivant Layla Garrido, celebrated the President's Day holiday with an excursion to Philadelphia on Monday, February 17. The suburban contingent of girls traveled by Septa train, meeting up with our city-dwelling contingent at 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station. We took a scenic, brisk, windy walk along the Schuylkill River Trail to the Philadelphia Art Museum. Vestiges of the Eagles Super Bowl parade three days prior were still evident, which added to the fun.

Everyone enjoyed the fine displays in the art museum. The sheer size of the spaces in the museum was impressive in itself. Leaving the museum, we were grateful for the sun walking along the beautiful Ben Franklin Parkway to Center City. Then it was more public transportation adventure on the subway to the Italian Market area in South Philadelphia. Layla chose an authentic Mexican taqueria, South Philly Barbacoa, for a welcome respite for our weary, cold feet. Most importantly, the food was delicious!! The day ended all too quickly. We retraced our public transportation "steps" home, with thoughts already on our next adventure.



## FROM THE LIBRARY: Book Review - *Who is my Shelter*, by Neta Jackson



Who is my Shelter by Neta Jackson is another Yada Yada House of Hope novel. Yada means “to know and be known.” Characters in the story gather for prayer to share with each other about their struggles and pray for each other. Gabby is estranged from her husband Philip who has treated her abominably, shutting her out of their Penthouse apartment and taking the boys - she didn’t know where. Philip has a gambling problem which caused his serious financial problems and led to serious injuries from those who were after money he owed. Philip has asked her to forgive him; she is having problems forgiving. At a worship service she is gripped by the song: “When trouble’s around me, I can go to the Rock ... Jesus, my waymaker ... strong tower ... heart fixer. I can go to the Rock.” Another song, based on Psalm 91: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.” She was touched by the thought, God is my everything! A shelter in the time of storm!

She and another staff person took some homeless women in Chicago on a retreat in Wisconsin. Participants were amazed at how dark it was at night and all the stars! Leaders read the story of Hagar who was also homeless but God spoke to her and knew her name. The leaders found a meaning for each of their names and wrote a blessing to give each one, which touched each of them.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

## SUSIE CHURCHMOUSE

It gets pretty quiet around here but this month was exciting! Now that I’m older I do enjoy some quiet but still it’s a pleasant surprise when a lot of people show up. Not only was there a meal after the Moyer service but the congregation came for a table fellowship this month. Even the quilting guild ladies came and knotted comforters for MCC last week. I love to see the room filled with people! PS: This mouse is always watching out for some goodies and they never fail me!



## PARTING THOUGHT

Bless the arms that comfort, strong to shoulder care,  
Gentle in their healing, reaching through despair.  
Bless the hands that labor Martha’s daily deeds;  
Mary’s precious ointment, balm for different needs.  
Bless the ears that listen, sharing joys and fears  
Laughing in our triumphs, weeping with our tears.

- From Mary Louise Bringle, 2001

**Deadline** for submitting items for  
the April issue of News & Views:  
**APRIL 1, 2025**

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