



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020

Embracing limits with our limitless God

By Rachel Miller

In Women's Bible Study, we read the book *None Like Him* by Jen Wilkin—although I can't even tell you when because what is time this year? I loved it and highly recommend it.

I'm still chewing on the first chapter (I did actually make it past the first chapter this time, which is saying something because I am NOT a reader). The book takes a look at 10 qualities that belong only to God. The first—the one I'm still chewing on—is "infinite."

I have known for a long time that God is limitless, but I, neither a reader nor a deep thinker, never considered what that means or how it contrasts with human limits. God is too big to be measured, contained, understood. We are not. We have many different ways of measuring ourselves and we are constantly running up against our limits—time, energy, nutrition, sleep, money, skills, knowledge, location, patience, etc. (our list of limits seems endless!). Guess what else is measurable? Our sins! My sins are countable, containable in some way. If God can count my sins, He really must be bigger than them. There must be an end—a point at which He has counted them all. Doesn't that just make you feel so small and secure under your Big God?

limitless—when we curse or ignore our God-given limits. Isn't that exactly the temptation the serpent presented to Eve in the garden?

Wilkin suggests that we use our limits as a reminder that we are *not* God and an opportunity to praise Him for who He is. I enjoyed this practice for about a week while I was reading the chapter, and then it wore off. I think there is a lot of potential for humbling ourselves and growing closer to God through this discipline. Want to try it with me?

Another way we misplace God's attribute of being infinite is in our relationships with other humans. We put each other in the place of God when we expect our co-workers, friends, spouses and children to be completely honest, to be always loving, to already know our thoughts before we speak them, to function at 100% capacity. Is this not a form of idolatry? God is the only one we can expect to be infinitely good, always there, full of love and compassion. How would our relationships be changed if we embraced the (God-given!) limits of those around us? How much more would we love and depend on Him if we stopped looking to each other to do God's job and let Him do it himself!

Lest you think you now have permission to embrace the, "oh well, I'm only human; I can't change" philosophy, Wilkin points out in chapter six that only God is immutable (unchangeable). You'll have to check it out for yourself though, because my kids have reached their limit on unsupervised play, and I need to end this article to go get them a snack! Praise be to our God who never tires nor hungers!



God designed us to have limits. Why then, do we act like they shouldn't exist? We get frustrated with ourselves for not knowing something before we knew it, we test our ability to go without proper rest or nutrition, we are annoyed when we have to pick and choose one event over another because we cannot be everywhere all at once. We try to be like God—



Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Staff



Rob Douglass
Senior Pastor



Jeff Conrady
Associate Pastor



Naomi Smith
Associate
Pastor



Kathy Bennett
Administrative
Assistant

The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editor: Carolyn Kimmel
Layout: Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the
November 2020 issue to:

carolynkimmel@comcast.net

or place them in Carolyn's church
mailbox by **OCTOBER 8th.**



Continuing on Wednesday nights in October - **Corner Life!** Come to the corner of Chestnut and Harrisburg streets for dinner and stay for music, sharing, games and fun for all ages! We'll begin with a no-cost meal at 5 p.m. served by our volunteers and eaten picnic-style on blankets or camp chairs (bring your own!) in our green space. Then at 6 p.m., we'll sing, laugh, play and learn together from our picnic spots (while maintaining appropriate distance).

We're excited to welcome families with kids, singles, roommates, older adults - everyone is welcome! Our time together will end by 7 p.m. Come join the fun **October 7 and October 21!** Bring something to sit on and a mask to wear while moving about. This is a **FAIR WEATHER ONLY** event, however the meals will be available on a drive through basis between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., if the weather keeps us from gathering on the lawn! Meals can also be ordered ahead of time and taken "to-go" if you can't stay to eat and play.

If you would like to help with Eat n' Run meal prep and delivery, we'd love to have you! Please contact Anne-Marie Brandt (abrandt@teambrandt.net or 717.421.4706) or Sarah Hoover (sarah@whoover.com or 717.829.6921).



EAT 'n RUN Menus 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 7

Beef Hot Dogs
Potato Chips
Veggie baggies
Individual Desserts

OCTOBER 21

Chicken Corn Soup
Bread/Crackers
Veggie baggies
Individual Desserts

We will have gluten-free options available. Menu is subject to change.





DEAR PASTORS, WE APPRECIATE YOU!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9.

It's October, and our thoughts turn to appreciation for the steadfast leadership of our pastoral staff, perhaps this year more than ever.

Our pastors have demonstrated what it means to love one another in a time of uncertainty and rapidly changing circumstances. They have been transparent in their decisions, inclusive in their deliberations and intentional in their desire to make each person feel valued.

Early on, Pastor Rob said there is room for everyone at DBIC, for those who hold differing opinions on masks, how we meet, and much more. First and foremost, we are a united body of Christ—a family of Christ—who values people over opinions, and we have a wonderful model for that in the people who make up our pastoral staff.

Thank you, and air hugs to you all!



Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Here are some highlights from the July Leadership Council meeting:

- Some financial reports of note, as of the end of July:
 - Most expenses have continued to be low, 6% below what it was at this time last year
 - Giving is 5% above this time last year
 - BIC Foundation Loan 2 balance - \$118,600
- Naomi has started working 12 hours a week as an associate pastor with two areas of focus: adult discipleship and oversight for children.
- We will be worshipping outside at least until the end of October, weather permitting, but our start time will be 10:30 after Labor Day.
- We discussed and approved a policy about indoor gatherings.
- We are working to get reliable Wi-Fi service to help with the live-streaming.
- We will be purchasing a set of used ear buds to be used on stage to help resolve some of the sound quality issues. These reduce the sound coming out of the on-stage speakers.

The full minutes of the Leadership Council meeting are located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

If you would like additional information or to follow up on any items, please contact a Leadership Council member: Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Landon Horton, Ray Knepper, Sharon Miller, Rachel Pease, Heidi Tucker or Avis Whitesel.



*The deacons want to thank the congregation for your generous response to our plea for extra funds, as well as your unsolicited extra-giving during the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to let you know that we are currently very well funded! You have helped us to provide flowers, meals, transportation, gift cards and other forms of financial assistance and practical help during this strange year. We are blessed to do this work on behalf of the church and want to remind anyone needing assistance to contact their deacon (contact the church office if you don't know who your deacon is!).

With Gratitude, Chris & Rob Douglass, Rachel & Steven Miller, Annabeth & Dwight Rotz, Ed & Marj Strayer, and Ariela & David Vader

*Thank you for your recent donations to Messiah College Collaboratory operations. Our world needs Messiah graduates who will positively influence every segment of our society, and your gift helps to make that possible.

Jon C. Stuckey, Executive Director of Development, Messiah College

*We recently had a family we have been helping that lost their mobile home in a fire. New Hope Ministries was able to provide a dumpster and partner with volunteers from a local church to clean up and dispose of debris after the fire. We helped with temporary housing, food, gas cards, thrift store gift cards for clothing and household items and even found job training for one family member. We continue to work with this family to help get them back on their feet and into a new home. They can't believe anyone would help them this way and are so thankful that New Hope is there to walk with them! Thank you for your generous donation, which makes this possible.

Molly Helmstetter, Director of Development, New Hope Ministries

*Thanks for your generous giving to the Capital Area Pregnancy Center's virtual Baby Bottle Blast this year. We gave \$1,455 toward the operations of the center, and they appreciate your partnership very much.

Jan Kerstetter, Local Outreach Representative



Parenting never ends: Here's some help!

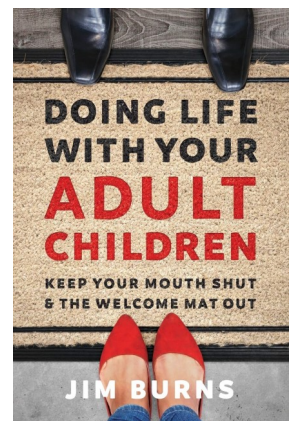
If you have an adult child, you know that parenting doesn't stop when a child reaches the age of 18. In many ways, it gets more complicated. Both your heart and your head are as involved as ever, whether your child lives under your roof or rarely stays in contact.

Doing Life with Your Adult Children by Jim Burns is a unique book on your changing calling that never ends.

A couple of questions that will be addressed are:

- Is it OK to give advice to my grown child?
- How do I relate to my grown child's significant other?
- How can I support my grown children when I don't support their values?

We will meet via Zoom on Tuesday nights beginning, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Brent & Avis Whitesel at abwhitesel@gmail.com. We are looking forward to learning together.



Stop Traffic

By Marj Strayer

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

How can we help to protect children and support families in our neighborhood? Here are some tools and encouragement that will help you to take an active role in preventing abuse and neglect and possible trafficking before it occurs.

- 1) Take the first step. Get to know the families around you; introduce yourself, especially to newcomers.
- 2) Find meaningful connections with families. Find out their interests, pets, children. Hopefully, you will find shared interests that could be the foundation for a meaningful relationship.
- 3) Plan neighborhood get-togethers where people have the time to get to know each other informally.
- 4) Keep an eye out for neighborhood children. Let parents know when their kids do something positive. If you notice anything that concerns you let them know in a supportive way.
- 5) Do not be afraid to ask for help. Everyone needs a hand from time to time, be it home repairs, seasonal needs such as lawn mowing or snow shoveling, or even just keeping an eye on the house while you are away. It allows them to give back and lets them know they are an important part of the neighborhood. It also gives them the freedom to ask for help.
- 6) Invite neighbors to participate with you in visiting places that you enjoy, such as the coffee shop, or a nearby lake or hiking trails, or a playground.
- 7) Get to know people your child visits frequently. Thank them for hosting your child and reciprocate by having their child come to your house. Do not let your child enter a home until you get to know the people who live there.
- 8) Offer support when appropriate. If you find out a family is struggling, find thoughtful ways to offer support and care. This could be anything from taking a meal or helping with yard work. These expressions of care during tough times are remembered and valued. It could lead to discussions on faith.
- 9) If you are worried about a family you know:
 - *Call or stop by and let them know you are concerned, invite them to go out for coffee or over to your house to talk. Only offer what you feel comfortable giving.
 - *Interact socially, not just around the problem.
 - *Empathize with the parents by offering suggestions based on your own experience.
 - *Call professionals when necessary especially if you notice bruises. **If you suspect abuse call Childline (800-932-0313). If you suspect trafficking call 911 or the hotline number (1-888-373-7888).**
- 10) If you see a cause for concern in public:
 - *Use empathy and offer suggestions if you can.
 - *Divert caregiver or child's attention so things can calm down.
 - *Find person of authority, such as the store manager, to intervene.
 - *If it is necessary, get their license number and call the police.

Finally, take please take note that we will have a
Change Purse and Soaps by Survivors fundraiser
during Corner Life on October 7.

We will be set up at 4 p.m. at the top of the hill under the white canopy.
 Purses and soaps and creams will be on sale until dark.
 Come and support Peace Promise and bring your friends.





THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT: JAY SMITH

This month, we check in with Jay Smith.

What a crazy pandemic, yet what a fascinating 2020!

In my 38 years of ministry with Islam I have never been busier than this year, and all because of four things that have happened since January: New 7th-century coins were found, a new master's degree course was accredited, 430 'lockdown' students were taught, and the authority for the Qur'an began to crack and implode on itself in a very public way!

Coins tell a completely new story:

While passing through London last December (see pics below), Hatun Tash, my colleague, took me to the British Museum to show me a gallery dedicated to the historical influences of Islam on the world. While there, we came across what looked like some misnamed early 7th-century coins.



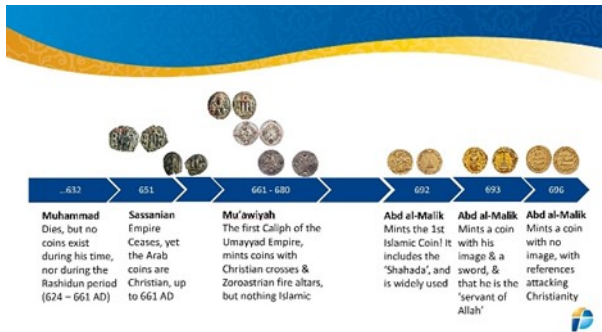
When I returned to the U.S., I looked them up in numismatic journals and articles and found that the numismatic experts in early 7th century coinage were trying desperately to fit the information from those coins into the narrative imposed on them by the later 9th-10th century Islamic Traditions, and were having little success.

And then it dawned on me that they were having the same problem we have all had when trying to understand how Islam really began; namely, that there has only ever been one narrative, the classical account of Islam's creation, all based on written accounts which were hundreds of years too late, and hundreds of miles too far.

What we all needed to do was simply turn our backs on those much later 9th-10th century traditions, and turn our faces towards the 7th century instead, when this religion supposedly actually began.

And that is what I have been doing since January on my Pfanderfilms YouTube account—looking at what the 7th century coins really tell us about who these Arabs were that were conquering lands all the way from Tripoli in the West to

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Afghanistan in the east, and what religion their rulers followed.

What I have found is that, up to 690 AD, there are no coins at all that have anything to do with Islam, and that almost all of the Arab rulers were either Christians (in the West) or Zoroastrians (in the East)!

What's exciting about these coins is that they don't disintegrate, nor deteriorate; yet, visually show everyone who want to look at them that Islam really didn't exist prior to 692 AD.

With these coins we are no longer arguing from silence at all, and it is the Muslims who are now arguing from silence.





Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region

Drive-by Celebration!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
NOON - 2:00PM

Adams Ricci Park
100 East Penn Drive
Enola, PA



Celebrate with us!

We've been serving our community for 10 years!!

We will be at the West Enola pavilion.

Please wave as you drive by and honk your horn!!

You are also welcome to stop in and enjoy a piece of cake with us.













Blessings in the storm

As we continue to share ways in which we have seen God show up in our lives in the midst of this uncertain season, the words of one of our DBIC children are a great reminder why fear has no place in our hearts.

Feeling safe

A Bible verse that has kept me unafraid during this time is Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear for I am with you."

This helped me because it reminded me that, no matter what happens, God is with me. Whenever something good or bad happens, God is with me and you. It also helped me by keeping me closer with God. The verse kept me closer because before I read Isaiah 41:10, I was scared this bad time would not pass.

~ *Isabella Moesch*

Sensing love

During my recent bout of COVID and the resultant quarantine, I was again reminded of the blessing of being part of the family of God.

As I reached out and shared with my brothers and sisters here within the Dillsburg congregation, I knew that people would be praying for me; and indeed, that happened. People assured me that they were praying for me, and I could sense their love and care. With each phone call, e-mail, or card, I was reminded that people cared, that they were sharing my situation.

I was hurting, but these touches of love let me know that others were hurting with me. They were helping me bear my burden, and even though I could not physically see their arms surrounding me, I could sense, very deeply, that arms indeed were supporting me and holding me. Brothers and sisters were allowing God's love to flow through them to me.

It seems to me that this is an example of what it means to be part of the body of Christ. When one of us hurts, we all hurt, and these people with their love and support were evidence of that. We are indeed one—one body in Christ.

I am so thankful for my church family.

Marilyn Smith

Seeing Beautiful

These past weeks and months, it's been hard to see beautiful. Although it feels like baby steps, I hope and pray these baby steps will materialize into beauty, goodness and justice not just for some of us, but for all of us.

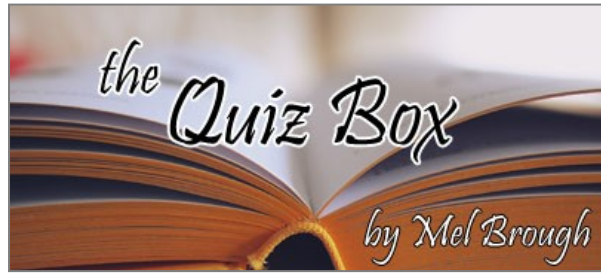
I first learned about and saw what reconciliation looks like six years ago during my semester abroad in Rwanda—the site of a genocide 25 years ago when 800,000 people lost their lives. I saw how people worked hard to heal and are now able to put aside their racial differences and see each other as human. I was reminded of this last fall when I returned to visit, and I'm reminded of it again right now.

Even though it's hard, there has been beauty in the midst of trial these past months—beauty in a break room filled with treats from a community that shows they care, in my colleagues who have tirelessly fought for and loved the person behind the positive test, in one of my work mamas who beat that virus and hasn't let it steal her joy, in a precious neighbor lady who left baked goods at my door every week in the spring, in the faces of patients who can now once again safely receive their life-saving kidney transplant and, most recently, in conversations with patients these last few months about what their experience has been like growing up as a minority in this place we call home.

We have shared tears—tears of sorrow, but also of joy—because they refuse to give up hope. During a sobering segment of the 11 o'clock news as I was checking in on a particularly sweet patient, she looked at me and said "Nurse Olivia, why do we have to see color, why can't we all just see beautiful?" Amen.

Olivia Kimmel





According to the latest information from Judah Fickett, denominational quiz director, our season is going to look a lot different.

“We are tentatively planning a normal schedule, but we will be following all local and state recommendations for COVID-19 (as of the writing of this post indoor gatherings in Pennsylvania are limited to 25 people, and I do not see that changing anytime soon). Therefore, I am not optimistic there will be any events held until next year,” he states.

Please check the following blog post for updates to the quizzing calendar and other information about BIC quizzing: <http://bicbiblequizzing.blogspot.com/2020/09/2020-2021-season.html>

I have the Scripture portions for Matthew. Now, we need quizzers. Please let Mel or Brent know if you are planning to quiz and we will get a book to you so you can start studying. We are still deciding about when to start quiz practices and how they will be conducted. More information to follow.

Here is a very tentative calendar of events:

Saturday, Nov ??? – Capital Kickoff Tournament at Harrisburg BIC – All day

Saturday, Dec 5 - Practice tournament at TBD

Saturday, Jan 8 to Saturday, Jan 9 – mixer tournament with Allegheny and Atlantic Conferences at TBD

Saturday, March 6 – Practice tournament at TBD – possibly at Dillsburg BIC

Saturday, April 10 – Allegheny Open Tournament at TBD – All day

Saturday, May 8 – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at TBD – All day

Saturday, May ??? – Regional Conference finals, if necessary, at TBD

June or July – Denominational Finals at TBD

TBD – To Be Determined

Verse of the month: Matthew 4:17 – “From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’”

~ Berean Study Bible (BSB) ©2016-2020 Bible Hub.

A great way to financially support the quizzing ministry at Dillsburg is to purchase Giant gift cards. Please see Avis Whitesel to purchase gift cards or if you have any questions.

To be eligible to quiz, you must be between the ages of 12 and 19 sometime during the quizzing year, which is defined as starting November 1 and ending October 31. Quizzing provides an opportunity to study God’s Word, fellowship with other youth, participate on a team and experience positive competition.

If you have any questions about quizzing, please contact one of us:

Mel Brough 717-432-4864 mabrough58@gmail.com

Brent Whitesel 717-432-9048 abwhitesel@gmail.com



Please note the current mask guidelines at DBIC: If you are attending ANY gathering inside the church building, you **MUST** wear a mask the entire time you are inside. This is for the protection of yourself and others and to help those whose ability to work will be impacted if they meet with others who are not wearing masks. When meeting outdoors, it is requested that you wear a mask when moving around, but you may remove the mask when seated.



The church office will be open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Other hours will be by appointment, so please call or email to schedule an appointment.



Join us for an outdoor service on Sunday!

We will gather at 10:30 a.m. in the green space beside the DBIC church parking lot. **Sunday's service will be available LIVE** - a YouTube link that will be sent out and posted on the website Sunday morning.

In case of inclement weather, we will have an online-only service at 10:30 a.m. If it is clear on Saturday evening that we will have inclement weather, an email will be sent before 10 p.m. Saturday evening. If we wake up Sunday to a surprise, we will email any change before 8 a.m.

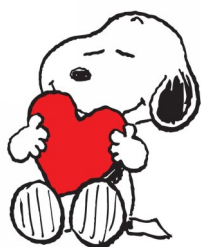
- There will be a table set up at the York Street end of the park lot where you can pick up a bulletin. There will also be a container where you may place your offering, but you are encouraged to continue using alternative methods such as mailing or online giving where practical.
- In order to protect your brothers and sisters, we ask that you wear a mask from your car until you are seated as well as when you are moving around the grounds at the end of the service when safe distancing will be challenging.
- Give lots of air hugs and heart pats to express your care for those you have not seen for a long time.
- Bring a blanket or chairs (and maybe a hat or umbrella for shade) and follow the lead of the ushers when finding your spot. We will have circles marked off as a guide for safe distancing on the grass.
- We plan to have a few chairs from the church placed on the parking lot wall for those who would have difficulty walking in the grass. If you will not have difficulty in the grass, please honor your brothers and sisters by leaving those chairs for them.
- The church bathrooms on the main floor (the sanctuary floor) will be available for use.
- The worship service will be recorded and available to stream after the service is over (see details below), so please join us online if you are not feeling well or choose to stay home.

The church has an email address which you can use for needs, issues, concerns, or suggestion related to the coronavirus outbreak: connect@dillsburgbic.org

Please use this address to connect with the church leadership about any needs you may be experiencing during this time.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




Clarence & Mary Ann Brubaker	October 1
Brent & Avis Whitesel	October 3
Don & Nancy Prowell	October 3
Mike & Beth Beachy	October 12
Tom & Amy Austin	October 23
Andi & Krishauna Brubaker	October 25
Russ & Joyce Ehrich	October 29



Piper Moesch	October 1	Sharon Miller	October 17
Anne-Marie Brandt	October 3	Cheyenne Storm	October 19
Arlene VanDyke	October 3	Jared Whitesel	October 20
Leo Brubaker	October 4	Jim Poole	October 21
Zoe Delp	October 6	Betty Engle	October 22
Chris Douglass	October 7	Aaron Sieber	October 25
Grace Holland	October 7	Sam Stoner	October 26
Hannah Gustafson	October 8	John Long	October 28
Kenji Kanazawa	October 8	Nathan Pease	October 28
Dave Jones	October 11	Toby Brubaker	October 28
Alexa Rank	October 12	Julianne Hoover	October 30
Amy Miller	October 15	Rocky Storm	October 31
Patty Cathro	October 17		



OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	7:00 pm Prayer Gathering
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 am Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Doing Life with Your Adult Children	9:00 am ZOOM Women's Bible Study 5:15 pm Corner Life	Doulos Deadline 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	7:00 pm Prayer Gathering
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 am Worship		6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers) 6:30 pm ZOOM Doing Life with Your Adult Children	9:00 am ZOOM Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement) 6:30 pm Leadership Council	11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch 6:30 pm Deacons	7:00 pm Prayer Gathering
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 am Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Doing Life with Your Adult Children	9:00 am ZOOM Women's Bible Study 5:15 pm Corner Life	6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	9:00 am Prayer Walking 7:00 pm Prayer Gathering
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 am Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Doing Life with Your Adult Children	9:00 am ZOOM Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	1:00-6:00 pm Blood Drive (FH) 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	7:00 pm Prayer Gathering

These events subject to change. Stay tuned for information from DBIC on any canceled or rescheduled events.