



# DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

## *For the beauty—and the future—of the earth, here are five things you can do*

*By Amy Kimmel*

While New Year's resolutions often fade after the first weeks of January, we can bypass the goals left undone by instead committing to progress.

I challenge this year's energy to go toward sustainable living. Here are five small ways to start. We cannot burden ourselves with the task of a complete overhaul done overnight, rather we can choose to move in the right direction, one step at a time. Imagine, if each of us redesigns a small aspect of our lifestyles—it could have a wide and rippling effect on a larger scale.

Sustainability takes into consideration not only the environmental impact of our decisions but also the social and ethical implications. While none of these is hard to do, it is often a matter of sacrificing convenience, a small cost when weighed against the environmental benefits.

1. Consider where you are spending your money. It is easy to justify purchasing online if you are getting the best price, but what is your money really supporting? Allow your dollars to have the most direct impact on community members by shopping local and incorporating a weekly farmer's market into your grocery shopping. We all need to buy food. Why not source fresh fruits, veggies, and even meats by directly supporting familiar faces who can tell us exactly what we are eating. Both Carlisle and Dillsburg host weekly markets featuring a plethora of vendors, all from the central Pennsylvania area.
2. When shopping, bring along a reusable bag. Usually about \$1 to purchase at the register, these should last you through 2021. After being used for an average of just 12 minutes, typical plastic grocery bags are unable to be effectively recycled. Often escaping garbage cans, they wreak havoc on marine ecosystems and pollute seemingly every corner.
3. Don't stop at bags; consider other ways to cut down on single-use plastic in your home. Start by packing lunches or leftovers into reusable containers rather than plastic baggies or wrap. "Throwing away" trash has become a normal part of our daily routines, but "out of sight out of mind" really does not mean your trash is going away. Landfills are a top contributor of

greenhouse gas, including those emitted from decomposing food—and while you may not think twice about tossing organic matter, it would be much better suited as compost for your or a friend's garden.

4. Spring cleaning often means purging unused items. Instead of trashing your rejects, drive them to a local thrift store so others may get a second use from them. Every product has a lifecycle, from production to landfill. While God created all of nature to return nutrients to the earth when life is over (a closed loop), people have not been so strategic in their manufacture and design. Become aware of the consumptive American lifestyle each time you buy, considering longevity, quality and potential for buying used before purchasing.
5. Settle into a good winter read to learn more. While environmental awareness happens to be a hot topic, our call to care for creation as stewards is a timeless responsibility as commanded in the Bible. While often not receiving due attention in Christian circles, making conscious decisions about our environmental footprint shows respect not only to creation but to our Creator. To unpack the theology of creation care, you can read *For the Beauty of the Earth*, by Steven Bouma-Predinger or google "Books about Creation Care."

Ensure that the beauty of the earth remains present. Each drop of nature shows the character and creativity of our God. This remarkable truth is often lost in the shuffle of our world. I'd encourage you to associate the habits of your lifestyle with the responsibility that comes with being charged to care for creation. Don't we each have a memory of having felt closer to God in the solace of His creation?



## Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Staff



**Rob Douglass**  
Senior Pastor



**Jeff Conrady**  
Associate Pastor



**Naomi Smith**  
Associate Pastor



**Esther Spurrier**  
Pastor of  
Congregational Care



**Kathy Bennett**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## The Doulos Newsletter Information

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**Doulos Editor:** Carolyn Kimmel

**Layout:** Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the  
March 2021 issue to:

**carolynkimmel@comcast.net**

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



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST-EVER ZOOM CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING.

We will meet via this [Zoom](#) link on **February 6** at 10 a.m. In the tradition of our Congregational Council Meeting Brunch, we are planning to provide a small brunch for your family. Please sign up to receive this treat by clicking [here](#) to fill out the google form by January 31. A small brunch treat will be delivered to your home prior to the meeting so we can "share" a meal together! If we have a large area to cover or many houses to deliver to, we may need to adjust our plans, so stay tuned! The Council Meeting packet will be sent at a later date.



## Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Here are some highlights from the December/January Leadership Council meeting:

- Some Financial reports of note, as of the end of December:
  - Loan balance is \$80,782.00, which does not include an additional \$7,000 toward repayment that just came in this week.
  - Christ Birthday Offering currently exceeds \$33,000.
  - Total giving stands at \$515,000 for the year.
  - Net operating income (mostly due to Ministry Council underspending its budget) - \$45,000
- 2021 Congregational Council Meeting will be held via Zoom on February 6 at 10 a.m.
- Virtual Sunday Morning Worship Services are continuing, and the current Covid-19 situation in this area is continuing to be evaluated to determine resuming in-person services. *(Note: In-person services resumed on 1/24)*

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, Ray Knepper, Sharon Miller, Rachel Pease, Heidi Tucker or Avis Whitesel.

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

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





## Holy Halitosis?

*And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20.22*

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then they bring his love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life. God delights to breathe his grace through peacemakers and use them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance and reconciliation.

*Taken from The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict  
by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 11.*

## Food for Thought

When it comes to the believer's breath on others, it's usually one of two aromas—life or death. What does your breath smell like?

Have you ever been around someone with halitosis (bad breath)? Unless you have the patience of Job, most of us back up a little and suddenly remember an urgent appointment. Those with Job's fortitude stick it out, digging around in their pockets for a mint. Now consider the phrase, holy halitosis. Have you ever been around someone with that? Everything from their denominational wardrobe to their Christian reading list screams HOLINESS. But when they open their mouths, it's anything but grace they breathe; in fact, it's usually some variation on the theme of condemnation.

Halitosis, of the natural kind, is usually connected in some way to what we're taking in. A steady diet of onions or feta cheese and voila! -- bad breath. A similar principle applies to the spiritual realm. As Ken writes, we must draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ. Drawing in, or breathing in, Christ's goodness fills our spiritual lungs with the breath of Holy Spirit filled, lifesaving grace. Then our tanks are full, so to speak, to breathe out that same grace on and in the lives of others.

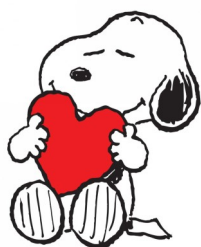
We're as much peacebreathers as we are peacemakers. There's a rhythm there as ancient as creation itself. Inhale and exhale. Breathe in and breathe out. Grace in and grace out. Do a little spiritual diagnosis on yourself, first, and then on others around you. If you find that you rarely breathe grace, it's a red flag that you're not taking any in. The same goes for people around you. The only difference is that if it's you, then some time feasting on the riches of God's grace is in order. Take. Eat. If it's your neighbor, then you may be the vessel that God wants to use to bring grace and peace to a troubled soul, marriage or household. Breathe on us, breath of God!





# FEBRUARY

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




Jeff & Lois Conrady	February 15
Tom & Kathy Renard	February 26
Bob & Rose Harlacher	February 27



Rob Douglass	February 1	Tyler Whitesel	February 16
Becky Horst	February 1	Nancy Prowell	February 18
Eliana Miller	February 2	Jan Kerstetter	February 21
J-Lynn Conrady	February 2	Tariq Waris	February 21
Adam Moesch	February 2	Kendal Rank	February 23
Eleanor Poe	February 3	Mary Ann Brubaker	February 23
Britton Hill	February 6	Suzanne Erikson	February 26
Emily Vader	February 10	Jon Dale	February 27
Angelina Waris	February 11	Mary Hulbert	February 27
Diana Dale	February 12	Katie Renard	February 28
Annabeth Rotz	February 14	Beth Shelly	February 28
Christi Gard	February 15	Tessa Walsh	February 29
Deb Monko	February 16		



# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Study	3 9:00 am ZOOM Women's Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	4 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	5 11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	6 10:00 am ZOOM Congregational Council 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
7 9:00 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 Doulos Deadline	9 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Study	10 9:00 am ZOOM Women's Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	11 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement) 6:30 ZOOM Human Trafficking Meeting	12 11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	13 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
14 9:00 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	15	16 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Study	17 9:00 am ZOOM Women's Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	18 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement) 6:30 ZOOM Leadership Council	19 11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch 6:30 ZOOM Deacon Meeting	20 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
21 9:00 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	22 7:00 pm ZOOM Ministry Council	23 7:00 pm ZOOM Men's Study	24 BLOOD DRIVE 9:00 am ZOOM Women's Study 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	25 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	26 11:00 am ZOOM Book Bunch	27 9:00 am ZOOM Prayer Walking 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
28 9:00 am (Zoom) Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Missions Meeting	<i>These events subject to change. Stay tuned for information from DBIC on any canceled or rescheduled events.</i>					