



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

What Does Love Look Like?





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In case of inclement weather, the policy of DBIC is to cancel any in-person morning activities if Northern York School District is on a 2-hour delay. This would not impact afternoon and evening activities. All in-person activities will be canceled if the district is closed for the day or dismisses early due to the weather. If there are activities on the weekends or days when school is not in session, please check for radio and TV (ABC27) announcements or our website (www.dillsburgbic.org) for information regarding closures.



Sweet Memories

The children in the after-school program, Encircle, made gingerbread houses together as a part of their Christmas celebration.



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The Doulos Newsletter Information

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Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: carolynkimmel@comcast.net or place them in Carolyn's church mailbox by 8th of this month.

Do you have a prayer request? You can contact us by email at connect@dillsburgbic.org or by using the individual contacts in the staff listing.



Much love, Rachel Pease



Pam French and the Mountainside Preschool Staff



*Peg and Bruce Juergens,
Bible Adventure Coordinators*

*Nancy Putt, Horticulturist and Board Member,
Logan Park*



Musical Worship

By Julie Lerew

Your involvement in the Musical Worship Survey meant so much. Thank you to the 60 people who gave their input via a short survey, and the others who shared feedback in person. And thank you to Heidi Tucker, who baked delicious treats for each participant in the Musical Worship Survey!

Some key insights from the survey included:

- Value of having a wide **variety of musical worship leaders** (mentioned by 53% of respondents)
- Value of having a **variety of styles represented**— both hymns and contemporary music (mentioned by 62% of respondents)
- Several wrote about the beauty of voices joined together in singing, the gift of various instruments, and the joy it is to see children and youth participate.
- Many people are part of the tech team or lead from the front, **but more are needed!** Sound need is especially acute; musicians are also desired.



Some ideas shared included room for more reflection, more spontaneity, more Scripture, more creative elements, and more time to learn new songs.

During our Zoom call, different people shared times they felt God move in musical worship. Most of the stories centered on seeing God move in those around them, not just on something they experienced alone.

What if, we asked, we see musical worship as an opportunity to show BOTH love for God AND love for our neighbor? What would it look like to worship musically—with a mission?

The way we go about our musical worship gatherings may mostly stay the same. But small adjustments that keep in mind how others around us may experience our musical worship times could help those who are struggling, or who are unfamiliar with the faith, to be made more welcome. One example given in the meeting was a leader explaining lyrics that talk about God as the “Great I Am,” so that everyone, including those less familiar with Scripture, could understand what they were singing. As we worship God through music, we can also keep in mind that He longs for those around us who are far away from Him to be brought close.

Going into this new season, let’s choose to **worship with love for God and for our neighbors**. Let us look for ways to be about the mission of Jesus in everyday life, including our musical worship times. As we gather together, and as we go out among our communities, let us intentionally love God with our words, work, and attitudes, not just our music— and in all these things, may we point our neighbors to the One who loves them most.



CAN MY LIFE STORY IMPACT YOURS?

By Kay Gasswint

The following life story has been put into print for one reason—to bring praise and honor to Jesus Christ, my Savior, and to point those who read this toward Him.

The life challenges He has brought me through are a testimony to His love, mercy, grace and power.

When I was 11, I was afflicted with rheumatic fever, which affects your heart valve. According to medical science, I was to prepare, with my schooling, to work as an office worker. They said I wouldn't be able to do hard physical labor. That did not fit with my hopes. I wanted to be a carpenter. My great-grandfather and grandfather were both carpenter contractors, and I wanted to follow in their footsteps.

At the age of 14, I worked on my uncle's farm during the summer. The summers I was 15 and 16 years of age, I worked for my grandfather. I graduated when I was 17 and went into construction work full-time. God undoubtedly worked a miracle for this to happen.

My spiritual journey took a serious turn when I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 13. Regrettably, it took 20 years for me to get serious about serving and witnessing for Jesus. God had a unique way to help that happen.

At 2 a.m. on July 5, 1969, I was suddenly awakened by two rows of needle-like pains that traveled from my throat to my waist area. I didn't know if it was a heart attack or not so I laid there for a bit. I couldn't feel a heart beat in my chest. I immediately felt like I was rising up off of the bed. I couldn't fathom what was taking place. My wife awoke, turned the headboard light on and became alarmed. She said I was as white as the bed sheet and then called for the ambulance.

While awaiting the ambulance, she was sitting on the edge of the bed, crying. I told her if it was time to leave this world, we couldn't change it, but it would be alright. I wasn't afraid. I no sooner uttered those words, when a feeling of total peace filled my spirit and my body. I was transported to the hospital, where I remained for 1 1/2 days. I never received a firm diagnosis medically, but God showed me during the ensuing months why this experience occurred.

The electrician foreman on the construction project I was overseeing developed a brain tumor. I was able to witness to him during his cancer treatment over the next several months. I visited him when he entered the hospital and prayed for his healing. Several weeks later, I was informed he passed away but had accepted Jesus as his Savior two weeks before he was taken to heaven. God showed me why my experience occurred months earlier. That experience

contributed to a spiritual boldness I had recently received to witness.

I became self-employed in 1971 as a contractor in carpentry until late in 1981. Due to a low point in the economy, I had some large business accounts that proved uncollectable. I was not able to continue contracting and filed a business bankruptcy, which I tried to avoid, but was unable. There were some challenging

circumstances but God walked with us through them all. I went to work for a local contractor on May 23, 1982. Being able to stay working as a carpenter was quite a blessing.

In 1999, at the age of 64, I incurred two ruptured discs in my lower back. After visiting two doctors, I didn't receive any treatment options that I could accept. In 2006, I tore the rotator cuff in my right shoulder. Following an MRI and consultation, I was told it was a large tear and that an operation wouldn't improve my range of motion. We opted to not have the operation. I believe that if God had for me to continue doing construction, he would enable me. I continued doing construction work without limits to what I did.

In 2013, at 78, I quit working in order to begin caring for my wife. She had developed early onset dementia. In 2016, at 81 years of age, we discovered I had bladder cancer and kidney cancer. It didn't really rock my boat. I had already been blessed for 80 years, so I didn't feel I had the right to ask God to heal me, so I didn't. The bladder cancer was treated through nine sessions. The left kidney and tumor were removed April 22, 2016. There is presently no sign of either cancer. To God be the glory.

On July 18, 2019, my family, friends, and I were present at my wife's bedside as she took her flight to heaven. What a blessing to know she is no longer suffering but is walking the streets of glory.

Through all the experiences I've written about here, God has continually walked with my family and me. I hope reading them might point you to Jesus and a personal relationship with him. They have greatly strengthened my faith and walk with Him.





This month, we check in with Paul and Anita Pawelski in Latin America

Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier, DBIC Global Outreach Commission

Paul Pawelski trains and coaches church planters in Latin America. Paul and Anita work under One Mission Society (OMS) and are associate missionaries with Brethren in Christ U.S.

They will be with us by Zoom for our missions update on February 27. (Paul is Grace Holland's nephew.)

Meanwhile we can be praying for them.

Please pray for term five of the New Village Church Planting curriculum. The base English draft has been written. It is being reviewed and contextualized for Africa now. It will then be translated into several other languages and used by hundreds of church plants this year and thousands in the future.

The theme this term is building good character as leaders and depending on God. These are important lessons, but they can sometimes get missed when church planting is merely a program they work at. Pray that the leaders will develop deep spiritual foundations that will strengthen the church for generations to come.



Welcome Guests! To better connect with you we encourage you to email us at connect@dillsburgbic.org.

COVID-19 precautions: Masks are not required during worship outdoors, in the Fellowship Hall, or in the Sanctuary but you should feel free to wear one. Masks ARE required in the basement on Sunday mornings. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church. Please continue to be extra-attentive and sensitive to others' personal space. Offering plates will not be passed but have been placed in each worship space to receive your offering.

Grounding Grace

By Chou Gabikiny

"The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'" Jeremiah 31: 3, NIV

The essence of Christianity is the belief that God loved us enough to send His one and only son to die on the cross for our sins so we can be reconciled with God. Although this is what and why we believe, I think it is humanly impossible to fully comprehend such love. Love that accepts us while we are still sinners (Romans 5:8). Love that bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and never ends (1 Corinthians 13:7-8). The hymn "The Love of God" describes it well:

*Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade*

*To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky*

Hence, my attempt here is not to explain this love, because my brain is incapable of finding any logical explanation of why or how such love can exist. However, when I ponder on His love for me, it stirs my heart to action.

If our perfect God who is so big can love the small and fallible people that we are, what then is our response to this unfathomable love?

His love stirs me to love... to love Him, others, and myself. "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19, NIV). The more I accept God's love for me, even without understanding it, the more I feel compelled to express that love.

The Bible clearly tells us that Jesus said to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38, NIV). I believe this sums it all up... Loving God in this way calls for total obedience to all His commands, not because of fear of punishment, but because of this powerful love that consumes any desire to live otherwise. Loving the Lord in this way generates thoughts that are true, noble, and pure (Philippians 4:8). It also leads to godly stewardship of all that

He has given us, including our talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19). This love helps us forgive and bear with one another (Colossians 3:13). This love breaks barriers as it drives us to embrace people who are different than us (Galatians 3:28, James 2:1-4).

In His love, God draws us to Him.

By His love, we yearn to love Him more.

Through His love, we create safe communities where all feel loved and accepted.

Love sums it all up. Our Christian faith starts with love and ends with love. Love is not just what we are called to do, but what we are made of. As Christians, love is not just in our DNA but is our DNA.

The more I dwell on this love, the more I am convinced that love is not just the foundation of our faith, from which everything stems. It's not just a mandate either. I believe love is our value; it's our standard. I know it can be hard to love ourselves and others at times, and I want to propose that love becomes a challenge when we seek for perfection in the imperfect. God loves us, definitely not because we are perfect, but perhaps because He finds value in us. When we start seeing value (worth) in people, it becomes easier for us to implement our value (principle) as Christians. And God is more than able to give us the grace to love and be loved because He has already given us everything we need to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3).

What would you do with the love you have been so freely given?

We can brush it off as if it doesn't matter. We can accept it and keep it to ourselves or we can go out and ...

Live
Out our
Value
Every day.



Fresh Hope for Pillsburg

Sharing Our Stories

By Kathy Bennett

From a wise mind comes wise speech; the words of the wise are persuasive. Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” Proverbs 16:23-24

Mental Health America recently shared seven steps to mental health advocacy to encourage advocacy. We often think of advocacy in terms of protesting or speaking to elected officials, but it can be more personal than that. Following is a part of their advocacy plan that explains how simply sharing your story can be effective advocacy too.

If you want to practice sharing your story, Fresh Hope for Mental Health meets here at DBIC (in the Orange Room) Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm and provides a safe place to share!

The following information comes from Mental Health America, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and promoting the overall mental health of all:

Sharing your story can build connections and inspire change. The biggest way to fight stigma is by talking openly about mental health challenges. As the person sharing, it can be healing to have someone else hear your story and experiences—whether that’s a friend, your social media followers, or an elected official. Additionally, personal stories can guide us in building communities that more effectively meet people’s needs by exploring what does and does not work.

An important message from MHA’s founder that still guides our work is the idea that we must “fight in the open.” That means sharing our stories and being honest about our experiences as a way to change the world around us.

Where can I share my mental health story?

- On your own social media.
- Through mental health nonprofits.
- Within other communities that you belong to—a sports team, your school, your church.
- With elected officials and other decision makers who control mental health laws and services.

What parts of my mental health journey should I share?

Here are a few questions to guide you as you start to think about sharing your mental health story:

1. How did you know you were struggling? Share some signs that you were having a difficult time. For example, “I began isolating myself from my friends” or “I started thinking about my weight constantly.”
2. What was the point at which things changed for you? Did you get access to mental health services or did a friend inspire you with their story?
3. What did it look like when your mental health improved? How do you maintain your mental health and well-being? What do you wish existed for other people?

What are some important things to consider when I share my story?

1. **Only share what you want to!** Your decision to share your story is entirely up to you. You don’t have to go into deep detail or share things you’re uncomfortable with just to make a difference. It’s not dishonest if you don’t share every single thing that’s happened to you. For example, if you experienced a traumatic event that you do not want to share, it is OK to not include it when you share with other people.
2. **It’s important to know that there may be some people who won’t understand, and some people may even be upset by it.** You should make sure you have support, and it may be worth even testing what you’re going to say with another person. Remember, even though people may not understand, you can still choose to share and inspire others.
3. **You may also want to consider how your story may impact other people’s lives.** For example, will sharing parts of your story give away information about someone else’s story? If so, you should ask that person before disclosing personal things about them.

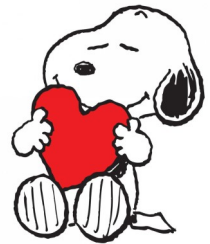


Celebrating Life Together!

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff & Lois Conrady February 15

Tom & Kathy Renard February 26



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
Paul Lerew	February 4	Suzanne Erikson	February 26
Britton Hill	February 6	Jon Dale	February 27
Emily Vader	February 10	Mary Hulbert	February 27
Angelina Waris	February 11	Katie Renard	February 28
Diana Dale	February 12	Beth Shelly	February 28
Annabeth Rotz	February 14	Tessa Walsh	February 29
Deb Monko	February 16		

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 am ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study 3:45 pm Encircle 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	2 9:00 am ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study 3:45 pm Encircle 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	3 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	4	5
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	7 3:45 pm Encircle 7:00 pm ZOOM Ministry Council	8 Doulos Deadline 7:00 pm ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study	9 9:00 am ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study 3:45 pm Encircle 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	10 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm ZOOM Human Trafficking Meeting 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	11 9:00 am ZOOM Local Outreach	12 7:30 am Pastor Rob's Prayer Team
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	14 3:45 pm Encircle	15 7:00 pm ZOOM Deacon Meeting	16 9:00 am ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study 3:45 pm Encircle 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	17 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	18	19
20 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	21	22 7:00 pm ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study	23 9:00 am ZOOM Ladies' Bible Study 3:45 pm Encircle 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	24 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm ZOOM Prayer	25	26 9:00 am Prayer Walking
27 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm ZOOM Missions Update	28 3:45 pm Encircle				