



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org

January 2024

"A New Year..."

By Pastor Rob Douglass

Depending on when you read this, a New Year is just around the corner or has begun. Did you make any New Year's resolutions?

Truth be told, for the last several decades, I have not made any New Year's resolutions. It seemed to me that they were an exercise in futility, a promise made to myself whose emptiness would be revealed in time, often in short order.

New Year's resolutions are an ancient human activity. The first record of them is about 4,000 years ago with the Babylonians. The beginning of the Babylonian year was around our March, as it marked the beginning of the planting season.

Throughout their history, New Year's resolutions have had a religious connection. For the Babylonians, the resolutions were promises to the gods that, if they were fulfilled, would result in the gods' granting their favor.

By the time of the Romans, the beginning of the year was moved. In 46 BC, Julius Caesar decided that the beginning of the year should be January 1, the month named after Janus, the god with two faces. One face looked backward into the past and the other was looking forward into the future.

January 1st was called the Kalends of January. Kalends is the word from which we get the world calendar. The Kalends of January involved all kinds of celebrations and religious rites, like public parades and sacrifices at various temples to diverse gods.

By the 300's AD, Christianity's impact on the Roman Empire was increasing. Yet, in spite of the Church's growing influence, the Kalends of January observances seemed to persist. In fact, when Emperor Julian attempted to re-establish paganism in the Empire in the 360's, he sought to revive the Kalends of January celebrations.

One early Church Father who likely had experienced Julian's celebration of the Kalends of January in 363 in Antioch was John Chrysostom. He was so disturbed by

what he witnessed that he preached a sermon about it. He likened the impact of the celebration of Kalends to enemies that have come against God's people at different times, such as the Amalekites in the Old Testament and the Barbarians in Chrysostom's day. He said,

"For the war is begun for us, not with the coming of the Amalekites, as then, nor with some other overrunning Barbarians, but with demons leading a procession in the forum. For the diabolical night-festivities that occur today, the jests, the abuse, and the nocturnal dances, and this comedy, absurd and worse than every enemy, took our city captive."

Chrysostom was echoing Paul's central point in Ephesians 6. There is a war; our enemies are deadly serious; and our enemies are not other humans.

In light of the longstanding connection between New Year's resolutions and non-Christian religions, it may be surprising to read of my decision to break my habit and make a resolution this year.

I have resolved that in 2024 I want to be more like John Chrysostom. I want to commit myself to having my eyes open. I want to be more attentive to what God is doing, to see more clearly the needs of those around me, and to remember that "the war is begun for us" and that the enemy has taken "our city captive."

This year, may we all be more attentive. May our eyes be open to what he wants us to see, our hearts centered on Him and His Kingdom. May our hands ready to serve the Lord with strength he gives, and our feet ready to follow him through whatever we experience in 2024.

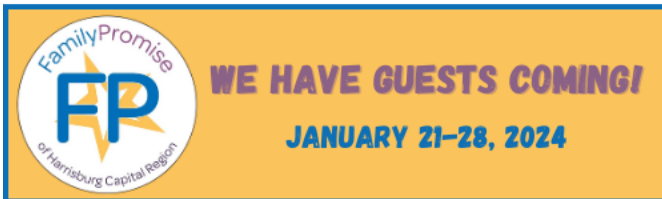


A Fair is Coming to DBIC!!! Sunday, February 4



Blue-ribbon pies, adorable livestock, and the sweet smell of freshly cooked funnel cake? Well, not quite that kind of fair! But how about a gathering of DBIC ministry leaders ready to connect with you about what their

ministry area is about and how you can both be served by and serve in that area? Whether it is connecting with a small group or a deacon, sharing your artistic skills, connecting with the Dillsburg community, or simply helping greet people on a Sunday morning, there will be information for all! AND, we will have finger food, a scavenger hunt, and DBIC logoed take-home items yours for just stopping by! All this and more on Sunday, February 4th, right after the morning service! See you at the Ministry Fair!



Our church will be hosting families from Family Promise starting on January 21st through the 28th. If you are interested in participating in this weeklong event, there are various ways in which you can help. First, we need people willing to serve as evening

and overnight hosts. Next, we will be making the evening meals for these families. Lastly, we need to provide food for breakfast and lunch. Descriptions of each role with further information as well as sign-up links can be found on the church's website and weekly email. For any other questions, feel free to contact Scott and Cindy Raboci at (717)432-9140 or sraboci@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for blessing so many families!

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The Doulos Newsletter Information

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Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: newsletter@dillsburgbic.org by the 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.

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Worship and Wonder

By Julie Lerew

This Advent, the congregation came together to share crafts, art, and culinary delights as acts of worship. These gifts inspired wonder in all of us.

We encountered incredible photographs, from as close as Dillsburg to as far as Africa. We marveled at paintings, gingerbread houses, and quilted items. We enjoyed the creativity of Lego sculptures, unique wood carvings, ebony and ivory chess pieces, and so much more.

We feasted during the Culinary Arts Show, when cooks brought in bite-sized servings of delicious delicacies for us to try. People discovered connections, shared interests or talents previously unknown, as artists shared their stories. We learned about a grandmother's cookie recipe, a venison bologna lovingly shared with international workers, an encounter with God in the midst of crocheting an afghan, and many other diverse expressions of worship.

Thank you to the dozens of people who were involved in creating, cooking, setting up, and cleaning up for the Art Show. Thanks also to those who shared special gifts of music for Advent preludes, and testimonies of how God has been at work with hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives.

This year, let us continue to remember that expressions of worship come in many varieties— the words we speak, the works of our hands, the ways we lift up our voices— and that God is looking at our hearts.



Photos courtesy of Kathy Renard

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

* Thank you for your recent monetary gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. It takes consistent and tireless work on behalf of our Peace Promise team to forge relationships of trust, hope, and safety with these individuals. We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for helping to release these precious souls into freedom and restoration, so that they might live lives of endless opportunities, meaningful relationships, and enduring peace.

Susan Vigliano, President of the Board & Patty Seaman, Executive Director—Peace Promise



A Peace Promise Story....

She reached out for help. A text message lit up Patty's phone. "I'm not okay. It's been a really hard week." Patty responded with a series of text messages that became in-depth conversations and several meet-ups for fun and relationship-building. From all external appearances, the young woman was doing exceptionally well. She had a good job and recently received a wage increase. She was accomplishing many of her personal goals. Yet, something unsettled her.

The work of healing never happens in a straight line, like a track and field athlete skillfully launching herself over a series of hurdles arriving at the finish line. Healing from trauma often looks like a salsa dancer's steps - forward, backward, side-to-side, and sometimes, spin. Salsa can be danced alone, but is better with a partner. Similarly, healing steps can begin with a singular focus to pursue sobriety or a desire for a life free from exploitation and violence. But healing happens in a community, with many dance partners, e.g., counselors, friends, survivors,

pastors, life skills instructors. Peace Promise is a healing community that seeks to support women on their way to wholeness. Support can look like a long text message thread, a ride to a doctor appointment, or a Christmas gift bag. Sometimes support spans years that includes: hospital stays, incarcerations, returns to violent partners, relapses, sobriety, court appearances, funerals, graduations, baby showers, infant adoptions, and weddings.

The young woman that reached out to Patty for support needed a calming presence, a temporary change in her living arrangement, and caring adults to listen and respond to her concerns. Several people in the Peace Promise community came alongside her, and continue to offer encouragement. Thank you, donors, for your ongoing participation in Peace Promise's healing community. Your prayers and financial gifts provide the foundation for healing.

STOP TRAFFIC

by Marj Strayer

Peace Promise sends a huge 'Thank You' to Dillsburg BIC for your continuous support. We thank all of you, especially for your prayers, which are foundational to everything we set out to accomplish. Also, for those who make financial donations, purchase items from Soaps by Survivors, bake cookies, donate items for the ladies' Christmas gift bags, and give time and effort to the many events that help promote this ministry, we say 'thank you'. All that you do in support of this mission speaks to the ladies we serve as well as to those who work tirelessly on their behalf for the love of a Savior that lives within you. May God bless you for your giving hearts that respond so generously.

THE BOOK NOOK

Explore and Discover our Church Library
Free to Borrow From!!



By Kimberly Tucker

It's a new year, and there are two new children's books in the church library!

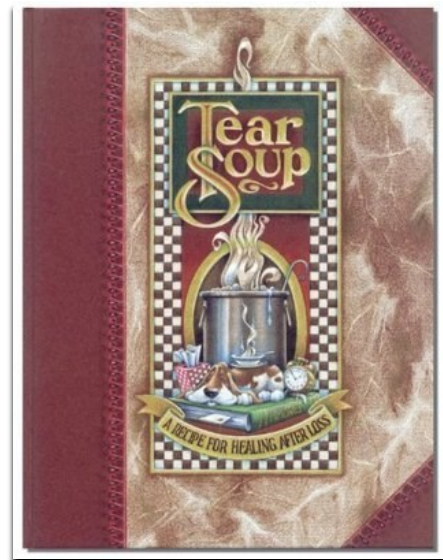
"Cory and the Seventh Story" by Brian McLaren & Gareth Higgins is about a woodlands community called Old Village. Cory, the raccoon, walked through the village each day while Cory's friend Owl flew along. While walking and flying through, greeting their neighbors, they observed their neighbors' behaviors. First, they saw Domination (Bullying) behaviors followed by Revolution, Purification, Isolation, Victimization, and Accumulation.

Then Swifthorse, a poet, appears on the other side of the stream, who identifies these first six stories of living where nobody lives happily ever after. Swifthorse then tells the Seventh Story to live by, a story that doesn't turn "Us" against "Them".

"Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss" by Pat Schwiebert & Chuck Deklyen is not just for children. It is a book with helpful cooking tips to make "tear soup" to use when dealing with grief. Grandy, an old and wise woman, has suffered a great loss. She grieves by making Tear Soup.

Some cooking requires that you measure ingredients exactly. But making soup is different. Soup making is an art, and your only goal is that the blended creation will both satisfy your hunger and soothe what hurts you.

Following Grandy's story, you will find cooking tips to use in dealing with grief: if you are the cook, if your friend is the cook, soup making and time, if a child is the cook, if you are a male chef, or if there are two of you cooking. Enjoy—no matter what age you are!



In the Pew Next To YOU: Meet: Connie & Al Darbrow

Born and Raised in...

Connie: I was born and raised in Dillsburg. I was actually born at home, in the old house behind the Drive-In. I was a Farmer's Fair baby, born on a Friday night of the "Baby Parade" and on a Friday auction night. My mom was at the parade when I started to come into this world. Dr. Miller from Dillsburg was at the auction that night when my grandfather asked if anyone was there that could deliver a baby. He did not know what was going to happen. I started to come foot first. If it hadn't been for Dr. Miller, neither me nor my mother would have lived to tell the story.

Al: Al was born in Lewisberry and raised in Mechanicsburg. He was the delivery boy for the Grit newspaper and got to know lots of people in town. He also worked on a local farm, helping to milk the cows and do any other chores he could before he went to school and after. During his ninth year, he quit school to help bring in money for the family due to his dad having both legs broken at work. He later became a truck driver and did so for 43 years.

A bit about our family...

Connie: I have one sister and three children (two daughters and one son), five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Al: Al has one brother and two sisters. He also has three children (two daughters and one son), seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

We spend our days doing...

Connie: Most of my days are at the auction taking calls, setting up drop-off appointments, taking pictures, and loading them on the website. I also help unload the trucks, order supplies for the restaurant, and in the summer, load the movies onto the projector. Weekend evenings are spent at the ticket gate to the movies.

Al: Al spends summer days mowing at Haars and doing any repairs he can. He also enjoys fixing things in his workshop. He loves to restore old tractors! He also enjoys sitting in his recliner in the shop.

How I became a Christian...

Connie: I was at a low time in my life during my 1st marriage when I confided in a friend at Highmark Blue Shield. She comforted me and led me in the prayer of my salvation.

Al: Al was going to a Christian Missionary Alliance Church at age 12 when Mrs. Butler from the church led him in the prayer of salvation. Later in his 40s, he had pneumonia, was listening to a TV evangelist, and reaffirmed his salvation.

Times we really saw God work in our lives were...

Connie: I had three instances. My daughter Lori (Mitchel's Mom) had a problem with her first pregnancy. She was at Allentown Neonatal Ward and needed to stay in bed until she delivered.



During the night I had a dream that I was actually talking to the baby, telling him not to come yet. I was awoken by a phone call to get to the hospital because my daughter Lori was going into labor. Baby David was born but only lived for two hours. God allowed me to be with my daughter to comfort her and to see and hold that dear little boy.

Another instance was when my first husband was abusing me, slamming my head into the refrigerator. I called to God, saying, "Please let his work call and take him away from me." The phone rang and he left.

The third instance was when Al was in the hospital with bleeds that they could not reach, and he was really doing badly. I prayed so hard for his healing to stop the bleeding, and I feel that this was an answered prayer, a miracle. The bleeding stopped!

Al: God has worked so many times in his life with getting him through many operations: Hernia, quad bypass, aortic valve replaced (which meant he had to be cut open again). Four years later, the same valve needed to be replaced but they were able to go through the groin. Four years later, the same valve needed to be replaced but this meant the third time for open heart surgery. His last bout was the bleeds in his stomach. God's healing power got him through! Praise God.

Our Favorite Bible Verses

Connie: Romans 8:28

Al: John 3:16/ Psalms 23

Our favorite things about DBIC

The warm feeling within the church. The people are so loving and friendly. You truly feel their warmth and that they really care about you. Pastor Rob is like one of the gang. He is a genuine, loving, caring person. We love the talent, the music, the children, the young adults. We love how the church helps the community and the school.



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In case of inclement weather, DBIC's policy 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. For activities on weekends or days when school is not in session, please check radio and TV announcements (ABC27) or our website (www.dillsburgbic.org) for closure information.



Update from CF, a Cross-Cultural Missionary

*Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier,
DBIC Global Outreach Commission*

CF will be sharing with the youth Sunday school class and bringing greetings to our congregation on January 21. Here is an introduction to her experiences in cross-cultural ministry thus far:

I am a nurse from Central PA who is part of Cedar Grove BIC Church in Mifflintown, PA. From the time that I was 13, I knew that I wanted to work with people overseas. After a lot of prayer and discernment, I moved to Dearborn, MI in August 2019 with BICWM as a 'Kingdom Professional.' Dearborn has the largest concentration of Arabs outside of the Middle East. There, I lived, worked, and ministered among Arab people. In my house, I had an Omani university student and a Syrian refugee as housemates. Around me, my neighbors were Lebanese, Yemenis, Iraqi, and Jordanian. I assisted with a tutoring program that allowed me to grow really close to one particular Syrian family. I was also actively part of a bilingual gathering where we did praise music, prayed, and Bible story-told in both languages.

In addition to my neighborhood involvement, I was also able to start teaching nursing students at a local university and went on to earn my Master's degree in Nursing Education. Teaching nursing students is such a natural pathway of discipleship.

After a trip to the Arabian Peninsula in 2022, I realized that I still wanted to go overseas and began to make plans for a move to that region. Because my life in Dearborn was chaotic, after finishing my master's degree, I took 5 months off to be in Germany with family and take some time to slow down, pray, and listen. (My mom is originally from Germany, and I have dual citizenship.) Some of my original plans shifted a little while I was there, but I am still planning to go to that region (just a different country than I originally thought).

Thank you cards: Have you used the thank you cards in the pew racks? If so, could you let the office know if they help you cultivate a habit of being thankful? Have you received one of them from someone else? We would love to hear from you about how it made you feel! Please email or call the office to share your input!

Do you have a prayer request? Would you like: To receive emailed prayer requests? To receive the weekly DBIC email? A church mailbox? Offering envelopes? You can contact us by email at connect@dillsburgbic.org with your request.

2024 Short-term Trips with BIC US World Missions

*By Vicky Landis, Mobilization Administrator
Brethren in Christ U.S.*

Things are well underway for our 2024 short-term trip planning. Several of you have expressed interest in our 2024 trips. I wanted to follow up with you with some more information. Trip descriptions and applications can be found on our <https://bicus.org/missions/get-involved/short-term-opportunities/> Applications are now being accepted (see information and dates below).

For the Colombia and Dearborn trips, families are welcome. Any minors that apply must be accompanied by a parent. For the Greece and Thailand trips, participants must be 18 or older.

All applications and pastoral references will be reviewed by the BIC US World Missions Leadership Team. Teams will be assembled and training will begin as noted above. We will do our best to accommodate your trip choice(s). These trips end up being multi-congregational which is exciting for you to have an opportunity to meet others in the BIC family!

Location	Date	Cost	Application submitted by	3-month training begins
Bogota, Colombia	June 3-7	\$1400-\$1600/person	March 2024	April 2024
Dearborn, MI	July 29-August 2	\$500/person	March 2024	April 2024
Dearborn, MI	August 5-9	\$500/person	March 2024	April 2024
Dearborn, MI	August 12-16	\$500/person	March 2024	April 2024
Athens, Greece	TBD – possibly Sept 2024	TBD	July 2024	August 2024
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand	December 10-20	\$2800/person	July 2024	September 2024

Corner Life Meals

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to linger after the meal for songs and activities for all ages, including Thrive youth group and Shine which will begin at 6:30 p.m. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal, please sign up at www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/ We only have one meal for the month of January due to the holiday schedule.

January 17
Meatball Subs
Veggies with Dip
Fruit
Brownies

**** Menus are subject to change. ****

Celebrating the Christmas Season Together!





Photos courtesy of Jeff Conrady, Rachel Pease, Joe Bennett, and Anne-Marie Brandt.



General Announcements:

Sunday School for all ages will resume on Jan. 7, beginning at 9 a.m. During the months of January-March, the adult class will view two video series with teaching by Ray Vander Laan. We will journey with God's people in their exodus from Egypt and travels in the desert with the series "God Heard Their Cry" and "Fire on the Mountain."

Here are the locations for all Sunday School classes:

- Preschool: Room 105
- Grades K-2: Room 103
- Grades 3-5: Room 201 (note change of location!)
- Youth (Middle/High School): Room B-6
- Young Adults: Orange Room
- Adults: Fellowship Hall

Service Livestream: We will continue to stream the church services for those who do not attend in person. You will receive a link via email each Sunday. You can also join the livestream by going to the website (www.dillsburgbic.org) If you view the service using the link in your email, you will not need a username or password; however, please note that a username and password will be needed to access services from the dillsburgbic.org website due to privacy and copyright issues. The username will ALWAYS be: dbic and the password will always be: sermons (without the quotes). Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who would like to join us virtually as we worship!

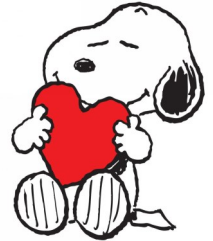
Fresh Hope for Mental Health: First and Third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Orange Room. This is a peer-to-peer group, meaning that everyone attending is affected by a mental health challenge of their own or of a family member or close friend. It is not necessary that you be in treatment with a therapist or doctor to attend, but our meetings are not a replacement for treatment when needed. We incorporate faith practices with psychological information or science-based information about mental health and share information, support, and encouragement with one another. The privacy of individuals who attend is important, so we are asked to keep our conversations confidential.

Support Group for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ children. (Meeting time shared as needed to protect privacy) Do you want support in your efforts to love your child and have a good relationship with them? Do you have questions or fears about your child's future? Are you questioning your parenting? We are not trying to change your child, the church, or the world. We are here to support and honor each other in our efforts as parents who love their LGBTQ+ children. If you would like to join us in judgment free conversation, please contact Rob at freshhope@dillsburgbic.org or 717-432-3847.

Newsletter availability: While we distribute the monthly newsletter by email and it is available on the website, we also realize some people prefer having a paper edition. If you would like a printed copy in your mailbox each month, please call or email the office and let Kathy know!

Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




Cam & Julie Holman January 7



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Naomi Smith	January 1	Marian Hoover	January 18
Joe Zwally	January 1	Jeremy Rank	January 20
Kyle Leister	January 2	Hannah Hardy	January 20
Sophia Brandt	January 9	Stephanie Walsh	January 23
Seth Miller	January 9	Dave Miller	January 26
Terry Stoudnour	January 9	Steven Miller	January 26
Scott Eyster	January 13	Rachel Miller	January 27
Jeff Conrady	January 14	Charlie Miller	January 28
David Vader	January 15	Sarah Hoover	January 29
Noah Austin	January 17	Art Bert	January 31

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	4 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	5	6
7 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	8 Doulos Deadline 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	9 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study	10 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	11 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers') 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	12	13
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm LC/MC/Staff Discipleship Meeting	15	16 6:00 pm Ladies' Secret Pal Dinner	17 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	18 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	19	20
21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	22	23 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study	24 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	25 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	26	27
Family Promise Hosting						
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	29	30	31 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	