



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR

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

March 2024

"Footwashing as Transformed Friendship"

By Esther Spurrier

Rob recently preached about the woman who showed her gratitude, love and devotion by washing and anointing the feet of Jesus, drying them with her hair. We also have an opportunity to wash the feet of Jesus every year at the Maundy Thursday supper and service, just before Easter. The love and devotion we show to others is love and devotion given to Jesus.

The tradition of footwashing started long ago in Brethren in Christ churches because Jesus said in John 13 that just as he washed the feet of his disciples (even Judas!) the night before his crucifixion, we also ought to wash each other's feet. Our forebears took this very literally. Their descendants have not always practiced this act of humility and service quite so literally. Some have found meaningful equivalent practices; others have stopped trying.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved the footwashing service. In no other group worship activity have I found such expression of love and intimacy. I remember our fellowship at DBIC in the 1990s. The women washed feet in the basement. Maybe some of you can even today recall the musty smell of that old space! Bared feet didn't hold a candle to that smell. But such love was expressed as we sat in a circle, our young daughters present and participating with us, singing, sharing memories and testimonies, watching and praying, then being washed, washing, sharing words of love and blessing as we exchanged a "holy kiss."



We returned to Zambia after the millennium rolled over and found a rampant AIDS pandemic that was changing life and service in dire ways. The church there was reconsidering whether to continue its practice of footwashing. Feet and hands are used hard in that society. There were often cuts and open sores that increased the risk of transmitting the HIV virus

as we washed each other's feet. But the elders decided that this practice of showing love and humble service to each other was worth the risk, and so we continued. We did add a basin of hand-washing water laced with bleach afterwards as an effective safeguard.

As I get older, the physical challenge of getting down gracefully on my knees and back up again is greater. But there are always loving hands to help me, or ways to adapt the desire of my heart to my physical capabilities!

Jesus didn't just tell us how we can love and serve each other; he showed us. And then he told us to turn around and practice it. It's wonderful to welcome young ones and first-timers into the Maundy Thursday observance. We help each other as part of our act of humble service. If you've never participated in this aspect of the Lenten season, welcome to the footwashing circle.



Annual Congregational Council Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Council meeting took place on Saturday, February 10th. The Council meeting opened shortly after 9 AM, following a breakfast fellowship, with 68 attendees (60 members and 8 non-members) present. Afterward, Emily Brubaker led a demonstration on the emergency equipment (AED) available at DBiC.



Easter Choir - Please join us in celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection with your voice! Rehearsals are from 2:00-3:30 in the sanctuary. Remaining rehearsals will be: March 3, 17, and 24 (no rehearsal Sunday, March 10). We will sing at the morning service on Easter, March 31st. Contact Randy Fish at fishrs@hotmail.com if you have

DILLSBURG BRETHREN IN CHRIST STAFF



Rob Douglass

Senior Pastor

rob.douglass@dillsburgbic.org



Jeff Conrady

Associate Pastor

jeff.conrady@dillsburgbic.org



Naomi Smith

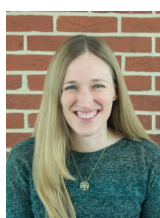
Associate Pastor

naomi@dillsburgbic.org



Esther Spurrier

Pastor of
Congregational Care
espurrier49@gmail.com



Julie Lerew

Worship Coordinator
julie.lerew@dillsburgbic.org



Kathy Bennett

Administrative Assistant
office@dillsburgbic.org



The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editors: Kathy Bennett, Anne-Marie Brandt
Rhonda Hebbard

Doulos Layout and Design: Anne-Marie Brandt

Editor Emeritus: Carolyn Kimmel

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.

Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church
18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA
717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org

Celebrating Life Together!

Sunday, February 4th, saw a fair held in DBIC's fellowship hall: but no Ferris wheel or cotton candy was involved. Instead, there were meatballs, beach balls, a scavenger hunt, and lots of great conversations about ministries at DBIC. More than fifteen ministry areas were represented, along with the opportunity to suggest new ideas or opportunities. Alongside great food, there were great connections made with congregants interested in connecting with ministries or finding more information about what DBIC is doing in the church, the community, and the world! If you missed the event or want further information about what DBIC is all about, including the need for a refrigerator magnet or kid's beach ball, send an e-mail to connect@dillsburgbic.org or contact Pastor Jeff Conrady.



DBiC Ministry Fair

Photos courtesy of Joe Bennett

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Thank you for your confidence in the New Horizons Foundation, Inc. Your generous support has enabled the beneficiaries of your gift to continue the work they have been called to do. We appreciate the opportunity to co-labor with you on this important project.

~ V. William Moritz, Executive Director, New Horizons Foundation

Thank you for this gracious gift. God is using your faithfulness together with SIM cross-cultural workers and partner churches demonstrate the goodness of Jesus in many places where people otherwise live and die without having a single Christian who will be their friend. We are compelled to keep going so that all may experience the goodness of Jesus in human form!

~ Matt & Julie Walsh, SIM

Thanks for everything, with all my love. “**Thank you** for helping me.”

~ Recipient of Car Ministry

THANK YOU for your recent generous gift. We appreciate your generosity.

~ Reverend John Schaffer, Executive Director, Life Choices Clinic

Dear Friends, **Thank you** for joining with us as we share God's love and hope with more than 20,000 people every year. Words cannot adequately express our sincerest thanks to you for this lovely blessing!! Your support of our life-changing programs makes an impact right here in our community. **Thank you** for partnering with us once again in this meaningful work as we share help and the hope of Jesus with our neighbors in need!

~ Molly Helmstetter, DFRE, Director of Development, New Hope Ministries

Thank you very much for your recent donation to Paxton Ministries! Your care and generosity are so appreciated, especially after what has been a very busy holiday season. With your support, Paxton Ministries is able to wrap up 2023 and enter 2024 with a renewed sense of joy, anticipation, and thankfulness. We've had a year full of stories of changed lives, and we have a new year ahead in which we are ready to do even more to reach adults in need with practical, hope-giving, and Christ-like love and care. Once again, thanks so much for helping us continue fulfilling our mission to provide affordable housing and support services to adults in need with Christ-like love!

~ Amy Starr, Director of Development, Paxton Ministries

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 6:30PM. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal. Please sign up at www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/

March 6

Ham
Scalloped Potatoes
Cooked Veggies
Cookies

March 20

Taco Mac
Salad
Éclair Cake

** Menus are subject to
change. **



Ramadan

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

The Islamic holy month of prayer begins March 10. Global Outreach has purchased a number of copies of a prayer guide you can use as we pray for Muslim people to “come home” to Jesus. International Mission Board also publishes a brief on-line prayer guide you can access at the website at the bottom of the page. This is the introduction to that guide:

Let's pray during Ramadan

Every year billions of Muslims observe a month-long fast from sunrise to sundown called Ramadan, one of the pillars of Islam. For many, it's tradition and an anticipated time to share with families and communities. For other Muslims, Ramadan is about self-denial or overcoming evil desires and appetites, renewing vows to live a moral life, reading the Qur'an again, extra times of prayer, and performing acts of charity. But religious duties like Ramadan cannot solve our greatest problem: humanity's sinful rebellion against a holy God. The good news of Jesus is largely unknown among Muslims. As Muslims observe Ramadan, may we, the Church, pray to the one, true God for their salvation. Their greatest problem, even in their season of prayer, remains spiritual lostness. Like us, they need the only solution—the gospel. Pray this month for Muslims' response to the gospel and for missionaries who daily serve among them. Our God is listening!

God hears our prayers

During Ramadan 2007, in such a time of heightened spiritual awareness among Muslims, workers asked us to pray for Chief Moses. He leads a village of Wassulu people in West Africa. After having a dream about Jesus, Chief Moses began studying the Bible, but he was unwilling to leave Islam. For the past two decades, Chief Moses has been a friend to workers among the Wassulu and has heard the gospel many times. When his health rapidly declined in January 2023, workers visited him and walked through the gospel with him again. With deep joy and awe, they listened as Chief Moses repented in prayer and declared he wanted to follow Jesus. Praise God for what He has done in Chief Moses's life! God answered the prayers we said during Ramadan over a decade ago. This Ramadan, join us in asking God to move in incredible ways once again. Your prayers will have a direct impact on our hope to see a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9).

<https://www.imb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/RamadanPrayerGuide.pdf>



In the Pew Next To YOU: Meet: *Jean Keller-Thau*

Born and Raised in...

I was born in Lancaster, PA but we moved to Maryland when I started 1st grade. I lived in Maryland until my husband passed in 1999 in order to be with family.

A bit about my family...

I have one younger brother and one younger sister. My sister lives in Maryland. My brother served as a BIC pastor at Fairview Brethren in Christ at Reesers Summit where he retired and is now living in Carlisle, PA. My dad served as a pastor in the BIC for thirty-five years. He and my mother are both deceased. I am a mom of four and a grandmom of six. I have one great grandchild. Two of my kids live in Maryland, one in Florida and I share a home with my youngest daughter, her husband and my granddaughter, Charlie.

I spend my days doing...

A good deal of my time is spent in volunteer work with Family Promise where I sit on the Board of Directors and volunteer to answer the phones one day a week. I fill the rest of my time with church, Bible studies and connecting with my small group and other close friends.

How I became a Christian...

My sister was instrumental in encouraging our family to attend a small church gathering when she was 10 years old. That's where my father rededicated his life, my mom accepted Christ, and my sister and I were baptized. My faith became more real to me when I moved to Dillsburg and connected closely to the BIC. I had the opportunity to serve as the administrative assistant to the General Secretary of BIC National and then to serve for ten years as associate pastor at DBIC.

A time I really saw God work in my life was...

When my husband passed. God walked so closely with me during that time and brought me from the very depths of despair to a community of believers here at DBIC who walked that journey alongside me and allowed me to heal and find value and purpose. Being with my family in Dillsburg provided a foundation for that healing.

My biggest passion is...

Being a listener and prayer warrior.

I spend my free time doing...

The volunteer work I mentioned above. I love gardening, but I have been dealing with some challenges physically that limit my ability to enjoy being out working in the yard. I do have opportunity to occasionally care for my granddaughter, Charlie, and that is an incredible blessing.

Favorite Bible verse...

Isaiah 40:28-31. How I would love to soar on the wings of eagles. This has been my favorite passage for many years, but has come to mean so much more to me over the last few years as my mobility has become more and more compromised.



My favorite thing about Dillsburg BiC is...

I love the people and the way that serving the community inside and outside of DBIC is so important. I've watched community outreach increase over the years and have been so blessed by the desire of the congregation to reach out beyond the four walls of the church.

Something that might surprise you about me is...

Everyone is so surprised that up until a few years ago I truly enjoyed watching NASCAR and had a favorite driver.

My favorite song is...

I don't have a favorite, although I especially enjoy "I Can Only Imagine." I love music of all kinds. Recently, I was taken by a song written and performed by Toby Keith, "Don't Let the Old Man In." Hits more closely to home when you're seventy-five.

A prayer request I have is...

That our country and the world would come to understand our need to love and respect one another. I don't believe we can ever truly find peace without seeing all human beings as God's creation and allowing the love and mercy God has given each one of us to flow to all those around us.



STOP TRAFFIC

by Marj Strayer



Please pray that Peace Promise would have the Lord's blessing as they hope to raise \$50,000 in donations from their fundraising banquet. This money will go directly to meeting the needs of the women we serve. We are also hoping that all those present would be blessed by our survivor speakers.

A huge thank you to all who donated auction items and to those who have supported Peace Promise throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity and continued support. Online Registration: <https://peacepromise.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/peacepromise/eventRegistration.jsp?event=53>

For Love & Freedom

Annual Benefit Event
March 8, 2024 | 6:00pm

General Announcements:

Sunday School for all ages begins 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!

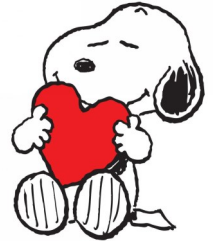
Fresh Hope for Mental Health: First and Third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Orange Room. This is a peer-to-peer group, meaning that everyone attending is affected by a mental health challenge of their own or of a family member or close friend. It is not necessary that you be in treatment with a therapist 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



Sam & Rosie Stoner	March 22
Joe & Doris Lerew	March 26



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Esther Spurrier	March 1	Tammy Leister	March 26
Phoebe Miller	March 1	Georgia Nash	March 28
Tom Austin	March 4	Lydia Horst	March 29
Marj Strayer	March 8	Sarah Renard	March 30
Andi Brubaker	March 9	Annika Pomeroy	March 31
Al Darbrow	March 10		
Riley Miller	March 13		
Terry Bachmann	March 15		
Mark Renard	March 18		
Conrad Weiser	March 18		
Audra Sieber	March 20		
Dan Brandt	March 20		
Molly Van Dyke	March 22		



