



April 2021  
Volume 5, Issue 4

# The Vineyard

Here at the Mount Joy Church of God, our logo is the fruit of the vine: grapes. Our colors are purple, green, and gold: the color of grapes, healthy leaves, branches, and vines. Our newsletter is called "The Vineyard." Why? It's what we aspire to as a community of faith: to be a vineyard. What kind of place is a vineyard? It's a place of growth. It's a place of pruning (ouch). It's a place of life and fruit bearing. It can be all those things, but only when the branches remain connected to the Vine.

We want our church to be a place of growth, pruning, life, and fruit. That's the church at its best, but only when the individual branches—you and I—remain connected to the Vine. Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the Vine, you are the branches; those who remain connected to me, and me to them, bear much fruit." May this publication help you be pruned, grow, bear fruit, and remain connected to the Vine. May it help you be a useful, lively part of this Vineyard.



"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

~ 1 Peter 1:3

## Connect With Us

Mount Joy Church of God  
30 East Main Street  
Mount Joy, PA 17552  
717.653.4695  
mountjoychurchofgod.org

## Happenings

- Maundy Thursday—  
April 1st
- Good Friday—  
April 2nd
- Easter Sunday—  
April 4th

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## April Celebrations



1— April Brinser-King

19— Hazel Chapin

3— Denise Bixler, Gary & Nikki  
McNece

20— Brian & Amanda Mutterspaugh

23—Lois Finley

6— Brian Mutterspaugh

24—Joyce Stauffer

9— Melanie Kendig

25—Chloe Mutterspaugh

11— Shirley Blough

26— Mae Greider

15— Amanda Mutterspaugh

28—Linda Thomas, Katie Wagner

16— David Lloyd

17— Don Bell

**We wish all of you a happy and blessed birthday and/or anniversary!**

# Branching Out

April Missionary

Alyssa McNece Shearer



**Contact:**

amcnece@ccojubilee.org

Coalition for Christian Outreach Missionary Alyssa (McNece) Shearer evangelizes and works with students at Penn State Harrisburg.

Alyssa recently graduated from Arcadia University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Illustration.

"I am passionate about campus ministry because there is so much brokenness that I know Christ can heal," says Alyssa. "It is such an impressionable age that is looking for hope. Even when you can't see it, Christ is working and I want to help students see that!"

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"Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—  
is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

~ Romans 8:34:

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## Vacation Bible School

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**What:** VBS 2021

**When:** July 11-15

**Time:** 6:30—8:30 pm

**Ages:** 3—completed 6th grade

Registration forms coming soon!





# Divine Reflections



## **The Message, Entrusted**

**by, Nancy Boyer**

*At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. ~John 20:14-18*

Mary was entrusted to tell the message to the disciples that Jesus was alive. She was the first missionary. The message of the Good News of Jesus Christ was told, not only to those disciples, but through them and many others like them. It was Jesus's intent that all who believe in him, would go and tell others.

Timothy, through the training of his mother and grandmother, learned the Good News. Through Paul's teaching, Timothy became a leader in the early church. Paul told Timothy, in 2 Timothy 2: 2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

Mary was entrusted to tell the Good News. Timothy was entrusted to tell the Good News, and to develop teachers who will continue the process of telling the Good News. That process remains in the Church today. Each of us must take a part in entrusting the next generation to tell the Good News.

As I think about the time I've spent with you all, I am blessed and filled with gratitude. God has given Mount Joy Church of God so many blessings. You are poised on the brink of a time of building God's Kingdom. You stand with the charge, "Entrust the message". You know the message, "Jesus has risen."

Because he lives, we have the assurance of pardon for sin. We have the knowledge of his forgiveness. We are able to trust in his Word. He will never leave us or forsake us. We do not need to sit by the empty tomb, crying and in despair. He is alive!

The message is not for us alone. We are entrusted to tell others. Are we trustworthy?

Mary told the disciples. Paul and Timothy told the Church. We pass on this honor, to tell people about Jesus and his love.

Just as new plants begin to emerge, I know that each year, new Christians will take the place of those who have gone to be with the Lord. But if we don't plant and nurture the young, they will not grow to maturity. Care for the young. Feed them. Give them protection. Allow them to grow into what God has ordained for them to be. Our hope in the Lord continues in the next generation. Until that day, when Christ shall come, we press on. So my charge to you all is this; Press on. You have the Message of Christ. Teach it carefully to your children. Protect it from those who would water down the truth. Live in Truth every day, until our Lord comes again.

Blessings to you all,  
Pastor Nancy Boyer

## April 2021—New Additions

### Children's:

*Daniel and the Very Hungry Lions* by Tim Thornborough

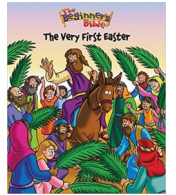
Join in this faithful and fun retelling of the classic Bible story by making sounds as you discover what happened when Daniel was thrown into a den filled with roaring, hungry lions.

*Lass* by Roland Gebauer

Based on a true story written by Phillip Keller (*Lessons from a Sheepdog*), the author retells the story of Lass and his rescue from an unhappy life in the city. This is a perfect book to be read aloud to children ages 5-10. There is a life application at the end of each chapter and questions to discuss with your children and/or grandchildren.

*The Very First Easter* by Zonderkidz (The Beginner's Bible)

Children will learn the events leading up to Jesus' death and his miraculous return to life – his resurrection. By the end of the story, children will understand why we celebrate this special day.



### Adult Fiction:

The Daughters of Fortune Series continues with:

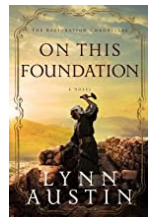
#3 – *Toward the Sunrise* by Judith Pella

It is the summer of 1942 and the paths of three sisters, daughters of newspaper tycoon Keagan Hayes, have been caught in the heartbreaking consequences of war and of prejudice. Will each young woman find the strength to endure the hardships inflicted upon her to maintain confidence that God is writing the pages of all their lives?

The Restoration Chronicles Series continues with:

#3 – *On This Foundation* by Lynn Austin

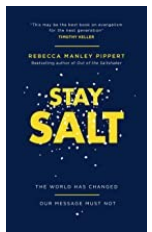
This book concludes the series by following the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah sets out to rebuild the city wall never expecting all the dangers and opposition that await him.



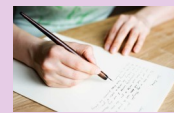
### Adult Non-Fiction:

*Stay Salt* by Rebecca Manley Pippert

Bestselling author of *Out of the Saltshaker*, Rebecca Manley Pippert, asks the question, "Why do so many Christians struggle to share the glorious news of the gospel? After speaking and listening to thousands of Christians all around the world, she shares three reasons. They are: we feel inadequate, we think we don't know enough, and we lack confidence. She structures her book into three main areas – the means, the message and the method. The purpose of this book is to help us to rise to the challenge of our time – to speak for our Lord - to reflect the wonder of who God is through the power of God's Spirit – to help us find effective ways to share our faith with the challenges that today's world presents.



## Encouraging Words



Handmade greeting cards are available in the lobby by the mailboxes. This project is to encourage our church members to write and send cards to others. The cards are free of charge. There is a donation jar next to the cards. All proceeds will go to the Uganda Mission Trip.

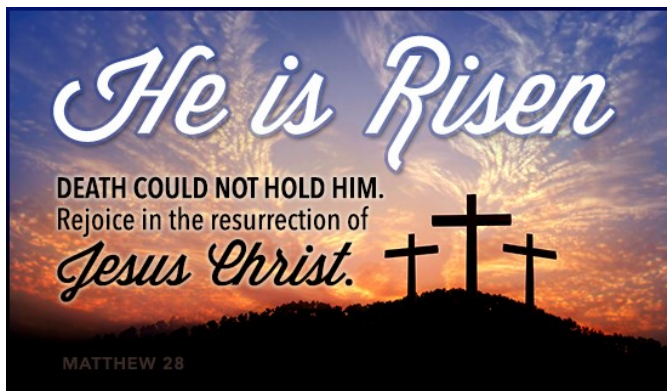


# Council Highlights

## March 8, 2020 Meeting

- Approved construction of a new children's book display for the library
- Approved the Deacons' audit findings of the church's finances
- Approved reinstating the combined adult Sunday School summer program
- Approved the purchase of new MJCOG pens for re-vamped church welcome kit
- Approved re-opening the Chapel for mask-optional use effective 3/14/21
- Approved hosting VBS July 11th - 15th subject to current COVID-19 restrictions

## Happy Easter!



### CHAPEL OPEN: STREAMING THE SERVICE (Mask Optional)

The old chapel is set up to stream the Worship Service. You must wear a face mask to enter and exit the old chapel, but masks are optional when seated.



### MEET THE NEW PASTOR PICNIC!

Celebrating God's provision and goodness.



Welcoming Pastor Richard & Virginia Vaughn to our church family as he serves as our new Senior Pastor.

**When:** Sunday, May 2nd

**Time:** 11 am

**Where:** Cove Outlook Park Pavilions #2 & #3

**Address:** 299 Old Market Street, Mount Joy

**Luncheon includes:** subs from the Country Store, assorted snack packs, cookies, and drinks



Please sign-up on the church bulletin board or email Heather no later than Sunday, April 21st so enough food can be ordered.

# Church Finances

## February Financial Information

### General Fund:

Income	\$14,357.29
Expenses	\$13,047.40
Balance	\$69,078.30

### Building Fund:

Income	\$ 550.00
Expenses	.00
Balance	\$35,840.53



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For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."  
~ John 3:16

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### Grocery Gift Cards

Buck McNece will be selling the gift cards for Giant and Weis in the lobby. He will be there on the first Sunday of each month. All proceeds will go to support our missionary, Alyssa Shearer. Alyssa ministers to college students with the Coalition for Christian Outreach at the Penn State Harrisburg campus.



## Mats of Love



The Mats of Love ministry is going strong, continuing to create sleeping mats and getting them out to those in need. I'm always so encouraged when I come into the lobby and find the box filled with bags and plarn balls, even after the collection box was moved ( if you didn't notice, it is now by the display case, across from the restrooms). I'm also thankful for those who are actively involved either prepping bags or crocheting mats. The ministry was blessed last month with a letter from First Assembly of God in Lancaster expressing their gratefulness for the mats that have already been received by their less fortunate neighbors. You all have a part in that!

If anyone is interested in becoming more active in this ministry, please catch me on Sunday, or give me a call: Cindi Selph - (717)928-4545. And keep those bags coming - God Bless!

# CAMP YOLIJWA UPDATE

April 2021

## COUNSEL



Here's an opportunity to serve the Lord locally. Volunteer for a week as one of 350 persons who serve on YoliJwa's staff. Counselors are needed for every camp week! Applications available at [www.campyolijwa.org](http://www.campyolijwa.org). Apply today!

## WILDERNESS CABIN CAMPS

— Looking for adventure? Attend one of our Wilderness Camps! Programs for Jr. and Sr. High. Come and enjoy a stay in our wilderness cabins along with exciting outdoor programming!



## HIKE OR ROCK

Hike-N-Rock-R-Thon

Saturday afternoon, May 8th

Hike 6 miles or rock 4 hours to support the camp and you could earn up to free 2021 week of camp!

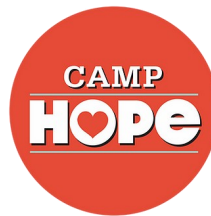
## CAMP HOPE

June 6-11th

For intellectually disabled adults (age 16+).

Call camp for a registration brochure.

Male & female counselors needed.



## FAMILY CAMP

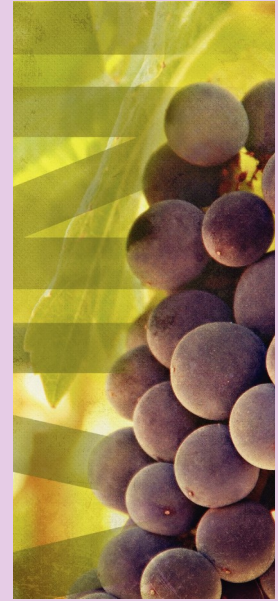
June 20-26th

Need s'more family time? Come to camp! Enjoy a time of rest, relaxation and fun! Programs offered for all ages. Call the Camp for s'more information! Limited spaces available!



[www.campyolijwa.org](http://www.campyolijwa.org)

Phone: (717)776-5281



**CAMP YOLIJWA**



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