MOUNT JOY Church OF God

March 2022
Volume 6, Issue 3

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.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

~ Jeremiah 29:11

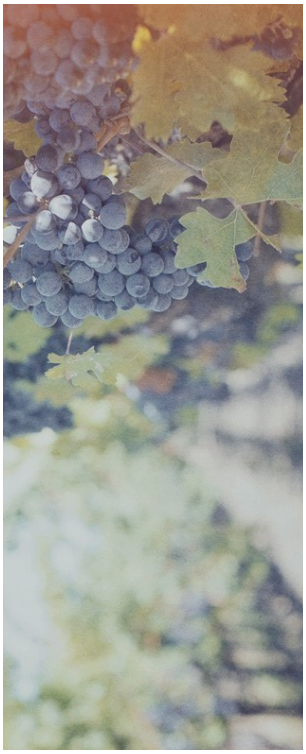
Connect With Us

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

Happenings

- Teacher Appreciation Outreach—March 10th
- COGS — March 10th
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast—March 19th

In This Issue...



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March Celebrations

3— Bob Smeal

4—Kaelie Berninger

7—Sharon Funk, Beulah Shank, Randy Grove, Logan Stark

9— Ralph Snyder, Lorraine Smith

15—Cindy Poole, Terran Miller

16—Marlene Bell

17—Steven Craul

20—Ruth Ann Gibble, Bob Ward

23— Bea Flory

25— John & Bev Myers

26— Mark Jastron

27— Lucy Snyder, Joni Waldron, Adam Barnhart

31— Steve Hasssinger

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

Branching Out

March Missionaries

John & Toni Thumma

Contact:

jbthumma@wildblue.net

John & Toni Thumma began their pastoral leadership at Hooghan Nizhoni Church in September 2006. Their giftedness and exemplary servant leadership uniquely prepared them for this assignment among Native Americans.

John is an avid student and teacher of God's Word. His "people skills" have been recognized by those who know him best. Short-term missions trips to Central America and to Navajoland have deepened his desire to serve others. Toni loves to work with teenagers and is an accomplished musician and singer. She has completed a Master of Social Work degree at California University of PA.

In January 2010, John also began preaching at Gamerco Church of God (northside of Gallup) and was appointed as their pastor in July '10. Since then, the Thummas have been serving both churches.

The Thummas are members of the Mechanicsburg, PA First Church of God. They have a son, John; a daughter, Kathryn Griffith; and one granddaughter, Nadia, two grandsons, Rhyse and Ivan.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people .
~Ephesians 1:18

Mother / Daughter Banquet

Save the Date:

Mother-Daughter Banquet

Date: Saturday, May 7th

Time: 12 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall

See Virginia Vaughn for more info

Divine Reflections

Ask our youth what this means!

"A Gospel Way of Life"

Article By, Youth Pastor Keith Cullen

This year, our youth are exploring the *gospel*—what it is and how it applies to our everyday lives. When we think of the gospel—God's story of the world and the *good news* of Jesus—we sometimes get lost in the details and risk forgetting our own message. As we explore this familiar story, we ask: *How does this apply to my life?*

A *gospel-centered life* is one that views the world through the lens of this gospel. When we judge others, we demonstrate a poor view of our own sinfulness and need for grace; when we minimize our sin and *pretend* it isn't there (cf. 1 John 1:5-9) we minimize our need for the cross; we even run the risk of *performing* for God, showing that our view of His holiness is little and limited; soon the youth will discuss the gospel's relationship to the Law.

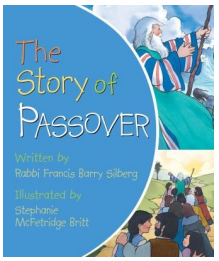
As we go through each study, I find myself, week after week, falling short. I judge others and think my way is best. I minimize sin and have become exceptional in justifying my ways. At times, I perform for God so that my actions might distract from my need of correction. I have found that the closer I walk in the light of the gospel, the more evident my sickness.

And how sweet to the soul is that gospel light! Our walk comes with many highs and lows—highs to sustain us and lows to sober us. Often, the tuning of our spirit is to a minor key to remind us of our deep need for Grace. In these exposures, we come to find that we are simply "*jars of clay*" (2 Corinthians 4:5-9)—broken so that Jesus can shine through. Our prayer is that this godly grief might produce in us a joy, "*inexpressible and filled with glory*" (1 Peter 1:3-9).

"*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*"
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

Soaking It In – Library News

March Library Additions – 2022

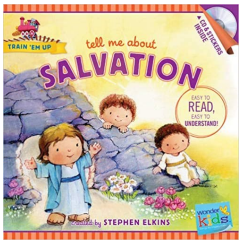


Children's:

The Story of Passover **by Rabbi Francis Barry Silberg**
This ancient event is explained in a manner so simple that even young children can understand its historical significance.

The Sunday Morning Miracle **by Tim Wesemann**
This book tells the traditional Easter story from the sadness of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday resurrection.

B*ible Stories of Boys and Girls* **by Christin Ditchfield**
Included in this Little Golden Book are stories about Rebekah, the Kindhearted; Joseph, the Dreamer; Miriam, the Good Sister; Samuel, the Prophet; David, the Shepherd King; and Jesus, the Son of God.



Tell Me About Salvation **by Stephen Elkins**
Train 'Em Up is an interactive, fun-filled series that uses a train locomotive theme as a method for teaching kids core Christian beliefs and principles. This book teaches children about salvation, why Jesus died for us, and why our eternal life is dependent on being saved. **An excellent book for teachers and parents to read with their children!**

This Is The Church **by Sarah Raymond Cunningham**
Remember the rhyme – "Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people"? Discover all the wonderful things church can be and do and mean.

Betsey Stockton **by Laura Caputo-Wickham**
Betsey was a girl with a missionary dream. Read this true story and tell me (Joyce Hershey) where she started her missionary journeys.

Young Adult/Adult Non-Fiction:

Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen? **By Chris Morphew**
Big questions deserve good answers. In this book, the writer walks you through what the Bible says about suffering, showing how Jesus offers hope and comfort in a world where bad things happen.

What Happens When We Die? **By Chris Morphew**
Read what the Bible says about heaven, hell and what eternity will be like. Chris Morphew shows us how the future God offers us is actually way better than what you think.

Adult Fiction:

Searching For You **by Jody Hedlund – Orphan Train Series Book #3**
Follow the life of Sophie Newmann as she searches for a place to call home.

The Lady's Mine **by Francine Rivers**
All you Francine Rivers fans, get ready for another good read!
The setting is 1875 in the mining town of Calvada located in the Sierra Nevadas. Meet Kathryn Walsh, discover why she is here and how she copes with living here as compared to her east coast city of Boston.

Lenten Lunches

Save the Date: Lenten Lunches

When: Every Wednesday
(March 2nd through April 13th)

Time:12:00 pm

What: Lunch & Lenten Devotional

Where: Florin Church of the Brethren

815 Bruce Avenue, Mount Joy

Contact: Pastor Vaughn for more info

Mexico City Mission Trip

Mount Joy Church of God

All-Church Mission Trip

To: Mexico City

When: August 6—13, 2022

With: Mexico Matters Ministry

Info Session: Friday, April 1st at 6 pm

Join us as we partner with missionaries Rod & Mayra Fry for an exciting week of ministry!

"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

~Mark 16:15

•See Pastor Vaughn for more info

•Brochures are in the lobby

MEXICO MATTERS

Easter Service
Sunday, April 17th
9:00—10:30 am

Join us for our Easter Celebration!

We will enjoy a time of fellowship and an Easter Egg hunt for kids ages 1—11 following the service.

HELPING UKRAINE:

With the Russia—Ukraine War happening, we would like to share an international ministry that is on the ground in Ukraine helping people. BCM International is a Christian Organization that's mission is to reach children and strengthen churches worldwide. You may give money that will go to this humanitarian crisis by visiting their website at:

www.bcmintl.org/ukraine-crisis/

Church Finances

January Financial Information

General Fund:

Income	$47,874.55
Expenses	$20,714.25
Balance	$194,488.47

Building Fund:

Income	$26,671.00
Expense	$.00
Balance	$81,319.53

COGS MEETING:

Sign up for COGS on the bulletin board, for Thursday, March 10th at 11:30AM. The program will be "Great Hymns of the Faith"!

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
~Hebrews 10:23

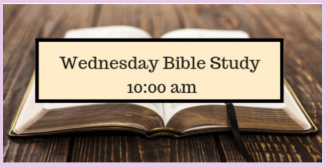
Council Highlights

February 14, 2022 Meeting

- Approval of scheduling Vacation Bible School for July 17-21, 2022
- Approval of summer 2022 missions trip opportunity to Mexico with Mexico Matters Ministries for August 6-13, 2022 (stay tuned for more information to come)
- Approval of the removal and sale of the remaining chapel pews
- Approval of the purchase of 100 American-made chairs for in the chapel from a local company
- Approval of returning to normal, pre-COVID-19 Communion procedures once current supplies are exhausted
- Approval of MJCOG sponsoring AWANA clubbers (3rd - 6th grade) to go to summer camp at Camp YoliJwa for a week

Wednesday Morning Bible

Join us in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday Mornings at 10 am! On March 16th we will begin a new Bible Study by Max Lucado entitled, "He Chose the Nails."



CAMP YOLIJWA UPDATE

March 2022

CAMP STAFF — Give a hand! You could be a…

- Week-long counselor
- Day Maintenance Helper
- Week-long support staff — kitchen or maintenance

Call Camp if interested & available in 2022!

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 7th
Hike 6 miles or rock 4 hours to support the camp and you could earn up to a free 2022 week of camp!

CAMP HOPE

June 5-10th
For intellectually disabled adults (age 16+).
Call camp for a registration brochure.
Male & female counselors needed!

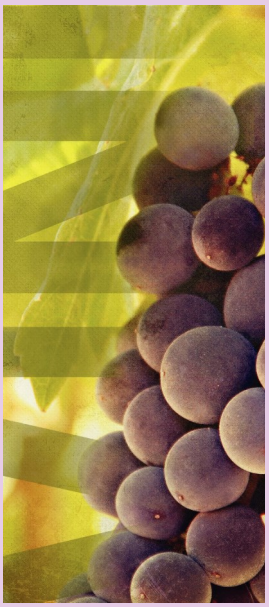
OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 11th from 1-5 pm

- Crafts
- Pool
- Hayrides
- Camp activities

As always—Camp's famous chicken BBQ!

www.campyolijwa.org **Phone: (717)776-5281**



Eastern Regional Conference, Churches of God
Doubling Gap Center
Touching Lives For Over 65 Years

CAMP YOLIJWA

MOUNT JOY Church OF God

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