



The Vineyard

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MOUNT JOY CHURCH OF GOD | JULY 2018 – VOLUME 7

Where Growth Happens

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.

Church Events

- July 4th - Independence Day
- July 12th – COGS Lunch
- July 15th – All-Church Picnic
- July 15th- 19th—VBS
- July 29th– Fifth Sunday Celebration

Connect With Us

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

Branching Out

Gordon & Annie Avey
July Missionaries



Contact Info: Email:
gbavey@yahoo.com

Gordon & Annie met at Arlington Baptist College in Texas. During a missions conference, they answered the call of a Brazilian pastor for someone to come to Brazil where they ministered from 1977-1989 in evangelism, church planting and leadership development ministries.

After further studies at

Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay, OH, the Aveys returned to southern Brazil in 1994 with CGGC Cross-Cultural Ministries to train Brazilian nationals and coordinate a new church planting thrust. Under their leadership, the ministry has expanded to three Brazilian states.

VBS

It's going to be a cool, cool summer learning to trust in Jesus! Join us for our Vacation Bible School—Sonrise National Park. There will be fun, adventure, crafts, songs, games and much more!



When: July 15-19th

Time: 6:30—8:30 pm

Ages: 3—completed 6th grade

Pick up a Registration Form in the lobby or download it from our website. See you there!

Youth Summer

Our Summer Youth Group is in full swing! Meeting every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:30 in the Youth Room, be prepared for loads of new games, food, fun, & fellowship!

Contact our Youth Pastor Keith for more information :)

New To Our Family

We are pleased to welcome Keith & Vicki Cullen to the Mount Joy Church of God! Keith is our new Youth Pastor who started officially in June. He and Vicki met at Moody Bible Institute in Spokane, Washington. They have been married for 3 years, and live in Lancaster. They are excited about serving the Youth of Mount Joy together!



Divine Reflections

A GREAT WAY TO WASTE YOUR TIME

“Everyone wants to feel useful, but no one wants to feel used.” That statement resonated with over 30 people that attended our “Coffee & Connect” event last month on June 10. The event was an attempt to connect people’s gifts with ministry opportunities where they could use them. I preached on “Using Who You Are” that morning from 1Peter 4:10-11, emphasizing spiritual gifts. The passage teaches that all in the church have the capability, responsibility, ability, and opportunity to contribute. Pastor Fred Quade preached on spiritual gifts on May 6 after leading a half-day seminar on discovering your gifts on April 28. He’ll be reprising that seminar again this fall on September 8. (Save the date!) Why the emphasis on gifts? We want you to feel useful, not used!

However, merely identifying your gifts isn’t enough. I also encouraged you to pray about what your role could be, since we all have a part to play. It occurred to me again this morning. There are different things for us to do, but there is something that we can all do: pray. I had breakfast several years ago with three Christian friends of mine and the discussion turned to prayer. None of them were enthusiastic about the practice. One even called prayer, “a great way to waste your time.” I was stunned, so my friend explained, “God’s going to do what God’s going to do and there’s nothing I can do to change that. So why bother to pray?”

She had replaced a biblical understanding of the sovereignty of God with a secular fatalism. This led her to ignore a command practiced by the godly—including Jesus—all throughout the development of the Judeo-Christian faith: prayer. She failed to understand that God’s sovereignty includes our free actions. God uses our choices and actions to accomplish his will. That’s different from saying, “God’s going to do what God’s going to do and there’s nothing I can do to change that.”

For example, only God can cause someone to be born again—regenerating the heart to facilitate belief—but the work of the Spirit of God accompanies the human preaching of the word of God. Somebody must share the message first. God accomplishes his divine ends through human means. Notice the roles of God and Paul



in the conversion of Lydia recorded in Acts 16:14: “A certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.” Paul preached the gospel. God opened her heart to respond. God prepared her heart. Paul prepared his message.

Likewise, you can argue that Lydia came to faith in Christ, because of the prayers of Jesus himself. When praying for his disciples in John 17:20, he added, “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.” He was praying for those who would come to faith through the preaching of his followers. He was praying for Lydia, for me, for you! Who knows who else may have been praying for Lydia? Family, friends, neighbors? We may not understand *how* prayer works, but we can know *that* it works, and that Jesus commanded it. Repeatedly, Jesus instructed, “**When** you pray...” not “**if** you pray.” He assumed his followers would be praying.

Jesus modeled a strong commitment to prayer, too. Once, after he returned from praying, his disciples asked him to show them how to pray like he did. They wanted to imitate him. Luke 11:1 tells us, “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’” Would the Son of God, whose time on earth was limited, engage repeatedly and consistently in a practice that was nothing more than “a great way to waste your time?” Would he teach his disciples to do the same?

Jesus wants us to use our time well and wisely. He wants us to use our gifts and feel useful without feeling used. He wants us to teach and share the gospel. So, may we always remember that our preaching, our reaching, and the employment of the gifts God has given each of us must begin with prayer. As John Bunyan wrote, “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.” A great way to waste your time, indeed.

—Ted Ewing, PhD

Church Council Updates

June 2018

Summer Teaching Schedule

July 2018

10:15 am—Sanctuary

1 - John Schnee

8 - Andrew Erb

15 - All Church Picnic

22 - Tony Bistline

29 - Kathy Bistline



- The Council received a letter from the Deacons indicating that the audit of the 2017 financial records is complete and the Deacons find the 2017 financial statements to be true and accurately represent the financial position of the Church.
- The Trustees reported that work on the train station parking lot is expected to begin in October. The Church's attorney continues to gather information and will be providing the Parking Lot Committee with options in the near future. The Committee will evaluate those options and provide Council with further information. We hope to have additional more detailed information on this situation by July 22nd.

Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. ~ Deuteronomy 10:20



Following the outdoor worship service at 10 am in the park

When: July 15, 2018.

Where: The pavilions at Chiques Park

Food: Peters BBQ

Please Bring: Your own lawn chairs for the service & a side dish according to your last name as outlined below:

Last Name:

A through F—Salads

G through L—Drinks

M through S—Desserts

T through Z—Snacks (chips, pretzels, popcorn, etc.)

YOUTH PASTOR INFO

If you need to contact our new Youth Pastor, Keith—his email address is keithmjco@gmail.com. His cell phone number is 717-875-8695.



Grafting - Church Financials

MJCOG Financial Report: May 2018

General Fund

Income	\$19,267.00
Expenses	\$23,072.88
Balance	\$52,802.23

Building Fund

Income	\$ 1,508.69
Expenses	\$.00
Balance	\$32,536.23



Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of Joy.

~Psalm 47:1

1



Kathy Bistline is now the point person for prayer requests and the prayer chain. Any requests for the Prayer Chain from June 25th thru July 3rd, please contact Mae Greider at 717-653-5879. Please leave your request on the answering machine if she does not answer.

Save the Date

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SEMINAR

Due to the overwhelming response of interest in the Spiritual Gifts Seminar, Pastor Fred Quade will be facilitating another seminar in the fall! Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 8th!



If you need to make more than a handful of copies, please use the copier in the Admin Building. Or, you may email your requests to Heather during the week at Heathermjocog@gmail.com and she will happily make the copies and put them in your mailbox.

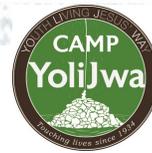
Thanks!

COGS

ATTENTION

COGS We will be meeting at Hoss's on July 12th at 11:30 for lunch and fellowship together. The sign up sheet can be found on the bulletin board. Please begin to sign up now. Thanks.

Camp News



CAMP YOLIJWA UPDATE

July 2018

4th Grade CAMP

August 5-11
Campers entering 4th grade
This 4-night program continues the progression for our young campers to experience all YoliJwa has to offer!



MOTHER DAUGHTER CAMP!

MOTHER/DAUGHTER
Join us for this special camp designed for girls in grades K-2 to come with their mother or a significant woman in their life and enjoy a glimpse of a week of Camp! Dates are August 12-13



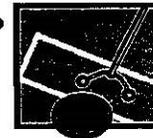
3rd Grade CAMP

August 10-12
Campers entering 3rd grade
Don't miss this great weekend opportunity for 1st-time campers!



ADULT FELLOWSHIP

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CAMP
August 20 - 24
Age 50 and older
Are you 50+ and miss your days as a summer camper! Come to Adult Fellowship Camp! Great program and GREAT ACTIVITIES. Don't miss out!



7th Grade WILDERNESS

Spend a week in the great outdoors! This brand new program offered for those campers entering 7th grade, introduces many of the wilderness camp basics!



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

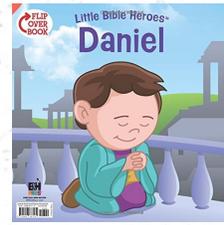
There will be a Church Membership Class in the Fall. Anyone who is interested, please fill out a Connect Card and write Membership Class on it.



Soaking It In – Library News

Children's Books– SIX (6) Flip-Over Books about Little Bible Heroes:

John the Baptist/Elijah
Heroes of Babylon/Ruth
Samuel/The Little Maid
David/Esther
Miriam/Daniel
Paul/Peter



Each book has 2 stories with a Parent Connection Page in the middle of the book. This page includes a Bible verse that connects with the story, questions to think about and talk about **AND** a remembering point. Example: Jesus came to take away the sins of the world!

These are fun books – very simple – and each book may count as 2 separate books for the Summer Reading Program tally.

Adult Non-Fiction:

The Hardest Peace by Kara Tippetts – Kara knows the ordinary days of mothering 4 kids, the joy of watching her children grow...and the devastating reality of stage IV cancer. Join Kara as she moves toward peace and grace and draws us back to the God who is with us in the mundane and the suffering, and who shapes even our unmet expectations and pain into beauty.

CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



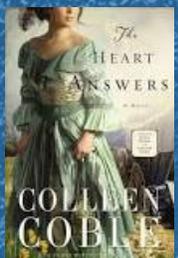
Adult Fiction:

If I'm Found (#2) and **If I Live** (#3) in the **If I Run Series** by Terri Blackstock – Casey Cox is still on the run. Is there light shining in the darkness? Book 3 concludes a heart-stopping chase in the sensational end to this series.

The Road Home by Beverly Lewis – Follow Lena Rose Schwartz as she grieves the death of her Amish parents and is moved to Lancaster County.

The Heart Answers by Colleen Coble takes place in 1867 Wyoming, where a misplaced socialite and an independent preacher ask the deepest questions of the heart.

Murder on the Moor by Julianna Deering – This Drew Farthering mystery, in the midst of the Yorkshire moors, reminds the reader of a place as mysterious as a Bronte hero.



July Celebrations

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

2—Jim Kneisley, Jeanne Mowrer, Paul &
Rachel Cramer

3—Nikki McNece

5—Jim Craul, Sally Germer

6—Mark & Elaine Jastron

7—Phil Erb

9—Scott Hershey

10—Donna Hershey, Ralph & Lucy Snyder,
Don & Marlene Bell

11—Arlene Kopp

13—Dave & Patty Lloyd, Susan Weidman

14—Gary & Judy Maxwell, Pastor Randy &
Kathy Bistline

16—Carolyn Rineer

17—Bob Shank

18—Allyson Reighard

19—Jay & Mae Greider, Cliff & Peggy Shank

23—Buck & Wendy McNece, Kent & Nancy
Grove

26—Dave & Hazel Chapin, Lee & Martha
Baxter

28—Sandy Bradley, Peggy Shank, Ben Travis

30—Dave Chapin, Bev Fry, Martha Baxter

31—Jere Murphy

**You have made known to me the paths of life; you will
fill me with joy in your presence.**

~ Acts 2:28

Bear Fruit

There were 145 Food Bank Items donated
for the month of June. Your generosity is
appreciated!

