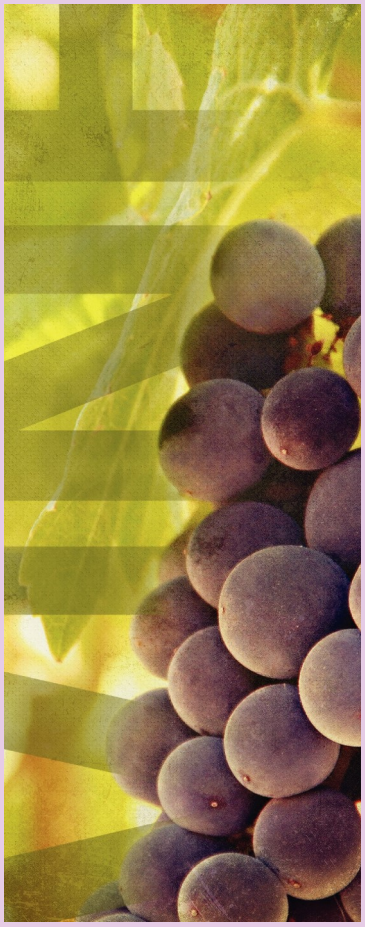
March 2018
Volume 2, Issue 3

The Vineyard



The Vineyard is where growth happens. We chose the name because we want to remain connected as individuals and grow in our relationship with God as a church family. When we abide, or remain connected to Him and His words abide in us, we see transformation and renewal in us and among us. We change. We make progress. We grow. We bear fruit. As Jesus says in John 15:5, "I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit."

Just like a viticulturist tends to their grape vines and prunes them, so does God with us. He prunes our habits and attitudes for more fruitful, godly behavior. He produces "the fruit of the Spirit" in us, fruit like "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Pruning is a vital part of growing healthy grapevines.

Each section of The Vineyard is connected to the vine and branches theme. We hope you find this newsletter inspirational, informational, and insightful. May God use it to promote His Word remaining in us as we remain connected to Him.

Connect With Us

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

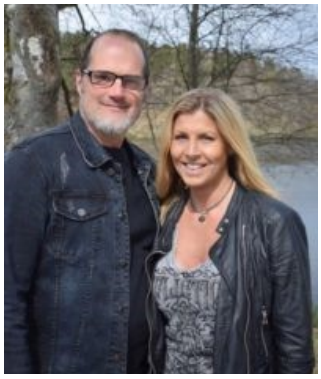
Happenings

- RUMMAGE SALE–March 1-3, 2018
- Leader Training—March 4, 2018
- Palm Sunday—March 25, 2018

Branching Out

Doug & Anna-Karin Molgaard

March Missionaries



Doug and Anna-Karin serve the Lord in Stockholm, Sweden. They started a multicultural church in 2008 in the heart of Stockholm. In 2010 they changed their focus to reach out to postmodern Swedes through a network of simple, missional, organic communities (SMOC). They continue with that focus in partnership with Christian Associates International (http://christianassociates.org)

Their three daughters are Thyra, Sarah and Emma. The main prayer requests that they have are wisdom and strength working in a multicultural context and that their children stay safe and strong in their faith.

Contact Info: douglasmolgaard@gmail.com.

"Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is *flourishing* and your *love* for one another is growing." ~ 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NLT)

I ♥ VBS™

John 3:16

Save the date for VBS 2018!

July 15-19th

Teachers Needed

Do you like teaching? Do you love Jesus and kids? We need people to help with Children's Church and Sunday School.

Please contact Sharon Funk at itsjustmehi48@yahoo.com for more information.

Divine Reflections

A GREAT WAY TO WASTE YOUR TIME

I am excited that Pastor Fred Quade is conducting a Spiritual Gifts Seminar on Saturday, April 28 here at the Mount Joy Church of God. If you've never explored what your spiritual gifts are, then you must attend. If you've attended before, it might be good to go back for a refresher or to encourage and assist others in their discovery. There are many tasks to do here at the church, and we all have a part to play. The seminar will help you discover what your role might be.

While there are different things to do, there is something that we can all do: pray. That's one reason we meet for prayer every Sunday from 8:30-8:50 a.m. in the Parlor—because everyone can pray. I had breakfast several years ago with three Christian friends and the discussion turned to prayer. No one was 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. She failed to understand that God's sovereignty includes our free actions. God uses our human acts of obedience 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. 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 to heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul."* Paul preached the gospel. God opened her heart to respond.

You can argue that Lydia came to faith in Jesus 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 the Lydias that would hear the gospel from his followers. 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 commitment to prayer, too, so much so that one time, after he returned from praying, his disciples asked him to show them how to pray like he did. 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 reach out. He wants us to share the gospel. However, may we always remember that our "reach" and our "share" 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

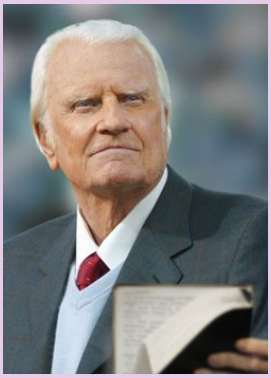
I invite you again to join us on Sundays in the Parlor. Drop in and leave any time between 8:30-8:50 a.m. We'll be praying for the service and our church. —Ted

"It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love."

~ Reverend Billy Graham

"Being a Christian is more than just an Instantaneous conversion – it is a *daily* process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ."

~Reverend Billy Graham



Billy Graham
1918 - 2018

Bear Fruit

There were 243 Food Bank Items donated for the month of February. Your generosity is appreciated!

For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!
~Isaiah 64:3

Pruning – Training

Church Council Updates

February 2018

- Missionary Offering- There are envelopes in the pews for those of you who would like to contribute to the missionary fund.

- Men's Breakfast- plans to organize a Saturday morning men's breakfast are in the works. More information will follow.

- The All-Church Picnic is scheduled for July 15, 2018. The pavilions at Chiques Park have been reserved and the caterer, Peters Barbecue has been scheduled. We are in need of a Small Group or other group to organize the rest of the items for the picnic. Please contact Scott Hershey if you are interested in assisting with this project.

- The Council approved a donation of $500.00 to a Mount Joy firefighter who was recently injured in fighting a dwelling fire in Mount Joy.

Grafting—Church Financials

MJCOG Financial Report: January 2018

General Fund:

Income	$17,149.12
Expenses	$23,890.27
Balance	$62,074.02

Building Fund:

Income	$ 1,111.25
Expenses	.00
Balance	$39,383.99

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

SAVE THE DATE!

What: Spiritual Gifts Seminar

When: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 9 am—12 noon

A light breakfast will be served at 8:30 am

Pastor Fred Quade Facilitating

Camp Update

CAMP YOLIJWA UPDATE
March 2018

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 2018!

WILDERNESS CABIN CAMPS

Looking for Adventure?
Attend one of our Wilderness Camps!
Programs for Jr. Hi & Sr. Hi
Enjoy the experience of staying in our cabins while experiencing God's creation!

MISSION TRIP TO CAMP YOLIJWA?

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. Apply today!

CAMP HOPE

Camp HOPE
June 3-8
For intellectually disabled adults (age 16+).
Call Camp for a registration brochure.
Male & female counselors needed!

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 9
1 - 5 p.m.
Carnival Games - Crafts - Pool
Hayrides - Camp Activities
As always—Camp's famous Chicken BBQ!

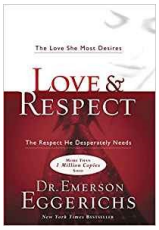
HIKE-N-ROCK

Hike-N-Rock-R-Thon
Saturday, May 12
Hike 6 miles or rock 4 hours to support the camp. You could earn up to a free week of 2018 camp when you participate!

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

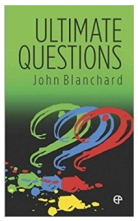
Soaking it in – Library News

Recommended Reading:



1.) *Love and Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

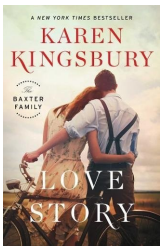
→ Cracking the communication code between husband and wife involves understanding one thing: that unconditional respect is as powerful for him as unconditional love is for her. It's the secret to marriage that every couple seeks, and yet few couples ever find.



2.) *Ultimate Questions* by John Blanchard

→ Why am I here? Where am I going? Does life have any purpose? But the ultimate questions are about God. Does he exist? What is he like? Dive into this small booklet to find out.

3.) *Love Story* by Karen Kingsbury



→ A generational love story about the Baxter Family

4.) *The Ebb Tide* by Beverly Lewis

→ An Amish teenager takes a job in Cape May that will change her life. A heartwarming tale of courage & love.

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:10 NLT

Church Pictorial Directory

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

March Celebrations

3 - Bob Smeal

4 - Elsie McNece, Kaelie Berninger

7 - Sharon Funk, Beulah Shank, Randy Grove

9 – Ralph Snyder, Charlie Brown

10 - Bill & Sharon Nissley

15 – Scottie Hershey, Cindy Poole, Zachary Reighard

16 – Mary Miller, Marlene Bell

20 - Ruth Ann Gibble, Bob Ward

21 - Edna Sides

23 - Bea Flory

25 - John & Bev Myers

26 - Mark Jastron

27 - Adam Barnhart, Lucy Snyder, Joni Lund

28 - Brent Rhodes

31 - Steve Hassinger

Thoughts on Celebration

Celebration...saves us from taking ourselves too seriously…. It is an occupational hazard of devout folk to become stuffy bores. This should not be. Of all people, we should be the most free, alive, interesting. (Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*)

Christians ought to be celebrating constantly. We ought to be pre-occupied with parties, banquets, feasts, and merriment. We ought to give ourselves over to veritable orgies of joy because we have been liberated from the fear of life and the fear of death. We ought to attract people to the church quite literally by the fun there is in being a Christian. (Robert Hotchkins, *University of Chicago*)

I am not used to the image of God throwing a big party. It seems to contradict the solemnity and seriousness I have always attached to God. But when I think about the ways in which Jesus describes God's Kingdom, a joyful banquet is often at its center…. Celebration belongs to God's Kingdom. (Henri Nouwen, *The Return of The Prodigal Son*)

MOUNT JOY Church OF God

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