

THE LAMPLIGHTER

DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017

Mount Joy Church of God • 30 East Main Street • Mount Joy, PA 17552 • 717-653-4695



CHRISTMAS
Love
Services

6:30 & 8:00

Inspiring Music

Candlelight and Communion



Join us for a
Family Christmas

December 25

9 to 10:15 a.m.
No Sunday School

Mount Joy
Church of God

FOR ALL AGES!

Come prepared to share your special Christmas story!

Preaching
the
Gospel

Seeking
the
Lost

Building Up
the
Believer



“The LORD is
my light and
my salvation;
whom shall I fear?”

Psalm 27:1, NRSV

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Pastor Ted Ewing, PhD ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ www.mountjoychurchofgod.org



LIBRARY NEWS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Traces of Guilt by Dee Henderson

Evie Blackwell loves her life as an Illinois State Police detective . . . mostly. She's very skilled at investigations and has steadily moved up through the ranks. She would like to find Mr. Right, but she has a hard time imagining how marriage could work, considering the demands of her job.

Love Everlasting by Tracie Peterson

Abrianna Cunningham has always viewed her longtime friend, Wade Ackerman, as a protective brother. Lately, however, she's begun to see him differently and finds herself attracted romantically to him. But she's confused and overwhelmed by these unfamiliar feelings.

The Memory Weaver by Jane Kirkpatrick

Eliza Spalding Warren was just a child when she was taken hostage by the Cayuse Indians during a massacre in 1847. Now the young mother of two children, Eliza faces a different kind of dislocation; her impulsive husband wants them to make a new start in another territory, which will mean leaving her beloved home and her departed mother's grave--and returning to the land of her captivity.

Murder at the Courthouse by A. H. Gabhart

After a few years as a police officer in Columbus, Michael Keane has no trouble relaxing into the far less stressful job of deputy sheriff in his small hometown. After all, nothing ever happens in Hidden Springs, Kentucky. Nothing, that is, until a dead body is discovered on the courthouse steps. Everyone in town is a little uneasy. Still, no one is terribly worried--after all the man was a stranger--until one of their own is murdered right on Main Street.

The Curiosity Keeper by Sarah Ladd

Camille Iverness can take care of herself. She's done so since the day her mother abandoned the family and left Camille to run their shabby curiosity shop. But when a violent betrayal leaves her injured with no place to hide, Camille must allow a mysterious stranger to come to her aid.

Midwife's Choice by Sarah Ladd

Though a small town, Trinity, Pennsylvania, is fraught with secrets, and as a midwife, Martha moves among its people

COGS

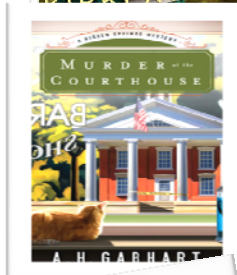
December 15th

11:30 a.m.

Soup & Sandwich
\$5.00

Please sign up on the
bulletin board by
December 10th.

If you missed the opportunity
to bring an item for the
Food Bank at the
Thanksgiving Dinner,
please bring an item on the
15th.



Mermaid Moon by Colleen Coble

Mallory's mother died fifteen years ago. But her father's last words on the phone were unmistakable: "Find . . . mother."



Camp YoliJwa Update December 2016/ January 2017

717-776-5281 www.campyolijwa.org

WINTER RETREATS

Now is the time to sign up for YoliJwa's December retreats. Weekends available for grades 3-12. Dates as follows:

<u>Retreat</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Jr. Blast	3-5	Dec. 2-4
Jr. Hi. Breakaway	6-8	Dec. 9-11
Sr. Hi. Bash	9-12	Dec. 16-17

DAY WORKERS

Looking to help the Camp during the off-season? Weekday volunteers needed to help with various projects around camp. If you are interested and available, contact Camp at (717) 776-5281 or director@campyolijwa.org.

Core Staff Workshop

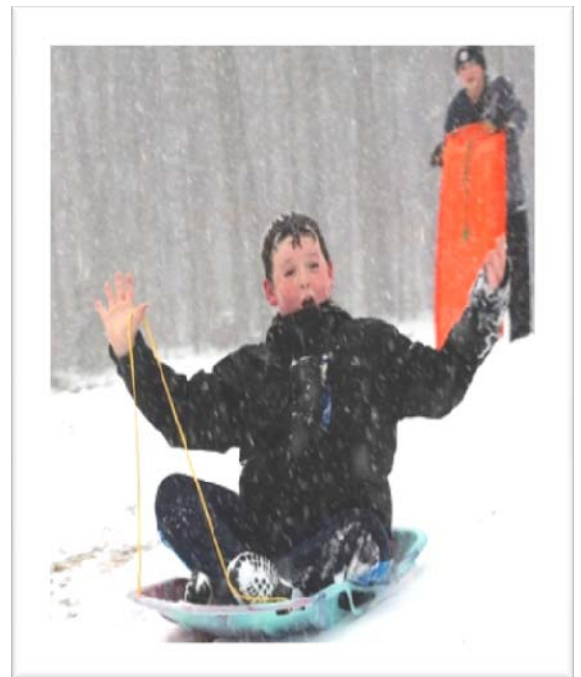
Are you part of a "Core Staff" group for one of our YoliJwa Camps? If so, mark **January 21** on your calendar for this year's Camp Leaders' Workshop here at DGC. More info coming

WINTER PICNIC

Sunday, January 29 from 3 to 7 p.m.
Games ▪ Open Gym ▪ Winter sports
Bring a side dish or dessert to share at the supper. Meat & drink provided by the Camp. Join in the spirit by dressing for the theme. Stay tuned for more details or contact the camp!

GIFT CERTIFICATE

Why not give a Camp YoliJwa gift certificate to someone you know! Available for any amount! May be used for any camp week, weekend retreat or private suite get-away. Great as a gift, award or in appreciation!





Financial Information for October 2016

General Fund

Income	.....	\$22,474.49
Expenses	.....	\$16,353.36
Balance	.....	\$56,375.91

Building Fund

Income	.....	\$1,374.45
Expenses	.....	\$4,379.87
Balance	.....	\$20,676.12

Furnace Fund

Income	.....	\$00.00
Expenses	.....	\$750.13
Balance	.....	\$00.00

God loves
 a **cheerful** 
 giver
 2 Corinthians 9



Missionaries FOR DECEMBER

Pastor John & Toni Thumma

John & Toni Thumma began their pastoral leadership at Hoohan Nizhoni Church in September 2006. John is an avid student and teacher of God's Word. 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.

Contact Information

John & Toni Thumma
 55 Blue Jay Rd
 Vanderwagen, NM 87326
 (505) 778-5932 – home
 Email: jbthumma@wildblue.net



FROM THE PASTOR

ANY ROOM AT YOUR INN?

I can hardly believe it's here again: the Christmas season. Didn't we just take down the decorations from last year? Maybe we left them up too long, but another year has flown by. Some welcome this season. They're glad to see it arrive. Others run from it. They fear what it brings. For those people, it's not "the most wonderful time of the year" or "the hap, happiest season of all." It can bring back the painful memory of lost loved ones. "Our first Christmas without..." It can heighten heartache and remind us of all that is no longer. Even optimistic Erma Bombeck once wrote, "There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child." God knows we're no longer children. Here's what a friend of mine posted on Facebook on recently:

Some thoughts as we enter the holiday season.... It is important to remember that not everyone is surrounded by large, wonderful families. Some of us have problems during the holidays and some of us are overcome with great sadness when we remember the loved ones who are not with us. Many people have no one to spend these times with and are besieged by loneliness. We all need caring, loving thoughts right now....support for all those who have family problems, health struggles, job issues, worries of any kind....

Hard but true words.

I believe there is also another reason this time of year can be so empty for so many: because Christ is no longer a central part of the celebration. As cliché as it sounds, maybe we *have* forgotten the reason for the season. We may be raising a generation of children who sing with conviction, "It's the biz, busiest season of all." It seems that sometime in the last decade or so, retail replaced religion as the primary supporter of the season. Our new holiday is *Black Friday*. What?! A friend of mine from Philadelphia posted last year, "Black Friday: because only in America do people trample each other for sales exactly one day after being thankful for what they already have." Ouch, but I agree. When I was growing up, stores began playing Christmas music on Thanksgiving. This season I saw Christmas merchandise before Halloween.

As a teenager, I remember listening to the Evie Tornquist vinyl record, *Come on Ring Those Bells!* as she sang, "No room, only a manger of hay; no room here in His world turned away.... Have you any room for Jesus, He who bore your load of sin? As He stops and asks admission, sinner won't you let Him in?" I'm asking that same question myself this year. Will we make room for Jesus? Are we willing to relegate retail to the periphery and make central the celebration of Jesus' birth? Will our schedules and festivities be too full to allow Him admission? Hopefully not...

We have very little control over whatever Christmas has become in our culture, but we have lots of control over what Christmas becomes in our practice. We still have plenty of say over what *we* make it and how *we* celebrate it. Its origin has not changed. Its central character has not changed. Its meaning has not changed. Let's be sure to make those things the center of our celebration. Join us at the Mount Joy Church of God on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. and Christmas morning from 9:00-10:15 a.m. for a "family-friendly Christmas" (no Sunday school), as we make the birth of Jesus the center of our celebration.

—Ted Ewing, PhD

Christmas Cheer Bags

The Rod Hershey small group is organizing this project again this year for our church members who are unable to attend worship regularly. The bags will be on the table in the lobby. Each bag will have a name and address on it. We would like to have all of you help fill these bags with items for our friends – cards, candy or small gifts (e.g. sample-size **bottled** soaps, lotions etc.). Please do NOT include any bars of soap since fragrance can be transferred to other items, such as candy.



There will also be a sheet on the table for you to sign-up to deliver a bag(s) the week before Christmas. Please do NOT remove the bag prior to the Dec. 18 worship service. Thank you for helping with this project.

These people are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness!



Mount Joy
Church of God

Christmas
GIFT
Outreach



Mom's House
Lancaster, PA

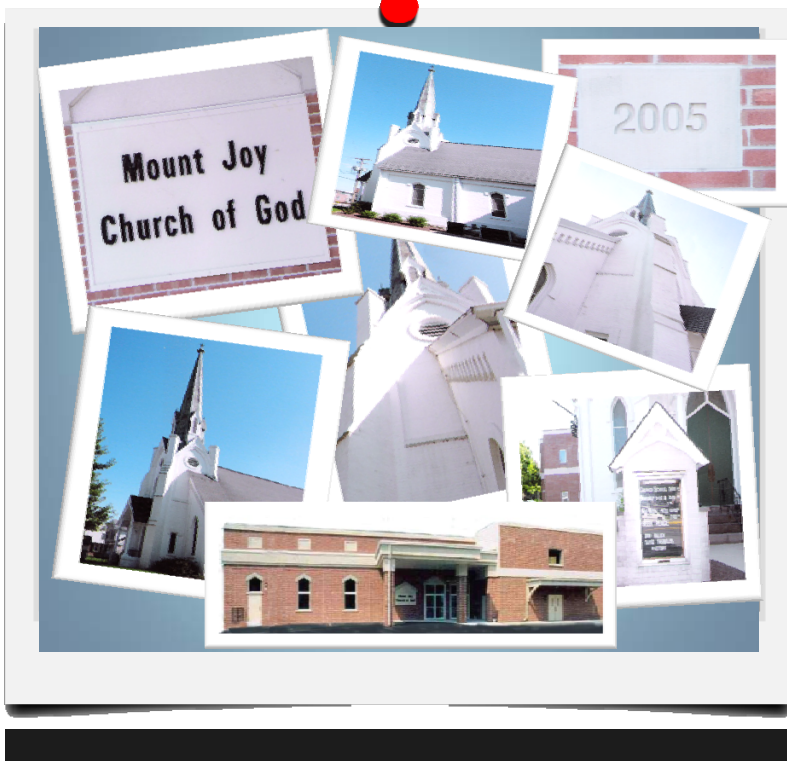
About Mom's House: *"Mom's House strives to break the cycles of poverty and welfare. It is our mission to guide at-risk single parents through the process of achieving educational goals and provide tools and resources needed to become effective parents."*

Our Christmas Project this year will be gift cards for Mom's House residents. A Giving Tree will be in the lobby for you to choose names.

What a wonderful way to share with others!

Last day will be December 11th





Missionaries for January

Pastors Caleb & Christina Acosta

Caleb was born and raised in Venezuela and came to the States in 1989. **Christina** is a native of Lancaster County, PA. God brought them together at a church gathering and began to transform their lives in preparation for ministry. In 2004, they started the Divine Healing Church which meets in the Columbia, PA First Church of God facilities. This Spanish-speaking congregation was received into the Eastern Region Conference of the CGGC in 2007, and both Caleb & Christina became licensed pastors. During a return visit to Venezuela in 2006, they planted the Divine Healing Church in Maracay. Contacts with other churches there resulted in plans to organize as a conference and begin the process of affiliating with the CGGC.

Back in the States, the Acostas led Divine Healing Church to reach out to nearby communities with ministries in Middletown and New Holland in 2009. CGGC Cross-Cultural Ministries approved the Acostas in June 2009 as candidates for Directors of Latino Ministries. God has blessed Caleb & Christina with four children.

CONTACT

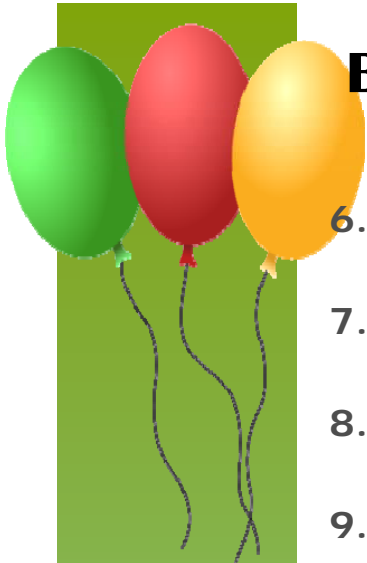
Caleb and Christina Acosta
511 E. Ross Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Email : LatinoMinistries@live.com



Pastor Ted will have a new members class during Sunday School on **January 15, 22 & 29, 2017**. Members will be received on **February 5, 2017**. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the ministry and life of our church. Please contact Pastor Ted if you are interested in becoming a member here at Mount Joy Church of God.

Church of God Birthdays and Anniversaries for December



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



- 6. Barbara Weidman
- 7. Clarence Newcomer, Pastor Tom Flanagan
- 8. Bill Nissley
- 9. Brenda Barnhart
- 11. Lorna Erb, Ann Craul
- 14. M/M Lee Stauffer, M/M Bob Brinser
- 15. Don Fry
- 20. M/M Dale Thomas
- 21. Rex Kough
- 23. Mary Gutshall
- 25. Sandy Nissley, Dale Thomas
- 27. Jennifer Waldron, M/M Denny Grove
- 28. Alyssa McNece
- 29. Charles Glessner
- 31. Dave Anderson, Todd Glessner, John Myers



Church of God

Birthdays and Anniversaries for January



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

1. Eugene Hess, Jr.
4. Dakota Cochran
5. Darian Bowers
8. Deb Smeal
9. Fay Anspach
11. Phyllis Newcomer
12. Susan Hassinger
14. Beverly White, Charlie Zimmerman
15. Hannah Lloyd
19. Liesa Miller, Tim Mitzel
20. Kathy Bistline, Ethel Harding
21. John Gerlach, Galen Neideigh
22. Nancy Thomas
23. Melvia Neideigh
24. Jack Stockdale
28. Peggy Grove
31. Tony Bistline, Mary Stockdale, Abigail Waldron

MJCOG December 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						3 Winterfest 4 to 7 pm
4 9:00—Worship Fellowship Time—10:00 10:15—Sunday School	5	6 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.	7 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study 10:00 am Senior Choir Practice 7:00 pm	8 1 COGS Lunch 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall	9 2	
11 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School	12 Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study 10:00 am Senior Choir Practice 7:00 pm	15 15	16 16	17 17
18 9:00—Worship Fellowship Time—10:00 10:15—Sunday School	19	20	21 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study 10:00 am Senior Choir Practice 7:00 pm	22 22	23 23	24 24 Christmas Eve Services 6:30 & 8:00
25 Family Christmas Service 9:00 a.m. No Sunday School	26	27	28 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study 10:00 am Senior Choir Practice 7:00 pm	29 29	30 30	31 31

MJCOG January 2017 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00—Worship Fellowship Time 10:00 10:15—Sunday School	2	3 Elders Meeting 7:00 pm	4 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study—10:00 am	5	6	7
8 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10	11 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study—10:00 am	12	13	14
15 9:00—Worship Fellowship Time 10:00 10:15—Sunday School	16	17	18 Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study—10:00 am	19	20	21
22 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School	23	24	25 Mid-week Prayer & Bible Study—10:00 am	26	27 4th Friday	28
29 9:00—Worship 10:15—Sunday School	30	31				