

Welcome To Locust Grove

January 7, 2018

Senior Pastor.....Max Zook 717.348.4488
Associate Pastor.....Ivan Yoder 717.363.0857
Youth & Women's Ministry Coordinator.....Pam Yoder 717.363.6547
Children's Ministry Coordinator.....Kara Kauffman 717.437.1473
Secretary.....Kara Kauffman 717.437.1473
Church Office.....717.935.2164

9:00 & 10:30 Morning Worship Service

Prelude: Kristyn Byler
Worship Leader: Max Zook
Worship Team Leader: Glen Peachey
Sermon: The Dwelling Place of God, Ivan Yoder
Commissioning Prayer: Charlie & Kathy Stump - First Baptist Church

11:15: Children's Breakout session (Pre-K-Grade 2) in the MYF Room.

7:00 p.m. Carmen Groff and Melissa Yoder will share highlights from their mission trip to Nepal and India.

Nursery: Infants through 3 year olds-

9:00 – Nate & Meagan Byler
10:30 – Julie and Lily Yoder
*Next Week: 9:00- Curt & Amanda Yoder
10:30- Juanita and Kristyn Byler

Prayer List:

At Home: Carson, Kathleen, Dakota, & Desi Hershberger
Brian, Gwen, Caleb, Chloe, Quinn, & Karina Renno

At Valley View: Grace Stacy, A124 Valley View Terrace

Away: David, Brandi, Mackenzie, Madison, Caleb, & Mallory Peachey
105 Gable Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067

Mission Spot: YWAM in Cluj, Romania: Alin, Gabi, Melissa, Julia, and Caleb Ciorogar. Pray for Alin and Gabi as they lead and teach ministry teams, and their children as they are in school. Pray for the family as they desire a house of their own, that God would open a door in a miraculous way so they could purchase a home.

December 31, 2017

9:00 Worship Attendance 186
S.S. Attendance 348
10:30 Worship Attendance 227
S.S. Offering \$16.00
Morning Worship Offering \$12,237.75

Week 1

2016 Totals

Budgeted Morning Worship Offerings - \$579,580
Actual Morning Worship Offerings - \$579,972

This Week's Events:

Tonight, 7:00 p.m.- Carmen Groff & Melissa Yoder will share about their recent mission trip to Nepal and India
Monday, 7:00 p.m. – Leadership Team meets at the church
Monday, 7:00 p.m. – Men's basketball in the gym-All are welcome
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.-Mom's Bible Study in nursery, studying Minor Prophets
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.-Ephesians Bible Study led by Bob Plank
Tuesday, 7 p.m. – Grief Share, Room #102
Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-The Real Heaven Bible Study, rm. 103
Thursday, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.-Ladies' Bible Study, "Quest" -meet in room 103.

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 20, 4:00-7:00-Pulled Pork Fundraiser to benefit the Diehl's
Feb. 13, 6:30-8:00 – Kid's Club Begins
Feb. 19 – 23 – Pastor's Conference
Feb. 23-25 – MYF Snow Camp at Camp K

Parents & Children: We will be resuming breakout session today at 11:15!

MYF: Grades 10-12: NO MYF this week. (MYF and Group sponsors meet at the church Wednesday for planning. MYF sponsors at **6:30**, Group sponsors at **7pm**)

Group: Grades 7-9: Meet next Sunday, January 14th, 6-8 p.m. for Bible Study.

Group Snow Camp: Jan. 27 & 28. Will leave the church at Saturday at 10 a.m. and return to the church Sunday at 12 noon. We will be at Camp K and Jeremy Peachey will be our speaker.

Young Adults: Meet next Sunday, January 14th, following church at Ivan & Pam's for lunch.

Single & Parenting: Single & Parenting is a program that offers practical help & hope to single parents. Sessions begin Monday, Jan. 22, 2018 and runs every Monday evening through April 23 from 6:30-8 p.m. It will be held at the Burnham YMCA. For more information, please contact Ann Kanagy at 717-437-4946.

End of Year Reports: If you are responsible for an End of Year report, please have those to me today. I have placed reminder letters in people's mailboxes who will need to turn one in. Thank you, Kara Kauffman

Kids: Time for your best artwork for the next issue of our church news magazine, The Connection which will have the theme: *Looking at creation, finding the Creator!* Since our winter world is mostly black and white, I'm calling for lots of vivid colors for these projects focused on something in creation! If you'd rather write, go for it! I'm looking for poetry, stories about an experience in God's great world, or your thoughts about a favorite creature!

Father / Son canoe trip: This coming summer we are planning a several day canoe/camping trip for father and son pairs. This trip will be designed for father's and a son between the ages of 13-18. During this age the relationship between a father and son is at one of the most critical times in a young man's development. This trip will be an opportunity to strengthen and develop those bonds. If you have questions, or have an interest and would like more information please contact Ivan.

THANK YOU to Daniel Peachey for providing the pork for the MYF pork and sauerkraut fundraiser and to Joe Wilson for providing the homemade sauerkraut.

There are several containers of **left over pork and sauerkraut** in the upright freezer available-please help yourself.

Hope Alive Group Treatment Program for men and women will begin a new group in the beginning of the new year. This group may be for you if you're ready to dig in and resolve those issues that cause you pain, or nightmares, or difficult relationships. Are you asking yourself: "Why do I think and act as I do?" "How do my childhood abuse and neglect cause me pain today?" "What affect does my pregnancy losses have in my current family life?" Discover and know yourself better. Now is a good time to schedule an evaluation and question/answer session with me. Call: Karen Yoder at 935-2685.

Secretary Position Available: We are searching for someone to be our church secretary. This is about 12 hours, two or three mornings per week. Interested persons may contact Ivan or Pam or may submit a resume to Max at max@locustgrovemc.org.

A PULLED PORK MEAL WILL BE SERVED ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH FROM 4-7PM **TO BENEFIT THE JOE DIEHL FAMILY**. The meal will be served in the Locust Grove Mennonite church fellowship hall on a donation basis and will consist of smoked pulled pork, homemade rolls, baked beans coleslaw and a variety of desserts. Please come out for a very worthy cause and enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship! Take outs will be available throughout.

The Abundant Life Sunday School class will again this year be supplying **BACKYARD MINISTRIES** with **snack bags** for children and **quick bread loaves** for initiating contact with adults. BYM has found the bread loaves to be very effective and they are eager for us to provide many more as they desire to reach more families. Snack items needed are Nutri-grain bars (or a generic brand equivalent), bags or packs of crackers, and individually wrapped cookies (no nuts or peanut butter). You may contribute at **any time** during the month. There is a box in the lobby for snack items and you may put the bread loaves in the kitchen freezer. The date for this month's contributions is Jan. 22. We greatly appreciate your contributions for this ministry.

Women's Exercise Class. Today after church, please join us in the MYF room for an informational session on a **women's PiYo Live! class** to begin at Locust Grove. *PiYo Live!* Classes will be Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the basement. Sign-ups are not necessary. Please bring an exercise mat, water, and a towel. Classes will be free for the month of January. Contact Jenny Goss with any questions.

Coming soon to a library near you...New looks, new books, and a reading contest for all ages with some great prizes! (Stay tuned for details...we need to get through December first!!!) In the meantime, check under the sofa for books and videos you might have forgotten to return to the library or for leftover material from the elective classes that aren't in use. Also, we are hoping to expand the library's selection of books for tweens and teens. We need great books for kids between picture books and adult fiction. If you have gently used, quality reading material that you would be willing to pass along, contact Carmen Groff or Brenda Zook. And, if you've read books that you would like to recommend for us to purchase for the library, let us know – put a list in our mailbox, send a message, or just tell us the title/author and we'll see what we can do! *We read to know that we are not alone. C.S. Lewis*

Calling all quilters from beginner to expert! Quilting for the annual BMS Auction will be held January 22-26 & January 29-February 2, 8 am - 3 pm, at Oakwood Centre at Valley View. If you have a quilt top to be donated for quilting please contact Juli Sunderland (814-667-2511), Jewel Peachey (717-667-9308) or Michelle Byler (717-935-5485).

It's time to start thinking about the next issue of our church news magazine, **The Connection**, which will be published later this winter. Theme? **Looking at creation, finding the Creator!** How do you connect with God through our amazing world? Share a story about a time you heard "heaven and nature sing..." while sitting in a tree stand or on a blanket in the sand or when looking through binoculars, a telescope or a microscope. How does creation connect you with your Creator? Sure we'll be reading these stories wrapped in a cover, holding a hot mug in the deep chill of February, but it's always a good time to remember the wonder of God's year-round creativity! Pass along your thoughts, poetry, or story to Brenda Zook through her mailbox or email brendaebyzook@gmail.com.

Broken and Blessed Discipleship Course Schedule: You are invited to participate in a discipleship course titled, *Broken and Blessed*, scheduled to be held at the Allensville Mennonite Church building for six Monday evenings starting January 8, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. See the schedule below:

January 8 *Our Source of Brokenness* (Sherman Stoltzfus)

January 15 *How God Uses Pain for Good* (Roger Kauffman)

January 22 *Value in Embracing our Brokenness* (Bob & Ethel Zook)

January 29 *Stories of Brokenness and Blessing* (Sherman Stoltzfus)

February 5 *God at Work: Restoration in Process* (Nelson Roth)

February 12 *What will Heaven be like?* (Gerald Peachey)

Stewardship University, a ministry partnership between Everence and our local faith community is coming to Lancaster on Saturday, March 3, 2018. Leonard Dow, Stewardship and Development Specialist with Everence, will deliver our keynote message this year. His topic is HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL? For more information or to register, contact Lynette Morales at (717) 394-076, Lynette.Morales@everence.com or visit StewardshipUniversity.com.

St. John's Christian Day Care and Preschool in Belleville is taking applications for a **full time teacher's aide as well as substitutes**. Applications due January 10. Please call the center at 935-2959 for more information."

Missionary Moments: SEND in Teslin, Yukon, Canada: Sheldon, Cindy, Jedidiah, Annali, Caleb, and Malachi Sharp: Doug said goodbye to earth and hello to Jesus December 23. Thank you keeping the family in your prayers. **RMM in Southern Spain: Phil and Maretta Barr:** When we think of American cultural exports to the rest of the world we often think in terms of detrimental influences, such as, the immorality conveyed through Hollywood movies or the ghoulish activities associated with the spread of Halloween celebrations. So, it was a pleasant change recently to see the American tradition of Thanksgiving inspiring a group of Spaniards to reflect on their blessings from God and return to Him thanksgiving for His goodness to them. The tradition was repackaged as a church service followed by a fellowship meal but there were still the trimmings of tables covered in fall colors, roasted potatoes, sweet potatoes, turkey, and pumpkin pie. There was also a Panamanian soup dish, rice, sardines and shrimp which stretched the tradition a bit. During the worship service people shared about what they were thankful to the Lord for before the pastor directed our thoughts to the importance the Bible gives to our expressing our thankfulness to God. One woman noted that that very day was the tenth anniversary of her hearing the bad news that she had cancer. She expressed her thankfulness to the Lord for bringing her through that difficult time, for having been able to see her two daughters grow up, and to be alive and well today. Another woman described her journey from the Islamic faith she grew up with in Morocco to finding salvation in Christ here in Spain. She thanked the Lord for that, as well as the way He had helped her and her husband in a recent relocation they had made from Luxembourg to Spain. A young married man shared how he was thankful for the Lord's help in comforting his dying father-in-law. He had been left alone at his bedside when his wife and mother-in-law had left him there while they got some food to eat. He expressed his unease at being left in such a delicate situation but then how the Lord had nudged him to read some verses from the Bible to his father-in-law that spoke of the victory we have over death in Christ. Paul in Ephesians 5:4 sees the act of thanksgiving as that which should characterize the new life in Christ in contrast to the puerile speech that we tend to fall into and proceeds from the old nature. The American challenge to express our thanksgiving to God in a concrete fashion was well received by our Spanish brethren. This could well be the best ever American cultural export!

Joy Seekers: Diane Snook, Gin Renno, Twila Yoder and Caro Goss: The group of Joy Seeker ladies have been seeking JOY to the World since July 2013. Over mountains of triumph and through valleys of deep trials an average of 10 ladies come together every Monday evening, meeting in the Lewistown Presbyterian Church Library room. It brings one great JOY to see the ladies be so willing to take turns leading out in our Bible studies each week. We are studying a series of lessons written by Cynthia Heald titled "Becoming a Woman of... We completed the study of "Becoming a Woman of Faith" and

are working now on the lesson titled “Becoming a Woman of Purpose”. We gave thanks as we experienced a Christmas party together in one of our ladies’ home, which has become a tradition and shared by candlelight as we celebrated Christ’s birth. However, there are many needs among us...such as needing a home, needing a job, going through custody cases, overcoming the power of addictions, and burdens for family, friends and persons we meet to accept the love of God into their lives and experience JOY! We treasure your time spent with Our Heavenly Father interceding for us. We say thanks, and may you experience JOY because you seek His Face with us!

Meserete Kristos College, Ethiopia: The church continues to grow, increasing by 4.5 percent over the last year to 310,877 baptized members. It is the largest national Anabaptist body in the world. About 60 percent of the congregations worship in rented space or temporary shelters made of poles and tarps. They are being pressured by the government to erect permanent buildings or risk losing their land. MK College is highly respected and has graduated more than 1,000 students. The theology program has been expanding with a main campus at Debre Zeit, where boarding students are taught in English, and an extension campus in the city of Nazareth, where degree and diploma students learn in Amharic. A second extension campus opened recently in Addis Ababa for part-time students. Recent leaders of the Mennonite Church Canada visited an under-ground church where believers meet in secret prayer cells. In some areas, the ultra-conservative Ethiopian Orthodox Church makes it dangerous to openly profess faith, prompting people to seek Jesus at night for fear of family rejection and alienation. Over time, new believers gain confidence and prepare for baptism, then celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ more

Prayer Guide for January 7 – January 13

7 Sunday – *Romans 12:1&2 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

8 Monday – Pray for **Joe Diehl** in the Hershey Medical Center in his second week of recovery from a serious farm accident on December 28. Pray for God’s healing, grace and peace for the Diehl family, and for resources and volunteers for the farm during Joe’s recovery. Pray also for our **leadership team** tonight.

9 Tuesday – Pray for **Charlie & Kathy Stump** today on Charlie’s birthday. Pray for God to direct them as they begin to pastor the congregation at the First Baptist Church in Lewistown. Pray for God to bring new life to the congregation and empower the members to be a light in the community.

10 Wednesday – Pray for **Ann Kanagy** today as she meets with parents in custody court in Lewistown today. She shares with divorcing parents in groups twice a month the importance of caring for the needs of the children during the trauma of divorce and presents the option of DC4Kids. Pray for Ann in this ministry and pray for the children of single parents.

11 Thursday – Pray for **John & Cora Byler**, today on their 67th wedding anniversary today as the oldest couple in our church! Thank God that they can once again be together in their room 506 at Valley View Haven.

12 Friday – Pray for God to provide someone to serve as our **church secretary** and for God to guide **Kara** as begins her role as our Children’s Ministry Coordinator, as she plans for a spring kid’s club and as she continues to serve as our church secretary during this transitional time.

13 Saturday – Pray for **Theil & Andrea Kauffman** as they prepare to lead our morning worship service on Sunday and pray for **Bob Plank** as he prepares to bring our morning sermon tomorrow. Pray for **Max** as he begins a week long spiritual retreat of prayer, scripture, meditation, and seeking God at a retreat center in eastern PA., Jan. 13-19.

“We are thrilled that you have chosen to worship with us today! There is nothing quite like joining with people in a sense of unity and the single purpose of bringing praise and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that you will be encouraged, refreshed and challenged in your walk with Jesus.”