

Welcome To Locust Grove

January 14, 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: Chloe Renno and Julianna Hartzler
Worship Leader: Rob Plank
Worship Team Leader: Theil Kauffman
Sermon: The Great Invitation, Matt 22:1-14 - Bob Plank
Baby Dedication 10:30: Samuel, Katrina, & Ayden Peachey

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

Nursery: Infants through 3 year olds-

9:00 – Curt & Amanda Yoder
10:30 – Juanita and Kristyn Byler
*Next Week: 9:00- Rachel Sulouff and Susie Peachey
10:30- Matt & Whitney Reed, Ashley Thompson

Prayer List:

At Home: Tom, Nancy, & William Hoefel
Matt, Whitney, Addyson, & Avery Reed

At Valley View: Mabel Stayrook, A213 Valley View Terrace

Away: Dion, Naty, Gabriela, & Marcus
Calle Villalengua 1515 OE5-195 y Sancho De Escobar
Quito, Ecuador

Mission Spot: Kendra Fultz in the Philippines: Please pray for Kendra as she is involved in many areas of ministry: medical clinics and village outreaches to provide healthcare, midwifery clinics, and teaching one day a week at a school. Pray that God gives her much wisdom and courage to face each day, especially the days she teaches school. Many students share very difficult things with her. Also pray that she will continue to walk in victory as God frees her from strongholds the enemy had bound her in.

January 7, 2017

9:00 Worship Attendance 167
S.S. Attendance 334
10:30 Worship Attendance 187
S.S. Offering \$12.11
Morning Worship Offering \$10,614.12

Week 1

Budgeted Morning Worship Offerings - \$11,642
Actual Morning Worship Offerings - \$10,614

This Week's Events:

Monday, 7:00 p.m. – Men's basketball in the gym-All are welcome
Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. – Men's Pursuit of God Bible Study
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – Mom's Bible Study - Minor Prophets-Meet in Nursery
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.
Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Birdwatching presentation in our gym
Friday, 7-9 & Saturday, 9-12 – Leadership Team meets for vision
Saturday, 4:00-7:00-Pulled Pork Fundraiser to benefit the Diehl family

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 13, 6:30-8:00 – Kids' Club Begins
Feb. 19 – 23 – Pastors' Conference
Feb. 23-25 – MYF Snow Camp at Camp K

Multiply is the theme of the Pastors' Conference that we are hosting here February 19-22 for the pastors of our conference. We continue to need more beds to host the pastors and will need volunteers in the nursery, kitchen, dining room, and sound system. Contact Pat Yoder if you can host someone in your home.

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 fathers 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.

Young Adults-You are invited to Ivan and Pam's today, after church, for lunch and discussion.

MYF-grades 10-12-Meet at the church Wednesday at 7:15 for Trivia Night. Bring a drink or snack.

MYF Sausage Sale As a fundraiser for our upcoming mission trip-MYF will be selling whole hog sausage. Please contact an MYF member with your order. Available February 4th.

Group-grades 7-9-Meet at the church tonight from 6-8 for Bible Study. 7th grade bring drinks 8 & 9 grade bring snack.

Group Snow Camp: Jan. 27 & 28. We'll leave the church on 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.

Thank you for your prayers and concern about my hospitalization for a heart cath. and stent. It is great to feel good again! –Ken Yoder

Birdwatching in Mifflin County. Jon Kauffman from the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and Nick Bolgiano, author of *Birds of Central Pennsylvania*, will speak this Friday evening at 7:00 in our fellowship hall about unusual sightings of birds in this area and the migration of raptors.

Kid's Club: Kid's Club will begin Tuesday, Feb. 13th and runs every other Tuesday through March 27th for children in Kindergarten – 5th grade. The theme for this year is "Lord, teach us to pray." Children will learn the Lord's Prayer and what it means, hear stories of answered prayers, and learn how important prayer is in our lives every day. Come join us from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for a fun-filled night of playing games, making crafts, enjoying snack time, and hearing amazing stories about prayer! To register online, go to <http://locustgrovemc.org/kids-club> or fill out a paper registration on the table in the lobby. For more information, contact Kara Kauffman at kara@locustgrovemc.org or 717.935.2164.

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 info., please contact Ann Kanagy at 717-437-4946.

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

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!

Help Needed: The carpet in the sanctuary is being cleaned this week. If you are available after the 2nd service today to help move chairs from the sanctuary, your help would be appreciated. Thank you.

NURSERY NEWS!!! Hope Staley is the new nursery director. If you have any questions, concerns, or schedule conflicts (you can't find a replacement) please contact Hope at (717) 483-0080 or call/text (717) 513-2936. Hope is also looking for 2 or 3 ladies (must be 18 years and older) to join her on a nursery team to share ideas. Please email Hope at smileyhope95@gmail.com if interested. (That doesn't mean you're committed.)

PARENTS: Be sure to fill out a Child info card upon entering nursery if you haven't yet. If it has been more than 6 months since you have done it, please fill out a new one.

NURSERY NEEDS: The nursery is looking to collect some more items: pack n' play/crib sheets, snacks, wipes, a highchair, and a few coloring books that your kiddos don't use anymore. Donations may be dropped off at the nursery.

The money (\$6,110.55) raised for Holly's support on June 11, 2017, was returned to Locust Grove and the Mission board has designated it to be put into the Mission Support Fund.

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.

Women's Exercise Class. A women's *PiYo Live!* class is being held 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!!) 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 brendaebzook@gmail.com. Due date, January 21.

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

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.

Medical Missions in Philippines: Kendra Fultz: So my last teaching day was 2 weeks ago. The day was going better than the week before until around 3:00. I had just finished teaching my last class when one of my students asked me for a Band-Aid because she had accidentally cut herself. When I looked at her finger it looked like a simple paper cut, but then she asked for a Band-Aid for her friend who also had cuts. This time I felt something shift in my spirit... something didn't seem right. I looked at the other student's arm and I saw three parallel slits on her forearm. I asked her what happened, and she said it was an accident... I knew it wasn't. Three perfect slits on the forearm would be hard to get by accident. I asked her if she had cut herself, she admitted that she did. I then turned to another student who also needed a bandage and instead of three little slits, there were hundreds of slashes on her arms and legs. My heart sank. One week at school I witness a child being beaten by his "father", and the next I witness three beautiful, talented girls cutting themselves because "it's what everyone is doing." They admitted to me that they found a razor blade in a book and used it to cut their arms. They also said that almost all the girls in the school have been doing this. The part that hurts me the most is that no one is doing anything to stop this. These innocent children do not understand their worth as children of God. I took them aside to explain that they are each made perfect in Christ and that He loves who they are and that their body is a temple of Christ. I am extremely overwhelmed at the school. I find myself dreading going there. I have asked Leah and Francis for help. I wanted this to be my own ministry but I'm finding myself in over my head. I'm going to talk to the school administrator and ask if Leah and Francis can come in and talk to the kids about their identity in Christ. Please be praying that there will be a radical change in this school. Back to Daliah..while she was being admitted, her water broke, and she began to go into labor. They took her in for an emergency C-section and hysterectomy. After a couple hours in surgery, baby Samson was born and Daliah successfully recovered. Every time I look at them, I see a miracle from God. It's amazing to think that everyone gave up hope for them, they expected them to both die. But Leah and Francis knew that God could make anything possible..and He did. As of today, Daliah and Samson are both healthy and happy. It was such a blessing being able to be part

of this. The next day was the day of the hike. Everyone told me that this hike is hard and that I may have trouble. I was picturing the worse. We left around 7 o'clock that morning to meet the team. We all started hiking around 8. The first 15 minutes of the hike I wanted out... but I heard God say that I was doing this for the kids and that I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. I continued to put one foot in front of the other and hiked up the mountain to the first village..Pugturian. While we were there we gave out flip flops, soap, and toothbrushes to the kids. It was a short stop..from there we started the "hard" hike. It was a muddy mess. We started hiking and within 5 minutes, I lost my shoes in the mud. After digging them out, I walked a couple yards and fell about three times. By this time, I wanted to be done but God said keep going. I took off my shoes, channeled my inner Amish, and walked the entire hike barefoot. It was like a free mud bath, ha-ha!! I did take longer than everyone else to get there but I didn't care. I got there and that's all that mattered! I was sore, my legs felt like jelly, but it was worth it! We all made dinner, got cleaned up, and went straight to bed. The next day we had story time with the kids, sharing with them the story of Jesus' birth, and we gave them coloring sheets and gifts as well. I got to sit and play with the kids and just love on them!! It was worth all the pain. We left that village (Sipit) around 10:30 and started the hike to Umbang. I thought the first day was bad... the second was worse. Most of the hike was vertical plus my legs already felt like rubber. But I still placed one foot in front of the other. There was a time when I told myself that if I am stepping in the right direction I will get there. After about an hour of steep hiking, it was all downhill. Which may have been worse. By that time, I couldn't feel anything, so I just trusted that my body was doing what it was supposed to do. ha-ha!! I could feel the strength of God pouring into my body. I really thought I wouldn't be able to do it, but He gave me continued strength! The next day was Sunday so we went to the local church. I had no idea what the sermon was on, but we sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness" in Tagalog and it reminded me of my Grandmother which was exactly what I needed. The language didn't matter. I could feel God's holy presence in the room. Some of the people that came along with us aren't Christians, so I got to share with them my story and how God has been faithful in my life. I also got to talk to one of the guys about Christianity and God before he left. It was truly an amazing trip where I saw God's strength and His love. The third village is where Wilson and Daliah are from so I got to show the villagers pictures of the baby and Dailah, and I saw her kids and told them that their mom is healthy and alive, and that they have a new baby brother, a strong baby brother. Tuesday night we did our Christmas outreach. During the holidays Bongang tribe members come down from the mountains to beg for money. These people are from one of the unreached people groups in Mindoro and they were coming to us! How amazing is that?! We found out where they were staying in town and we took them food. Chicken, rice, and pancit (noodles). We just sat with them and ate food. They don't know a lot of Tagalog, but we just smiled and ate with them.

The Filipinos that were with us would translate and ask them questions about their language. It was amazing. I truly feel like God impacted them. One of the men in the group knew some Tagalog so Francis shared the gospel with him. I know he is going to go back to his village (of unreached people) and share with them the good news of God. It reminded me of all the refugees that are looking for shelter. God is bringing them to us, all we must do is show them His love. The places they live we can't reach so God is bringing them to us! The past couple weeks God has been revealing to me some sin that I have had in my life for years... sin that I felt so guilty and ashamed of that I kept it hidden. I tried to ignore it hoping that it would disappear... but it didn't and it all kind of blew up in my face at once. I'm glad it did though because instead of running from this sin, I need to face it. I know that God is not disappointed in me and He NEVER gives people guilt or disappointment or condemnation. Sometimes He convicts people, but He never condemns them. The feelings I have been having about this sin have been from Satan. I have been learning that we are on a battle ground.. right now. We are fighting against the force of darkness, but God tells us in Revelations that He has already won. HE IS VICTORIOUS! He has sent to perfect sacrifice for our sins, but Satan wants to remind us of those sins and make us feel like we must carry them around, but we don't. Our responsibility is to leave them at the cross..that is why Jesus came off His throne to be born of a virgin to die for these exact sins. When we bring sin to light it has no more power over us. The guilt and shame that we feel is from Satan because he wants us to hide it... but no more. I have left this sin at the cross and God is in the process of healing me from the years of carrying it around. He has uprooted the roots of lies and made me clean again. This doesn't mean that I will never struggle with the sin again, or be tempted.

As most of you know Jim Lewis has been moved to Camp Hill. His mailing address is:

James W Lewis NF-2428
SCI Camp Hill
PO Box 200
Camp Hill PA 17001-0200

It appears that visiting hours at the prison are 8:15AM-3:30PM Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sunday, 1PM-7:30PM on Thursday, and no visitation on Tuesday. I think he can receive 5 visitors per week. Jim will confirm some of this information soon. If any of you are interested in being on Jim's approved visitor list, please let me know. He will need your full name, address, phone number, and birthdate.

Leon Miller
717-348-4262
leonlynda77@gmail.com

Prayer Guide for January 14 – January 20

14 Sunday –*John 7:37&38 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

15 Monday – Pray for **Joe Diehl** in his recovery from the logging accident. Pray for him in his therapy at home and pray for each family member in how their lives have been impacted by this accident: **Kristin, Naomi, Hannah, Sarah and Zachary**. Pray for **Irv Hartzler** in his recovery from pneumonia and a surgery this past Tuesday.

16 Tuesday – Pray for the participants in the **Grief Share group** that meets at church each Tuesday night led by Ivan and Pam. Pray for healing and comfort for people struggling with grief in our church family and community.

17 Wednesday – Pray for **Theil & Andrea Kauffman** in their preparation to lead worship this coming Sunday morning. Pray for **Mel Shetler** as he prepares to preach this Sunday and lead our leadership team in a retreat this coming weekend. Pray for **Max** in his spiritual retreat this week to listen for God to speak and to lead our leadership team this coming weekend.

18 Thursday – Pray for several area congregations in which members of our church family minister regularly: **First Baptist Church** with Charlie and Kathy Stump and Bill and Carol Goss; **Allensville Lutheran Church** with Mayard Beitzel and Gerald Peachey; and the **Agape Fellowship Church** in Lehigh Valley with Steve & Karen Kramm.

19 Friday – Pray for our **leadership team** of the pastors, church staff, elders and their spouses who are meeting this evening and tomorrow morning with our Overseer, Mel and Edna Shetler in a weekend retreat to look at the future and set goals and priorities for our church family for this year.

20 Saturday – Pray for **God's direction** this morning in the leadership team retreat and pray for **Mel** as he prepares to preach in our morning worship service tomorrow morning. Pray for **Max** as he prepares to preach at Boyer Mennonite Church and pray for their pastor, **Mike and Wendy Byler** who are on a mission trip to Uganda, Africa.