Mt. Joy Covenant Brethren Church

"A Christ-Centered Church committed
to the Word of God and the proclamation of the gospel."



Bro. Lee Smith, Pastor
494 East Main Street
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Located 1 mile east of Mt. Pleasant on Route 31

Church Office: 724-547-3670
Cell: 724-771-1121
Church Fax: 724-542-4285
Church Email: mt.joycbc@gmail.com
Sunday School Email: PrimaryEd@zoominternet.net

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MARCH WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

First Love Ladies Bible Study Group will meet at **10:30 a.m**. on **March 9th and 23rd.**
Men's Prayer Breakfast at MP Dairy Queen on the 7th at 8:30 am.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study is held weekly at **11:00 am**.
Spring Revival – March 22-25 at 7:00 pm.
Love Feast and Communion will be at 3:00 pm on March 29th.

SCHEDULED HELPERS FOR MARCH

Deacons of the month
Dave & Peggy King

They can be contacted at 724-887-4311

Specials:
03/01 – Cindy Klingensmith/Laura Smith
03/08 – Prinkey/Wiltrout
03/15 – Mt. Joy Singers
03/22 – David Wiltrout
03/29 - JAM

Worship Leaders:
03/01 – David Wiltrout
03/08 – Tim Shanahan
03/15 – Gene Hartzler
03/22 – Dave King
03/29 – Tim Shanahan

MARCH
NEWS BRIEFS

GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER

We continue to collect items for the Good Samaritan Center. Food is the priority, but other items such as hand soap, paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper would also be appreciated. Please do not bring outdated items. They are not permitted to give those out.

DEACON WORK MINISTRY

If anyone has a job they need help with, please let one of the deacons know.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

- News items for the April newsletter are due to the church secretary by March 25th**.**
- Cindy Fisher is the Church Secretary. Her tentative days to be in the office are Wednesday 9-12 and Thursday 10-1. If you need to contact her, please feel free to call her cell number at **724-261-8788**.
- If you would like to reserve the Fellowship Hall or pavilion, call or email the church secretary.

CHURCH SERVICES AVAILABLE

Sunday Morning Service begins at 10:45. If you have any questions, please call the church.
Sunday School (9:45)
Wednesday Evening Bible Study begins at 11:00 a.m.



03/02 – Alena Seder
03/03 – *George Meerhoff
03/09 – Phyllis Seder, Gavin Dzambo
03/14 – Peyton Hagerty
03/15 – LynnJoelle Rohrbaugh, Dave Wiltrout
03/17 – Tim Shanahan
03/21 – Esther Hartzler, Timmy Simanovich
03/23 – Joe Gardner
03/26 – Richard Pritts
03/27 – Bob Brown

*Indicates those who have reached their 80th birthday.

NOTE: We would like to have everyone's birthday to publish it in *The Assistant Pastor*. If we have missed your birthday, or have the wrong date, please give the information to the Church Secretary. Thank you!

MARCH 2026 BIBLE READING

March 1 – Deuteronomy 28-29	March 09 – Joshua 18-20	March 17 – Judges 14-16	March 25 – 1 Samuel 15-16
March 2 – Deuteronomy 30-32	March 10 – Joshua 21-22	March 18 – Judges 17-19	March 26 – 1 Samuel 17-18
March 3 – Deuteronomy 33-34	March 11 – Joshua 23-24	March 19 – Judges 20-21	March 27 – 1 Samuel 19-21
March 4 – Joshua 1-4	March 12 – Judges 1-3	March 20 – Ruth 1-4	March 28 – 1 Samuel 22-24
March 5 – Joshua 5-7	March 13 – Judges 4-5	March 21 – 1 Samuel 1-3	March 29 – 1 Samuel 25-27
March 6 – Joshua 8-10	March 14 – Judges 6-8	March 22 – 1 Samuel 4-7	March 30 – 1 Samuel 28-31
March 7 – Joshua 11-13	March 15 – Judges 9-10	March 23 – 1 Samuel 8-12	March 31 – 2 Samuel 1-3
March 8 – Joshua 14-17	March 16 – Judges 11-13	March 24 – 1 Samuel 13-14	

CURRENT LIST OF PRAYER CONCERNS

***"Is there any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise!"* – James 5:13.**

Listed below are some of our church family, friends and neighbors who have been hospitalized, ill, injured, or just on our hearts this past month:

Cassie Pritts	Don Seder	Patty Morrison	Brianna Grieff
Jennifer	Gary Miner	Heather Gardner	Kelly & Wayne
Jackie Hoppe	Baughman Family	Violet Wiltrout	Danny Fifer
Sue	Allison Park Church		

PRAISE REPORTS

Praise that we can have confidence in Christ for our salvation!
Praise for Tristan & Emma Zawalsh getting a new niece!
Praise for Dave Yelle being back!

Prayers for many in our congregation & families who are traveling during the last month, for the homeless & hungry, for all those who are suffering from terminal illnesses and for all those who have not been able to attend church services due to sickness. Continue to pray for comfort for all who are grieving loved ones, for our shut-ins, for our unsaved loved ones, for each other, and for healing & unity in our families, our President, Leaders, country & world.

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Mt. Joy Leadership Team Minutes

February 13, 2026

The Leadership Team of the Mt. Joy Covenant Brethren Church met on Friday, February 13 2026 at 7:00 pm. The following members were present:

Lee Smith – Pastor

J'nice Wiltrout – Treasurer

Ken Anderson – Deacon

Linda Wilkins – Finance Board Chair

Debbie Anderson – Leadership Secretary/Deaconess

Dave King – Deacon

Peggy King – Deaconess

Fay Pritts – Deaconess

Jim Myers – At-Large

Ann Yelle – Music & Worship Chair

Pastor Lee called the meeting to order. He then read Luke 2:41-52 reminding us to be about the Father's business like Jesus, and led us in prayer. Debbie read the minutes from the January 9, 2026 meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

REPORTS:

Pastor's Report – submitted by Pastor Lee Smith

During the past month, by God's grace and for His glory, I have:

Made 24 visits – 10 in-home, 9 office/other, 2 nursing home (1 Hillside Manor Personal Care Home and 1 to Harmon House), 3 Hospital (1 Frick and 2 Westmoreland).

Had 126 correspondence (includes phone calls, text messages, e-mails, Facebook messenger, cards and letters).

Shoveled sidewalks and steps at church.

Wrote article for church newsletter

Had 1 pre-marital counseling interview.

Planned worship each week

Taught Bible Study weekly (currently on the Gospel of Matthew)

Preached 4 sermons

Kept regular office hours

Deacon Report – no meeting/no report

Ministerial Board – no meeting/no report

Board of Finance – submitted by Linda Wilkins

Offering total for January over 3 Sundays was $5501.00 with ad average weekly giving of $1833.66. Additional offering for January was $387 for Improvement Fund.

Offering for the first 2 weeks of February totaled $4146.00

(continued on 5)

Treasurer's Report – submitted by J'nice Wiltrout

Beginning cash balance	83,643.30	
Cash receipts for month:		
Regular deposits		5501.00
Improvement fund		387.00
Total receipts for month	5,888.00	
Cash expenses for month:		
Regular expenses		9,382.89
Improvement fund		12,650.00
Total expenses for month	22,032.89	
Ending cash balance	67,498.41	
Less Improvement fund	-5,978.01 (negative balance)	
Less Funeral meal acct.	1,685.37	
General fund cash balance	59,835.03	
CD balance	25,230.07	
Interest	78.00	
Balance 1/22/2026	25,308.07	
Eder Financial Funds (12/31/2025)	79,093.73	

BCE – no meeting/no report

Trustee Board – no meeting/no report

Music & Worship – no meeting/no report

At-Large – no report

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Church Secretary Update – Cindy's office hours at the church will be Wednesday's 9-12 and Thursday's 10-1. If there are any changes, corrections, or announcements that need made for the bulletin or assistant pastor, please communicate with her by giving her a call or stop by the office.

B. Job Description Updates – Deacon Board and Finance Board turned in their updates to the Leadership Board. They were read and approved. We will go over and approve the others as they are turned in.

C. New Copier – J'nice emailed the representative to contact our secretary, Cindy, to set up installation.

D. Sound System – Trustees are to oversee this issue.

(continued on 6)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CBC Annual Meeting – This will be held July 16-18 in Johnstown. We will need 2 delegates to represent our church along with Pastor Lee.

B. Music Group – Pastor Lee was contacted by the Padgetts, a father/son group who did a concert for us in November 2023 and March 2025. They are interested in coming again on Saturday, July 18, 2026 to celebrate their 10th year in ministry. They will be going through the area & will accept a love offering. All agreed to host them and Pastor Lee will be checking in with them as far as what time on that date. They are a Southern Gospel group & to listen to their music go to www.fatherandsonmusic.net.

C. Spring Congregational Meeting – This will be revisited next month with some possible changes.

OPEN FLOOR COMMENTS:

A. Lenton lunches will be coming back this year at the Church of God social hall. They will be held on 3 Wednesdays being March 11,18 & 25. Our church will host the March 11 luncheon with Pastor Lee giving the message. A sign up sheet will be on the door to bring sandwiches and cookies.

B. Our Revival will be held March 22-25 at 7:00 pm with Craig Alan Myers.

C. Our Love Feast and Communion Service will be held Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken. Seconded by Dave. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. Dave closed in prayer. The next regular meeting is Friday, March 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Anderson Leadership Team Secretary





Commonly Misunderstood and Misapplied Verses:
Jesus is Knocking . . . But at the Wrong Door

It is a very popular verse to use in evangelistic messages. Many a pastor has quoted it at the end of their sermon to appeal to any unbelievers present in the congregation to receive Christ. Several of us can picture in our minds the painting which has Jesus standing at a door without any handle from the outside and having His fist in the air as if He were patiently knocking on it. The verse is Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." It is clear here that Jesus certainly is knocking on a door. The only problem is that the way it is often used and applied has Him knocking at the wrong door! Hence why I include this verse as one of those "Inigo Montoya passages": "You keep quoting that verse. I do not think it means what you think it means."

As always, context is the key. When we look at the verses surrounding this one, we discover that Jesus is not knocking on the door of an unbeliever's heart hoping that he or she just might finally let Him in. No. It is a door of a church. And not just any church at that but a very lukewarm one which is described as being neither cold or

hot in relation to the Lord leading God to desire to spit them out of His mouth just like people did of the dirty water of the city there (vv. 15-16). It was a very prideful worldly church thinking that they were doing well and had all that they needed only to be ignorant of their true poor and needy spiritual condition (v. 17). This was the church of Laodicea. One of seven churches Jesus has John write a letter to at this time. Jesus even explicitly specifies at the end of the letter that this message is what "the Spirit says to the churches" (v. 22). So, this is not a call for unbelievers to be saved but a group of believers to repent and be renewed again in their zeal for the Lord (v. 19). This church had become so preoccupied with other things that they had in essence pushed Jesus out of the congregation with Him now being on the outside so to speak knocking to be let back in!

Some believe that Jesus here may be alluding to Song of Solomon 5:2 where the husband there knocks on the door of the bedroom to encourage his wife to let him in and continue to express her love for him. If Jesus did indeed intend to direct us to that picture, He could be showing that the same thing is happening with them. He is there as their husband knocking for them to open the door and express their love for Him once again. That love which had become so putridly lukewarm. It could also be connected to the parable Jesus told of slaves who were waiting eagerly for the return of their master from a wedding to open the door to him immediately when he comes back and knocks. The master then will have them sit at the table with him serving them (Luke 12:36-37). This is very similar to the image Jesus gives to this lukewarm church of Laodicea. Jesus may be reminding them that His coming is very near so they better be ready to let Him in. And the only way to do that would be to answer His call to repent of their worldly lukewarmness and self-righteous self-sufficiency (Revelation 3:19).

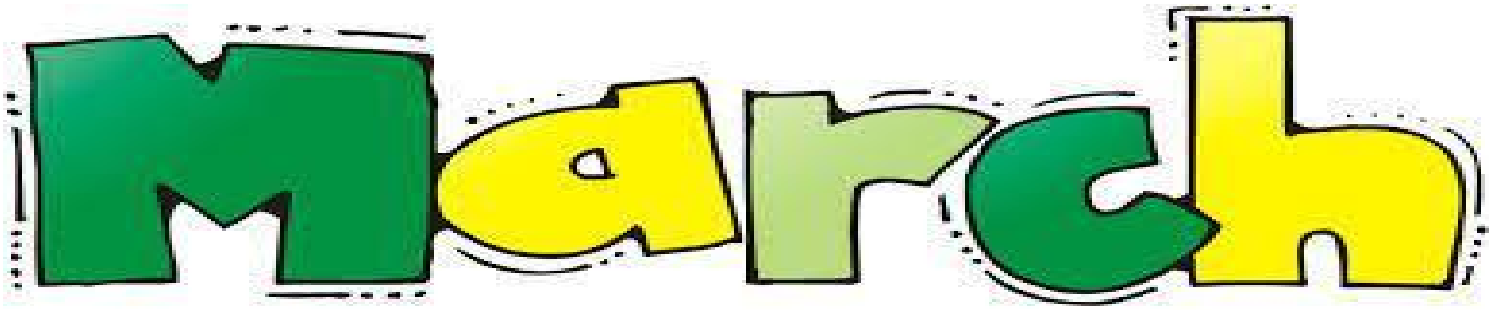
Rather than this being an evangelistic plea, it serves as a warning to believers in the church today. For us to guard against becoming lukewarm in our devotion to the Lord and succumbing to the thinking that we are something spiritually when we are not. To entertain the thought that we have what we need on our own and no longer need Christ when the reality is that we are nothing without Him (Romans 7:18), have nothing without Him (1 Corinthians 4:7), and can do nothing without Him of any value for His kingdom (John 15:5). The last thing we should want is for it to appear that Jesus is on the outside needing to be back in to dine or fellowship with us. (continued on 8)

Furthermore, nowhere in Scripture are we ever told that Jesus is simply standing outside the door of our hearts patiently knocking hoping we might just let Him in. In fact, it actually is the opposite. Luke tells us that it was the Lord who opened up Lydia's heart to pay attention to the things spoken by Paul (Acts 16:14). He didn't wait for her to open up her own. If He doesn't open our heart, we would never let Him in. He certainly wasn't patiently knocking on the door of Paul's heart when He confronted the man on the road to Damascus and dramatically changed and transformed him (Acts 9:3-7). We are never instructed to open our heart to let Jesus in. But we are continually, over and over again throughout the pages of Scripture, called to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38; 20:21; 26:20). That should be the evangelistic

appeal for us to make. Not one that hadn't been given to unbelievers in the first place. I'm not even sure it is helpful to direct unbelievers to ask Jesus into their heart for that matter. What does that even mean? And can that be done without repentance and genuine faith in Christ which alone saves? I think the many who have done so without bearing any fruit of repentance and persevering living faith which results in works (Matthew 3:8/Luke 3:8; Matthew 13:8, 23; James 2:14-26) provides the evidence that it indeed can be without such and give a countless number a false assurance of their salvation which they do not possess. I'm not saying that someone who has prayed to ask Jesus into their heart isn't necessarily saved. Just that it wasn't from them doing or asking such. It would have been through coming to Him with an attitude of repentance and placing their trust in Him alone to serve as their Savior and Lord. I probably prayed a dozen or more times to ask Jesus into my heart in my youth before I realized what repentance and faith really meant and looked like. And it was that repentance and faith that actually made the difference.

So, the questions we should be asking ourselves are as follows: "Have we pushed Jesus out of our fellowship so to speak where He is left outside knocking to come back in?" "How may we have become lukewarm or began to be such like the church Jesus stood knocking at?" And "What can we do to ensure that this doesn't happen to our congregation as well as us as individuals?" Remember the blessed promise of restored fellowship He gives to this church as well as any others who allow themselves to grow lukewarm in their affection for Him. "If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him to and will dine with him, and he with Me." As G. Campbell Morgan well said, "The only cure for lukewarmness is the re-admission of the excluded Christ."

Love in Christ,
Pastor Lee



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

1 **9:45 a.m.** Sunday School **10:45 a.m**. Morning Worship	**2** **9:30 a.m.** First Love Bible Study	**3**	4 **11:00 am** Adult Bible Study	**5**	**6**	**7** 8:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
8 **9:45 a.m.** Sunday School **10:45 a.m**. Morning Worship	**9**	**10**	**11** **11:00 am** Adult Bible Study	**12**	**13** **7:00 pm** **Leadership Meeting**	**14**
15 **9:45 a.m.** Sunday School **10:45 a.m**. Morning Worship Service Improvement Fund Offering	**16** **9:30 a.m.** First Love Bible Study	**17**	**18** **11:00 am** Adult Bible Study	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 **9:45 a.m.** Sunday School **10:45 a.m**. Morning Worship **7:00 pm** **Revival**	**23** **7:00 pm** **Revival**	**24** **7:00 pm** **Revival**	**25** **11:00 am** Adult Bible Study **7:00 pm** **Revival**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 **9:45 a.m.** Sunday School **10:45 a.m**. Morning Worship **3:00 pm** **Love Feast & Communion**	**30**	**31** **6:00 p.m.** **BCE Meeting**	**26** **11:00 am** Adult Bible Study			

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494 East Main Street
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH *2026*



I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8