the journey

The Brownsville Church of God Newsletter **Summer Issue: July 2020**

WE EXIST for the purpose of Worshipping God, Loving all people, making disciples for Christ.

Our Vision: To be a church where People are coming to Christ; finding love, acceptance, forgiveness and experiencing Christian growth for service that honors God.

Regularly Held Services

Please see page 5 for classes and services update.

SUNDAY 10:00 AM
Marriage Class – Sanctuary
Men's Class – Classroom 101
Women's Class – Classroom 102
Teen Class – Classroom 103
Children's Classes – Classrooms 104, 106, 107

SUNDAY 11:00 AM
Worship Service – Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM
Adult Family Life Studies - Sanctuary
Children's Bible Classes – Classrooms 104, 106, 107
Teen Bible Class – Classroom 103

Nursery (Pre-K) is available for Sunday and for Wednesday Evening Services – Room 105

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www.brownsvillecog.com
https://www.facebook.com/BrownsvillechurchofGod/

Churches of God
General Conference

A Message from the Pastor

Thanksgiving in Tough Times

by Pastor Victor Johnson

We would all agree that we are living in very trying and tough times. The coronavirus pandemic has taken a significant toll on our nation and the world. Businesses and institutions of learning have closed; then opening to just reclose again. Jobs have been lost; many have become ill and many lives has been lost. Racial tensions and unrest have also been on the rise.

During these times, it is quite easy to overlook the many things that we can and need to thank God for. The faith way of looking at the things happening around us is to understand that God allows things to happen for several reasons. One that we might depend upon Him, second, that through difficult times, God is growing us in Christian maturity. These too are opportunities to give thanks to God and glorify God.

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Ephesians 5:20

Barriers to Thanksgiving

1. Lack of trust in God – Are you trying to work things out by yourself?
   Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. Jeremiah 17:7
   Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. Psalm 57:1
   God has our best interest at heart.
2. Lack of Patience – Not waiting on God for His answer or outcome.
   Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer. Romans 12:12
3. Selfishness – Regardless of what God wants, I'm going to do it my way.
   For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2 Timothy 3:2
   By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

Continued…

...continued - A Message from the Pastor

4. Discontentment & Thoughtlessness – Do you have negative thoughts and ways?
   Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.
   2 Corinthians 10:5
   Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
   Philippians 4:11

My Prayer
By Esther Ricker

When I leave my room each morning,
I really need to kneel and pray.
What would You have me do
To help some traveler along the way?

When I have many struggles,
I really need to kneel and pray.
By His love He will guide me.
As I serve Him every day.

When my heart is filled with anger,
I really need to kneel and pray.
I need to ask for His love;
We need to forgive each other.

When I am distressed by any woes,
I really need to kneel and pray
When I am distressed by others,
I really need to kneel and pray.

BCOG Parking Lot Service

Our first time coming together as the stay at home ordinance was being lifted, was a parking lot service held on June 14th. Attendees were to stay in their cars and cars were parked with social distancing in mind. Volunteers and participants wore masks and rubber gloves were used as needed and social distancing was observed. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day.

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Ephesians 5:20

BCOG Youth Ministry

BCOG Zoom Ministry for Kids: Pre-K – 5th Graders: Connecting Our Kids to God & One Another During COVID-19!

It was in early April the teaching team that works with our elementary students in grades PreK – 5th grade began meeting to determine how to best minister to our kids and families during the COVID-19 pandemic and time of separation from church!

Because we missed our youth so much during these difficult times, our initial goal was very simple but clear: help kids maintain strong heart connections with the Father, teachers & each other during this time! We collectively decided that Zoom (Social Media gadget) was the format we could best use to do that! For any families that have missed out on our exciting Zoom class, we'd like to share a little about what we've been doing. First, we call it "BCOG Zoom Kids' Ministry" and it happens EVERY Wednesday evening from 6:00pm – 6:50pm. There are FOUR parts to EVERY Zoom session:

Part 1: CONNECTION

Connection starts by playing a GAME everyone can participate in! For example, during one session Brother James and Sister Michelle led us in Tic Tac Toe. It was so much fun trying to guess any three numbers between 0-9 to get three in a row! Another week Sister Erica led us in a Bible version of "Would You Rather?" Nova decided she would rather "name all of the animals on the earth" rather than "build the ark!" to everyone's great laughter!!

PART 2: PRAISE & WORSHIP

If you were a participant in any of our past vacation Bible schools, you will know most of the songs we sing, as we use YouTube videos from past VBS sessions to get our praise on! We not only sing, but we do the motions too… and it's awesome! Sometimes Sister Charlene also shares with us how to do a song using sign language! How cool is that? Everyone catches on pretty quick - we're so blessed to have Sister Charlene teaching us sign language through songs!

PART 3: BIBLE LESSON

This is our time to learn something together from the Word of God. Brother James & Sister Michelle, Brother Joseph & Sister Mary, & Sister Nicole & Sister Nancy are the different "teaching partners" for this segment. One week, Brother Joseph and Sister Mary shared a lesson about "patience." We all can use some of that during these trying times. Our lesson was taken from James 5:7-9, and Mark 4:18-19. Brother Joseph read the scriptures and explained how being a farmer requires much patience. They then shared their garden with the Zoom class! Nova, Serenity & Jovani ALSO shared their own plants and Orchid flower bulbs from their homes. It was so exciting to see the cool plant and bulbs! We also include an "application" part to our lessons, which is something that we can do to apply what we learned between our sessions. For example, one week we did a "Kindness Challenge." It involved things such as holding the door open for someone, drawing a picture or writing a note for our mail carrier, etc. At the following Zoom session, we shared all the kind things everyone had the pleasure of doing throughout the week!

Continued ...

Camp YoliJwa Update*

"WE ARE READY! As we do every year, the Camp's staff has been hard at work getting the Camp's buildings, grounds, and recreation areas looking great and ready for another YoliJwa summer. This spring, we have also been planning and preparing Camp to be a safe and healthy environment for the youth who choose to attend. How appropriate is our summer theme this year of "20/20 Vision" from Hebrews 12:2 ***"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"?*** How often during the past few months have we all wished for better vision in knowing what we should do and the ability to see more clearly into the future?

The good news is all of our youth and wilderness camps are still being planned under a revised schedule. (Please check our website to get these new dates.) For these sessions, we will focus our efforts on keeping the virus from being introduced into what we hope to establish and maintain as a 'healthy' Camp community."

Steve Long, Executive Director
CAMP YOLIJWA / Doubling Gap Center

www.campyolijwa.org

Good News Camp began on June 22. There is no busing due to social distancing restrictions.

Good News Camp 2020
Mark Victor Teeter
Memorial Park
Waynesboro, PA

Fulton County (Dublin Mills) Camp -
Cancelled for 2020

Path Valley (St John's Camp) -
Cancelled for 2020

Further information and updates plus registration forms are available at the Franklin/Fulton County website www.franklincef.com or you can call our office at 717-762-2115 if you have any questions or need clarification.

Used Postage Stamps

As published in the Gettysburg Area Merchandiser— February 19, 2020

The Stamp Project at Cross Keys Village currently consists of 40 assiduous volunteers who process over 1 million stamps each year. Donated stamps are carefully prepared, organized, and sold as "lots" to philatelic resellers.

Why does the group gather every week -since 1981 - to complete this painstaking work? It's all for a good cause: Proceeds from this activity net more than $4,000 in profit each year, generously given to the Good Samaritan Fund to help defray costs for healthcare residents, or used to purchase items that benefit the entire community.

The group is appealing to businesses and individuals in the community to donate ordinary used and cancelled stamps. Envelopes with cancelled stamps may be saved as is or cut with the stamp portion intact; leaving half-inch border (the stamp diminishes in value if it is cut too close). You may mail or deliver your collected stamps to:

Cross Keys Village -
The Brethren Home Community
Attn: Volunteer Services
2990 Carlisle Pike,
New Oxford, PA 17350

If needed, volunteers will pick up the stamps from your business location. You may call the Volunteer Services office at 717-624-5227 to arrange for this service or if you have any questions about this project. (You may also give them to Sis. Katherine and she will see that they are delivered.)

We hope you will be a partner with our group and an active part in this small program that makes a big difference in our ministry.

...continued - BCOG Youth Ministry

PART 4: PRAYER

Last but not least, we end with prayer. Sister Judy and Sister Jane often lead this part, starting by asking everyone to share ways they saw God "in action" in the past week or blessings their family experienced. Prayer requests are next. For example, kids often ask for prayer for their siblings, praying that we can be together soon and praying for our church family. It's awesome to see that we have children who believe in the power of prayer -thank you Jesus!

HOW WE'RE REACHING FAMILIES AND KIDS:

There are SEVERAL outreach efforts being made to connect kids and families into this ministry. First, all of the teachers have each been assigned to the parents of 3 to 4 children. We send out texts and emails with the Zoom meeting information every week. This includes the day and time, the web site, member ID and the passcode. In these busy times, we believe these texts or messages are a helpful reminder of the weekly Zoom Meeting. In addition, Sister Nicole emails a flyer to families each week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, reminding them of the Zoom, the lesson topic and the Zoom link information. FINALLY, because we realize that it is not always convenient for families to join us on the Zoom meeting and because the Zoom format is just not for every family or child, Sister Nicole sends out a 'Family Fun' packet every Friday. This packet contains craft ideas, family activities and additional Bible lessons related to that week's lesson. The goal is to put materials into the hands of parents that they can use to sow spiritual food into their kids!

INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR KIDS CONNECTED INTO THE BCOG KIDS' ZOOM MINISTRY?

If your family is not receiving weekly emails with the Zoom link information or the "family fun" packets, contact Sister Nicole Hewitt (bobandnicolehewitt@gmail.com or 717-404-5291). Also, we are ALWAYS looking for adults who have a heart for ministering to youth! If that is you, also reach out to Sister Nicole to find out how to get involved!

final thoughts...

Services & Classes Update —

Online Sunday worship services were started during the stay at home order and continue at 11:00 a.m. at Brownsville Church of God Facebook page.

Our first service inside the church was held Sunday, June 21 with two services: 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. These are also continuing.

Bible Study also continues on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. online at Brownsville Church of God Facebook page.

Youth classes are held on Wednesdays via ZOOM. See article on page 3 of this newsletter.

We have recently started holding onsite Bible Study on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

There are no Sunday School or Bible Study youth classes being held at this time.

Again, masks are required along with social distancing; temperatures are also taken upon attendees arrival and hand sanitizer is used. These actions will continue for services until further notice.

There are no other special events scheduled at the church at this time. Please go to our website www.brownsvillecog.com for updated information. Our Facebook page address is: www.facebook.com/BrownsvillechurchofGod/ .

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Newsletter article submissions may be sent to the Editor at vbpra123@gmail.com.

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