the journey

The Brownsville Church of God Newsletter **Fall Issue: October 2020**

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

Our Vision: We envision a community of faith where: People are coming to Christ, finding love, acceptance, forgiveness, and experiencing Christian growth..

Regularly Held Services

(All classes and services are suspended until further notice. Please go to our website www.brownsvillecog.com for updates and more information.)

SUNDAY
Worship Service - On-site
9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Worship Service - Online (Facebook)
11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY
Youth (PreK - 5th grade) Class
6:00 PM. - Online (Zoom)

Bible Study - Online (Facebook)
7:00 PM

THURSDAY
Bible Study - On-site
7:00 PM

Brownsville Church of God
6390 Lincoln Way East
Fayetteville, PA 17222
717-352-9535
www.brownsvillecog.com

Churches of God
General Conference

A Message from the Pastor

ISSUES FACING OUR NATION TODAY (Part 1 of 2)

God has commanded for us to love ***all people***. Jesus demonstrated God's great love for all, even His enemies. In various scriptures, we find that He intentionally reached out to people other than Jews.

There are many issues facing our nation today. There is a failing economy, COVID-19 sickness and loss of life, unemployment, and division. I would like to share thoughts on racial and political division. These two issues are affecting relationships in our homes, at work, among our friends and our relationships within the Church. The Church must play a great role in the healing process. Few churches are speaking out against the racial tensions in our nation today. Often, failure to speak to the issue is out of fear or simply not being knowledgeable enough about what lies at the root of the issue. God's Church must be a pillar of truth. *1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV, but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*. The Church must not only preach Jesus and the gospel, but its people must live out the teachings of Christ in their lives. We must speak up and speak out, but do it in love. *Ephesians 4:15 (NIV).*

Many Christian denominations were founded upon the principle that slavery could co-exist alongside the gospel of Jesus Christ. The abolitionist movement to free slaves provoked a great debate that eventually lead to a bloody civil war. Because racial injustice continued after slavery, the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s was necessary. Knowing truth…and ….. accepting truth, sets us free.

As far as politics is concerned, many political leaders, both, Democrat and Republican are seeking to divide people by attempting to associate political affiliation to Christianity. Believers in Christ are not saved by their political persuasion. ***They are saved by God through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.*** (See 1 Peter 1:18-19).

While I believe that we all have the right to vote, should vote and that government is ordained of God, I assure you that ***"God Is In Full Control."*** *We find this in Daniel 2:20-21. (NIV), "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

Continued on next page

Continued...A Message from the Pastor

Let me give you four things to consider that you can do to help bring about racial reconciliation in our nation.

1. Speak less, Listen More - *be quick to listen (with empathy), slow to speak, and slow to anger, for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness" James 1:19-20 (CSB).*
2. Seek to Learn– *Proverbs 18:15 (NLT), Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.* Have intentional discussions with people different than yourself. Seek to understand **"why"** a person may think or feel the way that they do. Don't make assumptions about people.
3. Self Reflection. Be honest with yourself. *2 Corinthians 13:5 (GW), —Examine yourselves to see whether you are still in the Christian faith. Test yourselves! Don't you recognize that you are people in whom Jesus Christ lives? Could it be that you're failing the test?*
4. Repentance. Be willing to repent of wrong thinking and biases you may hold toward others different than yourself. *Lamentations 3:40 (CSB), Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord.*

As a follower of Christ, I believe that ***God has all power and authority to bring the change and breakthroughs that we are so desperately in need of.***

May God bless you and use you for His Glory! Pastor Vic

Brownsville Church of God Pre-Thanksgiving Concert

The Pre-Thanksgiving Concert will be held at The Brownsville Church of God on Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. We invite you to join us in worshipping and praising the Lord.

There will be limited seating and social distancing will be practiced. The wearing of masks is required. Names of attendees along with temperatures will be taken. Please plan to join us!

Congratulations Nichole Washington!

(The daughter of Donna Rae and Granville Washington)

In a ceremony on October 3, 2020, at Gowen Field, Col. Christopher Burt, State Aviation Officer, transferred command of the 1st of the 183rd Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) from Lt. Col. Christian O'Leary to Lt. Col. Nicole Washington.

The 1-183rd is an organization comprised of over 350 Soldiers, 20 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and two light utility helicopters. The unit will continue its transition to the M model, the U.S. Army's most advanced Black Hawk helicopter, in its inventory under Lt. Col. Washington, who has deployed to both Bosnia and Afghanistan, and also makes unit history as the first female to command the 1-183rd AHB.

BCOG Youth News

2020 Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Award

by Ruth Delauder, President—Scholarship Committee

We are pleased to announce that Michaela Tasker is the 2020 recipient of the Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship.

This scholarship is an award that supports students pursuing careers in higher education. The scholarship was part of the foundations pledge to invest in the graduating youth of Brownsville Church of God.

Applicants for this award must demonstrate the following characteristics: personal character, scholastic achievement, community and church involvement. The recipient will receive a one-time $1,000 scholarship award.

The scholarship fund has awarded $4,000 in scholarships since its inception in 2018. For more information on the scholarship program, please contact Ruth Delauder at 717-263-4449.

Camp YoliJwa News

It's a "Blast" to "Breakaway" and have a "Bash"!

Can't wait till camp next summer? Neither can we! During our winter retreats at Camp YoliJwa you'll have a blast doing many of your favorite activities from summer like crafts, team games and Bible lessons plus you'll get the chance to go sledding and ice skating. One of the best parts is the return of some of the counselors from summer to lead you through the weekend activities. Each weekend is designed to strengthen our faith in Christ and deepen our walk with Him. Whether this will be your first time at Camp YoliJwa, or you are a seasoned camper, we would love to see you here for one of our winter retreats!

For more information, please visit www.campyolijwa.org.

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

"Despite the many uncertainties in our lives, we are still confident in God and trust His leading. For CEF here in Franklin & Fulton Counties our plan is go to places that are open and share the Gospel with boys and girls in a safe way.

This summer we had seven weeks of Good News Camp in Waynesboro. At camp kids were able to hear Bible stories, learn verses, visit with a missionary, swim in the pond, and enjoy a snow cone. In total, 475 children attended camp, and 40 of them made a first-time decision for salvation. We praise God for giving us health and protection. We were especially blessed to have over a 100 high school and college age volunteers who provided excitement and fun as Junior Counselors and Junior Staff.

This fall we will start weekly Good News Clubs in six elementary schools with two more schools likely to start soon. The hour-long meetings will follow school district guidelines for social distancing and masks; so, some things will have to be adjusted. For example, because buses will run at lower capacity, we now need two buses and two drivers at larger clubs. Even with these changes, our focus on evangelism remains at the heart of the Bible lesson and activities.

For children who are not in school physically or cannot be in a face-to-face ministry, we still have ways to reach out to them - many of these resources are available online at www.cefonline.com/covid19. CEF has "U-Nite" a YouTube channel as well as online Good News Clubs. We also have devotional material and Bible activity booklets. For more information about what is happening here in Franklin & Fulton counties, be sure to check out our website, www.franklincef.com.

Sharing the Good News means you have to go to the lost. Whenever we have an opportunity, CEF is going to where the children are. Whether it is at church, at school, or at home, we are following God and bringing the Gospel to these little ones."

final thoughts...

Services & Classes Update — Sunday onsite services continue at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM with online sermons at 11:00 AM. Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues online at 7:00 PM with onsite Bible Study on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Classes are held Wednesdays at 6:00 PM via Zoom for youth in PreK-5th grade. There are still no onsite adult or youth Sunday School classes or youth Bible Study classes being held onsite. There is no Nursery for any services 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/ .

Editor, Valenceia Prather
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Newsletter article submissions may be sent anytime to the Editor at vbpra123@gmail.com. Articles for the next newsletter are due December 15th.

Brownsville
CHURCH OF GOD
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