the journey

The Brownsville Church of God Newsletter **October - December 2021**

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

SUNDAY

Sunday School classes to resume October 10th - 9:15 a.m.

Worship Service - On-site 10:30 a.m.

Nursery provided during worship service.

Worship Service - Online 6:00 p.m. (Facebook)

WEDNESDAY

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

In the gospels of Matthew and Mark, the Lord's indisputable command to His believers is recorded. **Matthew 28:19 ESV, "Go therefore and make disciples all the nations."** And **Mark 16:15 ESV, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation."**

Our risen Savior is giving His followers the great commission prior to His ascension into heaven. This was His command to the Church then and His command to the Church today. For those of us who desire to carry on this mission, we must be willing to be a community of storytellers willing to share God's love through our new creation in Jesus Christ.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

OUR MESSAGE: Our message is not so much about sharing what the Church can do, but rather what Jesus has already done. It is about sharing with others Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. It is the ultimate message that matters. It is proclaiming His gospel.

The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins and rose again the third day, therefore there is now no condemnation for all who believe. Through the gospel Satan and the world are continually being dethroned and God is enthroned.

In summary, note that Jesus was not making a request, He was giving a command. He wasn't asking them to consider His words; He gave them an order to obey! As followers of Christ if we refuse to share the gospel, we are being willfully disobedient to the Lord.

As the Lord's Church, we are called to an enormous work. The world around us is getting less tolerant of true Christianity all the time. The world is becoming more chaotic and divided more and more each day. But here is the thing, we are indwelt by the same power as the early disciples. We serve an all-powerful God. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. If God be for us, who can be against us? God's love for man has not changed; His mind has not changed about what He wants His Church to be doing in the world today.

Continued on next page

Continued...A Message from the Pastor

OUR STRENGTH: The early church knew that the command that Jesus gave them could not be done in their own strength. Just as they turned their cities upside down, so can we if we are determined at heart to be witnesses for the Lord.

How can you and I witness Christ to those around us?

- *Pray for the lost in your family, on your job, in your neighborhood.*
- *Pray that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts to hear the gospel.*
- *Pray that the Holy Spirit will provide opportunities for you to share your faith with people.*
- *Live a consistent Christ-centered life (Matthew 5:17), that others may see Christ in you.*

Do not be ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe. Romans 1:18.

I thank my God for each of you and believe that I can count on you to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

Thanks To All Of You!

I would like to take this time and thank each of you for celebrating the 45th Pastoral Anniversary on Saturday, September 11th with Katherine and I. We read every card, shared every gift and your words of encouragement together. It was a great day of fellowship.

As a church, you exceeded our expectations. We thank God for each of you and appreciate you so much.

We thank you for your prayers and your support in God's ministry at the Brownsville Church of God.

We count it a joy and a privilege to serve you.

Pastor Vic and Katherine

Pastor's 45th Anniversary

"Peace Be Still"

by Kathy Pryor

It was in November 2018, that life as I'd known it, would demand the act of reaching a conclusion, on a vital issue that must be taken under extreme careful consideration. It started with the most common symptoms of a pinched nerve, which included neck pain that traveled down my arms and shoulders, which also made it quite difficult to lift things. I began to experience a ram's horn's headache upon awakening and getting out of bed. I could hardly move to get to the bathroom, because my body was so stiff and rigid. I remember even thinking to myself..."Get off me devil! You have not been given the power or authority over a blood washed Believer of the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Each morning I had to prepare for a 45 minute commute to work at 3:00 a.m. from Pennsylvania to Maryland in all types of weather. I forced myself for almost two entire weeks, to perform repetitive motion for eight hours or more enduring muscle weakness. I had numbness, shooting and jabbing pains in my fingers and hands my entire awakening hours, and while trying to complete the job task requirements.

It would not be very long after seeing my Doctor, that I would be diagnosed with mild multilevel cervical spondylosis. Six cervical views of the cervical spine indicated that there is disc space narrowing and osteophyte formation present at multi levels, most pronounced at the C4-C5. My symptoms were aggravated by just the simple task of everyday living, i.e. sitting, standing, walking, work activities, twisting, bending, lifting, pulling and pushing. With no relief from the help of physical therapy or pain medication, I quickly graduated to being a candidate for surgery.

So when does a patient decide whether to have a spine operation? Ideally, when the patient and physician both agree that: 1) the patient has significant anatomic compression that closely correlates with the symptoms; 2) the patient has attempted an appropriate course of nonoperative treatment; and 3) even with nonoperative treatment, the patient is still limited in many daily activities. Ultimately, it all comes down to open and accurate communication between the doctor and patient. But wait a minute! With any surgery, there is the risk of complications. When surgery is done near the spine and spinal cord, these complications (if they occur) can be very serious, or may also lead to paralysis. The journey road took me nearly four years before I landed face off with the Surgeon only GOD could appoint for the task after much prayer! This was not just any kind of surgery, therefore, it could not be just any kind of prayer! Right? This prayer would involve a painstaking decision! It was an order to execute a conscientious careful search, making sure of avoiding potential dangers seen and unforeseen, of mishaps and harm!

I appeared before God, "Behind The Veil' via access of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Here is where I petitioned Him for confirmation to have this surgery or simply live the rest of my life in pain. It was not until July 2021 that God confirmed his answer when His presence was invoked throughout the easy arrangement of health insurance and all the necessities fell in place at the exact same time! He opened the door and said, "Walk through it, for I am with thee!"

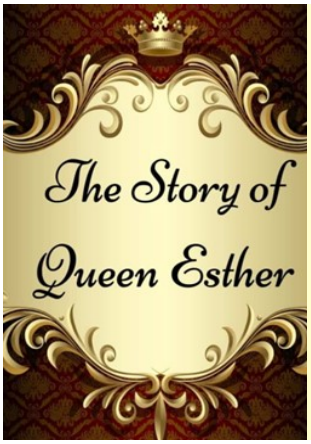
According to the Bible, the peace of God, "which transcends all understanding," is the harmony and calmness of body, mind, and spirit that supersedes earthly circumstances. Nearly all of the letters of Paul start with the phrase "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Throughout scripture, we find that peace is defined as a blessing from God and harmonious with His character:

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

One way we can be certain we are hearing from God is to follow peace. At times, God may lead us to make sudden changes, but He will always give us His peace in the midst of it.

"Be Blessed!"

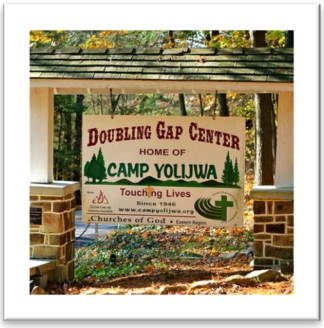


Everyone has a story.

Set in the affluent yet perilous Persian Empire, QUEEN ESTHER is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Esther's ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God's plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this?

Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament shown at the church on Saturday, October 23rd at 3:00 p.m., doors opening at 2:30 p.m.! In person live performance attendance at Sight and Sound was cancelled last year due to COVID so join us in house.

BCOG Youth News



Summer is over, now what?

YOUTH WINTER RETREATS	AGE	
Junior Blast	3rd – 5th Graders	December 3-5
Junior High Breakaway	6th – 8th Graders	December 10-12
Senior High Bash	9th – 12th Graders	December 17-18

Summer may be over, but there is still lots of fun to be had at Camp Yolijwa. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend a camp this summer, here's your chance! The Youth Winter Retreats are held in the month of December for 3rd to 12th graders. They are weekend camps, Friday through Sunday. If you've been unsure about participating in a long week of camp during the summer, this is a great way to experience Camp Yolijwa. If interested, please visit www.campyolijwa.org for registration information.

CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY

October 17, 2021 | ages 5-15

Enjoy an afternoon of trout fishing on Lake Henrietta!

Visit www.campyolijwa.org for more information!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN OCTOBER 10 @ 9:15 a.m.!

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

Busloads of Children

If you look closely at the picture of the bus, you might recognize it is parked here at church. Brownsville Church of God was a bus stop for Good News Camp this summer. In total, 36 busloads of campers were transported to camp - the majority of the 1,200 children who attended camp in 2021 came by bus. CEF offers busing for free because our goal is to provide a memorable week of camp to all the children in the county no matter their geographic location or their economic situation.

Now that summer is over and school has started, the buses will be used for Good News Club. Brownsville Church of God will have a CEF bus come here every Wednesday afternoon bringing boys & girls from Fayetteville Elementary. Like camp, the buses operate free of charge.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We would not see busloads of children hearing the Good News about Jesus without your personal involvement in the ministry.

Good News Club started at Brownsville on Wednesday afternoon, October 6th and will continue each Wednesday throughout the school year. Please reach out to Katherine Johnson by calling or texting (717-491-4834) or email preacherswife2k@yahoo.com if you want to learn more about how you can be of help.

Dan Russell
Katherine Johnson

COMING SOON! Multi-Ethnic Conversations Small Group Study Cohort #6

In responding to the biblical mandate to the prayer of Christ in John 17:20-23, Brownsville Church of God is moving forward in its journey to becoming a healthy multiethnic church. The foundational step in the journey is the Multiethnic Conversations. This small group study (10 -12 participants) is a relationally based, Bible rooted, small group curriculum. It not only helps to start discussions and create safe space for more in-depth conversations, but it also gives common language and a common experience for those wanting to not only do multiethnic ministry effectively, but who want to authentically lead multiethnic lives as well. Co-facilitators for the upcoming cohort are Sister Amy Hawkins and Brother Bob Hewitt.

Brother Bob Hewitt
Co-Facilitator

Note: The Multiethnic Conversations Small Group Cohort is a nine-week study and will be held here at the Brownsville Church of God. All sessions will be held on Mondays from 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm starting October 18, 2021. If you were unable to participate in this edition of Multiethnic Conversations, be sure to listen for the announcement of the next one, which is tentatively scheduled for early Spring 2022.

Brownsville Church of God

Betty Spoonhour Rideout Foundation

Presents in concert

THE VOICES OF THUNDER MEN'S CHOIR

of Mount Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland

Saturday, October 9, 2021
at 4:00 p.m.
Doors open at 3:15 p.m.

Brownsville Church of God
6390 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA
Victor Johnson, Pastor

Betty Spoonhour Rideout
Foundation President
Ruth Delauder

Free will offering appreciated.

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

Psalms 47:1 NIV

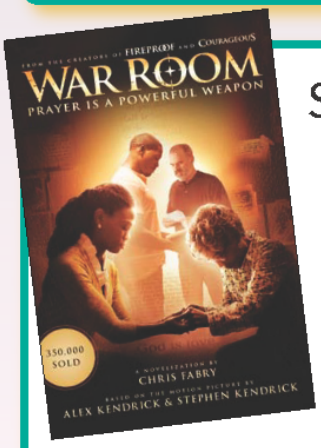
WAYNESBORO THEATRE

75 West Main Street • Waynesboro, Pa.

FAITH & POPCORN MOVIE SERIES

Sunday, Sept. 26
4 PM
Fireproof

Sunday, Nov. 21
4 PM
I Can Only Imagine
Sponsored by
Otterbein Church



Sunday, Jan. 23
4 PM
War Room
Sponsored by
Five Forks Church

Sunday, March 20
4 PM
I Still Believe
Sponsored by
Christ United Methodist Church

While downtown, visit Morning Star: A Perfect Gift, 28 W. Main St., the area's only brick-and-mortar Christian book store

the connection
CONNECTING WOMEN WITH GOD & EACH OTHER

All tickets $5 —
Includes regular soda & popcorn!
Get tickets at Eventbrite.com
or at the door, while supplies last.

CINEMA SAFE
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR FOCUS.

Brought to you by The Connection,
Mainstreet Waynesboro and the Waynesboro Community Theatre Project

final thoughts...

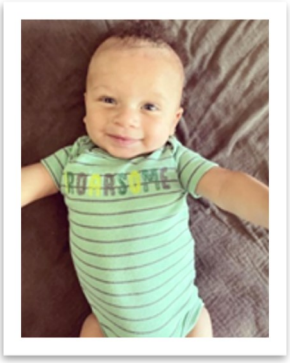
Discipleship Class began on July 17; meetings are held as scheduled.

We received two new members here at the Church on Sunday, July 18th– Arnae Roberts and her son, Daniel. We look forward to continued fellowship with them and having them serve in the areas God is leading them.

Vacation Bible School was held – July 28-30. Refer to the special edition VBS Newsletter that was distributed the first week of September.

Another New Member Orientation Class was held on Tuesday, September 28th. Participants included: Lexie Brown, Joi McDonald, Kelly Peyton, Kathy Pryor and Shalena Wedlak. These participants will continue with the second class on Tuesday, October 12th. Another class is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 16th, at 9:30 a.m.

Baptism was held on Sunday, August 22. Participants included Arkell Dennis, Xaeda Hughes, Kanika James, Iman Johnson and Larry Tasker.



On Sunday, August 15, we dedicated Julian Lee, youngest son of Robert and Calah Lee.

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Psalms 127:3 NASB

Upcoming Events

Voices of Thunder
Saturday, October 9th, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday School
Commences October 10th, 9:15 a.m.

Multiethnic Conversations Small Study Group
October 18th
(see article within this newsletter)

Movie Night - "Esther"
Saturday, October 23rd
(see article within this newsletter)

Pre-Thanksgiving Concert
Saturday, November 20th
(More Information to follow)

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th

Edited by: Katherine Johnson
Layout/Design by Priscilla Shirley

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

Café Team

We thank those who have signed up to serve on the café team. We will be contacting you soon!