The Journey

The Brownsville Church of God Quarterly Newsletter October-December 2021

A Message from the Pastor

Pastor Victor Johnson

OUR WORDS AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

I would like to share a brief word with you about the transformed life. The transformed life is the newness of life that is formed with us at conversion or the moment of eternal salvation. First, Christ Himself is formed in us by the person and presence of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, the transformed life is ongoing in that God is in the process of transforming us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. ***Romans 12:12*** tell us that we should not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing our mind.

God desires that we produce good works in our life. We are created by God for good works, ***Ephesians 2:10***. When the Lord saved us, He put new life within us to live according to His will. Our speech matters to Him.

Look carefully at *Ephesians 4:25-31*. Put Away Lying – and Evil Speaking –. Ephesians 4:25, 29, and 31 tells us quite a bit about our speech. [25] ***Wherefore putting away lying***, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. [29] Let ***no corrupt communication*** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. [31] Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and ***evil speaking***, be put away from you, with all malice:

A few ways we can be untruthful:

- Saying "I'll get back to you" when we have no intentions of doing so.
- Cheating on our taxes or making promises we do not intend to keep.
- Withholding information in order to mislead or deceive.

Lying is among the six things that God hates. ***Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren,"***

As Christians, we should be characterized by the truth even when it hurts. Ephesians 4:29 tells us to **Put Away Corrupt Communication** - The word "***corrupt***" refers to that which is "***rotten***," vicious, nefarious (unethical, evil, immoral), shameful. When we use profanity, tell a dirty joke, gossip,

Continued on next page

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

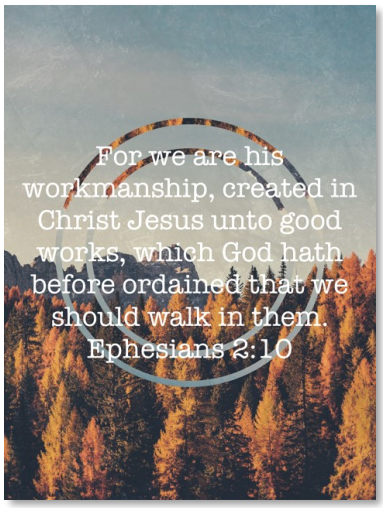
SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Nursery provided during worship service.
Worship Service - Online
6:00 p.m. (Facebook)

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - Online (Facebook)7:00 PM

THURSDAY
Bible Study - On-site
7:00 PM

or speak evil of someone God is not pleased. Our words should give evidence that we belong to the Lord. What is scriptural evidence of the tongue being under control?

Build Others Up - the word "***edification***," means "***to build up***." Our words should be helpful, encouraging, uplifting to others, and a blessing to others.

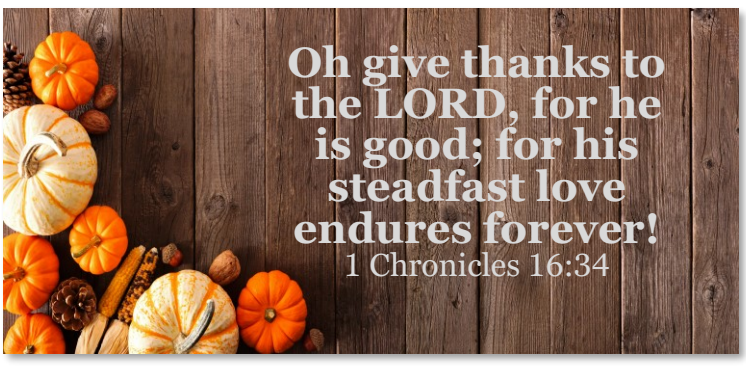


Ministering Grace To The Hearers - This manner of speech should characterize every child of God. ***Colossians 4:6.*** *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.* When our hearts are right, our words will be right. Here is how Jesus said it: ***Matthew 12:34–35***. *"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

Conclusion: We have been saved by the grace of God and we are being transformed by the Spirit of God. Our relationship with Christ shows itself in our speech. We must bring our tongues and lay them on the altar of God and ask Him to help us alter our words that they might glorify Him.

REMEMBER, YOUR WORDS MATTER TO GOD AND TO OTHER PEOPLE

Blessings, Pastor Vic



JESUS, TRUE PATRIOT
by Sis. Barbara Johns

PRECIOUS LORD,
HOW CAN I UNDERSTAND,
TRUE MEANING OF HEART'S FREEDOM,
BESTOWED OF GREATNESS' HAND?

IT MUST BE SO BRIGHTLY SHINING,
IN EACH HEART, UNKNOWN, YEARNED
UNIQUE WITHIN THE REALM ITSELF,
SOUL'S LIGHT FROM EACH BREATH BURNED

YEA, IT CAN MEAN SO MANY THINGS,
SET DEEPLY EMOTIONS KNOW,
A PLACE SO VERY LIFTED-UP,
WHERE ONLY THE BRAVE WILL GO

CAN FREEDOM AS WE KNOW IT BE,
THE PLACE WHERE EAGLES FLY?
OR INSTEAD, A FEELING OF THE SOUL,
AS FAR DISTANCE HEARS OUR CRY?

AS AMERICA BECKONED,
THE JOURNEY LEAD BY FAITH,
OUR CORE DETERMINED, BLESSED OF STRENGTH
COULD BUT NO LONGER WAIT

PRAY, AS THIS FREEDOM,
YOUR HAND BE GIVEN
PROVE STALWART ONE TO ONE,
ALLOW EACH GENERATION KNOW
THE HEART VICTORIES – FOREVER WON

Women's Prayer Partnering Ministry

Sis. Mary Dennis

I am excited to announce that BCOG will have a Women's Prayer Partnering Ministry! I want to thank Pastor Vic for his agreement, that this is a ministry that will be beneficial to Brownsville, our community and what the Lord knows is necessary for growth not only in our church, but women establishing relationships with one another.

We had our first meeting on October 12th. We discussed our Ministry Action Plan in detail which let us know what is expected of each of us as a member of this ministry. Our next tentative meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m.

If you feel this is something the Lord has been speaking to you about, please sign up. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to see me. Most importantly, pray!

Brownsville Church of God 144th Church Anniversary

We celebrated our 144th Church Anniversary of the Brownsville Church of God with adults and children participating in sharing the history of the church and some trivia questions. It was amazing how many right answers we heard. Afterwards we fellowshipped by sharing in conversation, cake, and ice cream.

Deacons and Deacon's Wives at Work Serving Brownsville

Bro. Brian McNew (pictured below with wife Michelle)

Under the leadership of Elder Granville Washington, we thank the faithfulness of our Deacons and Deacon's Wives serving at Brownsville Church of God. They are all family men and woman continuing to grow in their Christian faith. Aside from that they carry many duties as Deacon and wife including staying in contact with their Deacon care list, assisting families in need, and serving on various other ministries here at Brownsville Church of God that extends long after Sunday services are over. We thank our Deacons and Deacon wives for their dedicated service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We encourage you to reach out to your Deacon and their wife with a word of encouragement.

Keep in prayer our Deacons, Ron and Erica Weaver and family and James and Dorothy McGraw and family while they are away from home.

WELCOME New Members to BCOG!

New Members were received on Sunday, August 28. From left to right they are:

Chris and Katie Fyock, Ali and Alaina Wilson, Christian McCall, Sue Davis and Barbara Johns. Chuck Schaaf (not pictured) was received as a new member on Sunday, September 11.

Welcome to the Brownsville Church of God Family!

BCOG Youth News

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

CEF is in Churches Too!

Often Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) is associated with public schools because of our camps and clubs. However, CEF also goes to churches for ministry.

Churches will ask CEF for songs that children can sing in Sunday School and Children's Church. So, we have a YouTube Channel called "U-Nite" for pastors and teachers to use. The great thing about this ministry is that children can go to the site https://www.cefonline.com/unitetv themselves during the week. Using the CEF website or the U-Nite app, allows a person to watch the videos without any advertisements.

Churches also will request CEF to come to special events. There are times when a church has a business meeting or seasonal outreach, and CEF is asked to help with sharing the Gospel and giving an invitation. The picture with the dinosaur was taken on a Saturday at a Back-To-School party with an evangelistic object lesson. The other picture with the cups was a Sunday Morning where kids could pray with a counselor.

Thank you for having a Good News Club for Fayetteville Elementary every week and for being a bus stop for Good News Camp in the summer. Our hope is to be a blessing to churches. Registration forms are available on the table in the lobby.

Your Co-Laborer,
Dr. Dan

Note from Sis. Katherine: Copies of a monthly calendar for daily prayer for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) and Good News Club are available on the table with the Prayer Bowl.

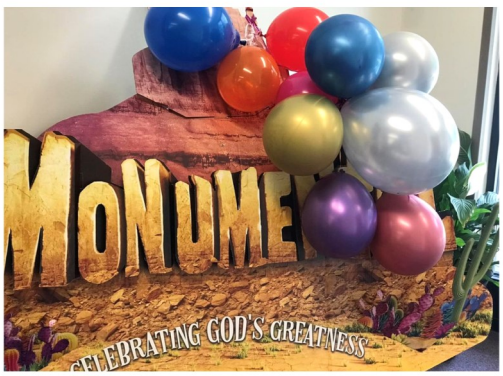
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 25-29, 2022

Sis. Katherine Johnson

We were back to our five-day week this year at Brownsville Church of God as we celebrated God's Greatness with Group's Monumental Vacation Bible School. We had 72 kids registered ranging from Preschool to 12th grade. We continue to reach out to the unchurched participants and their families.

As you can see in the photos, the Decoration Team did a fantastic job as always for Vacation Bible School this year. We had a total of 51 volunteers that helped make this Vacation Bible School a MONUMENTAL success.

We are Looking forward to next year's Vacation Bible School scheduled to be held the last week in July 2023.



BCOG Youth News

Youth Feet on the Street for Christ: TESTIMONIALS OF IMPACT

In Summer 2022, BCOG youth ministry leaders, youth of all ages, and families shared Christ in our neighboring communities. Through an outreach and service project, "YOUTH: Feet on the Street for Christ", we took the streets with scripture rocks as tools to share the message of Christ, along with our own voices to share the GOSPEL and invite kids to our upcoming week of VBS! Here are some of the ways that experience MOST IMPACTED a few of our youth and leaders as the BCOG Ministry to Children, Youth & Families strives to impact lives for Jesus Christ BEYOND the walls of BCOG:

Tyson Davis

"What stood out to me the most on Wednesday June 15th was young Eli Adams! We met a couple… newly married…they already had a church home...they had no children. And Eli said to them, *'You can still come to our church say hi and we'll welcome you!'* That is what witnessing is all about & that is what we stand for here at Brownsville Church of God. We are so proud of our youth!"

Eli Adams

Kelly & Nik Peyton

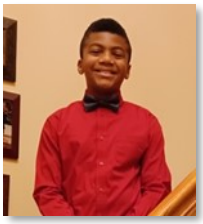
"I enjoyed it so much! There were a lot of good things that happened, even with how the children prepared for it. My favorite part was watching Nikolas come to life. He volunteered to do the "S" part (Solution = God sent his Son Jesus) & with each house that we went to he was more confident, spoke a little louder & didn't need anyone to tell him when to speak. That was the most enjoyable thing for me!"

One of the things that really jumped out at me happened at the first house we went to. We shared that kids who come to VBS were going to be learning the answer to the question: 'What is the Gospel?' And we asked the woman who answered the door: 'So, if you ask your kids or grandkids the answer to that question, what would they say?' And the woman said, *'I have no idea because they don't live around here & besides, I'm Jewish.'* We were totally not expecting that answer! But I heard an accent in her voice & that accent said "Philadelphia" which is where I'm from. And I heard the Lord say to me, "Ask her where her kids and her grandkids are living." And I asked her that question & she said, "Abington" which happens to be the EXACT place where I was born! I was able to share that with her, which opened up a point of connection. We were able to talk with her about her kids & how she got to Chambersburg. In the end, we didn't share Jesus, but we DID share the love of Jesus & she warmly agreed to share information on VBS with kids in the neighborhood. We left her with a scripture rock & established a heart connection.

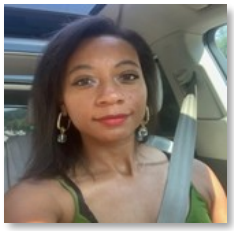
Nicole Hewitt

Braylen Davis

"What stood out to me was when we got to pray with a woman who was looking for a church home. That is what witnessing is all about!"



Joi McDonald



"There was lady that recently moved to the area that was looking for a church home and to my surprise she had recently lost her husband. I too have a similar story having lost my husband. It's a really good experience to share with those that have similar experiences (to you) where you know how God has helped you through that trial and tribulation and it can help give them strength. I think it helped create a testimony for her and just helped give her strength."

BCOG Youth News

Essay Contest Winner

Submitted by Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee
Ruth Delauder, President, Victor T. Johnson, Pastor

Braylen Davis, a sixth -grade student at Faust Junior High School, and member of Brownsville Church of God, Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, was the grand prize winner of the “Who has made the greatest impact on your life and why?” essay contest sponsored by the Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Fund. He was randomly selected as the grand prize winner. Entry evaluated on descriptive language, organization, and correct grammar and spelling. Braylen received a cash prize and was recognized September 11, 2022, to read his essay to the Brownsville Church of God congregation prior to Worship Services.

Pictured in photo (left to right): Jocelyn (grandmother) , Tyson (mom), Kenny (grandfather), Bennett (brother) and Braylen.

YOUTH LIVING JESUS' WAY
CAMP YoliJwa
Touching lives since 1934

WINTER RETREATS!

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!

Junior Blast	Grades 3-5	Dec. 2 - 4
Jr. High Breakaway	Grades 6-8	Dec. 9 - 11
Sr. High Bash	Grades 9-12	Dec. 16 - 17

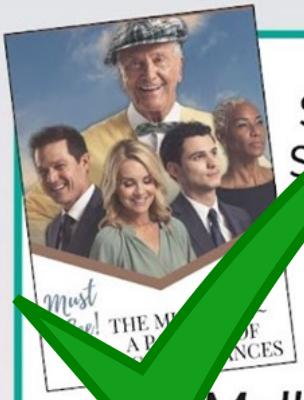
For further information please see the Camp Yolijwa bulletin board outside the Secretary's office or Sister Katherine. You may also click here for details and registration info!

WAYNESBORO THEATRE

75 West Main Street • Waynesboro, Pa.

FAITH & POPCORN MOVIE SERIES

Select Sundays at 4 PM



Sunday
Oct. 11
4 PM

Mulligan

Sponsored by Morning Star: A Perfect Gift Christian Book Store

Sunday
Oct. 16
4 PM

The Pilgrim's Progress

Sponsored by Salem Church of Waynesboro

Tickets only $4

Sunday
Dec. 4
4 PM

The Star

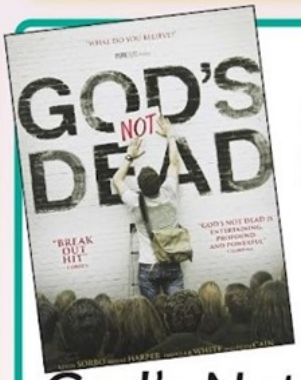
Sponsored by Waynesboro Church of the Brethren

FREE!

Sunday
Dec. 11
4 PM

The Muppets: A Christmas Carol

Sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church of Waynesboro



Sunday
Dec. 18
4 PM

God's Not Dead

Sponsored by Rouzerville United Methodist Church

the connection

CONNECTING WOMEN WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER

www.connectingwomenwithgod.com

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

the connection

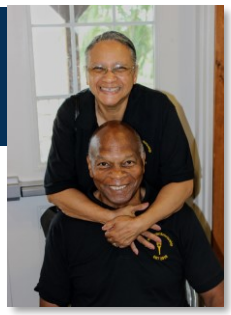
CONNECTING WOMEN WITH GOD & EACH OTHER

All tickets $5
(unless otherwise noted)
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



Pastor Victor & Sis. Katherine Johnson

We thank the Lord for the continuing ministries at the Brownsville Church of God and the new ones He has blessed us with.

We held our fourth Multiethnic Forum on August 27, 2022. Out of this forum came four work groups:

1. Prayer & Fasting Focus Work Group
2. Church Gatherings Work Group
3. Forum Work Group
4. Visitor Follow-Up and Connection Work Group

These individual groups have already begun meeting and working toward their goals. You will begin to see the activities of these Work Groups in the first quarter of next year.

The eighth Multiethnic Conversations Small Group Study began on October 3, 2022.

A Mothering Support Group had their first planning meeting on Saturday, October 15, 2022. Please contact Kristen Hockenberry for more information on participating in this group.

Upcoming Events

October 30
Pastors' Appreciation

November 6
Betty Spoonhour Rideout
Scholarship fundraiser

November 12
Fall Harvest Fest

November 19
Annual Pre-Thanksgiving
Gospel Concert 6:00 p.m.

December 24
Christmas Eve Service
6:30 p.m.

Layout/Design by Priscilla Shirley

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

Brownsville Church of God

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