The Journey

The Brownsville Church of God Quarterly Newsletter January-March 2022

A Message from the Pastor

Pastor Victor Johnson

A New Day in a New year - In 2022

Today, we stand in a new day in a new year. Yes, all around us is not perfect. We pray for a different world and for change to come. We are coping with situations that are uncomfortable at times. There seems to be more days that we face an uncertain future. Often, when listening to the news or other forms of social media, we don't know what to believe.

But here is the ultimate question. As followers of Christ, what attitudes and behaviors does God want us to have? God wants us to continue living life each day trusting that His plans are being fulfilled.

The prophet Jeremiah tells the story of the time that children of Israel were being held captive in Babylon for 70 years. During their time of captivity God instructed them how to live in a strange land. Mind you, we are not held captive as Christians, but I do believe there is a lesson for us to learn from God's direction to His people.

He wanted them to know that regardless of where they were, they could live to please Him, be a witness for Him and a blessing to the people of the land. We can learn from God's word to Israel how we can live to the glory of God in this present world as well.

Remember that in the land of Babylon, being held captive, the Jews were faced with the following:

- ***They had lost their freedom.***
- ***They had lost everything they had but their lives.***
- ***They had no temple to worship in.***
- ***They were living in a pagan society***

"How did God instruct them to make the best of a difficult situation? We find in ***Jeremiah 29:5-7 NIV,*** *God said to them,* ***5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.***

#1 - ACCEPT IT

Jeremiah calls for them to be a witness to the idolatrous Babylonians.

It is important that we begin to see things from God's perspective. Jeremiah tells them that what has happened to them ***God has caused it***. He is in fact telling them God is in control, let God have his way.

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

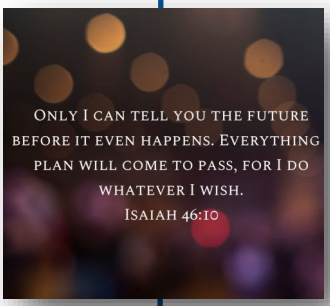
THURSDAY
Bible Study - On-site
7:00 PM

...Pastor's Message continued

When we accept difficulties with courage and faith, place ourselves in God's hands, know that He makes no mistakes <u>*tragedy can be turned into triumph*</u>. ***God is too wise to make a mistake, too good to do us wrong, and too strong to fail.***

#2 - OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

From a worldly perspective, these words seem to spell defeat, but the apostle Paul knew better. He had learned that God's ways are not the world's ways. He understood the profound power we have through Christ. Our help to overcome the world comes from outside this universe, it come from God through the power of the Holy Spirit.



" [3]We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. [4]We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. [5]We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. (2 Cor. 10:3–5 NLT).

3 - BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS AND PRAY FOR THEM

1 Tim.2:1-4 2 NLT, I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth."

Let me encourage you to seek peace – Shalom and pray for the lost, our cities and our government.

#4 - BE PATIENT – GOD KNOWS YOUR SITUATION

Trust God's timing. His plans are for your Peace, not evil. Ultimately, His plans are being fulfilled. His word has never failed and it never will.

Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. Isaiah 46:10 NLT

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

A.W Tozer said, "GOD'S PLAN WILL CONTINUE ON GOD'S SCHEDULE."

In this New Year, live to please God, live in such a way that others see Christ in you. Be steadfast in prayer and study of scripture.

God Bless

Brownsville Church of God's Multiethnic Conversations Small Group Study Cohort #6

by Brother Bob Hewitt bobandnicolehewitt@gmail.com

Multiethnic Conversations Small Group Study Cohort #6 (MCSGS) was completed on December 13, 2021. This small group study was facilitated by Sister Amy Hawkins and Brother Bob Hewitt. Sister Nicole Hewitt served as substitute facilitator for Cohort #6. More than 80 persons have gone through the MCSGS since the initial session in October, 2018 and while all six of the MCSGS Cohorts have been praiseworthy, Cohort # 6 was an exceptional group in terms of their consistent attendance, preparation, transparency, and authenticity during the small group study sessions. This was the first cohort that included people from a church outside of Brownsville Church of God.

The participants who have successfully completed this most recent nine-week study are listed below. They are scheduled to receive their *Certificates of Completion* during Sunday church service on January 9, 2022.

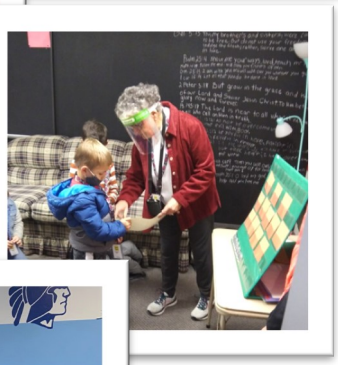
Cohort #6 Participants	*Church Affiliation*
Sister Alexis Brown	Brownsville Church of God
Sister Patricia Dennis	Brownsville Church of God
Brother Juan Fajardo	Brownsville Church of God
Brother Pastor Charles Jenkins	Brownsville Church of God
Brother Pastor Victor Johnson	Brownsville Church of God
Sister Kelly Peyton	Brownsville Church of God
Brother Lance Walker	Grand Point Church of God
Sister Tracy Walker	Grand Point Church of God
Sister Suzie Zimmerman	Brownsville Church of God

For more information on Brownsville Church of God's Multiethnic Conversations Small Group Study see Pastor Jenkins or Pastor Johnson.

BCOG Youth News

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties



Good News Clubs at Christmas

It is always fun to see someone enjoying a gift they received. So, for this past Christmas I wanted to include some pictures of children having fun in Good News Club with songs, stories, and games.

In the picture in the gym, you can see a group doing the motions to the song. There is a second picture of song time with a video, and if you look close you will see the group is all boys.

In a room with tables, the teacher uses large flashcards to tell the Bible story. In another classroom with chairs, the leader is using a puppet to teach the boys and girls.

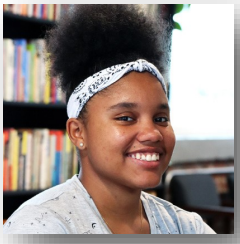
The kids sitting on the floor are playing a game with their teacher who is a home-schooled high school senior. A retired teacher brought her green pocket chart to play a matching game.

If you would like to see a Good News Club live, please reach out to us. We have clubs in every elementary school, including Fayetteville that meets at the Brownsville Church of God each Wednesday. We'll be happy to tell you how to visit.

God bless
Dan Russell
Child Evangelism Fellowship
Franklin & Fulton Counties

Other People Need It More

Kiara Oquendo, Kids Club Coordinator,
NETwork Ministries



Starting Line is our opening assembly where I go over the gameplan for the day. During that time, I ask kids how their day is going and how school went, along with a question of the day. On this specific day I ask all the kids, "If you had a million dollars right now, what would be the very FIRST thing you would do with it?" Many kids mentioned something to do with buying an expensive car, buying a mansion, or anything you can think of a kid wanting. But there was this one specific child that said, "I would share it with the rest of the world." When he said that, I asked him why he chose that and he responded with this: "Other people need it more." It's amazing to hear kids thinking that way about these types of questions.

Hearing this makes me think about how selfless Jesus was during his time on earth and even now. He came into the world and did so many great things for so many people simply because he cared and loved them and put them first. A lot of times kids can step back from doing all the polite things for others because they don't want to be seen as the "soft" kid. It's a good thing to remind them that being kind is not a bad thing, as Jesus is kind and shares his love with us so freely.

Sign Up to Volunteer to Teach *Kids' Corner*

For Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
Sundays during Worship Service
(10:30 AM - 11:30 AM)

Kids' Corner was started several years ago to give K -2nd graders a time of worship and learning they could relate to at that age. It also helps the parents receive the speaker's message without distraction and knowing their child is also being taught the Word of God.

We are starting this up again; however, we need teachers for this time period. There will be a teacher and a helper each week. If the Lord is leading you to participate in this way, please sign the sign-up sheet in the Lobby. An informational meeting will be held after Worship Service on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

BCOG Youth News

Harvest Fest 2021

by Sis. Mary Dennis

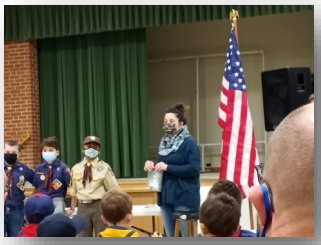
Harvest Fest 2021 was a success, and we give God the glory! For he brought us together in fellowship and fun! What a glorious time we had!

Our youth and their families participated in activities such as, Horseshoes, Corn Hole, Bible Bingo, Musical Squares, Arts and Crafts and Bible Verse Parachute! In our game of Rollick (backward Charades} we divided into two teams. We were keeping score, so when Nova asked which team won, I replied, “In God's house we are all winners!"

Of course, we had food, prizes and goodie bags! Each child decorated a goodie bag. If you and your family missed out, do not worry, because Pastor Vic wants this to become an annual event! Praise God!

BCOG families collected approximately forty-five (45) boxes of cake and brownies mixes for our local pantry for their Thanksgiving boxes. On behalf of SCCAP, they would like to thank everyone who participated in helping our families have a delicious Thanksgiving dinner!

CONGRATULATIONS BRAYLEN!



Brownsville Church of God member, Braylen Davis, a Cub Scout with local Pack 136, was presented with the Community Building award on December 14, 2021.

This award will go towards him earning the Webelos Arrow of Light award, the highest award in Cub Scouting. Also pictured in the photo is church visitor Ms. Claire Shearer.

Job well done, Braylen!

2nd Annual Parade of Tables

By Sis. Jocelyn Davis

The 2nd Annual Parade of Tables will be held on Saturday, March 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Brownsville Church of God. This is an event for young and seasoned women.

Parade of Tables is based on table designers, Deacons Wives, in charge of decorating their table based on a specific theme. This year's theme is "This Fruit is Always in Season." There will be three guest speakers that will each bring three Fruits during the program and the manifestation of them all.

We long to do God's Kingdom work "in Brownsville and Beyond." So please bring a friend. Registration will begin January 15th, 2022. Flyers with additional information will be available and information on church website. You do NOT want to miss being filled with God's of all Fruit!

2021 Program

CelebrateRecovery®

A CHRIST-CENTERED 12 Step program

The Celebrate Recovery Ministry Goal is to lead all people through a biblically balanced, 12-Step program to heal their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Our vision is to move people forward through the saving power of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this we worship God, study His word, fellowship with one another, and celebrate God's healing power in our lives.

There are two classes that we offer:

1. Life's Healing Choices which is a 10-week Study of the Beatitudes from Matthew Chapter 5.
2. Celebrate Recovery 12-Step Study which includes twenty-five lessons.

Both classes are a continuation of the discipleship program at Brownsville Church of God. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of doing a step study to work through your recovery of life hurts, hang-ups, and habits.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule outside the Administrative Office. There are pamphlets in the wall rack next to room 101 for those who are interested in looking at the various topics that are covered in Celebrate Recovery.

For more information you may see Sister Mary Margaret Bittle after service on Sunday or at Bible Study on Thursdays. You may also call her at 717-597-4777.

Baby Dedication

On Sunday, December 5, we dedicated Kamryn Doriana, daughter of Chelsea Radabaugh.

Final thoughts

Pastor Victor & Sis. Katherine Johnson

The Gospel Group. Voices of Thunder, was at the Brownsville Church of God on Saturday, October 9th. We were blessed as we worshipped the Lord in song.

Sunday School Classes started up again on Sunday, October 10, 2021. There's a variety of classes being offered including a Men's Class, Women's Class, Classes for Kindergarten-2nd Grade, 3rd-5th Grade and Middle School/High School Class. Nursery is available for Pre-K and younger.

We held a movie night on Saturday, October 23rd – "Esther." Everyone who attended enjoyed the movie.

Our Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Concert was held on Saturday, November 20; we thank those who were able to attend and worship the Lord through song.

A Vacation Bible School meeting was held on December 5. We thank those who were able to attend. It was unanimously agreed by those in attendance that we would go back to five days, but keeping the time each evening shortened to 6:00-8:00 p.m. VBS will be held the week of July 25-29, 2022. Look for more information in the next several months.

We received seven new members here at the Church in December. They were Lexie Brown, Juan Fajardo, Gino & Jeaneen Holman, Joi McDonald, Kelly Peyton and Kathy Pryor. We look forward to continued fellowship with them. Some are already serving in ministries here at Brownsville. Lexie Brown is serving in our Nursery and also as a teacher in our Pre-K-2nd grade Sunday School Class. Kelly Peyton and Kathy Pryor are both serving as teachers in our 3rd -5th grade Sunday School Class. Juan Fajardo and Gino & Jeaneen Holman are all looking forward to the opportunity to serve in the Middle School/ High School Sunday School Class. We are looking forward to getting everyone involved in the areas in which God is leading them.

Another New Member Orientation Class will begin soon; be sure to sign the sign-up sheet in the lobby if you're interested.

We held our Christmas Eve Program on December 24th. We were so blessed by the youth's participation.

New Year's Eve brought a gathering at the church with great discussions on God's blessings during 2021 and the blessing we all look forward to in the new year of 2022. Prayer was ongoing approximately every half hour during this spirit filled time. It was also great to learn a little more about each other through these conversations. Refreshments were available to partake of as desired. We ended in prayer at midnight for God's continue blessings for the coming year.

Upcoming Events

Parade of Tables
March 19
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
April 15 - 6:30 p.m.

Sunrise Service
April 17- 6:30 a.m.

Editor, Valenceia Prather
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 March 15th.

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.