the journey

The Brownsville Church of God Newsletter **July - September 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

(All classes are suspended until further notice.)

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

Worship Service - Online
(Facebook)

WEDNESDAY
Youth (PreK - 5th grade) Class
6:00 PM. - Online (Zoom)
(Will not be held in July)

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: Encouragement

Encouragement often is the difference between success and failure. It makes it easier to live in a fallen world and overcome difficulties that we face in life. Encouragement gives hope (Romans 15:4). It helps us through times of discipline and testing. Encouragement helps people do things they might not ordinarily do. *We rise when we lift others up.*

Encouragement to Others

There are ways to encourage others. Let them know….

- You've seen what they've done and continue to do for the Lord and others?
- How they've blessed others and helped church growth?
- You've seen their faith and strength in God.
- You've seen and/or heard them sharing the Word of God.
- You've seen concern and caring in their faces as they listen to those hurting as you give them comfort.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Words are a powerful tool of influence. We can all speak words; therefore, we all have the power to encourage or discourage the hearts of others.

Encouragement to Yourself through the Holy Spirit and Trust in God

Humbly ask yourself these questions and listen as God brings your well doing into remembrance.

- What have I done for God; what have I done to please Him?
- Remember and realize…current blessings, past blessings, and look forward to future blessings.
- Remind yourself and say: "I believe in and trust in God and His Word; I believe God will answer my prayers." *John 14:14 (NIV) You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*
- *Psalms 37:4 (NIV) Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

God is my healer – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.
Psalm 103:3 (NIV) who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

God is with me and will never leave me. *Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV) "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

Continued on next page

Encouragement from God to His Children

Blessings: *Psalm 29:11 (NIV) The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

Protection: *Proverbs 2:8 (NIV) for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*
2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV) But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.
Psalm 121:7 (NIV) The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;
Psalm 33:20 (NIV) We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

He will give us the desires of our heart. *John 14:14 (NIV) You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

God is for us.
Romans 8:31 (NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He gives us peace.
John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Encouragement expressed from leadership and the rest of their church family here at the Brownsville Church of God. We want you to know your good works have not gone unnoticed. Some examples are:

During COVID
- Helping with Parking Lot Service
- Keeping us safe so we could meet onsite by:
  - ◊ Temperature taking of those upon arrival
  - ◊ Making sure signage was up for social distancing, etc.
  - ◊ Bathroom cleanup before, during and between services
  - ◊ Disinfecting chairs in the sanctuary between services
  - ◊ Making sure supplies were available – hand sanitizer, masks, etc.
  - ◊ Complete cleanup/disinfecting inside church building
  - ◊ Continuing the teaching and preaching through the Church's Facebook Page.
  - ◊ Teachers using fantastic ways to continue teaching our youth and keeping them involved through ZOOM.
  - ◊ Food boxes to members and others

Other ways:
- Grass mowing – get together and set time; when one can't do it, another steps in
- Flowers around the church – beautify
- Bread pickup and delivery

We have seen members encouraging each other with words, actions, cards, phone calls; supporting each other with meals, visits, transporting others to appointments, help with gas costs for travel to appointments, help around the house and yard and more.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Romans 15:4 (NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

In summary, encouragement makes it easier to live the Christian life. God knows that the lack of encouragement hinders people from fulfilling their God given potential. We realize we have not captured all the things that are being done, but want you to know we see them and more importantly so does God. We want to encourage you to continue.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

In Him
Pastor Vic & Mama Katherine

SAVE THE DATE!

September 11, 2021

Pastor's Anniversary

&

Annual Church Community Picnic

Betty Rideout Scholarship Fund Luncheon

The Third Annual Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, June 19th. The reception was made possible in part through the generosity of the Brownsville Church of God families, friends, and guests. We laughed, joined in fellowship, and grew wiser as a community!

Collection for SCCAP

Brownsville Church of God answered the calling to help our community through SCCAP (South Central Community Action Program), throughout the month of April, 2021. Pastor Vic was pleased to accept the challenge. Our congregation was able to collect four large garbage bags full of paper towels, toilet paper and Clorox wipes for families in need throughout our community. SCCAP will distribute these items to those in need.

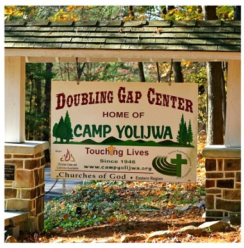
Ms. Leigh of SCCAP was overwhelmed with joy for our contribution.

We would like to thank everyone who was able to donate to this endeavor.

If anyone is in need of help, please don't hesitate to contact your Deacon for assistance/resources or referrals.

Love and blessings,
Sister Mary Dennis

BCOG Youth News



SUMMER CAMP - NOT TOO LATE!

There is still plenty of fun to be had this summer! Camps for 6th, 5th, 4th and 3rd grade occur now through mid-August. There is a Mother/ Daughter (K-2nd) camp early August and a Father/Son (K-2nd) camp mid-August.

Please visit https://campyolijwa.org/yolijwa-camp-schedule for the complete schedule and details.

CONGRATULATIONS KIARA OQUENDO!

Congratulations to Kiara Oquendo who was recently named as the new Kids Club Coordinator for NETwork Ministries in Chambersburg. You can read the full article on page 5.

We are proud of you Kiara!

Youth 50+

There's a camp for you too! If you're 50+, there is an Adult Fellowship Camp August 16-20th. Look for more information being sent out by Sis. Katherine via email.

Youth (PreK - 5th grade) Zoom class will not be held in the month of July. Make sure to sign-up for VBS in July and look for upcoming information on outdoor connection events for kids and families in August! Resumption of in-person youth ministry for kids is anticipated this fall!

Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, July 28
through
Friday, July 30, 2021

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Register today!

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

Good News Camp - Something Different

"Wet Time" at Good News Camp is a little different than other places because we have a pond. While some may think ponds are yucky, as you can see in the pictures our pond has a sandy beach, places to swim safely, and even paddleboats. In fact, spending time at the pond is many campers favorite thing to do.

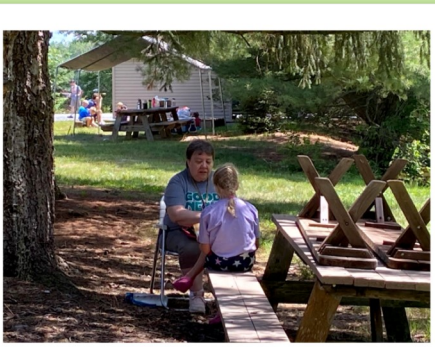
Good News Camp is also different because we have a "Quiet Time" every day. One of our goals is that children learn a devotional habit; so, we schedule our program to develop those skills. Also, at some point during the week at Quiet Time, every teacher will sit down with each child and talk to them one-on-one about Jesus.

These things are not an attempt to be different for the sake of being different. Instead, the purpose of Good News Camp is to give every child in Franklin County, no matter their geographic location or economic situation a chance to have a memorable week of camp where they hear about the Good News of Jesus.

Camp is only $50 a week with scholarships available. In addition, we provide busing from many different stops iincluding Brownsville Church of God. You can register online at www.franklincef.com.You can also call (717) 762-2115 to talk to someone at the CEF office. There is also information available on the table in the Church lobby.

Thank you for partnering with us to reach the boys and girls with the Gospel,

Dr. Dan



Newsletter for July & August 2020

NETwork Ministries

Nurturing Eternal Truth in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Friends of NETwork,

We are pleased to announce that we've hired Kiara Oquendo to serve as our new Kids Club Coordinator! Kiara grew up here in the neighborhood and at NETwork. For both Kiara and for NETwork, **THIS IS A BIG DEAL**, and our entire team is thrilled!

Growing up, Kiara felt the love of older leaders and staff at NETwork. This love was one of depth and intentionality: a love that believed in her, pushed her to work better, and wanted to see her reach her potential. Kiara specifically mentioned several people - Kala, Shyreika, Cheyenne, and Melissa - that she looked up to on the step team whose impact was transformative as a young girl. This influence is significant, as Kiara is such a positive motivator to younger youth now!

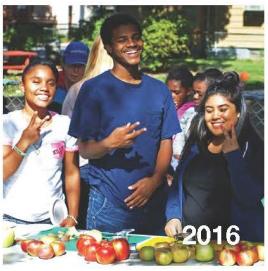
Later, Kiara spent several years as a StreetLeader and as a NextLevel intern with NETwork. She also served as an administrative assistant in our office for a couple years, so I've seen firsthand how organized and detail-oriented she is. When one of our staff was on maternity leave, she was entrusted with extra leadership responsibilities; this served as an encouraging time of growth. Last year, she also broadened her experience and skill set by serving at one of our local church pre-schools.

What about connecting with kids? Kiara has a fun, outgoing personality, strong rapport, and a natural knack for relating to kids. She wants to help kids to know that they can be who they are and focus on others. Kiara especially wants to be that someone who shows love to those children who may not experience much love elsewhere. Her approach and attitude remind me of Jesus.

Kiara is growing in her faith and her desire to grow as a person and a disciple is evident. Worshipping with Brownsville Church of God and being at NETwork have both been integral in her spiritual walk. She desires to make sure that what is being taught is understood well by students, and we're committed to mentoring her along the way. Her teachable spirit will make this a delight! What else? Two final points: Kiara is bilingual and has a love for music - both tremendous gifts here in the neighborhood!

It's encouraging to see young people who have responded positively to Jesus's call to "come, follow me" and who share our passion for ministering to youth in this neighborhood. Please join us in welcoming Kiara Oquendo to the team! Thank you.

Ben



Hello! My name is Kiara Oquendo, but you will often hear me being called Ms. Kiki. I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and came to the United States when I was just 5 years old, so I have lived in Chambersburg for most of my life.

My first time at NETwork was in 3rd grade in 2009, thanks to two former StreetLeaders. Ever since then, I've been here! For as long as I have been at NETwork I would've never thought I'd make it to be Kids Club Coordinator, and I am overly blessed and grateful to have been offered the position!

The 10+ years being at NETwork I have definitely received so much love, encouragement, motivation, and much more from all the past and current staff and StreetLeaders and anyone who has volunteered or been part of NETwork Ministries. NETwork is like a second home to many of the kids and I absolutely love that!

I'm very happy to say that I will continue to be part of the NETwork family and I'm excited to see what the school year holds. I was always told to treat other's children as if they were my own and that is something I will definitely be doing! May God bless every child, parent, leader, teacher, volunteer, and everyone who will be with us!

Kiara

Ministry Staff: Benjamin Raber, Jen Good, Josh Moseley, Kiara Oquendo
Board of Directors: Maria Banks, Mike Bauer, Joel Black, Stanley Helman, Tom Knepper, Wayne Kuhns, Denver Martin, Becka Mumma, Katrina Smith, Dr. Linda Thomas Worthy, Christy Unger, Lance Walker
Fiscal Assistant: Tammy Timmons

NETwork is a member of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) and the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce. We are **100%** supported by individuals and local churches, businesses, and clubs. **Thank you!**

final thoughts...

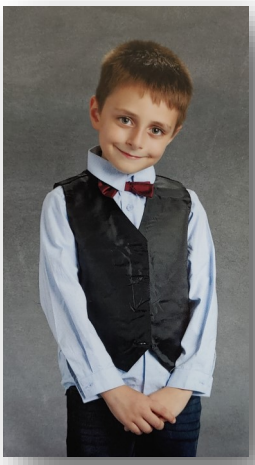
On Sunday, April 11th, we dedicated Miles Jeremiah Driver, youngest son of Daryl and Akilah Driver. Then on May 23rd we dedicated Aiden Thomas Greer, son of Ryan Watson and Haili Sookhoo. We thank the Lord for these child dedications and ask the Lord to use these children for His glory.

On June 13th, we held our first baptism using our portable baptistery. The baptism was held outside and included the following candidates: Maria Adams, James Boyd, Jr., Tamekiah Burton, Marquita Durham, Joseph Rock, and Shakira Staten. Praise the Lord for these outward showings of God's inward work in their lives.

On June 20th, our Father's Day messages were brought by men sharing three different seasons of Fatherhood – Brother Bob Hewitt, Brother Robert Lee and Brother Brian McNew.

On June 26th we held a memorial service for William "Bill" Richmond who went to be with the Lord earlier this year. Bill was a long time member of the Brownsville Church of God.

Miles Jeremiah Driver



Aiden Thomas Greer

Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School
July 28-30, 2021

Baptism
August 22, 2021

Pastor's Anniversary/Annual Church Community Picnic
September 11, 2021

Movie Night
Fall 2021 - Date/Time to be determined

New Member Orientation Class - Date/Time to be determined

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 September 15th.

Café Team

NOW FORMING!

If interested in joining this team, there is a sign-up sheet in the Church lobby.