



The Church Tie Newsletter

A publication of the Center Bethel Church of God - Alverton, PA

www.CBCOG.org - office@CBCOG.org - 724-404-8052



Bind us together, LORD... with cords that cannot be broken...

December 2024
Holiday Edition
Issue #12



**Christmas
Greetings**

May you have true faith, the blessing of loving hope and the peace of Jesus at Christmas and always!
~Bonnie Cree

May your heart be lifted in praise for the wonderful gift of Jesus! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
~Ron and Kathy Frey

Dear Church Family,
Wishing you and yours a joyous Christmas.
~Maralee Dugger

May the joy of the season be with you all year. Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
~Dave and Cheryl Krieger

Thanksgiving Eve Service at Center Bethel



Brooke allows Pastor Jason to play and sing with her during the Thanksgiving Eve Service at Center Bethel

The Kramer family expressed their thankfulness with a song at the service.



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

There will be a Congregational meeting on **December 8th** during both services for the purpose of electing new officers for 2025 for vacated offices and to vote on the proposed 2025 operating budget of the Center Bethel Church. Any MEMBER of the church may vote. Absentee ballots are available in advance of the meeting.



Please join us for an evening of fun on the hay wagon as we carol through the community on December 18th at 7 pm. Dress for the weather. There will be hot chocolate and maybe even some cookies afterward. (Bad weather date = Dec. 19th)



PRACTICE WILL BE DECEMBER 8TH. THE PROGRAM WILL BE DECEMBER 15TH DURING 2ND SERVICE. ALL YOUTH AND CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. PLEASE SEE SHARON HIXSON FOR DETAILS.



Cookies are needed for the refreshments after the Children's Program. You can sign up to donate cookies or email office@cbcog.org to let us know.

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Center Bethel Church of God

Church Family Birthdays this month:

12/2 - Jeff Love, Noah Clawiter
12/5 - Crystal Echard, Amy Clawiter, B.J. Olsen
12/7 - John Helinski
12/9 - Antwaan Smith
12/10 - Donna Ottenberg, Josh Schwartz
12/11 - Barbara Hixson, Chad Long, Kendall Strickler
12/12- Anna Catherine Staggers
12/13 - Carmella Long
12/14 - Pat Bryner
12/15 - Heather Collins, Logan Clawiter, Sylarah Durant
12/17 - Debbie Schneider, Jeff Johnson
12/18 - Kayia Smith,
12/19 - Dorothy Kring 99th, Mia Usher
12/20 - Elmer White
12/21 - Becky Rodriguez, Tyler Olsen
12/23 - Ruth Fox, Cody Echard
12/28 - Harry Overly, Sharon Hixson
12/30 - Connie Koch, Lorraine Miller, Stephanie Sanner, Hannah Hutter



CGGC Missionary Birthdays this month:

12/31 - Mila Ayers
8320 Highway 54
Curryville, MO 63339

Church Family Anniversary's this month:

12/2 - Ron & Kathy Frey, 52nd
12/5 - Chris & Paichat Kline, 10th
12/8 - Buck & Linda Lantz, 17th
12/12 - Don & Janet Dillinger, 37th
12/13 - Chris & Klm Sezon, 21st
12/21 - Eric & Jennifer Poole, 22nd
12/30 - Javier & Trish Cancino, 1st

Missionary Anniversaries this month:

None this month



Center Bethel COG



We have updated the **Center Bethel Prayer Chain** to make it easier to access on computers and smart phones. If you are not already getting the CBCOG prayer chain emails in your email box, you can signup by going here:

<https://cbcog.cggc.org/projects/>

Upcoming Dates to Remember in December

- Elder's Meeting - Tuesday **Dec 3**, 5:30PM (EMAW Chapter 4)
- All 4 God Youth Group Meetings – **Dec 1 & 15** (3-5 PM)
- Ad Council Meeting - Tues **Dec 3**, 7:20 PM
- Congregational Meetings Sun **Dec 8** during both services
- Sharpening Stone Men's Group breakfast meeting - Saturday **Dec 14**, 8:30AM @ meet at Hillbillies Pub and Grub, Donegal, PA
- Children's Christmas Program - **Dec 15** during 2nd service
- Caroling Hayride – Wed **Dec 18** 7PM – **dress warm!**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tues **Dec 24th**, 6 PM
- Children's Christmas Program - **Dec 15** during 2nd service
- Ugly Christmas Sweater and Pajama services – **Dec 22**



"Walking in the Spirit" LiveStream/Podcast

On Thursdays you are invited to join us LIVE via Rumble or YouTube beginning at 6:00 p.m. for a time of reflection, prayer, and mediation on the Word. You can go to our website to leave a prayer request or email or text Pastor Jason.

How to Watch:

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@centerbethelchurchofgod5238>

Rumble

<https://rumble.com/c/c-5075365>

(Like or Subscribe to be notified anytime CBCOG goes Live)
(These sessions are also available as recordings on Rumble and YT after the Livestream event is over.)

Take control of your money!!!

Join... **Financial Peace University!**

- 9 week class at Center Bethel Fellowship Hall
- Unlock Biblical wisdom & common sense to...
- Tackle budgeting, pay off debt, & put your money to work for you!
- Starts Jan 12 after church - See Jen Helinski to join today!



DARTBALL SCHEDULE



December 2nd - Bye Week
December 9th - Hickory Sq.
@ Alverton
December 16th - Alverton @
Reformed
December 23rd - Bye Week
December 30th - Bye Week



Membership & Baptism Class

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the CB congregation while learning about the Center Bethel Church of God, the Allegheny Region, and the Churches of God, General Conference Denomination or if you are considering in participating in a believer's baptism please contact Pastor Jason.

Membership classes will be taught by the pastor and will take place during the Sunday School hour for a couple consecutive weeks for anyone wishing to officially join the church.

Baptism candidates need only to have a meeting with the pastor before we can schedule a future baptism event for the church to celebrate with you and your loved ones in this blessed ordinance!

**Jesus Test For "Wanna-
Be" Disciples**
-December 2024-
Luke 14:26-35



Let's study verse by verse...

Vs. 26 first, hate all people, even ones we love the most. Luke 12:49-59, Matt. 10:34-39 and 18:23-35 shows that Jesus predestined this. At least, to love HIM, more than anyone else. Luke 15:11-24 adds to the suspense. It details a prodigal son asking for his father's inheritance early and wasting it in the dark life's nature until God brought him to his senses per Rom. 8:16-21 and Mark 16:15-16! Believers still hate the "remnants of Adam" that remain in us and others.

Vs. 27 demands we carry our own cross. Jesus means for us to carry it's message which will bring persecution as it did Him per 1 Corinthians 4:9-13 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Vs's. 28-32 challenges us to weigh the cost of reaching God's "tower," any other way. Matt. 18:24 says our sin debt would require us 150,000 years to pay, subject to ridicule on judgement day, if we don't ask God for terms of peace per Luke 18:9-14, 1 John 1:7-9 and John 14:6.

Vs. 33 says the first negotiable point for peace is to give up all our possessions! The farm, our family, money, career and our talents that gain pleasure or prestige? No. What is only ours that isn't a gift from God? Our sins! God wants to trade them for Jesus and His unconditional love, righteousness, forgiveness and life when we trust His blood to cleanse us from all our sins. 1 John 1:7 says the "light" comes on to show us what God has done. It's called the "exchanged life" when our life of Adam's darkness is traded for Christ's Life of Light and joy.

Vs's. 34-35 Jesus uses what our physical eyes can see so our hearts understand what His spiritual words are pointing to. In Mark 2:1-12 a paralytic was lowered thru the roof. Jesus, seeing their faith, declared his sins forgiven. It angered the scribes so He said (if I'm God's Son) which is easier to say, "your sins are forgiven or "take up your mat and walk." He spoke, the man walked and the crowd was amazed!

2 Chronicles 13:5 says God made an irrevocable covenant of salt with David, and descendants, as a metaphor for it's eternal commitment of loyalty for man's sin purification.. 2 Chronicles 13:5 says don't we know God gave rule forever to David and his "sons" by a covenant of salt. Jesus is called the SON of David in the Psalms. Leviticus 2:13 (KJV) writes that every meat offering, as well as all offerings, you shall offer salt. Man learned that salt was the best cure to preserve flesh for a limited time, as Moses covenant of animal blood covered sin until Jesus.

Jesus is pointing to His blood as "salt" being the only agent that preserves souls forever with Him. It's good, but only when we carry its message to the world. If this good news becomes tasteless, preaching is useless for disciples to sow in the soil where people are hungry for truth, and no uses for those already headed for the manure pile. Don't miss Jesus' warning. When His blood gets too boring to preach, those churches will be overcome by Satan and his manure pile..

For Christ's Glory, dbenna710@gmail.com



CBCOG ONLINE GIVING

Fuel faith this season by giving with a warm heart.

The holiday season is a time of giving that many, including the church, engage in. That is why our church offers Online Giving as an additional option to support our ongoing mission and ministries. Our church is a spiritual home for each of us and it relies on our time, talent, and treasure to fulfill that mission and keep the spiritual home operating. Online Giving helps support the church by allowing those led to give to make donations, payments, and pledges via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer directly to the church ministries.

SET UP YOUR REGULAR GIVING TODAY OR CONSIDER MAKING AN ADDITIONAL GIFT VIA THE ONLINE GIVING LINK ON YOUR SMART DEVICE.

How does online giving benefit me and the church?

DONOR BENEFITS:

- * CONVENIENT anytime, anywhere access through the internet.
- * CURRENT. A tool for people who prefer to use electronic services.
- * SECURE AND CONFIDENTIAL. Adheres to banking security standards.
- * FLEXIBLE. Start, stop, and change your contributions at any time.
- * SIMPLE. No need to contact your bank or the church office.
- * CONTRIBUTE using direct withdrawal (ACH) or credit cards.

CHURCH BENEFITS:

- * STABILIZE CONTRIBUTIONS. Regularly scheduled gifts will occur automatically. Allows Center Bethel to effectively manage monthly expenses and plan future outreach.
- * DIRECT DONATIONS, are a simple way to contribute to individual events, holiday needs, classes, special donations, and more.
- * SECURE AND CONFIDENTIAL. There is no need to store member account information, so we don't.
- * EFFICIENT. Participation saves time and expense in bookkeeping.

PLEASE VISIT THE ONLINE GIVING SITE BY VISITING THIS LINK:

[HTTPS://WWW.OSVHUB.COM/CBCOG/GIVING/FUNDS](https://www.osvhub.com/cbcog/giving/funds)

or you can find a button on the CB church website www.cbcog.org



The Youth Group took a trip on either **December 1st** to Living Treasures Animal Park. Our next meeting is on December 15th at 3PM

December 29th will be Youth Sunday, Please see Suzie or Pastor Jason with how you would like to help with Sunday Services.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner: A Blessing For Many



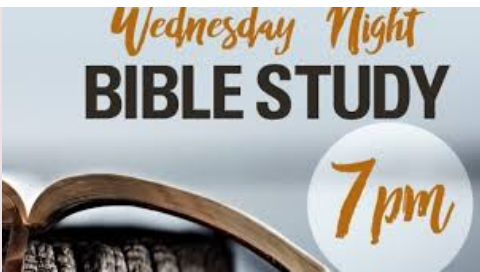
**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD
@ Center Bethel COG
2024**



Thanks to everyone who filled a box or donated postage money, to the Sunday School classes, Bible Study classes, to Cub Scout Pack 151 and leaders, and anyone else who had any part. CB Church and the scouts gathered, prayed over, and sent out 65 shoeboxes this year!

Enter Text

Thanks to everyone who setup, purchased, prepared, served, delivered, cleaned up, or helped in any way to serve nearly 300 meals this year!

	<p>Wednesday Night Bible Study - different classes for All ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 p.m. Created To Praise (CTP) Adult Choir practice • 6:30 p.m. Youth Choir practice • 7:00 p.m. Bible Studies for all ages <p>No Bible Study December 18th - January 1st. Bible Study will resume January 8th.</p>
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 <p><i>...from Pastor Jason</i></p>	
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The “Last Word” I have for you in this letter is *gratitude*. Pastor James MacDonald often would say that “Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude for living”. I firmly believe that this saying is true in both our natural and in our spiritual living. If we gratefully recognize what God has truly done for us through giving us His only son to forgive us of and rescue us from our sins (John 3:16), then that changes our whole perspective and attitude on life. When we realize that God spent His most precious possession to purchase our redemption, that should change our view of our own worth in God’s eyes. When we read in Genesis that we are each made in the image of God, we should recognize the value of others according to God’s perspective. Realizing we all are made in the *imago dei* (image of God) should cause us to be more patient and grateful toward and with each other. If in the natural we express that gratitude by living a life of obeying the commands to love Him, love our neighbors, and love each other, we will be gaining altitude in the spiritual.

This world offers many “shiny objects” that are tantalizing and often serve to distract us from the Creator and instead fixated on created things. This seems even more troublesome at Christmas where thoughts of gift shopping and parties and decorating take a great deal of our attention. It is my prayer that each of us will not lose sight of what this Advent season is supposed to be about...the grateful, expectant, hopeful, anticipation of the 1st coming of Messiah. May we never lose our gratitude of God sending His son to walk amongst us, teach us what heaven is like, and be the Waymaker for us all in His life and through His death and resurrection.

May we also not get so hung up on the seasonal traditions and trappings that we fail to realize that we are in a “new” Advent season of the church age. We are now expectantly waiting on the 2nd appearing and coming of Jesus Messiah! We should be grateful that Jesus is not still the helpless baby in the manger, nor dying nailed to a tree, nor dead in a tomb, but grateful that He is alive and well at the right hand of the Father, and returning in all of His glory for us... and soon.

I hope that if you give gifts at Christmas that you are grateful for the ones that others graciously give you. But in this Advent season I hope that we can all be grateful for the unmatched gifts that only the Father can provide: the living HOPE of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3), the PEACE that passes all understanding (Phil 4:7), the unspeakable JOY He gives (1 Peter 1:8), and the unconditional LOVE (1 John 3:1) of the Father.

So, if you are feeling like you are at a low altitude today, and in danger of hitting that mountain in front of you, turn your eyes back to God, and let the gratitude for what He has already done for you take you to that higher altitude, into clearer air, and brighter skies, higher than the storms, troubles, and turbulence of life can reach. ~Pastor Jason D. Kramer



Do you want to find some relaxation time during this busy holiday season? Stop in at the Church Library and pick several books to relax with. We have books on Amish Christmases, early American Christmas books, and Modern-day Christmas Stories. If you don't have lots of time too, read, we even have books about Christmas carols, other Christmas favorites, and Christmas poems.

Check out the window display and three shelves of books for your selections for the holidays. The Library is open everyday so stop in at your convenience. Just select your books and sign the card in the back of the books and put them in the "returned books" container. Hope to see you in the Library soon and Happy Holidays to you all!

~Donna, CBCOG Librarian



Would **YOU** like to receive the Interactive Web version of the CBCOG Newsletter delivered directly to your email inbox every month, but don't know how?

1. Just visit www.cbco.org
2. click on the **Resources Tab**,
3. and enter your preferred email address in the space provided



Visit us online at
CBCOG.org

The **Center Bethel Church of God** wants to ensure that our newsletter "followers" are first and foremost, followers of **the Way, Jesus Christ**. (John 14:6). We want you to know where you will be spending eternity, because eternity spent in the wrong place is unthinkable. The only two options are Heaven or hell.

Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The Bible also says that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). There is salvation in no other name, than Jesus (Acts 4:12). There is no other way (John 4:16), so believe and be saved! (Acts 16:31) If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the Bible says that **today** is the day of salvation (Acts 28; 2 Cor 6:2). Turn from your sinful ways and begin living with Christ as your Lord today. "All who call on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved (Romans 10:13).

If you have made or would like to make a decision for Christ today, or if you have questions, or if you want to share a praise or prayer, please call, text, or email us today. We would love to pray a prayer of salvation with you.

--Pastor Jason Kramer



The official deadline for submissions to the electronic and print versions of the newsletter is the **3rd Sunday of each month**. Please submit any articles you may have to Amy by this date. Any articles received after this date will be likely held until the following month. Thank you for your cooperation. This deadline is necessary to get both the paper and electronic versions of the Newsletter published on time by the first week of each month. Please understand that the paper newsletter is an additional creation that requires more time, energy, expense, and distribution that often delays its distribution.



Send us feedback on the NEW CBCOG Newsletter design, or about the happenings of the CB Church or *whatever* else is on your mind regarding the ministries of Center Bethel. (if you are reading the non-digital newsletter, you can send your comments to office@cbco.org)

An Angel's News for Joseph Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

PENARCTRE

FIWE

LLEEGAI

BANHUSD

ZARNATHE

When did the angel visit Joseph?

Coded Words for Mary's Story

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

2 1 2 25

1 14 7 5 12

2 12 5 19 19 5 4

7 1 2 18 9 1 12

5 12 9 26 1 2 5 20 8

God chose Mary to be

20 8 5 13 15 20 8 5 18

15 6 10 5 19 21 19

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V R
Q F J
S G L W
F L S Q W C B
F R L S F A C B
G R Y M E V H N C E X L M E
T A E R I E V H N C E X L M E
B T K O Z N M H N C E X L M E
Q S N I H S N M E P S H A E S R V S
J A O V X R S O A S Z B A Y I A Z T X
W P A D A I J R O A S Z B A Y I A Z T X
P M G S W I Y P G S Z B A Y I A Z T X
H Q A G X W I Y P G S Z B A Y I A Z T X
D N M F B U A M B I N K Y P G S Z B A Y I A Z T X
A Y F S H E T M B I N K Y P G S Z B A Y I A Z T X



ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE
GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

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