



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...

JANUARY
Issue #1 - 2025

2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Center Bethel Church of God

New Year, New Challenges, New Resolve



To start off the new year we would like to introduce the newly elected Center Bethel Church Ad council officers for 2025. **Michelle Bibby & Shannon Bibby (Bobby)** will both serve as deaconess, **B.J. King** will become one of our trustees, and **Brian Boruszewski** and **Mark Hixson** will both serve the church family in the office of deacon.

These new officers will join the existing Center Bethel Church Ad Council: Scott Olsen, Council President & Trustee; Bobby Bibby, Ed Conrad, and Ron Frey, Church Elders; Dave Fox and Greg Sullenberger, Deacons; Jen Helinski, Church Treasurer; Sharon Hixson, Christian Ed. Director; Suzie Kramer, Youth Advisor; Becky Rodriguez and Sue Trayter, Deaconess; Kim Semon, Financial Statistical Clerk; Dale Smith & Candy Sullenberger, Trustees; Diana Strohm, Sunday School Superintendent; Kathy Frey, Sunday School Stat Clerk, and Pastor Jason Kramer.

We also would like to recognize and thank the outgoing members who have faithfully served and whose terms have expired in 2024: Bob Baker, Deacon; Hope Mailloux & Debbie Roeder, Deaconess; and Mark Strohm, Trustee. Thank you all for your service and we hope that you will serve in the future and remain an active part of the church ministry here at Center Bethel. You helped bring us through a difficult transition period and we are grateful for your contributions, leadership, and support.

Whether you currently serve as an elected officer or not, whether you are a member or not, we are always looking for ministry partners to serve on commissions and committees within the church, and teachers, helpers, and other partners to be the hands and feet of the church. The elders are also looking for men interested in joining them in the elder mentee program. Please see Pastor Jason for more details if you feel called to get involved.



Friends...

What would I have done without friends?

Friends did so many things for me when I was ill. I will not mention names (you know who you are) nor will I mention the many things done for me. I really appreciate my church friends and their sincere help.

God blessed me with many friends. Thank you.

~ Bonnie Cree

Dear church family,

We are so blessed to be able to be part of the ministry of the Center Bethel Church.

We have been overwhelmed by the love and support that you have given us since we started. Thank you so much for all of the thoughtful, generous, and heartfelt gifts you have given to us. We have also thoroughly enjoyed all of homemade foods, candies, and other goodies that you graciously given. Thank you!

May God continue to bless us all in the new year as we look forward to exciting things, to be joyful in the good times ahead, to encourage us in the hard times that will surely come, to be patient in some new things, and faithful in some old ways, with love and encouragement for one another and for our neighbors as we learn to walk closer to Christ increasingly.

We love you all and thank each of you for the opportunity to serve God as we serve this church as your pastoral family.

~ The Kramer family

Thanks to your church for the Angel Tree Gifts for the family that you sponsored this Christmas. The family was overwhelmed with the gifts and so thankful!

Also, thank you for your continued giving with the food bags every week and making sure that our kids in need are taken care of. We appreciate all of the efforts you do for our students.

~ Southmoreland School District Nurses

Take control of your money!!!

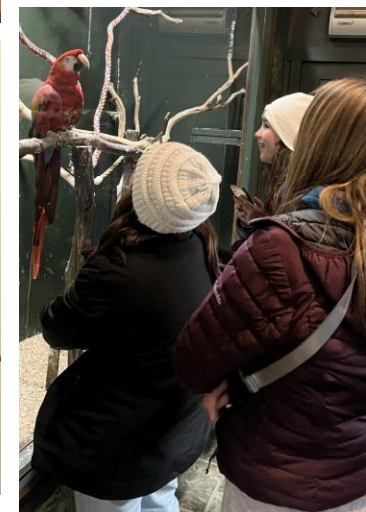
Join... Financial Peace University!

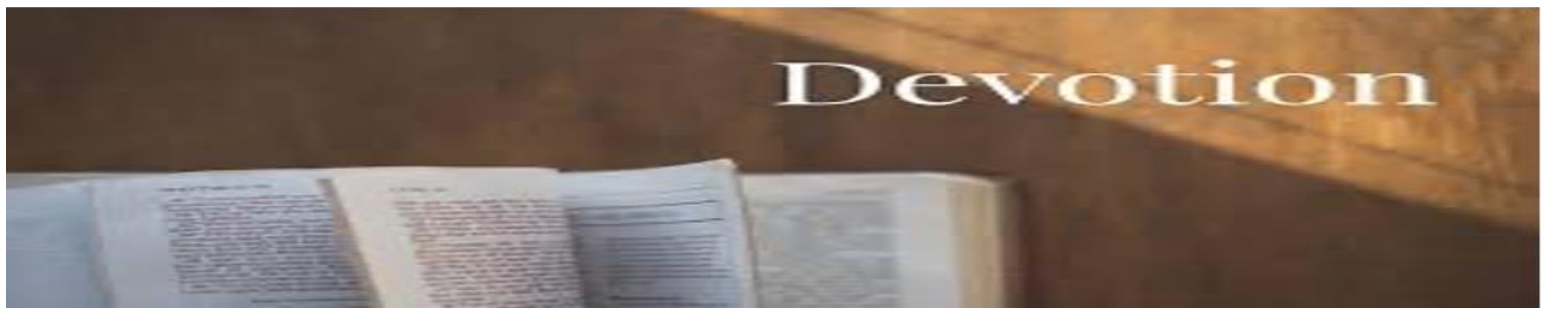
- 9 week class at Center Bethel Fellowship Hall
- Unlock Biblical wisdom & common sense to...
- Tackle budgeting, pay off debt, & put your money to work for you!
- Starts Jan 12 after church - See Jen Helinski to join today!



We also received several thank you notes from many of the anonymous recipients who received goodwill gifts from the church this year. Thank you to all the Goodwill givers for generously helping those in need at this often financially difficult time of the year.

Thank you to everyone who gives and tithes regularly and special thanks also to our online givers. Your efforts make ministry possible at Center Bethel!





The Christmas Story

Acts 13:16-41

January 2025

It's not over, it's available to be lived throughout the year thru God's Son, Jesus. Acts 13: 1-14 details Paul and others at the Antioch church ministering and fasting. The Holy Spirit said, "set apart for Me Barnabas and Paul for the work I have called them. Obedient to God's Spirit they traveled through small cities and met a magician whom Paul dealt with in a way that amazed the proconsul on Sabbath day. After reading the Law and Prophets the officials invited Paul to speak.

He stood and said, "Men of Israel who fear God, listen. The God of Israel chose her and made her great during their stay in Egypt and led them out, and for 40 years put up with them in the wilderness. He destroyed 7 nations in Caanan and distributed their land as their inheritance. It took 450 years. He gave them judges until Samuel, and when they asked for a king He gave them Saul of Benjamin's tribe for 40 years. Then He raised David as a man of His own heart, to po His will, and from his descendants, brought a Savior as promised.

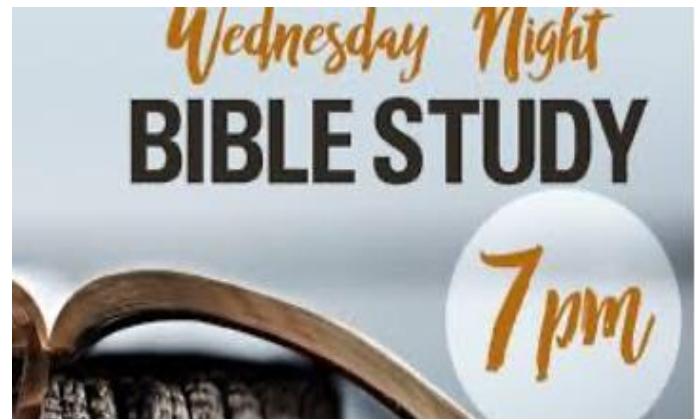
Paul took this message to those who feared God in Jerusalem, but their rulers rejected Him, which fulfilled prophecy, when they crucified Him. He was taken from the cross and buried, but God raised Him up after 3 days and He appeared to the ones who came from Galilee who are now His witnesses, just as we are. We preach the promise made to our fathers and now fulfilled to our children. That today I have begotten you, Jesus, who was raised from the dead, to never to decay, to be the Eternal Savior that was promised through David's genes.

Acts 13:38-41 says, be it known to you brethren, thru Him, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. And, through Him, everyone who believes is freed from all things from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. So, TAKE HEED, so the thing spoken of in the prophets doesn't come upon you- "Behold and perish, you scoffers; for I am accomplishing a work in your days, a work you will never believe though someone should describe it to you." And Paul just did - for us! It's the "good news" of God's greatest possible Christmas gift that makes our Christmas joy last forever. He loves us so much that He offers Jesus, His Son, to us every day so that we don't perish, but have Eternal Life with Him and our Father, without end, per John 3:16-18. We can unwrap Their gift of unconditional Love and Life every day thru eternity, without going to the shopping mall! Praise their names forever, and make this your New Years resolution also!

dbenna710@gmail.com



www.theflourishconference.org



Birthdays this month...

1/1 - Orin Summy, K-dyn Goggins
 1/3 - Candy Sullenberger
 1/7 - Jesse Hixson
 1/8 - Pastor Johnny Pennington
 1/9 - Scott Olsen
 1/13 - Adam Kooser
 1/14 - Jolene Cummins, Landon Poole
 1/15 - Jerry Hixson
 1/16 - Peggy Baker
 1/19 - Bill Prinkey
 1/21 - Shannon Bibby (Will), Addison Hixson
 1/23 - Carol Prinkey
 1/24 - Angie Goggins
 1/26 - Don Benna, Kathy Frey, Sue Kline
 1/27 - Tyler Smith
 1/29 - Doris Benna
 1/31 - Carole Hixson

**Missionary Birthdays:**

1/15 - Pastor David Kapaku
 PO Box 11888
 Lahaina, HI 96761 kapaku@aol.com



*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.*

**Anniversaries:**

1/25 Charles & Kathy Basinger, 56th



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

Join us on Saturday, January 18th 6 p.m. for game night in the Fellowship Hall. It's an evening of Fun, Food, and Fellowship!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Church UN-decorate Party – Sat Jan 4, 9AM
- Elder's Meeting Sunday Jan 5, 5pm - (*EMAW Chapter 5*)
- Ad Council - Tues Jan 7, 6:15PM Commissions /7:15PM – full council
- Bible Studies resume on Jan 8, 7PM
- Ad Council Installation - Sunday, Jan 5th – both services
- Communion and Feetwashing Services - Sunday Jan 5th – both services
- Scrapbooking- dates TBD
- Fellowship (Donut) Sunday & Penny Pile – Sunday Jan 5th
- Sharpening Stone Men's Group breakfast meeting - Saturday Jan 11th, 8AM @ CB Fellowship
- Refuel Conference - January 28, 2025 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Crossroads Ministries Finleyville 81 Walter Long Road, Finleyville, PA
- Weekend to Remember February 28, 2025 - March 2, 2025
Hershey Lodge – Hershey, PA
- March 7-9, 2025 - The Flourish Conference (National Women's Conference) Grand Point Church, Chambersburg, PA



All 4 God Youth Group Meetings – Jan 5 & 19

- Jr High (age 10-grade 8) will meet 2:30-4:00 pm
- Sr High (grades 9-12) will meet 4:00-5:30 pm

February 7-9 Jr High Arctic Blast @ CSM. (grades 6-8)

February 21-23 Sr High Arctic Blast @ CSM. (grades 9-12)



January/February Dart ball schedule

- January 6th – Tyrone @ Alverton
- January 13th – CUMC @ Alverton
- January 20th – Alverton @ UP
- January 27th Alverton @ Lutheran
- February 3rd – St. John @ Alverton
- February 10th – Bryan @ Alverton
- February 17th – Alverton @ New Hope
- February 24th – TMC @ Alverton

Center Bethel COG

Prayer Chain

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/>



Just a reminder, we are continuing to recycle used printer and copier ink jet/toner cartridges. Bring your used cartridges and place them in the basket under the table at the rear of the worship center. Your old ink and toner cartridges help the church obtain paper and other needed office items. Thank you!



Visit us online at
CBCOG.org



Do you want to find a good book to snuggle up and read on these cold winter days? Perhaps you want to start the new year off right with a new devotional or an inspirational book. Stop in at the Church Library and pick several books to meet your needs.

We have brand new and classic books to select from with many authors you may recognize. If we don't have it, ask and we can try to get it.

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 New Year to you all!

~Donna, CBCOG Librarian

CBCOG ONLINE GIVING

Fuel faith this season by giving with a warm heart.

The winter 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.

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



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.

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!

FinancialPeace UNIVERSITY





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@cbcog.org)

...from Pastor Jason



Getting our Bearings for 2025

With 2024 in the rear view, I started to direct my attention to trying to seek a “theme word” to focus on as I try to cast a vision for the Center Bethel Church for the coming 2025 year of ministry. The word “*bearing*” came to mind. At first I thought it was in the sense of charting a course. As if determining the directional *bearing* and then staying firmly on that course. That certainly seemed appropriate for the time and trajectory of ministry here at CB. Deuteronomy 5:33 reminds us to “walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and *that it may be well with you*, and *that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess*.”

But there were other *bearings* to consider. Galatians 6:2 and Colossians 3:13 instructs us to be *bearing* each others’ burdens, in humility and forgiveness to fulfill the law of Christ. There will certainly be some good times as well as rough times ahead and some burdens that we will have to bear for one another in the church family in this coming year. We must be willing to bear the good times and hard times with one another as we follow Christ and are led by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. So that just added another dimension on to the *bearing* theme for 2025.

But that’s not all... there is also the *bearing* of fruits and *bearing* of children. I thought about the potential of bearing the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 and to bear fruit we must be abiding and attached to the vine that is Jesus Christ in John 15. I considered the prospect of new followers being reborn, and new disciples, and new ministries, and new small groups that we might be able to *birth* this year. In all of these things I hope to see the fruits of the Spirit evidently born in all areas of our church ministry. The one thing that is central to all of these *bearings* is an alignment with and connection to our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ. We must have our course set on following Him, be must fulfill our call from Him to follow as we bear one another’s burdens, and along the way bear spiritual fruits and help bring others to be reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is my prayer this year that all of these bearings will take place within and outside the church family as we share the Good News and anticipate the return of the Master. May you all have a blessed 2025! --Pastor J.D. Kramer

*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

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