



The Church Tie Newsletter

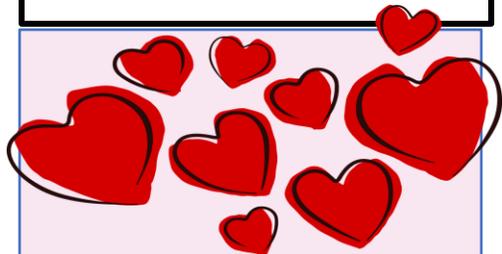
A publication of the Center Bethel Church of God - Alverton, PA

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



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

February Issue #2 - 2025



Memory Verse for February:

Matthew 24:36-38...

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

- Matt 24:36-38 NKJV

*Love
God.
Love
people.*

Center Bethel Church of God
428 Ruffsdale Alverton Rd.
Alverton, PA 15612
724-404-8052 office/voicemail
office@cbcog.org

Pastor Jason D. Kramer
412-417-6272 mobile/text
jasonkramer@zoominternet.net

Copyright © 2025
Center Bethel Church of God

Time for Spiritual Refueling!



Some of our Center Bethel men recently attended the 2025 ReFuel Pittsburgh 1-Day Event sponsored by Liberty Church Network where they participated in some great worship, engaged in some great biblical teaching, and were inspired by some very powerful and motivational pastors from across the country.

SOUP'S ON!



The Center Bethel Church elders and members of the Sharpening Stone Men's ministry will be making homemade chicken noodle soup again on February 8th. This soup ministry is an outreach event for our church community and we invite you to help. Please take a jar or two and give them to others in your neighborhood or at work or wherever. We hope that in the process of sharing of this soup with another you may also get a chance to share the Gospel with them. That they may have opportunity to receive Jesus, the Bread of Life, so that they will spiritually hunger no more.

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.



*I want to extend a sincere THANK YOU to Amy Clawiter for all of your hard work as church communication coordinator. You have been a great help to me and your contributions to the ministry at CB are already certainly missed. I do understand and appreciate your taking a step back to spend more time with your family and I pray that God will surely bless you and the entire family in this chapter of your life. On behalf of the whole church... THANK YOU!
~Pastor Jason*

Dearest Church Family,

Juan and I and our whole family would like to thank you all so very much for all of your love, prayers, and support that you have poured into our lives since his cancer journey began this past April. We can't express our gratitude enough. All of the cards, gifts, words of encouragement really helped him through the roughest days. We are most grateful for your faithfulness in prayer for Juan's healing. God's answering those prayers. Thank you again and wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year! We are so very grateful for our church family.

Love,
Juan & Becky Rodriguez & Family

Looking for conference delegates!

Anyone interested in being a delegate to represent the Center Bethel Church and attend the **Allegheny Region Conference (ARC)** in Mt. Pleasant, PA on **May 16-17, 2025** should contact Pastor Jason (412) 417-6272 or email jasonkramer@zoominternet.net

If you are interested in attending or representing the region as a delegate at the historic **CGGC Triennial 200th Anniversary** in Harrisburg on **July 15-17, 2025** should contact Pastor Dean hay or Pastor Phil Scott via the phone **724-832-3746** or email: admin@ar.cggc.org

On March 7-9, 2025 is The Flourish Conference (National Women's Conference) you can find more information and registration at cggcwomen.org



Please fill out and return the 2025 ministry report forms that were sent to all classroom and ministries. This information will help us complete the annual reports for CB and CGGC and ARC and help us evaluate and plan the current and future ministries of this church. You can give you reports to Pastor Jason or Suzie or leave them in their church mailbox. Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete those 6 questions.





All4God Sr. High Youth playing a "friendly" game of SPOONS at Youth Group Meeting

All 4 God Youth Group

Center BETHEL Church of God Allentown, PA



Borrowing a game idea from the Doers Christmas party the Youth were tasked with identifying all the "vintage" items on this tray. How many can you identify?



CAMP SUNRISE MOUNTAIN

Arctic Blast 2025

Campers in Grades 9-12

Arrival Time: Friday, Feb 21st at 6:30 pm

Departure Time: Sunday, Feb 23rd at 3 pm



Rare photo of the Pastor working more than one day a week 😊

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

7pm

Devotion

The Truth About Righteousness

February 2025

John 16:10

John 16:5-7 says Jesus is going to His Father and it's to our advantage He did. If He didn't go, the Helper wouldn't come to us! He said if I go, I will send Him as promised in Luke 11:13 and John 14:16-19. He'll ask the Father, and He'll give us the Helper to be with us forever. He's the Truth, abiding in us forever, and because He lives we will live also! Rom. 8:8-11 says, without the Spirit of Christ in us, we don't have God. Our body's dead, due to sin, yet a believer's spirit is alive since Christ's righteousness is in us per 1 Cor. 1:20-31 And He will raise us from the dead just as He did Jesus! John 16:8-10 says He'll convict us regarding righteousness since He's going back to the Father and we'll no longer see Him (as our role model on earth). He knew the "world" would teach that we must be "like" Him, asking "what would Jesus do" when we're tempted to sin. Some look for His "image" in one of us to model the life that gains Heaven's Glory. He's telling us, no chance, because there's never been anyone since Adam and Eve to meet God's standard of perfect righteousness. And there won't be, again, until He returns to earth at the beginning of the thousand year millenium per Revelation 20:1-4.

We're subject to God's Word. It demands we choose between our works of righteousness, or the Gift of God's Righteousness, which comes thru faith in the work of Jesus to save us. Read Luke 18:9-14, where Jesus told a parable to ones who trust that THEY are righteous. Here a Pharisee bragged about his goodness and scorned a tax collector who beat his chest and begged mercy for his sins. Jesus said this man went home justified, meaning declared righteous by God. Also, read Matthew 7:13-14 as Jesus declared (ending His Mount Sermon) for us to enter thru the narrow gate. The gate's wide and the way broad that leads to destruction, where many go, but few find the narrow gate! John 10:1-10 says Jesus IS the narrow gate. And none come to God but thru Him (John 14:6). Thieves and robbers try by self works. They rob God of His Grace and steal His Glory. Jesus said He came to give His Life abundantly in John 10:10, and eternity is certainly sufficient! Vs's. 27-30 say to His sheep (who hear and follow Him) I give eternal life, and no one can snatch them from My or My Father's hands- and Weare One!

Matthew 7:21-23 confronts proud folks trying to enter wide "gates", saying, only those who do the will of My Father will enter. He said in John 6:40 "this IS the will of My Father, all who behold and believe in His Son WILL have Eternal Life." Many will declare their good works done in His name, and He will say "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice law- lessness." Lawlessness, here, is practicing faith in Moses Law of death, as 2 Corinthians 3:4-17 explains. Romans 3:19-27 reveals that, apart from the Law, God's saving righteousness is a gift of His Grace, thru faith in the redeeming blood of Jesus. It frees us from the law of death, to receive the law of Life, in Jesus, so no one can boast. Rom. 3:31 thru 4:8 reveals that Abraham and David learned of God's Law of faith, in their day, and we're to re-establish it in our hearts. Israel foolishly traded it for the Laws of Moses after they left Egypt. Carefully, read 1 John 1:3-7 and rejoice. When we receive the "LIGHT" of God's Truth- we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from ALL sin. Vs's 8-10 invites all to confess that we're sinners, and be cleansed forever, also! Denying this truth is calling God a liar. That's none of us- I pray. All for the glory of God's Trinity.

Birthdays this month...

- 2/4 - Trudy Olsen
- 2/5 - Phil Sullenberger
- 2/10 - Gunner McGill, Mark Stohm
- 2/11 - Dina Bechard
- 2/12 - Bob Baker, Tim Long
- 2/16 - Joe Bibby, Betty Sullenberger
- 2/19 - James Charles Rodriguez
- 2/22 - Susan Ottenberg, Martha Crouse
- 2/23 - Ron Frey
- 2/25 - Catherine Ritz, Juan Rodriguez
- 2/28 - Sandy Danilchak

Missionary Birthdays:

- 2/11- Elli Crabtree

- 2/20 - Kendra Kapaku
- PO Box 11888
- Lahaina, HI 96761



*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:

- 2/7 - Wayne & Betty Sullenberger, 66th
- 2/9 - Don & Doris Benna, 68th



Youth choir singing during Sunday Service



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



Ladies! join us on Saturday, March _____ at 6pm in the Center Bethel Church Fellowship Hall for an evening of food, fellowship, fun, and games!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Ad Council Meeting – 7:15 pm - Feb 4th & March 4th
- Sharpening Stone Men's Breakfast Meeting – 8am - Feb 8th & March 8th
- Elders Soup Ministry– Feb 8th & 9th
- Well Watered Women Discipleship Group – Feb 22nd & Mar 29th - 10am
- Ladies Night Out - TBD
- Scrapbooking – Feb 28th – March 1st ; March 21st – March 22nd
- Scrapbooking @ Camp Sunrise – March 27th – 29th
- Weekend to Remember (Hershey, PA) – Feb 28th – March 2nd
- Arctic Blast – Feb 7th- 9th (Jr.); Feb 21st – 23rd (Sr.)
- Women's Prayer Breakfast – March 15th 9am
- Flourish Women's Conference (Chambersburg, PA) – March 7th-9th
- ARC Conference Sessions (Mt. Pleasant) – April 16th -17th
- CGGC 200th Anniversary Triennial Conference, Harrisburg, PA – July 15th – 17th



All 4 God Youth Group Meetings – Feb 2 & 16

- 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)



February/March Dart ball schedule

- February 3rd – St. John @ Alverton
- February 10th – Bryan @ Alverton
- February 17th – Alverton @ New Hope
- February 24th – TMC @ Alverton
- March 3rd – Tyrone @ Alverton
- March 10th – Alverton @ UP
- March 17th – Playoff Round 1
- March 24th – Playoff Round 2
- March 31st – Playoff Round 3
- April 7th – Championship Round

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 sign up 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



We have more than just books in the CB Library! You can check out jigsaw puzzles of 300 to 1000 piece puzzle that are now available.

We will also soon be getting rid of the collection of VHS tapes in the library. If you still use your VCR or know someone who might still be interested in these videotapes, please see Donna or Pastor Jason.

We also will be getting rid of the plastic protective VHS tape cases (the hard plastic ones used by video rental shops).

In addition to the GOOD NEWS, the church also receives an actual paper copy of the daily Tribune Review newspaper each day that we will make available in the library, in case there was an article or photo that you need to view and or make a copy of.

~Donna, CBCOG Librarian

CBCOG ONLINE GIVING

Thank you for your continued warm support in these cold months.

Center Bethel 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. Sorry for any inconvenience that linking a checking or savings account may cause in setting up your online account, but we purposely don't use credit card apps for giving because they charge both the church and the user a convenience fee and we also don't want to promote a giving option that may contribute to indebtedness to a bank or credit card.

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.cbcoq.org

The banner features a background image of a person's hands holding a book, with a splash of water in the foreground. The text "Membership & Baptism Class" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

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.

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Center Bethel Church of God will be hosting the annual Women's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 15th at 9am

Breakfast will be prepared by the Sharpening Stone Men's Group, Praise and Worship will be led by Becky Rodriguez, and our Guest Speaker will be Jamie Ingelido from New Stanton Assembly of God. She will bring a message titled "Choosing The Better" taken from Luke 10:42

Reserve your seat by contacting Shannon Bibby at 724-972-5894 or email office@cbcog.org

Jamie Ingelido is a Licensed Minister of the Gospel. She currently serves alongside her husband and fulfills the roles of Associate and Worship Pastor. She loves Jesus, her family, and her church. Following Jesus passionately and encouraging others to do the same is of highest priority in her life. Serving in the ministry for 20+ years, in many different roles, has been both her honor and privilege. She plans to continue to serve the Lord faithfully, wherever He may lead, until she is called home or raptured, whichever comes first.



Life Bible Verses: Exodus 33:15-16

"If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

WELL WATERED WOMEN IS A NEW WOMENS DISCUSSION GROUP WHOSE FOCUS IS ON GROWTH AND MATURITY BY EXAMINING GOD'S WORD AND HOW TO APPLY IT IN OUR DAILY LIVES. FUTURE MONTHLY DATES OF OUR INFORMAL GATHERINGS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON!



OUR FIRST TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WILL BE ON **PRAYER**. WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US SO BRING A FRIEND!

Saturday, Feb 22nd
10:00a-11:30a

CENTER BETHEL CHURCH OF GOD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
428 RUFFSDALE ALVERTON RD.
ALVERTON, PA 15612

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED
CONTACT SHANNON BIBBY AT 724-972-5894
FOR MORE INFO OR EMAIL THE CHURCH AT OFFICE@CBCOG.ORG



www.theflourishconference.org



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



Jesus: The LORD of ALL Accept NO Substitutes!

Colossians 2:6-10 - ⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. ⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. ¹⁰ So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

If you have ever experienced ordering online at Walmart and arrive at the grocery pick-up area, you have likely also been asked if you are willing to accept some substitutes for items that were out of stock or couldn't be located. Usually, because of the hassle involved of trying to have my bill modified or having to actually go inside to look for the item myself or risk going without the similar product, I will just accept the substitute. Often times the substitute is a higher quality brand or larger quantity than I had originally ordered anyway. So, I am usually ok with the substitution.

However, we live in a world that seems to be constantly trying to substitute the Truth of Jesus Christ as the LORD of all things created, visible and invisible, natural and spiritual, temporal and eternal with something lesser. The NLT translation of this text states these "empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense" try to "capture" us. Not only are we being challenged by human thinking but also attacks from the spiritual realm to accept these lies. There are so many false prophets, incorrect teachings, blasphemies, and humanistic theology being substituted as Christianity.

As believers, we must solidly be able to rightly divide scripture and discern the truth. We also must be willing to help others not to be deceived, by sharing the Truth. As 2 Timothy 4:3 warns, "a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching...they will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear...they will reject the truth and chase after myths".

As followers of the Way, we must strive to put on the full armor of God each and every day (Ephesians 6:10-18) be rooted in and abiding in the Vine that is Jesus Christ (John 15) and share the Gospel with a hurting world.

Jesus Christ is the LORD of ALL! Accept no substitutes!

~ Pastor Jason 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

Churches of God Regional Ministry Contact Info:

Center Bethel Church of God

428 Ruffsdale Alverton Road | Alverton, PA | 15612

(724) 404-8052 | office@cbkog.org

cbkog.org

Pastor Jason Kramer

jasonkramer@zoominternet.net

(412) 417-6272

Allegheny Region Conference

PO Box 756 | Latrobe, PA | 15650-0756

ar.cggc.org

Pastor Phil Scott - Director

Pastor Dean Hay, Jr. - Admin & Communication Asst.

(724) 832-3746 | admin@ar.cggc.org

Churches of God, General Conference (Denomination Headquarters)

700 E. Melrose Ave. | Findlay, OH | 45840

Pastor Lance Finley, Executive Director

info@cggc.org

cggc.org



Center Bethel Church of God
428 Ruffsdale Alverton Road
Alverton, PA 15612