

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...

### APRIL EASTER EDITION Issue #4- 2025

### **Memory Verse for April:**

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

### Where did the Easter bunny come from?

There is no long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday in the Bible; yet somehow, the Easter bunny has become a symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear. According to some sources, the bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants in Pennsylvania bringing their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase". – History.com

### Center Bethel Church of God

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### hetti Dinner Benefit









Thank you to our amazing church family for all your hard work on March 8th to support our youth ministries!









### EASTER ACTIVITY & WORSHIP SCHEDULE APRIL 12-20, 2025



Free Community Easter EGG-STRAVAGANZA! Easter Egg Hunt, Food, Fun, & Games - Center Bethel Parking lot and Fellowship Hall - Sat. April 12 - 11am - 1 pm.



Palm Sunday – come worship with services on Sunday 8am (traditional) & 10:15 am (contemporary/traditional) (Sunday School at 9:15am)



Maundy Thursday Service – 7pm - Worship & Communion and Feet Washing - At Center Bethel Church



**Way of the Cross** – Friday 5:00pm – Join us on a walk through Alverton/Wardentown carrying the cross – Meet at Southmoreland Field House Lot



Good Friday Service – 7pm At Center Bethel Church



Easter Sunday Sunrise Service – 6:15 am - At Alverton Cemetery (weather permitting)

### Sunrise Carry-in Breakfast -

(immediately after Sunrise Service) in Center Bethel Fellowship Hall



Easter Sunday Traditional Worship Services – 8am & 10:15am – At Center Bethel Church (Sunday School at 9:15am)



# Devotion

Without Faith It's Impossible To Please God

- April 2025 -

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews is God's book of faith that proves the sufficiency of Christ's work of sanctification, that without, <u>no</u> one will see the Lord per Hebrews 10:10-14 and 12:14. We must believe He exists and rewards His seekers (with Eternal Life). Heb. 9:11-12 says Christ appeared as a High Priest, entering God's perfect tabernacle once for all, His blood obtaining Eternal Redemption for sinners. And without His shed blood there's no forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22). Heb: 9 27-28 says we're all appointed to die and then judged, and Christ will appear again for salvation, without <u>reference</u> to sin for those who eagerly await Him!

Heb. 3:12 says be careful that no one has an <u>evil unbelieving hear</u>t that falls away from the Living God. Vs's 3:12 to 4:13 reveals God being angry for 40 years with those comig out of Egypt with Moses. Their bodies died in the wilderness for their unbelieving hearts that refused to <u>rest (trust) in Jesus. They trusted Moses and his laws.</u> See 2 Cor. 3:2 thru 4:7 and the Light of 1 John 1:7! God's Promise of rest, in Jesus, remains today, saying in Heb. 4:12-13, the Word of God (Jesus) has eyes that can penetrate deeper than our flesh, soul and spirit. He sees the thoughts and intentions of our minds and hearts as to whether we're resting <u>fully</u> in Him.

Hebrews chapter 10 says Moses Laws, and animal sacrifices, were reminders of our sins til Jesus died and made perfect those who draw near to God thru him. In a body, prepared by His Father's will, He took away Moses covenant by dying per Heb. 9:16-17, to validate the new Covenant. Heb. 10:10-14 says, under this will, we have been sanctified to perfection thru the offering of Jesus' body once for all. Heb.10:17-25 says God remembers believers sins no more. Now go to Him in full assurance of faith, with hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and bodies washed with pure water (His blood) without wavering, because He is faithful. Encourage, and stimulate all to love, with good deeds. If we keep sinning with evil unbelieving hearts (Vs's 26-29) after hearing this truth, expect nothing but a terrifying judgment of fire that will consume us as adversaries. We're trampling Jesus underfoot, and treating as unholy, His blood that sanctified us, and insulting His Spirit of Grace, as Mark 3:28-29 foretold.

In Exodus 31:12-17, God told Moses, that in the end, all will know that it's <u>His</u> Sabbath Rest (Jesus) who will be our <u>perpetual</u> place of rest. He's our sanctification that, without, <u>no one</u> will see Him, our Lord, as Hebrews 12:14 warns. He invites us to rest in Him in Mathew11:28-30. Mark 2:27-28 says <u>He</u> was made for <u>us</u>, and not <u>we</u> for Him! He <u>is</u> our perpetual Sabbath Rest as Exodus 31:16-17 promised! Deuteronomy18:15-22, reveals God speaking to Moses of Jesus, as a prophet like <u>Him</u>, coming with God's words in His mouth that we must listen to! Jesus told us1400 years later, in John 12:44-50, that those who believe in Him are believing in the Father who sent Him, and seeing Him is seeing God! The words He spoke are Light (1 John 1:7) that judges us. He spoke commands on His Father's authority, and His command is <u>Eternal Life!</u> 1 John 5:3 says His commands are not burdensome, as in 1 John 5:9-13. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, lay aside the sin (of unbelief) that so easily deceives us and fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and P<u>erfecter</u> of our <u>faith</u>. With gratitude I write. --- <u>dbenna710@gmail.com</u>

### Birthdays this month...

4/2- Chris Goggins

4/5- Kim Semon

4/6- Kathy Basinger

4/10- Charles Basinger

4/12- Julia Cummins

4/14- Matt McGeary

4/15- Donnie Dillinger Lauren Gross Paichat Kline

4/16- Charlotte Rodriguez

4/20- Lauren Seelbaugh

4/21- Gladys Grimm Kerry Sanner

4/22- Tobias Tuttle

4/25- Chelsea Echard **Bob Horrell** Lucy Helinski

4/29- Jennifer Poole

4/30- Garrett Hough



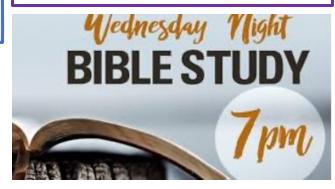








Ladies! join us on Saturday, May 24th @ 6pm in the Center Bethel Church Fellowship Fall for an evening of food, fellowship, fun, and games!





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 Suzie 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:**

4/3- Ryan & Traci Usher 4/18- Bob & Crissy Grimm 4/20- Bob & Pat Bryner 4/22- Bill & Lori **Bloomquist** 4/28- Tom & Donna Ottenberg



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 <u>www.cbcog.org</u> 2. click on the <u>Resources Tab</u>,

3. and enter your preferred email address in the space provided

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

- \*Sharpening Stone Men's Breakfast hoagie sales April 5
- \*Well Watered Women Discipleship Group April 5 @ 10am
- \*Ad Council Meeting April 8 @ 7:15pm
- \*Maunday Thursday Service- April 17 @ 7pm
- \*Cross Walk- April 18 @ 5 pm
- \*Good Friday Service- April 18 @ 7pm
- \*Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast-April 20 @ 6:15am
- \*ARC Conference Sessions (Mt. Pleasant) May 16-17
- \*Ladies Night Out—May 24 @ 6pm
- \*Scrapbooking @ CBCOG— May 30-31, June 27-28
- \*CGGC 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Triennial Conference, Harrisburg, PA July 15–17
- \*Vacation Bible School July 21-25



### All 4 God Youth Group Meetings – April 6 (no meeting April 20)

- *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
- Trip to Woodcrest 3-5 pm- April 6 (Jr & Sr High)
- Trip to Word Of Life to see The Passion- April 16 (Sr High)
- Sunrise Service & Breakfast- April 20 (Jr & Sr High) 6:15AM @ Alverton cemeterv



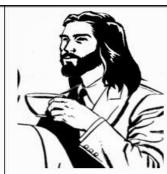
The Center Bethel Food Backpack Ministry currently helps nearly 75 of our community's children each week by providing weekend meals. We are looking for donations of food items and funds to purchase food for future backpacks and keep this important ministry going.

For details please contact Kim Semon on ways to help.





Even though I don't subscribe to your faith anymore, Jesus, I still kinda look forward to my mom sending me a basketful of chocolates with a card.

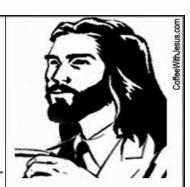


Traditions are great, Kevin.

They connect us to our past, to what matters. I'm glad your mom still does that for you.



But lately she's been sending the hollow easter bunny instead of the solid one. That's a little sad.



It's a not-so-subtle message on your mom's part, Kevin.

God bless her.



The CBCOG Library is downsizing the VHS tape portion of the video library. Take home some quality VHS Movies and protective cases on **permanent** rental (just don't being them back). See Donna or Pastor for details. Empty protective cases are also up for grabs.





~Donna, CBCOG Librarian

### **CBCOG ONLINE GIVING**

Thank you for your continued support in the ministry at CB!

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:

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, we will have a few membership sessions during Sunday School (after Easter) to get you ready to join.

If you are considering in participating in a believer's baptism please contact Pastor. We are trying to have a baptism service soon after Easter.



### Women's Prayer Breakfast

## Women's

# Watered IDENTITY WOMEN

### April 5th 10:00am

Our women's disciple making discussion group will review what it means to have our identity in Christ and how that plays a role in how we think, act, and love on others.











Send us feedback on the CBCOG Newsletter design, or about the happenings of the CB Church or whatever else is on your mind regarding the ministries at CBCOG

### **30 Pieces of Silver**

A 30 pieces of silver offering will be collected this season and used for community outreach ministry.





## **Some Holy Week Scripture Readings:**

### Palm Sunday (Triumphal Entry): Read Luke 19:28-44

This was the day when Jesus was first celebrated as King, as a multitude of people shouted, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

### Monday: Read Luke 19:45-48

Jesus drove out all the money-changers because of His disgust at what they had made of God's house of prayer. He said, "My house is a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

### Tuesday: Read Luke 20:1-21:4

Jesus taught at the temple. The priests questioned His authority. Jesus told the parable of the wicked vinedressers. The priests knew that Jesus was referring to them in this story and wanted to arrest Him

### Wednesday: Read Luke 22:1-6

Motivated by sin and greed, Judas agreed to betray Jesus.

### Thursday: Read Luke 22:7-65

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with His disciples – the first communion. He told them that soon He would no longer be with them, but they didn't understand. Afterwards, Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives to pray. Soon Judas arrived with soldiers and Jesus was arrested.

### Friday: Read Luke 22:66-23:55

Jesus went before the chief priests and they took Him to Pontius Pilate. Pilate didn't find any fault in Jesus, so he sent Him to Herod. Herod and his men treated Jesus with contempt, mocked Him, put Him in a beautiful robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate was going to set Jesus free, but the angry crowd demanded that Jesus be put to death. Pilate gave in and sent Jesus to be crucified. Jesus carried His own cross and was crucified between two thieves. After Jesus died, He was taken down from the cross, wrapped in cloth and placed in a tomb cut out of rock.

#### Saturday: Read Luke 23:56

This was the Sabbath – a day of rest for the Jews, but also a day of extreme sadness for those who loved Jesus.

### Sunday: Read Luke 24:1-53

The tomb where Jesus was buried was found empty! Angels appeared to the women at the tomb, telling them that Jesus was alive. When the women shared this with the disciples, they didn't believe them. But Peter ran to the tomb and saw the pieces of cloth lying on the ground. Soon Jesus visited the disciples. They were terrified at first, thinking that they had seen a ghost, but then they realized it was really Jesus. He explained how all these events fulfilled the prophecies about Him and how they were necessary to save God's people. After Jesus' spent time with His disciples, He led them out of the city, blessed them, and then ascended into Heaven.

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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