



# The Church Tie Newsletter

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

[www.CBCOG.org](http://www.CBCOG.org) - [office@CBCOG.org](mailto:office@CBCOG.org) - 724-404-8052



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

## May

### Issue #5 - 2025

#### Memory Verse for May

Jesus said to him, "I am  
the way, the truth, and  
the life. No one comes to  
the Father except  
through Me.

-John 14:6 NKJV

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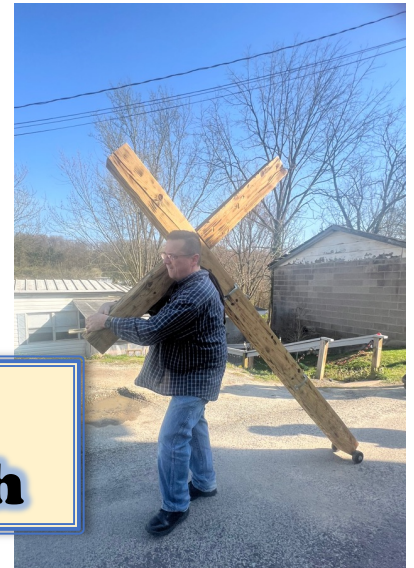
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Center Bethel Church of God



## Holy Week Images Center Bethel Church







On behalf of myself, children, and entire family we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our church family during our tremendous loss. We are so grateful for all of the prayers, love, and support that our church family has extended to all of us and Juan during his battle with cancer over the last year. We would also like to thank you all for your kindness, support, prayers, and generosity extended over the last several weeks of his ICU hospitalization and as he was called home to be with Jesus. Thank you for caring for our family and preparing and serving a wonderful meal for his family and friends and for being a constant comfort to all of us. Words can't adequately express our gratitude. I ask that you continue to hold his children, myself, and his family in your continued prayers as we navigate this new journey.  
May God Bless You always.

All our love,

**Becky, Francis, Ronald, Andrew, Matthew, and Celina Rodriguez**

*Thank you to all who prayed, visited, prepared food, sent cards/flowers, served a luncheon meal and comforted our family during the loss of our mother, Lois Moore. Thankfully our church family is a tremendous support system during these times.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sharon and Mark Hixson, Edward Helsley and families.*

On behalf of the Wilkins family, we want to thank the Center Bethel Church for hosting the funeral dinner held in honor of our brother Gary. It was nice to be able to catch up with family and relatives, so thank you for your hospitality, help, and food.

***-The Wilkins and Kramer Families***

Thank you to Cub Scout Pack 151 scouts and leaders for the generous food donation that you sent to help support our food backpack ministry. Your generosity and willingness to help us will allow us to feed many hungry students in our area. Thanks for your continued support!

***-Center Bethel Church Food Back Pack Ministry***

I would like to thank everyone who assisted with all of the Easter activities over the past month and for those that helped in any way with the funeral dinners. Thank you also to the supporters and also the "behind the scenes" helpers that help purchase, assemble, coordinate, and deliver food backpacks to our schools every week! Because of God's blessings coupled with your willingness to help, this little church is able to do mighty things and impact lives for Christ. Thank you! - ***Pastor Jason***



### **Do you or someone you know need a power wheelchair?**

The CB church has been contacted by someone interested in donating a used power wheelchair to a person in need.

See Ron Frey for details if you may be interested.



# All 4 God Youth Group

Center  
BETHEL  
Church of God  
Alverton, PA







## Want to Be a Lost or Found Sheep? May 2025

Jesus' parable in Luke 15:1-7 says if God has 100 sheep on earth that He already sees in Heaven (Eph. 2:6), and one strays, won't He leave the 99 and seek the stray until He finds it!

When He has found it, He promises to lay it on His shoulders, rejoicing! Back home He calls angel friends to rejoice with Him for finding My lost sheep! The same way, there'll be more joy in Heaven for one who strays, than over 99 who also stand on His righteousness, and need no repentance per Heb. 9:12 and 9:28.

He likened it to a woman losing one of her 10 coins. She will light a lamp and search until she finds it. To enhance His point, He told a story of a man with 2 sons. The younger asked for his share of the estate. The Father honored his free will to receive it. See Romans 8:18-21. The son departed on a journey that led him to a life of total depravity, far removed from the life that God desires for us. His famine (lack) of holiness, that resulted from loose living, led him to seek counsel from one of their citizens. He led his depraved appetite deeper, to the point he was eating slop with the swine and longing for anything better, until he came to his senses.

He realized His Father's servants had more than enough bread for life, than they needed, while he was dying due to his lack thereof. He got up and headed for his father, ready to do business as Jeremiah 29:13 calls us to do. "You will seek me and find me when you search for Me with all your heart." He was prepared to say "Father, I've sinned against Heaven, and in your sight: I'm no longer worthy to be called your son; make me a hired man.

While still far away, his Father saw him and eagerly ran to embrace and kiss him. He quickly confessed his filthy life. His Father called His slaves to bring the best robe to remind him of his righteousness in Jesus to place on Him, a ring on his hand to remind him of His groom, in Christ, and sandals on his feet to keep him clean from every sin he would step in again as 1 John 1:7 reveals. He ordered the fattened calf, to kill and eat in celebration of the Great Supper to come. For this son of mine was dead and came to life again; he was lost and has been found, just like the lost sheep and the lost coin!

Want to be a lost, or found sheep? Which is secure? Neither, if we're not in Jesus' hands! Luke 15:4 implies that the 99 are lost if the 1 isn't found. Nine coins are useless if 10 are required for salvation under Law, since it's demands are precise. All are lost the first time we make a bad choice under it. Romans 5:10 says it puts us at enmity with God, since we can't meet His Perfect standard of holiness! Only Jesus could, and He did, in order that the blessing of Abraham's imputed righteousness can be gifted to us, by faith, so we can now receive the Promised Holy Spirit as Galatians 3:14 explains. Rom. 5:10 says we can reconcile to God by faith in the death of His Son, and much more, we're then saved by His Life, by receiving it per John 5:40. God promises us Eternal Life, with He and His Son who took the penalty for all our prodigal deeds, by His death on the cross. At His last supper in John 17:1-3 He said to know Him and the Father is eternal Life. He went on to pray for the disciples, and all who will believe in Him thru their word, to be kept from the evil one when they wander. Hebrews 6:13-20 and 7:24-25 explains this. Please read these Hebrew verses as the anchor for our souls! [dbenna710@gmail.com](mailto:dbenna710@gmail.com)

How  
are we doing?

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



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/>



**Birthdays this month...**

5/6- Lauren McGill  
 5/7- Shannon Hutter  
 5/8- Doris Smith  
 5/11- Bonnie Cree  
       Ruth Ann Miller  
 5/12- Dave Krieger  
 5/13- Jeanie Bibby  
 5/14- Diana Strohm  
 5/17- Brett Mailloux  
 5/18- Shawn Schwartz  
 5/20- Pastor Jason Kramer  
 5/21- Tyler Usher  
 5/22- Lon Stangroom  
 5/26- Virginia Colon  
 5/26- Austin Cummins  
 5/27- Jacob Poole  
 5/28- Coby Penska  
 5/30- Celina Rodriguez

**We missed 2 birthdays last month:**

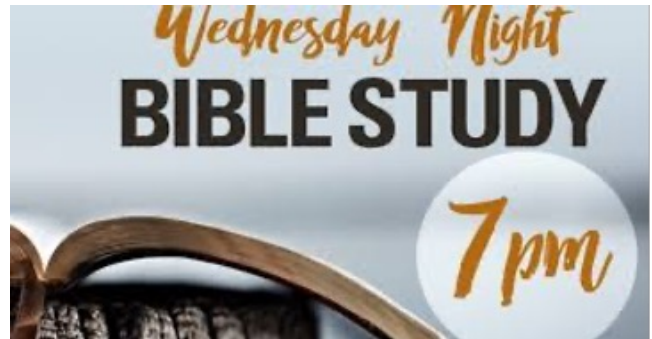
4/1- Vivian Vidale  
 4/13- Francesca Vidale

**Anniversaries:**

5/4-Jim & Georgia Anthony  
 5/14-Dave & Cheryl Krieger  
 5/15- Ed & Sandi Conrad  
 5/29- Tim & Carmella Long  
 5/30 Larry & Jamie Gross



Ladies! join us on Saturday, May 24th @  
 6pm in the Center Bethel Church Fellowship  
 Hall 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.



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](http://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](http://CBCOG.org)**



## Upcoming Dates to Remember

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- \*Well Watered Women Discipleship Group – May 3 @ 10am
- \*Sharpening Stone Men's Breakfast- May 10 @ 8am
- \*Ad Council Meeting –May 6 @ 7:15pm
- \*Last Bible Study before summer break - May 14<sup>th</sup>
- \*ARC Conference Sessions (Mt. Pleasant) – May 16-17
- \*Ladies Night Out—May 24 @ 6pm
- \*Contemporary Christian Karaoke/Pot Luck - June 7 @ 5pm
- Camp Sonrise Mountain - Week 1 June 8-14, 2025
- Camp Sonrise Mountain - Week 2 June 15-21, 2025
- Camp Sonrise Mountain - Week 3 June 22-28, 2025 -
- Camp Sonrise Mountain - Week 4 June 29 - July 5, 2025 -
- \*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
- \*Center Bethel Church Picnic at Camp Sonrise – August 24<sup>th</sup> (tentative)

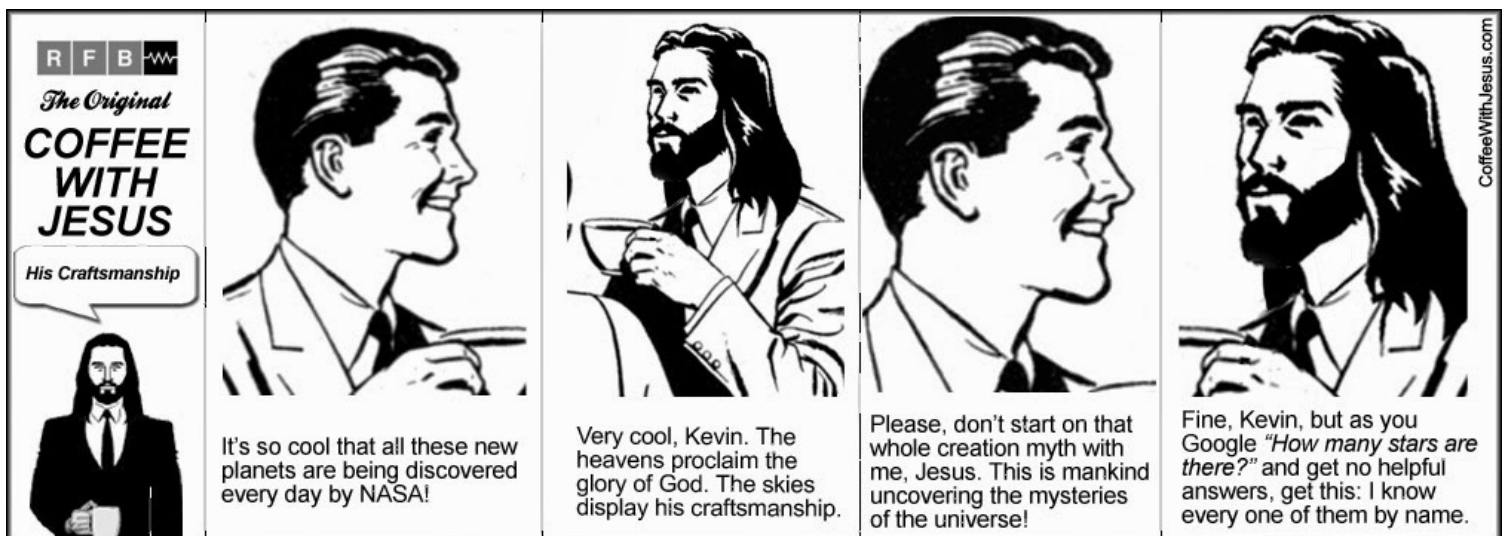


- \*All 4 God Youth Group Meetings – May 4 (Jr High & Sr High 3-5 pm)
- \*Jr & Sr High trip to Caddie Shack Family Entertainment Center- May 25



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.*



"Coffee with Jesus" is a comic strip that lets us imagine what a chat with Jesus over coffee in today's world might be like. - <http://www.coffeewithjesus.com/>





## BOOK REVIEW...

The CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL books are a collection of stories for all age groups and seasons of one's life. We have 13 different books in our Library on subjects such as gardening, work, family and couples lives, senior citizens (in large print), one for dog lovers, one for Christmas and 4 for teens and kids. There is even one for Billy Graham stories. Within each book are short stories of experiences (some humorous, some funny) in the various authors' lives.

John Gray, PhD states this: "CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL is a priceless collection of powerful stories that will move you to look at your life anew. Each story broadens our perspective of what it means to be fully human and teaches us that greater love, courage and compassion can be part of our own story."

Pick up one of these books and enjoy a relaxing morning, afternoon, or evening enjoying light reading. You will find them on the tall bookshelf on the wall facing the "Helping Hands" classroom or see me for more information..

~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](http://WWW.OSVHUB.COM/CBCOG/GIVING/FUNDS)

or you can find a button on the CB church website [www.cbco.org](http://www.cbco.org)



**We will have believer's baptism as part of 10:15 worship service on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Come be part of it and celebrate!**



For anyone interested in becoming a member of the CB congregation please pick up a copy of "We Believe" and "Start" in the church entrance to review. We will have two membership sessions during Sunday School on the first and second week of June to get you ready to join. The first will focus primarily on church and denomination history and the second will focus on beliefs, practices, and any questions you might have. Hope to see you there!





**EASTER**

**EGG - STRAVAGANZA  
@ Center Bethel**





...from Pastor Jason

### With Gratitude and Humility

I was reminded last Sunday that it has been an entire year that I have officially served in ministry as lead pastor of the Center Bethel Church. My family and I are certainly very blessed to be here and very grateful for the opportunity. I thank you all for your willingness to support us in proclaiming the Word of God here in Alverton and beyond and for your patience when things might be a little different. I am very appreciative for the foundation and trailblazing that Pastor Lee and Sue Kline completed to allow the church to continue to thrive and for an easy transition. We continue to covet your prayers as we do our best to do God's will here. Know however that Satan is always circling and sin is at the door if we do not do well. I really sense the urgency for increasing the spiritual maturity in believers. My desire is to see discipleship multiplied inside and beyond the walls of old CB, my prayer is for the return of a vibrant church family that serves as the focal point of our community pointing to Christ. Thank you for all of your help so far in ministry and in advance for all that we will do together as we know Christ and make Christ known. ~Pastor Jason

*Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. -Galatians 6:9*



### Communication Coordinator / Secretary – 10-12 hours per week

*This staff position is integral for the proper operation of the Center Bethel COG. Coordinated, appropriate, and timely communication between the pastor, ad council, the ministries, the congregation, and the community is of utmost importance for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom. An ideal Communication Coordinator candidate must be well versed in the workings and activities of the church and preferably should be a regular attender of worship, active participant in classes, and church activities. The ideal candidate should also have a strong faith in Christ. The Communication Coordinator should have a servant's heart and a willingness to cooperate with others to advance God's will at CBCOG. Knowledge and comfort using computers (Office software, Easy Worship, email) and copiers is a must. For a description of the expectations and responsibilities, to learn more about pay/benefits or to apply, please see, text, or email pastor Jason ASAP.*

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**

Are you a nurse or do you know a nurse? If so, I have something I would like to share with you. I'm a volunteer with the Westmoreland Nurse Honor Guard. The Nurse Honor Guard is a volunteer organization that pays tribute to nurses who have passed away by performing a ceremonial service at their funeral or memorial. We have several ceremonies that we perform which include:

**Nightingale Tribute:** A specific ceremony that acknowledges the nurse's years of service and their dedication to others.

**Nightingale Lamp:** A lit Nightingale lamp is carried and then extinguished and presented to the family with personal condolences.

**Roll Call:** The nurse's name is called three times, with a triangle rung after each call.

**White Rose:** A white rose is often presented to symbolize honor and appreciation.

Members of the Honor Guard wear traditional white nursing uniforms, including caps and capes, as a nod to the nurses of the 1800s who tended to those on the battlefield. The ceremonies are a beautiful way to remember nurses who have passed on.

If you are a nurse and would like to join the Honor Guard or if you would like the Honor Guard to perform a ceremony for a beloved nurse's Funeral or Memorial Service, please contact :

Melanie Pantalone at [melanie@pantalone.com](mailto:melanie@pantalone.com) or see Sharon Hixson for more information.



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**Allegheny Region Conference**  
PO Box 756 | Latrobe, PA 15650-0756  
ar.cggc.org  
Pastor Phil Scott - Director  
Pastor Dean Hay, Jr. - Admin & Communication Asst.  
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**Churches of God, General Conference (Denomination Headquarters)**  
700 E. Melrose Ave. | Findlay, OH | 45840  
Pastor Lance Finley, Executive Director  
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