



# 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...*

## March - April Edition

ISSUE #15 - 2026

### Memory Verse for March/April

#### Deuteronomy 31:8

**"the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.."**

### Center Bethel Church of God

428 Ruffsdale Alverton Rd. Alverton, PA 15612  
724-404-8052  
office/voicemail  
[office@cbcog.org](mailto:office@cbcog.org)

### Pastor Jason D. Kramer

412-417-6272 mobile/text  
[jasonkramer@zoominternet.net](mailto:jasonkramer@zoominternet.net)

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Center Bethel Church of God

## Ernie Smith installed CB Life Elder



In February, Ernie Smith who has served the Center Bethel Church of God in many ways, over many years, including former church elder, was recognized as a Life Elder of the church. He joins Dave Krieger as one of our active Life Elders. Thank you Ernie and David for all that you have done, are doing and will continue to do to serve this church and the Kingdom of God.

In the photos above you can see Ernie giving a testimony, the recognition ceremony, and the laying on of hands and praying by some of the currently appointed church elders, elder mentee, and other members of CB Ad Council that came forward to pray over him.

“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers” – *Ephesians 1:15-16*

*Thank you*

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.  
1 Thessalonians 1:2

We are deeply moved by the outpouring of love and support from our family, friends, Yough community, and church family. We appreciate every gift that’s been generously given and each prayer lifted for our family.

**Thank You**



Bob, Shannon, Jeanie, & Joe Bibby  
Finn & Pilot too

CBCOQ,

WE ARE OVERWHELMED BY EVERYONE'S love and care, with offers to help any way you all can. Our church family are the hands & feet of Jesus and we cannot express our gratitude enough for each of you.

May God bless you & keep you Always

Love,  
Bobby, Shannon  
Jeanie & Joe



We had several Scouts, leaders, & families visit and participate in Scout Sunday at CB where they helped in the worship service. Also, Parker Mailloux has been working very hard to earn his God and Family Faith Award. Pastor Jason presented it to him and congratulated his family.

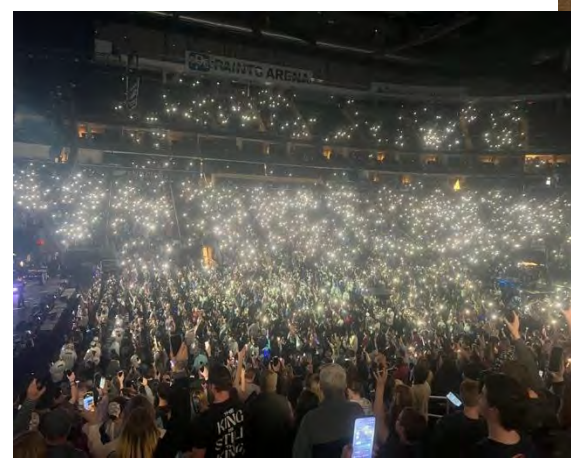




PRAYER STATIONS



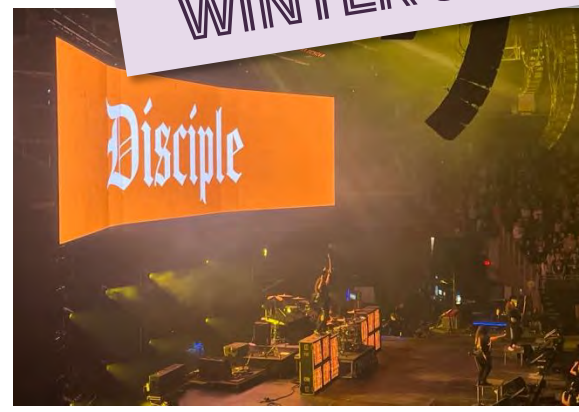
GAMES

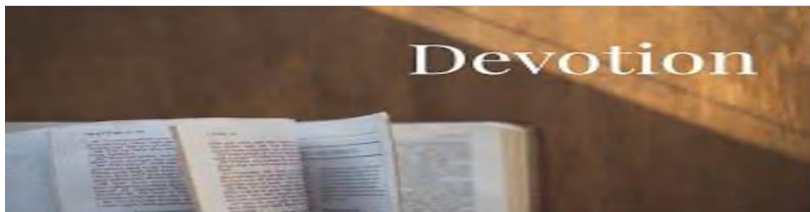


PPG PAINTS ARENA



WINTER JAM!





“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” -2 Timothy 2:15

## Identifying the Full Armor of God

March 2026

Ephesians 6:1-18

The first clue in verse 10 is that our victory will come only in the strength of God’s work and not in our own! Secondly, in Vs. 11, we see that God provides the necessary armor to enable us to withstand the schemes of the devil. It shapes up between Satan and his cohorts, against us and Jesus, to win eternal dominion over our souls. Each piece of armor required to fight the battle is a gift from Jesus. And God gives everyone a free will to choose sides in this battle.

Stand firm, put on the girdle of Truth (Jesus) when Satan sneaks behind to sling his first salvo. He claims other gods before Jesus. Jesus’ reply in John 14:6, is “no one comes to the Father but through Me.” Hold the breastplate that guards our faith in Christ’s righteousness, planted in our heart by Jesus to satisfy the wrath of God against our sins. It was gifted to us by God in Romans 3:21 -25 when we trusted the blood of His Son to redeem us from all sin.

Isaiah 52:7-10 says shod our feet to bring good news and announce peace and salvation of God to Zion. He reigns to redeem Jerusalem and bares his Holy arm so all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Romans 10:8-10 confirms this prophecy, saying the Word is near you in mouth and heart. If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe from your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you WILL be saved; for with your heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation Rom. 10:15-17 says “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things.” And faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the words of Christ.”

Ephesians 6:16 says take up the shield of faith which will be able to extinguish ALL the flaming arrows of the evil one. Hebrews 12:2 says accomplish this by fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Luke 22:31-32 tells us how this worked out in real life with Peter, just as Matthew 11:2-11 reveals how Jesus saved John the Baptist from hell by telling John’s disciples to deliver what John needed to restore his faith. To protect our intellect, take up the helmet of salvation, and the word of the Holy Spirit which is the Word of God. When He comes (John 16:13) he will guide us into All the Truth. Rom. 12:2 says this work of the Spirit will transform us by renewing our minds to understand God’s Truth in Jesus.

Now, with all prayer and petition; pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert with petitions for all the saints. Rom. 8:26-27 says when we don’t know how to pray, the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words, according to the will of God. John 15:5 and 15:8-12 gives insight. Apart from abiding in Jesus and His love, we can do nothing. If we keep his commandments we will be abiding in His love and this IS His command, that we love one another as He loves us. The last Word in this battle is that Jesus provides all the armor to protect us and faithful is He to bring it to pass according to 1 Thess. 5:24! Praise Him and share His good news with me.

[dbenna710@gmail.com](mailto:dbenna710@gmail.com)



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

**Known Birthdays March...**

- 3/1- Amy King
- 3/2- Shirley Branthoover  
Joanne Dillinger  
James Stangroom
- 3/3- Stephanie Hixson
- 3/7- Will Bibby
- 3/8- Mary Ann Nagy
- 3/12- Jeff Hough
- 3/14- Karen Hough
- 3/15- Rob Bibby  
Hunter Huff
- 3/18- Joan Neff  
Cassady King
- 3/19- Jayden Huber
- 3/20- Dave Fox
- 3/25- Kara Hutter
- 3/26- Michelle Nagy
- 3/28- Hailey Huber
- 3/29- Merle Crouse  
Jessie Boruszewski  
Eva Rodriguez



**Known Birthdays April...**

- 4/1- Vivian Vidale
- 4/2- Chris Goggins
- 3/3- Declan Dombrowsky
- 4/5- Kim Semon
- 4/6- Kathy Basinger
- 4/10- Charles Basinger
- 4/13- Francesca Vidale
- 4/14- Matt McGear
- 4/15- Lauren Gross  
Paichat Kline
- 4/16- Charlotte Rodriguez
- 4/20- Lauren Seelbaugh
- 4/21- Gladys Grimm
- 4/22- Tobias Tuttle
- 4/25- Lucy Helinski
- 4/29- Jennifer Poole
- 4/30- Garrett Hough

**Known Birthdays May...**

- 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- Jason Kramer  
Bill Gaut
- 5/21- Tyler Usher
- 5/22- Lon Stangroom
- 5/27- Jacon Poole
- 5/28- Coby Penska
- 5/30- Celina Rodriguez  
Margaret Huff



**Known Anniversaries:**

- 3/15- Dale & Charmaine Smith
- 3/16- Charley & Lorainne Miller
- 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
- 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



Some of our 2026 Ad Council inductees



Fellowship Sunday Servers: Allie King, Allie Kramer, Zoey Nutter, Brooke Kramer



Youth Choir performing on Sunday Morning: (from left to right) Celina Rodriguez, Raelie Olsen, Zoey Nutter, Alison Kramer, Brooke Kramer, Anna Helinski



Visit us online at [CBCOG.org](http://CBCOG.org)

# CENTER BETHEL CHURCH OF GOD

## Holy Week and Easter Services & Events

### Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28th — 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
CB Fellowship Hall and Parking Lot



### Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, March 29th — 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM – CB Church



### Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2nd — 7:00 PM  
CB Church (Feet Washing & Lord's Supper)



### Bearing the Cross Prayer Walk

Friday, April 3rd — 5:00 PM  
Meet @ Southmoreland Field House Parking Lot → Alverton



### Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3rd — 7:00 PM  
CB Church



### Sunrise Easter Service

Sunday, April 5th — 6:30 AM  
Meet @ Alverton Mennonite Cemetery Cross



### Easter Potluck Breakfast

Sunday, April 5th — 7:00 AM  
CB Fellowship Hall



### Easter - Resurrection Sunday Services

Sunday, April 5th — 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM  
CB Church



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

[www.CBCOG.org](http://www.CBCOG.org) | [office@cbcoc.org](mailto:office@cbcoc.org)

## CBCOG ONLINE GIVING

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

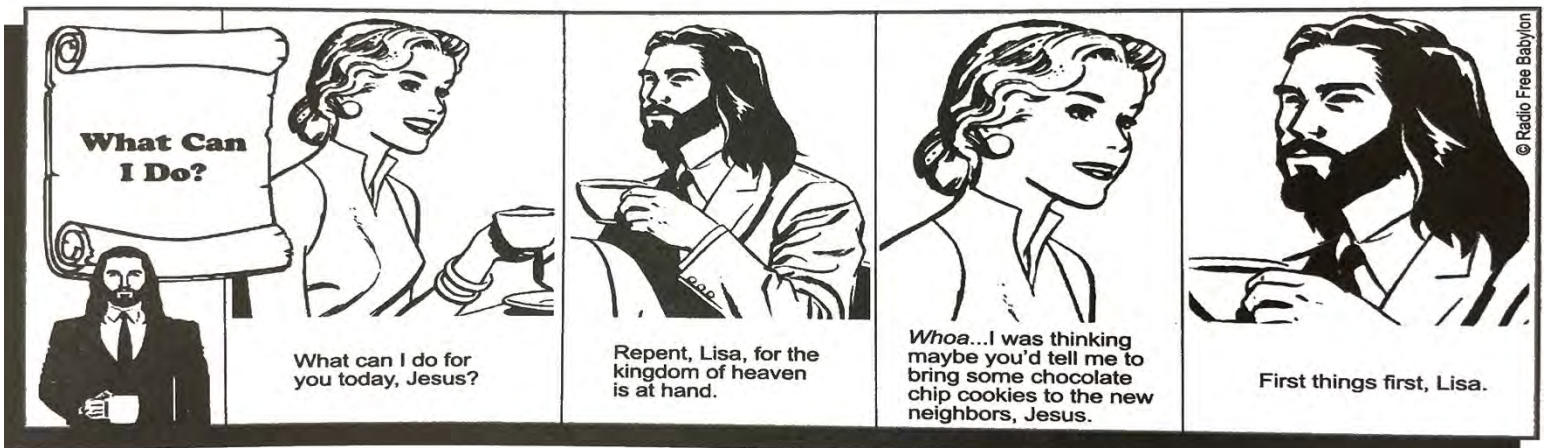
Center Bethel church offers Online Giving as an additional option to support our ongoing mission and ministries. Our church is a spiritual home for each of us and it relies on our time, talent, and treasure to fulfill that mission and keep the spiritual home operating. Online Giving helps support the 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.cbccog.org](http://www.cbccog.org)



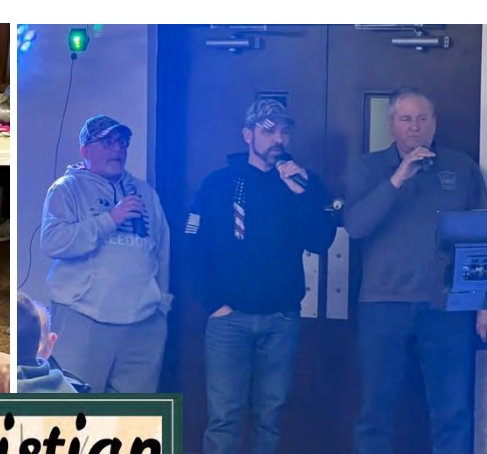
"Coffee with Jesus" is a comic strip that lets us imagine what a chat with Jesus over coffee in today's world might be like. - <http://www.coffewithjesus.com/>

Center Bethel COG

Prayer Chain

If you are not already getting the CBCOG prayer chain emails in your email box, you can sign up by going here:

<https://cbcoc.cgqc.org/projects/>



**KARAOKE**

**Christian**

**SING-A-LONG**

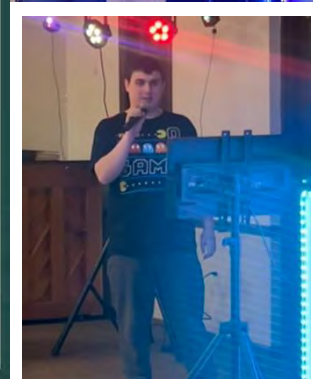
COME & WORSHIP WITH US!

POTLUCK - MUSIC - WORSHIP

**17 JANUARY**

CENTER BETHEL CHURCH OF GOD

**6PM-9PM**



John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to Him one day and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” This verse makes a clear distinction that John is referring to sin in the singular here. We may be “born again” by the Holy Spirit, and yet must admit that our flesh is still incurable! Next, we must understand that our flesh is under one judgment and our spirit another.

Scripture tells us that the life of flesh is in its blood, proven when man cuts his wrists. God decreed that the man who sins must die, and that date was set while we were in our mother’s womb per Psalm 139:16. Our first sin occurred when we desperately tried to suck all the air out of the room when we first emerged, without regard for anyone else who might have needed the oxygen! Romans 8:10 says our body is already dead because of sin, yet our spirit is alive because of righteousness (which is Christ’s). It was gifted to us when we trusted the blood of Jesus (Rom. 3:19-25) to satisfy God’s wrath against our sins with His unblemished blood.

In Mark 3:28 Jesus tells us that every sin committed by the sons of man will be forgiven except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. Hundreds of years before, Jeremiah 31:33-34 says God will make a new Covenant by which Israel will be shown by the “Lord” that God forgives their iniquities, and their sin I will remember no more! We see in Hebrews 10:10 that God will create a “new” Israel that will include all nations who believe that we are now sanctified (made holy) by the offering of the body of Jesus (our Lord) once for all. Heb. 10:14 adds that by this one offering Jesus has perfected for all time those who are sanctified - not “being” sanctified as the NIV version added to meet their doctrine that teaches we must finish the Sanctification work that Jesus began! Heb. 10:17 fulfills Jeremiah’s words by saying God now remembers a believers sins no more. What about the “one”?

At His last supper, only hours before He died to pay our sin’s penalty, Jesus told us the Holy Spirit, when He comes, is to convict us of the sin that condemns us. It is unbelief in Him. John 1:12 says as many as receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God, who believe in His Name. In John 27-29, after His resurrection, He told unbelieving Thomas to touch His wounds and believe. Thomas did and exclaimed “My LORD and My GOD!” Jesus replied “Because you saw Me, you believed. Blessed are they (us) who did not see, and yet believed.”

1 John 3:5-8 reminds us that Jesus came to take away sins; and in him there is no sin since the day we trusted His blood to redeem us, we’re holding faith in His righteousness (that indwells us forever per John 14:16-19), thus He has destroyed the works of the devil. vv. 9-14 assures that being born of God we cannot sin because the love we have for our brothers has replaced Satan’s hate and assures us that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. 1 John 5:18 assures those born of God that Jesus prevents Satan from touching us as Luke 22:31-32 explained to Peter, and Hebrews 7:24-25 confirms. Scripture confirms that Jesus has not failed His mission. Rejoice “in Him!”



- Bible Studies every Wednesday @ 7pm for all ages
- Penny Pile Sunday & Donut Fellowship 1st Sunday each month
- Youth Group meeting- 1st & 3rd Sundays 3-5 pm
- Ad Council & Commission Meetings- 1st Tuesday each month
- Sharpening Stone Men's Ministry- 2nd Saturday of each month @ 8am
- Sharpening Stone Men's Ministry- Hoagie making and sale April 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6am
- Scrapbooking Ministry- Friday April 17-Saturday April 18
- Well-watered Women Group –Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> @ 10am
- ARC Annual Conference – May 15 -16<sup>th</sup> @ Grange COG Punxsatawney, PA
- Spaghetti Binner Benefit to support Mission Trip – May 30<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm @ Center Bethel Fellowship Hall
- ManUp Conference – June 6<sup>th</sup> @ Victory Church Cranberry, PA
- Summer Camp Dates at Camp Sunrise Mountain
  - *Young Adult Weekend - May 29 – 31, 2026*
  - *Senior High Camp June 7 – 13, 2026*
  - *Junior High Camp June 14 – 20, 2026*
  - *Intermediate Camp June 21 – 27, 2026*
  - *Primary Camp - June 28 – July 4, 2026*
- Mission Trip to Kentucky – July 26<sup>th</sup>- Aug 1<sup>st</sup>
- **SAVE THE DATE - Annual Church Picnic – Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Camp Sunrise Mt.**



We are continuing to positively impact students and we are relying on donations of food items and funds to purchase food for future food backpacks and keep this important ministry going for children in need throughout the school year.

For details, please contact **Kim Semon** on ways to help.

*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, so choose this day whom you will serve.*

*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 today 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). You are NEVER too far gone and you can NEVER out sin the power of His blood.*

*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 me today. I would love to pray a prayer of salvation with you.*

**--Pastor Jason**

June 6th, 2026



Cranberry Twp, PA

# Step Into What You Were Made For

A one-day men's conference to help you lead with strength at home, in your church, and in your city.



## \*All 4 God Youth Group Meetings -

Youth Group meetings will be the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month during the school year from 3:00-5:0 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**(NO MEETING APRIL 19th)**

# CBCOG MISSION TRIP TO KENTUCKY

Sun July 26 - Sat Aug 1

Open to all ages | Cost: \$275

SERVE • GROW • MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Community Outreach



Construction Projects



Children's Ministries

More Info: [BigCreekMissions.com](http://BigCreekMissions.com)

Contact: Pastor Jason or Suzie



CAMP SONRISE MOUNTAIN

## Young Adult Weekend

May 29 - 31, 2026

Campers ages 18-30

Arrival time: Friday, 4:30 - 5:00 pm

Departure time: Sunday, 2:00 - 2:30 pm

Cost: \$130

MINISTRY



PARTNERS

WANTED

Don't wait for an invite - see Pastor to get plugged into ministry today!

## SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER



Saturday May 30th - CB Fellowship Hall 5-7pm

Donations will be used to support our Kentucky Mission Trip this summer



## CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday August 23rd 12:30pm - ???  
at the pavilion and pool of



8am service only @ Center Bethel that day  
NO 10:15 worship service service

food fun faith fellowship



# WE NEED TO BE BEREANS



In **Acts 17:10-12** it reads, *The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to **Berea**, and when they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so**. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.*

The **Bereans** in Acts exhibited some positive characteristics in response to their hearing the gospel message that we could benefit from today. First, they were “more noble” because they were willing to receive the Word of God, unlike the unbelieving Thessalonians. The Bereans examined what they heard by comparing it to Scriptures. They honestly and carefully listened and engaged in further personal research to see if what they had heard was true. This led to many Berean Jews in coming to faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah. The Bereans have long been seen as the example of how believers should respond to biblical teaching, especially when new teachings are presented. We also are called to eagerly learn from God’s Word and, no matter who the teacher is, we need to “study to show ourselves approved” and “rightly divide the Word of Truth” (2 Tim 2:15) as we investigate new teachings in comparison with what the Bible says. The practice of the Bereans is a model for all of us today who desire to grow spiritually.

Knowing this, it pains me to see how easily some folks, who are without excuse since they have access to the Truth of God’s Word, are still easily swayed and deceived by a flashy, clever, well-polished presentation spoken with a little conviction. There are many believers agreeing with, reposting, and commenting words of support to unknown influencers who are spreading bad teaching via FB, Instagram posts, X, and other social media sounding boards. Just because someone in the span of a one or two minute video clip can cherry-pick a couple OT and NT scriptures and cobble them together in attempt to make an argument, that does not mean that the argument made is valid and true. *We need to be like Bereans and go examine the Scriptures ourselves and seek honest truth.*

One specific dangerous example currently on social media is the seeming rise of anti-Semitism. On the surface the age-old repackaged anti-Jew rhetoric has been undoubtedly fueled in secular culture by politics and opinions related to Israel’s military involvement in Iran, Gaza, and Lebanon. There are valid points to make in both support of and against the military actions taken in the Middle East. I don’t have the space and it is not my aim in this writing to give my opinion or to support/refute a position on that now - What I sense that I need to share is that with the negativity towards the nation of Israel as well as **any other issue** we feel we “need” to comment on, as authentic followers of Jesus, *we need to be Bereans who take our cues and beliefs from God’s book, not from Facebook.*

The larger issue is the effect that anti-Israel misinformation has on God’s Kingdom. Divisive posts can cause division between Christians and Jews and within the body of Christ. *Be a Berean, search the Word, and see how God feels about those who sow discord (Prov 6:16-19 & Rom 16:17-18).* Many are trying to convince others to become totally anti-Zionist, anti-Jew, or to promote a false teaching of Replacement theology (*that teaches that God has given up on the Jews and has replaced them with the Church as His people*). *God has not given up on any of us yet.* If your ears and eyes have been tickled and polluted with these teachings, *be Bereans!* Before you support hatred on Israel as a nation, or the Jews as a people, you should consider that Jesus and His 12 apostles and all the Holy Spirit inspired writers of the OT and NT of the Bible were all Jewish (except maybe Luke). Revelation seems to indicate that God is still interested in what happens to ALL unbelievers and specifically Jews. Also, look and see what God says about Israel in Jeremiah 31 as He has made specific promises to and about Israel. There are many other places in Scripture we can study to better understand what God is up to with Israel, so don’t stop with one or two verses presented out of context by someone with an ungodly agenda. *Be a Berean! Let the Holy Spirit and the Bible inform.*

Proverbs 21 tells that our tongues (our words) have the “power of life and death”. We are told in 2 Cor 5 to be “ambassadors for Christ”, so... choose life! Be ambassadors! We must measure the words coming in and also those going out of our heads. Don’t let our opinions cause collateral damage to believers, at the end of the day only God’s Truth matters. Even if you could somehow possibly still feel justified to hate some people or nation, remember that Jesus still tells us to “love our **enemies**” (Matt 5:44). God desires that “**none** should be lost” and “**all** should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9). - Yes, that means that to be saved, Israel will need to repent and find Jesus, too. But as we examine our walks with Jesus, we should repent if our expressed opinions are not glorifying to God, are not helping reach the lost Jew, gentile, pagan or whosoever will, or are causing hurt and division. *Live as a Berean! -JDK*

**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](mailto:office@cbkog.org)

cbkog.org

Pastor Jason Kramer

[jasonkramer@zoominternet.net](mailto:jasonkramer@zoominternet.net)

(412) 417-6272

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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.

(724) 832-3746 | [admin@ar.cggc.org](mailto:admin@ar.cggc.org)

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**Churches of God, General Conference (Denomination Headquarters)**

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

Pastor Lance Finley, Executive Director

[info@cggc.org](mailto:info@cggc.org)

cggc.org



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