

Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

50 McCrea Road
Newville, PA 17241
717-776-6092
www.doublinggap.org

Standing in the GAP with the Gospel



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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

“Follow Your Heart?” Luke 12:34

In preparing for this month's Beacon article, I decided to read what I had written last year. You know what? It still rings true for where I am this year. A group that I meet with every month is working through the book, 'With' by Skye Jethani. You will be hearing more about this book this year as I plan to do a series of sermons about the topics from this resource. The theme for the book deals with our motives in our relationship with the Lord. The author brings up a lot of 'heart issues', thus, my reason for revisiting last year's Beacon article. Be blessed and be a blessing to others! Here is the article from last year...

But back to my main point for this article. Can we as *true followers* of Jesus make that statement, 'follow your heart regardless of who it hurts'? The scripture verse, "The heart is deceitful above all things..." comes to mind. That is from **Jeremiah 17:9**. So if I am following my heart regardless of where it leads, I should be very, very afraid or at least very, very cautious. But as a believer in Jesus, is not my heart regenerated, made new? Well, let's take a quick look at that. From **Luke 12** (and the parallel in **Matthew 6**) we see Jesus saying where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Notice He did not say where your heart is your treasure will be. Now let's bring that statement to bear on the whole follow your heart thing. The only time it is right to follow our heart in when it is focused on the treasure of heaven, God's purity, righteousness, and holiness. If our treasure, what we value, is heavenly connected, focused on the things of God not the things of man, then yes, we should follow our heart regardless of what man says or who it hurts. Jesus did that when He needed to confront the religious elite of his day. He spoke truth to them even though it hurt them to hear it (from **Luke 11:39-52**). But if our focus is on self 'happiness', we can end up following our heart, hurting others, hurting ourselves, and being disobedient to God. Not a healthy combination is it? According to Greek and Hebrew culture (the setting for the passages from Matthew and Luke), the heart actually represents the location of our feelings, desires, and emotions.¹ So do we want to run our lives, make life decisions, based on feelings, desires, and emotions? Sort of the 'If it feels good, do it!' philosophy of our current culture.

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Special points of interest:

Pastor Snyder will have office hours as shown on page 2. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will return your call.

In case of an emergency, you may call Pastor Snyder at home or on his cell. Numbers are found on page 2.

Elders

Charlie Clouse
Shannon Kane-Vice Chair
Bill Fulton

Deacons

Carl Baughman-Chairman
Dawn Agar –Secretary
Sam Clouse

Deaconesses

Betty Clouse
Joann Varner

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FEBRUARY

Pastor Don

- For transitions in our family; both Megan and Erica are going through some changes in job/housing right now.
- Focus for the planning of the ERC conference sessions in April.

Pastor Brian

- Haiti Trip - March 23-30. Praying that God will reveal Himself to us in the way He is working in the people and culture of Haiti.
- Senior Trip - Emily and I chaperoning our school's senior class trip, to Savannah. Pray for safe travels, and for the opportunities to speak into the lives of the students.
- Continued growth in this staff position of Director of Discipleship.

Pastor Don's email is
doublinggap@embarqmail.com

OR

feedmandcs@yahoo.com

In case of an emergency you may
contact Pastor Don at home or on
his cell phone at:

Home: 776-1191

Cell: 278-7904

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

FOR FEBRUARY

Monday through Thursday

8AM to 12 NOON

Fridays "off" day.

Also appointments can be made .

Pastor Don will be unavailable on the
following days

February 2, 11, 14



SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9AM to 12 NOON

dgapsec@embarqmail.com

For further evidence that the following of one's heart could be dangerous I draw your attention to **Romans 6 and 7**. Paul writes about this ongoing battle between the flesh (insert 'heart' here) and the spirit. In **6:12** he challenges those in the Roman church to not let sin reign in their bodies, to not give in to its' *evil desires*, but rather to offer themselves to God. In **7:14-25** he explains his own struggle with the *flesh desires* and how he needs to constantly fight this battle. But is there a balance? Glad you asked; yes there is! If we daily deny our self, and take up our faith, our cross, and follow Jesus,² we can then follow the desires of our heart! If we first offer our body as a living sacrifice to God and are transformed by the renewing of our mind in His word,³ then yes, we can follow our heart! But it all comes down to first seeking His kingdom, His righteousness, His will. Then our hearts will be in tune with the Holy Spirit and we can trust our desires to be His desires, not our own. It should be the goal of every follower of Jesus to be able to say (and have it be so) that 'I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.'⁴ Together, let us live out this month 'of the heart' (Valentine's Day, remember) in a way that reflects the heart of Jesus, the One who came full of truth and grace. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."⁵

¹Relevant Magazine article on "Why Following Your Heart is a Really Bad Idea"

²Luke 9:21 ³Romans 12:1-2 ⁴Galatians 2:20 ⁵Psalms 139:23-24

Pastor Don

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN

Learning to Care for One Another, part 2

Last month, I wrote to you some thoughts from a book I've been reading called "Caring for One Another". In Ephesians 4:11-13, Paul writes that pastors & teachers are to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Remember that a "saint" is anyone who professes belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (This would be an appropriate time to remind your spouse that you are a saint!) Also, recall that "ministry" means simply "to render service". Pastors and teachers are to equip believers to serve others, using the gifts and opportunities that God provides.

As I'm writing this, I'm reflecting on a conversation I had with a young adult just in this past week. When I asked how her faith walk was going, she made a face and told me she believes in God, and still prays, but doesn't go to church anymore because of all the hypocrites she finds there – people who either ignore you all together, or only ask how you are during the greeting time – and then don't wait for an answer before going on to another person. **What would our church look like if we genuinely shared our lives with each other?** Fortunately, Paul didn't leave us to wonder "how". In Ephesians 4:1-3 (emphasis added), he wrote to the Ephesian church, "...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love.** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Notice the first thing on Paul's list is to be humble, coupled with gentleness. In my opinion, humility is the one Christian grace that we struggle to maintain the most. We live in a culture of comparisons, from the clothes we wear, to the cars we drive, to the places we eat, to the way we decorate our homes. Life in Christ begins with humility. The person with humility does not look down on others; and it acknowledges our own many sins. When we acknowledge our neediness and weakness, it opens the door for us to receive God's grace – *and that grace comes most often through other people.*

"One way to put humility to work is to ask others to pray for you. God has established his kingdom on earth in such a way that we must ask for help. We ask the Lord, and we ask other people. Until we see God face to face, God works through his Spirit and his people." **My challenge to you is sometime this week, ask someone to pray for you.** And not superficially, like "Pray I get home safe tonight" or "Pray I have a good meal when I go out to eat." Ask someone to pray for you, and share something real and honest with them. Community – true Christian community, cannot be built until we honestly slow down and make time for others.

Praying that God will begin a season of growth in your life – and in mine.

~ Pastor Brian

FEBRUARY'S GREETERS



3-Sam & Betty Clouse
10-Sue Jardine & Bev Agar
17-Nathan & Lori Chronister
24-Ernie & Jeanette Morris

FEBRUARY'S WORSHIP NURSERY

3-Angie & Mikayla Lowery
10-Joyce & April Smith
17-Katie Kane & Sue Jardine
24-Stephanie Mordan & Emilyynn Howell

****If you are unable to fulfill your duties as a GREETER or NURSERY attendant, PLEASE contact someone else on the schedule to change with you.**



ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS KIDS (ARKK)

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

As ARKK begins another year of helping others, I want to let our parents know that ARKK is here to come alongside you and help support the values you are already teaching your children. We believe it takes a village to raise a child so we want to be another Christian leader in their lives to teach them to care for others and to keep their eyes and ears open to how they can be a beacon of light to someone in need. One small act of kindness can spread beyond what our eyes can see. How awesome would our world be if everyone cared more about each other?

UPCOMING MISSION:

ARKK parents, I will be sending home a list of items that we are collecting for the Gesse School in Haiti. A group from our church will be going to visit the Gesse School in March and will be taking along our donations. Please have all donations to the church by **Sunday, February 24th**. Please check out the following website to sign up for the donations:
<https://www.timetosignup.com/arkkcollection/sheet/1276664/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melisa Lucas at 717-713-4244 (cell) or email at actsofrandomkindnesskids@gmail.com.

JUNIOR CHURCH 1 (AGES 3-5) TEACHERS & HELPERS

***Meet in Room #4 in the CE Wing at 10:00 am**

**3,10,17-Steph & Oliver Cohick
24-Children's Chat & ARKK**

JUNIOR CHURCH 2 (Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd Grade) TEACHERS & HELPERS

***Meet in Room #2 in the CE Wing at 10:00 AM**

**3,10,17-Sarah & Chad Baughman
24-Children's Chat & ARKK**

JUNIOR CHURCH 3 (3rd, 4th, 5th Grade) TEACHERS & HELPERS

**3-Adam Cohick & Camryn Mountz
10-Adam Cohick & Sharon Barrick
17-Adam Cohick & Wendy Stuber
24-Children's Chat & ARKK**

****When you are assigned to be a helper, PLEASE be in the Junior Church room by 9:50. If you cannot be a helper on the Sunday you have been assigned, PLEASE let Carrie Kimmich know (658-6339) so a replacement can be obtained if necessary.**



Remember to sign up on the 2019 Flower Chart on the Narthex bulletin board, to honor or memorialize family or friends.

***The cost for the two vases is \$40.00**



**In case of inclement weather,
Tune to Channel 21 or 27
or call one of the council
members listed in the Beacon.**

Women's Ministry

March 1-3, 2019

The Flourish Conference

Winbrenner Theological Seminary

Findlay, Ohio

Our next meeting

March 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM

CHURCH OF GOD HOME

greatest needs

Nail Care-nail polish remover-regular strength, emery boards, cuticle/orange sticks, fast drying nail top coat polish, cotton balls

Deodorant-Secret, Suave, Speedstick, Gillette or Mennen

Toothpaste-Colgate, Crest (travel size)

Mouthwash-Scope, Listerine

Denture Adhesive-Fixodent, Fasteeth, Poligrip, Effergrip

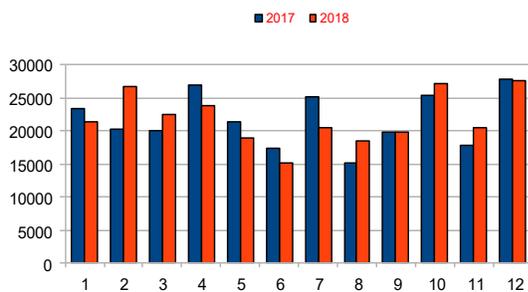
Denture Cleanser-Polident, Efferdent

Lotion-Lubiderm or Vaseline Intensive Care (6 or 8 oz)

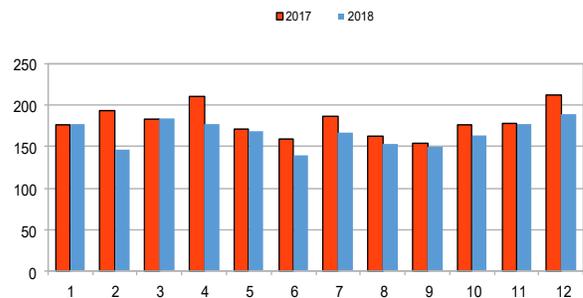
Dove Bar Soap

DECEMBER'S INCOME & ATTENDANCE CHARTS

INCOME



ATTENDANCE



DISCIPLESHIP

Bulletin Board

February, 2019



Sunday Morning Adult Discipleship

“Power of Love” by David Jeremiah	<u>Leader:</u> Charlie Clouse
“Gospel of Mark” with Francis Chan	<u>Leader:</u> Leilani Reeder
“Standard Lesson Quarterly”	<u>Leader:</u> Bobby Baker
“The Bible: God’s Voice to Mankind”	<u>Leader:</u> Adam Cohick
“The Life of the Messiah” by Ray Vander Laan	<u>Leader:</u> Mike Bolze

There are also discipleship groups for children and youth on Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Brian or Pastor Don for information on Sunday School nursery services.

Weekly Adult Groups

“**Book of Acts**” Pastor Brian is leading a bible study on the Book of Acts.

We meet in the sanctuary each Wednesday at 7. It’s an open-discussion, question-and-answer style group study.

“**Fight Back with Joy**” by Margaret Feinberg. Ladies bible study, meets in Room 10 (last room on the left, down the hallway) **Starts, Wednesday, February 13.**

From Amazon’s description: “**Joy Is More Than Whimsy. It’s the Weapon You Can Use to Fight Life’s Greatest Battles.** Through months of treatment, questions, and hopes, Margaret discovered that joy is a far more dynamic force than most of us realize. It has the power to reignite our passion for laughter and celebration. It can free us to rise above endless demands as we become more content and thankful. It can change unchangeable circumstances and bring a peace rooted in the remarkable love of God.”

“**Book of Ecclesiastes**” Men’s Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Tuesday of February.

Financial Peace University **Starts Sunday, January 27, at 6:30.** A 9-week study on everything personal finance! Topics include saving, budgeting, debt, insurance, college, investing & retirement, giving, and more! Cost is \$100 per family – contact Pastor Brian for more information.

Mission Board Update

February's Mission Moments

- 3- Missionaries our church supports
- 10-Meet the Need
- 17-Update on Gesse Church & School
- 24-Testimony & Praise

2019 Faith Promise

Gesse Church and School

Paw Pack Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 9th 4:30-7 pm

*(Snow date March 16th)

at

Green Spring Brethren in Christ Church

Tickets \$10 Adults, \$6 (ages 6-12)

Free (ages 5 and under)

Take out orders are available

****See Royetta for tickets**

**Next Mission Board Meeting
February 7, 2019**

Mission Celebration

at

Carlisle First Church of God

April 28, 2019



Check these out on



RightNow Media is a free resource our church provides to you. It has been called the “Christian Netflix”, and offers video-based bible studies, conferences, small-group training, children’s videos, and much more! *Check out one of these this month!* Unsure how to use RNM? Contact Pastor Brian or the church office, and we’ll get you started!

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“Average Joe”, by Game Plan for Life . Men invest a great deal of time and energy enjoying any number of professional sports without recognizing God has invited them into the greatest game of all. In this series, notable names such as Joe Gibbs (former head coach of Washing Redskins), Darryl Strawberry (NY Mets & NY Yankees); Kirk Cousins (QB for Washington Redskins); Mark Brunell (NO Saints); Bryan Schwartz (Jacksonville Jaguars); and literally dozens of others share their stories of success – and failures. Each video averages only about 5 minutes in length, and provides great forum for discussion starters. No printed material or facilitators’ guide available with this series. For more information, go to [www.gameplanforlife.com](http://www.gameplanforlife.com).

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“Miss Perfect: Discovering God’s Purpose Without the Pressure”, with *Karin Conlee*. Imagine if you could leave behind all the stress and discouragement that comes with trying to meet the world’s many expectations. Inspired by a desire to see women of all ages overcome the pressures of life and begin experiencing freedom and purpose, this 9-week curriculum serves as both a small group bible study, and a mentoring resource for women who are ready to experience freedom from both the internal and external pressures they face. Eave video is between 20 and 25 minutes in length. Topics addressed include: Identity; Holiness; Attitude; Discipline; Relationships; Purity; Contentment; Mission; and Prayer. An optional workbook can be purchased for \$16.

Parents' Corner

February, 2019

Serving Together In Your Neighborhood (Part 3 of 5)

By Susan Mathis

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/daily-living/serving-together/serving-together-in-your-neighborhood>

When we got married eight years ago, we knew very few of our neighbors. So we set out to change that, and to help bring our neighborhood together. That first holiday season, we held a Christmas open house in early December. It has become an annual event, and it's changed our world. As we pondered Jesus' command in Acts 1:8, we've come to realize that our "Judea" is essentially our neighborhood, particularly those living nearby. We began reaching out by simply loving our neighbors.

Our open house event takes time, a little money and a good deal of effort. But we've learned to keep it simple – to provide a place for neighbors to meet and enjoy a few snacks and, of course, Christmas cookies. Most of all, we provide an environment of love and care. This get-together has become a top priority on our holiday to-do list, and a highlight of our Christmastime events. Some of our neighbors have told us that it is a seasonal highlight for them, too. They experience God's love – the true meaning of Christmas. And because we've developed relationships with our neighbors throughout the year, we've made special friends, shared Christ freely, prayed with some and moved beyond a cursory "hello" to a heartfelt "how are you?"

We've enjoyed meals together, organized block parties and shared heartaches when times are tough – all because we took the time to have a holiday open house. We are learning to do life together. And isn't that what it means to serve in our Judea?

Here are some simple ideas for reaching out to your neighborhood/"Judea":

- Host a Christmas open house. A bag of pretzels, a can of peanuts and a plate of cookies with something to drink is all you need. Our open house has grown to 50-plus people, but you can keep it small. Caring enough to reach out to your neighbors is what really matters.
- Deliver Christmas cookie plates. (Remember the movie *The Preacher's Wife* and how this tradition drew the preacher and his wife closer together?)
- Adopt an elderly neighbor couple, and serve them monthly. You could have them over for a meal, take them out or do a home project with or for them. You could also invite them over for a Bible study, a family movie night or to learn some basic computer skills.
- Help shovel a neighbor's sidewalk or driveway, and enjoy a little time outdoors as a couple. My mother's neighbors do that, and it blesses her greatly.
- Retrieve the neighbors' trashcans for them after they're emptied. Attach a Christmas card – or let it be a "Secret Santa" surprise.

(Next Month: "Serving Together In Your Community")

Disciple Group Spotlight

So, what exactly is a disciple group, and why should you be part of one? Some churches call them "small groups"; others call them "life groups"; still others call them "bible study groups". So which is it? It's actually all of them! Our Sunday morning and Wednesday night disciple groups are typically smaller in number, ranging from 4 or 5, to 25 to 30. We meet together each week for the purpose of bible study, which comes in many forms. Some groups study books of the bible (for example, the Wednesday night sanctuary group), while others do topical studies that are bible-based (for example, the Wednesday night ladies group.) Some use a video-series format (like Mike Bolze's group, Sunday mornings); and others use a question-based discussion format (like Charlie Clouse's group, Sunday mornings.)

This month, Pastor Brian and Emily are starting a new, 9-week study called **Financial Peace University**. FPU is more than a "bible study" - host Dave Ramsey calls it financial boot camp. Lessons are DVD based, directly applicable, and FUN! Each lesson will last between 1½ and 2 hours. This curriculum is biblically-based, because let's be honest - God's ways of handling our resources are by far the best! This curriculum is also intensely practical - it is literally hands-on from the first lesson! Dave walks us through the in's and outs of budgeting, debt, saving, and spending. Also included are lessons on insurance, real estate & mortgages, retirement and investing, kids' college planning, and giving. All through the teaching, Dave shares his own experiences and story.

You might be thinking to yourself, "Is this really for me?" The answer is yes. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, employed or retired, debt free or debt-buried - we can all learn some things from this study. The cost of the study is \$100 per family (Pause for you to reread that... yes, you read it right!) The regular cost of this program is \$130, AND our church is willing to pay half for any member or regular attender who completes this course. That means **for only \$50**, you can be equipped with the knowledge, the tools, and a definite proven plan to get out of debt and better manage your resources. FPU also makes a great gift, especially for a high school senior, recent college graduate, working young adult, recently engaged couple...

Still not convinced? Come preview the first session FOR FREE. (Pause for you to reread that... yes, you read it right!) Then decide if you are ready to change your life. Contact Pastor Brian with questions, or to get signed up!