

# Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

50 McCrea Road  
Newville, PA 17241  
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www.doublinggap.org

Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

### “Another Day Closer”

Matthew 25:1-46

“The end is near! Pretty common phrase that is used by the doomsday ‘preachers’ in our world today.” This is not a new mantra though, even the ancient Mayans predicted that the world would end in December 2012. (Anyone see the movie?)

“The end is near!” are words from the opening of my Beacon article from January of last year. Wow, how much ‘truer’ are those words now as we embark on another year in which Covid is still a part of our conversations as a family of believers and as a global community. So what have we learned from 2020? What has God taught us about ourselves, our church community, and our global community? He was teaching us in each and every storm we faced in 2020 and will continue to teach us in every good, bad, and ugly time of 2021. And a key message keeps coming through loud and clear in each and every storm: people need Jesus!

If you are a follower, a disciple of Jesus, you learned to lean heavily upon Him when things got burdensome. You realized that you could take your burdens to Him and He would give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30). You learned that you could cast all your cares, your anxieties, on Him for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7). And you learned more about His peace (John 14:25-27; 16:33).

If you are a seeker, this past year revealed that the things of this world cannot bring you peace, cannot give you hope. You saw the frailty of the economic system of our nation and of the world. You saw how panicked people get when ‘normal’ life is shut down. You saw the brokenness of our nation in the political unrest, the riots and protests, the anger. You realized that there needs to be something or someone that can provide hope, provide some sense of peace in the midst of all this chaos. It is my hope and prayer that you will turn to Jesus for that hope and peace!

For those who could care less about spiritual things, 2020 revealed how empty that position (one of relying on the things of this world to give someone peace, hope and comfort) really is. God has made it clear in His word that the things we saw in 2020 were just the birth pangs of what He is working out. Read that 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew (reading the 24<sup>th</sup> would give you



Churches of God  
General Conference

January 2021  
Volume 21 Issue 1

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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

Shane Reed  
Shannon Kane  
Bill Fulton

#### Deacons

John Whisler  
Adam Cohick  
Sam Clouse

#### Deaconesses

Sarah Baughman  
Tammy Cornman



**Pastor Don**

- To be submissive to the Lord's leading in ALL areas of my life.
- Keeping balance in my responsibilities.

**Pastor Brian**

- That our Life Groups will be able to begin meeting again soon!
- I have been invited to speak at Newville Church's youth retreat in March. Pray that between now and then, God will direct me toward the message He wants the young people to hear.

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

**January**

Monday through Thursday

8AM to 12 NOON

Fridays "off" day.

Also appointments can be made .

**Out of office on**

**January 14, 18**



**SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9 AM to 1 PM

dgapsec@embarqmail.com

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

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some context) and you will find the importance of being prepared at every moment to meet the Lord, because **everyone** will have to give an account of their life to the Lord (Hebrews 9:27, I Corinthians 3:10-15, II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 20:11-15). The questions each and every one of us will need to answer to God for are, "What have you done with my Son (I John 2:20-23; 5:1-5)? What have you done with the information I have revealed to you (Romans 1:18-20)? What kind of steward have you been with my gifts to you (Matthew 25:14-30)?"

So here is my prayer for all of us for 2021. I pray that each of us would draw closer to Jesus. If you are a believer, a follower, a disciple of His, may you be drawn into a more intimate relationship with Him, in that you think like, act like, speak like and love like Jesus! If you are a seeker and still not sure about all this born again stuff, might you find the reality, the hope, the peace that is found in a relationship with Jesus. May you find that without Him in your life, without Him as your Lord and Savior, your life truly is meaningless. May you realize that only in Him will you find the hope for this life AND the life to come! Praying you will experience the fullness of His love this year as you make that decision to become a child of God, accepting God's free gift of His Son to you!

May 2021 be the year that we experience the second advent of Jesus, His return as the Lion of Judah!

**Pastor Don**

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN

### Turn, Turn, Turn!

In early December, 1965, the top song on the Billboard 100 was (believe it or not) a song whose lyrics were taken from the Old Testament! The Byrds' rendition of Pete Seeger's "To Everything There Is A Season" (later called "Turn, Turn, Turn") holds the distinction in the U.S. of being the number 1 hit song with the oldest lyrics. The lyrics come from Ecclesiastes 3, which starts out "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." I came to this passage in my devotional reading recently. The first 8 verses of the chapter form a poem, and the use of polar opposites ("born...die", or "plant...uproot", or "weep...laugh") was a common Hebrew poetic device that suggested totality. (See also Psalm 139:2-3 for a similar use of this poetic style.) Solomon intended to affirm to us that ALL a person's activities, whether constructive or destructive, happen in their times. His dual use of "time" and "season" in verse 1 designates both a point in time, and a duration. Solomon is observing what happens in life; notice he is not writing to instruct us how to avoid one, or obtain the other. He is simply saying what we all know to be true: that through this life, we will experience periods of good and bad; of joy and sorrow; of living and dying. We must accept that our lives are governed by time.

Solomon went on to write, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (v. 11) In spite of being "trapped" by time, our hearts yearn for something that lasts. We get glimpses of this throughout our lives. We see the flowers first poke through the soil in the early spring, and we wait for them to bloom – but the bloom begins to wilt after only a few days. We hear a song on the radio, and that song evokes memories, or feelings, or desires for a few moments... and then the song ends. We spent an afternoon with a friend, or an evening with our spouse... and the time passes all too quickly. When all is said and done, we're left with a feeling deep inside that there is something more, something that will outlast the fleeting temporary things of this life. Yet we can't quite wrap our minds around eternity! We wonder what it will be like, when "forever" begins and never ends! Solomon said "...they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Our minds simply cannot begin to comprehend the scope and size of "eternity". We see these cycles of birth and death, of building and destruction, of weeping and laughing, and we wonder about God – we wonder what He's doing, why He's allowing, when it will be over. But the bible is clear about our "forever" destiny:

"If anyone eats of this bread, he will live FOREVER." (John 6:51)

"...we do it to get a crown that will last FOREVER." (1 Corinthians 9:25)

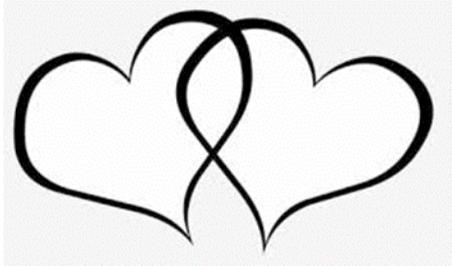
"And so we will be with the Lord FOREVER." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and FOREVER." (Hebrews 13:8)

"...the man who does the will of God lives FOREVER." (1 John 2:17)

Forever is coming, friend! Keep your eyes on that goal! The hymn writer J.K. Alwood penned these words, "O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, oh they tell me of a home far away... oh they tell me of a home where my friends have gone, oh they tell me of that land far away, where the tree of life in eternal bloom sheds its fragrance through the uncloudy day." Between now and eternity, enjoy the beautiful moments; enjoy the minutes of laughter with family or good friends; enjoy the songs, and the smiles, and the flowers, and the hugs, and the talks, and the meals; but *understand* that these moments will only ever be "moments" in this life. Between now and eternity, heed the words of the Apostle Paul, from Philippians 3: "I press on toward the goal for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

~ Pastor Brian



Join us for Family Life's

## VERTICAL *Marriage*

We are inviting all married couples to share your collective wisdom and experiences as we laugh together and grow together, through a 5-session video study from Family Life! All new content from Dave and Ann Wilson includes humorous and relatable video sessions followed by group discussion and an intentional couple's connection. If you've never heard Dave & Ann speak, you are in for a real treat!

Justin & Stephanie Morris will be leading this "virtual group" study, and we will connect each week using Zoom. Meeting times will generally be later in the evening, so that if you are parents of younger children, you will still be able to join us after they go to bed. The videos are all found online, and Justin & Stephanie will send you the links each week to watch ahead of time. A workbook will be provided for each couple who joins.

Watch for more information on Sunday mornings and through church emails. When you are ready to join our group, *please contact Justin or Stephanie*, or the church office. There will also be a sign-up sheet placed on the table outside the sanctuary. **The first virtual meeting will be (tentatively) Thursday, January 14 at 8:00 pm.**

Stephanie Morris (717) 226-7891 [stephanie.morris913@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.morris913@gmail.com)

Justin Morris (717) 448-2195 [bswrestling08@yahoo.com](mailto:bswrestling08@yahoo.com)

Church Office (717) 776-6092 [dgapsec@embarqmail.com](mailto:dgapsec@embarqmail.com)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of October 31, 2020	\$63,773.36		
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$19,259.91</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Donald C. Snyder ( Salary)	\$1,723.20	Transfer to Building Fund	\$1,700.00
Donald C. Snyder (Housing)	\$1,192.10	Timmons Oil (278.7 gals.)	\$457.07
Donald C. Snyder (Mileage Reimbursement)	\$232.30	Right Now Campaign (Monthly Service)	\$129.99
Brian L. Ramsey (Director of Discipleship)	\$1,195.29	Sherry Koppenhaver (Cleaning Service)	\$420.00
Royetta G. Baughman (Secretary)	\$591.55	Mirelle Associates (P/R & Tax Service)	\$85.00
South Middleton School District (Health Ins.)	\$1,661.84	Cumberland County Tax Bureau (Local)	\$232.63
The Board of Pensions	\$468.41	PA Dept of Revenue (SIT)	\$178.72
ERC (Retired Pastors Insurance)	\$98.33	Internal Revenue Service (FIT,SS,Medi)	\$1,101.01
ERC (Conference Tithe)	\$1,385.00	Send International (Anthony/Heather Book)	\$70.00
Generosity Bank Charge	\$36.06	Avant Ministries (Ruth/Scott Yingling)	\$150.00
Saylor's Market (Funeral Meal/Benevolent)	\$253.48	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$17,762.42</b>
Betty Clouse (Funeral Meal)	\$209.96		
Blue Mountain Blooms (Sympathy)	\$114.00	Balance as of November 30, 2020	\$65,270.85
Lurgan Greenhouse (Door Wreaths)	\$39.98		
Corner Store (VBS Supplies)	\$184.20		
Winebrenner Theo. Seminary (Student Aid)	\$60.00		
Fruitbelt Workers (Missions Board)	\$300.00		
Voyage Music (Projector)	\$600.00		
Leilani Reeder (Projector)	\$296.79		
CCO (Alycia Hodil)	\$60.00		
Samaritan's Purse (Shoebox Handling Fee)	\$1,152.00		
Linda Agar (Christmas Bows)	\$136.00		
Adams Electric	\$219.00		
From Benevolent to Missions Fund	\$300.00		
Sound Cloud (Yearly Membership)	\$152.64		
Waste Connections Of Pennsylvania	\$123.09		
Wendy Stuber (Jr. Church Crafts)	\$35.78		
Lease Services (Copier Monthly Charge)	\$57.00		
Paw Packs (Benevolent)	\$360.00		

**Building Fund** **\$285,137.46**

(CD \$214,519.80 & Checking \$70,545.66)

The following is a breakdown of the major funds available within the general treasury:

<b>Live Nativity Fund</b>	<b>\$ 3,650.56</b>
<b>Mission Fund</b>	<b>\$ 11,490.08</b>
<b>Mission Trip Fund</b>	<b>\$ 10,335.82</b>

## Parents' Corner

### 5 Ways My Dad Helped Transition Me to Adulthood

<https://www.familylife.com>

Storage containers and piles of my belongings lined the hall, ready to make the 18-hour drive. I was excited to start my internship at FamilyLife®, but it meant moving away from everything I knew and making my transition into adulthood. As I entered this unfamiliar territory, I knew I could always count on my dad. And that was enough for me to have the courage to step out on my own and pursue God's calling. My parents have been my greatest teachers as I've made the transition into adulthood. As the leader of our family, my dad, especially, has played an irreplaceable role in my life. Here are five ways my dad helped me grow as a young adult.

**He knew when to protect me and when to push me.** My dad has always been a safe person for me to go to when I needed support. He gives me his input while challenging me to problem-solve and make decisions for myself. Last fall, I sensed the Lord might be calling me to move away from the small town in Pennsylvania where I grew up. I was having a hard time because home was familiar, and therefore, secure. My dad challenged me to think through what it meant to be obedient to God's calling. Shortly after I decided to trust God with my future, I was invited to learn more about working with FamilyLife headquarters in Orlando, Florida. My dad's willingness to lovingly confront me and the things I was holding on to prepared me to step into my current role as a FamilyLife intern.

**He showed up when I needed him.** During my senior year of college, I received some devastating news that changed the course of my life. It felt like the world around me stopped. All I wanted to do was go home. I called my dad and told him what happened. I could tell he hurt for me. He left work early to drive four hours to pick me up so we could process and grieve together. When I called my dad, I didn't worry whether or not he would answer. Just like I trust that God is listening when I come to Him. My dad's love reminds me that family is the safest place to be when you're hurting. And it is always okay to come to your father (earthly *or* Heavenly). Jesus reminds us He, too, will be there when we need Him: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

**He encouraged me to confidently embrace my identity in Christ.** Recently, I struggled with feeling rejected for living out my faith. My dad listened intently as I asked some hard questions. “Doesn’t being ‘the good girl’ make me more vulnerable?” “How do I live out my faith in a world that wants to destroy it?” My dad reminded me that goodness will always be challenged by darkness in this world. But there is nothing to fear because we already know goodness wins. These words of wisdom come from John 16:33 where Jesus tells His disciples they will face opposition for following Him, but they can find comfort in knowing there is victory in Christ. You don’t need to have all the answers for your kids as they transition into adulthood, but it’s important to lead them back to the Father who does.

**He taught me to grieve with a sense of hope.** “In seasons like this, we need to count our blessings,” my dad reminded us often during a year of unexpected hardships. He was consistently looking for evidence of God’s faithfulness. His unwavering trust in the Lord allowed him to be an anchor for our family. After my grandma passed away, I wondered how we could handle another loss. I looked to my dad as the leader of our family and was surprised to see he was maintaining a sense of hope while grieving. I asked how he could look forward to the future when it felt like we were all waiting for the next bad thing to happen. He explained that sometimes the bad will seem to outweigh the good in life, but we will find the good if we continue to look for it. Even if there is nothing good about the situation itself, we can hope in the fact that God is still working. There is much security in knowing God is with us and that He uses even the hard stuff to accomplish His good purposes (see Romans 8:28). First Thessalonians 4:13 reminds us we were not made for this world. When we grieve the painful realities of this life, we can hold on to the hope of eternity.

**He helped me to not take myself too seriously.** As I got older, life got heavier, and I felt discouraged. My dad validated my concerns, but he also reminded me to keep things in perspective. No matter how scary or painful things were in the moment, they would eventually pass. One way my dad helped me see this was through his sense of humor. Once, during my senior year of high school, I was in the emergency room icing my swollen jaw after a car accident. A technician had commented that I should be out having fun with friends on a Friday night, not getting a CT scan. Trying to make light of a bad situation, my dad looked at me with a smirk and said, “Just imagine what your senior pictures will look like if you have to get your jaw wired shut!” He proceeded to describe how “great” my smile would look in those pictures. I knew he was joking, and it was nice to laugh at the end of a hard day. My dad’s balance of acknowledging reality and looking for moments of lightheartedness helps me move forward in my own life as I transition into adulthood. Your kids’ transition into adulthood needs your leadership.

**What does all of this mean for you dads who are reading this? Remember, you are an integral part of your child’s transition into adulthood. In times of uncertainty, let them know they can come to you to**

get clarity and direction. When you see them struggling spiritually or giving into despair, fight for them. Learn when to protect them and when to push them. Show up during their best and worst moments. Encourage them to embrace their identity in Christ. Show them how to hope in the Lord. And help them find moments of joy and laughter (even if it does mean acting a little goofy in the ER). Even though I've moved away, I know I'll always need and want my dad. I'm so thankful for his leadership in my life.



## ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS KIDS (ARKK)

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

*1 Corinthians 11:1*

**As ARKK looks forward to starting its 6<sup>th</sup> year in 2021,  
we are going to plan our mission a little different this year.**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** For 2021, ARKKids are going to do an ongoing mission throughout the year. This year's mission we are going to collect a different item(s) each month that will go towards the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Then in October, we will have the kids pack shoeboxes with the items we have collected throughout the year. We will list the "Monthly Shoebox Item" we plan to collect in the newsletter and we encourage the church family to also donate if they are lead to do so. The more items we collect, the more shoeboxes we can fill in October. We will have a bin set up in the CE wing for the monthly donations.

**JANUARY'S MONTHLY SHOEBOX ITEM: unsharpened pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners**

Our 2021's mission will mainly focus on the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, however, we will also support other local organizations and friends throughout the year as well.

**REMINDER:** Keep bringing in those empty egg cartons for New Hope Ministries and also the aluminum soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. At this time, we are NOT collecting magazines.

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



## Bulletin Board

January 2021

Bobby Baker	“Standard Lesson Quarterly”	Room 9
Charlie Clouse	“Power of Love” by David Jeremiah	CE Wing Classroom
Adam Cohick	“Gospel of Mark” by Francis Chan	CE Wing
Mike Bolze	“In the Dust of the Rabbi” by Ray Vander Laan	Room 5
Preschool – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Cliff & Connie Cornman	Room 11
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Carl Baughman	Room 14
6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Shane Reed & Kyle Whisler	Room 7

### Wednesday Evening Life Groups

- **“Matthew & Discipleship”** Using the gospel of Matthew, we’re learning how to be a disciple of Jesus who makes other disciples of Jesus. Leader: Pastor Brian Ramsey
- **“Sacred Echo”** Ladies Bible Study Room 10 (last room down hallway) Leader: Carley Miller
- **Youth**, Grades 6-12. Youth Room Leaders: Shane Reed and Kyle Whisler
- **Elementary**, grades K-5. Gym Leader: Pastor Don Snyder

### Weekly Life Groups

- **“Gods at War”:** Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart” by Kyle Idleman  
Sunday nights, 7:00 Leader: Carl Baughman.
- **“Men’s Bible Study”**, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 at the church Leader: Pastor Don Snyder
- **“Fruit of the Spirit”.** College & young adult women. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 Various locations. Leader: Leilani Reeder



Many of the studies on RNM are ideal for personal use, and include free downloadable study guides and questions. Need help to stay focused? Find another person to go through the study with, and use the “Watch as a Virtual Group” feature to go through it together, each from the comfort of your own home!

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**“Warrior Women” by Bianca Juarez Olthoff.** In this 5-session series, explore the story of Deborah, Barak, and Jael and discover what being a warrior for God looks like! God desires each of his children to follow his call. But sometimes the battles we fight for God’s kingdom defy our expectations, leading us to trust him more deeply. A faithful warrior for Christ will choose obedience over personal glory; humility instead of pride; and truth spoken with grace. Each video teaching is only 5-7 minutes, and a free study guide makes this a great choice for personal or group study!

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**“Why People Leave (Faith Edition)” by Chuck and Ashley Elliott.** Have you seen the impact of broken relationships at church, work, or in the home? Whether you’ve been subjected to brokenness or want to lead others toward wholeness, this series will help individuals, churches, and families build better relationship skills. Our unapologetic goal is to help individuals stay whenever possible. But in the event that staying isn’t a viable option, we believe people can leave well. What options do you have when *you* experience unmet expectations? Do you feel like you have *no other option* or that you have tried *everything*? When faced with any decision, what options are truly available? There may be more options than your emotions lead you to believe. You’ll learn the 3 A’s to help you process your expectations, behavior, and needs. In this series, we explain the cognitive processes that occur *before* people leave, unpack “Switch Theory” which explores the human response to unmet expectations, and examine the Apostle Paul’s thought-life to understand how he remained positive through adversity. There are 8 sessions, ranging from 8 to 19 minutes, and free study guide available.

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**“Media.Faith.Culture”, with Brett Ullman.** The concept and presence of media has become the modern-day parable that has forever altered how we interact with our world. What I have come to realize is a growing disconnect—both youth and parents are struggling with applying their Christian beliefs to the media that daily engages them. When we interact with our culture, we take action and, when we think about what we are absorbing, we connect it to our self and our lives. As Christians, we need to actively be involved with our culture without blindly accepting it as true. Pascal said it wonderfully, “The greatest enemy of the spiritual life was inattention, complacency.” There are 6 video sessions. The first 5 are designed specifically for youth (although parents can learn from them too!) The last session is specifically for parents. Each session is between 10 and 36 minutes long, and comes with an optional book to purchase.

# **Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

For all Sunday School, Junior Church, and Adult Small Group Leaders & Families

**Sunday, January 24, 2021  
(following worship)**

Come enjoy a warm meal, hot and cold drinks, deserts, and friendly conversation as we say "thank you" to all you (and your families) who selflessly serve our church.



## **Marriage Weekend Retreat**

Save the Date! April 30 – May 2, 2021!

A weekend away with your spouse... no kids... a cozy cabin by the lake... warm weather... beautiful hiking trails... romantic evenings by a campfire... good food... *what could be better??!!*

You and your spouse are invited to join us next spring for a weekend marriage retreat. At this point, we are looking for rentals in the area of **Blackwater Falls State Park, WV**. Couples will share the cost of the rental, and all food will be provided. We will also plan specific devotional times together, so we can help one another grow in both our marriages and our faith.

Informational meetings will be held after worship, on **January 10 and 17**. If you are unable to attend either of these meetings, and are interested in going, please contact Pastor Brian.



