

# Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

50 McCrea Road    Newville, PA 17241  
717-776-6092

## Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

### “Out with the Old” Romans 12:1-8

“Out with the old, in with the new” is a phrase that is commonly heard this time of year. As we close out another year and usher in a new one, might we pause to think about the newness on which Jesus wants us to focus. For those of us that are believers and followers of Jesus, the old which is to be gone is our old self-centeredness. The new that is ushered in is the newness that Jesus brings— a focus on Him and others rather than ourselves. J.P. Morgan is quoted as saying, “The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are.” So in the beginning of 2022, how can we keep moving from where we are to where we want to be, to be more focused on Jesus and the newness He brings?

Paul provides us with the key to keeping this focus. We are to offer to Jesus our bodies, all of who we are— this means our thoughts and actions. Daily we are to look to the Lord for direction for the day. We are to seek God first, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice. For believers, this is our reasonable act of worship, our reasonable act of service. And it is a decision we make every time. Not to conform to the pattern of this world. Not to succumb to what the culture is telling us to think and to do but rather to be transformed by renewing our minds in God’s word. It is in His word that we find the Truth: for Truth is found only in Christ. He is The Word that became flesh and hung out with fallen people just like us, showing them a better way, showing them how to seek God’s kingdom first. He has also shown us how to put the needs of others before our own and how to love sacrificially. In other words, He has shown us the Way— the Way to holy living, to new living, to righteous living.

So as the old year is gone and the New Year has come, may we commit to walking a little more focused this year. May we continually allow our minds to be transformed through God’s word and the Holy Spirit. It is God’s Spirit that helps us understand God’s word more fully and to apply it more correctly to our daily living. When we keep our eyes on Jesus and His teachings (keep in mind, He was the Word in the beginning – John 1:1-14, so all of God’s word is technically His teaching) we can discern God’s will for our lives. We can live the kind of life that Jesus saved us to live!

**Blessings to you for a Jesus focused 2022!!**  
**Pastor Don**

#### Prayer Request

To be more focused on the Lord in 2022!

#### Elders

Carl Baughman  
Bill Fulton  
Shane Reed

#### Deacons

Adam Cohick  
Tammy Cornman  
John Whisler

#### Deaconesses

Sarah Baughman  
Kelly Bier



Churches of God  
General Conference

January 2022  
Volume 22 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.

## THE PERENNIALS

We are a 50+ group eager to share faith, fun, and fellowship. Anyone 50 and older can be a Perennial! For more information or to be added to group emails, see Tammy Snyder.

### Upcoming Events:

**Soup & Sandwich Luncheon and Games-** Sunday, January 9th, following worship. Sandwich fixings and drinks will be provided. Please sign up on the table in the narthex! (Anyone willing to make soup, please indicate it on the sign up sheet.)

**Mutts Gone Nuts-** Sunday, March 20th at 1:00 PM. Thanks to everyone who signed up for this event! Our tickets have been ordered and will be distributed to you prior to the show. We will be ordering pizza (no cost to you) to have at church (following worship) prior to leaving for the Luhr's Center.

**David, Sight and Sound Theater-** Tuesday, July 19 at 11:00 AM. Ticket cost is \$69 per person. Please see Tammy Snyder to sign up and pre-pay for your ticket. **Last day to order will be Sunday, January 9th.** (We can also discuss a meal together following the show, but that doesn't have to be finalized until much closer to the show date!)

Pastor Don's email is  
[pastor@doublinggap.org](mailto:pastor@doublinggap.org)

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

Home: 717-776-1191

Cell: 717-278-7904

### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

#### January

Monday through Thursday

8AM to 12 NOON

Fridays "off" day.

Also appointments can be made.

**Days out of the office**

**January 3, 13, 17**



### SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9 AM to 1 PM

[secretary@doublinggap.org](mailto:secretary@doublinggap.org)



## Fellowship, Faith, Family, Fun

**"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once, they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:19-20, with emphasis)** Have you ever wondered about this? Why would Peter and Andrew (and

James and John, Matt. 4:22) immediately, at once, drop everything they were doing, and leave everything they ever knew to follow after Jesus? Part of the answer to that question is that Jesus was not a stranger to them. He had grown up with these men, and likely had known them all of their lives. In other words, they did not follow a stranger! They followed someone that they knew & had developed a relationship with. Discipleship is born out of relationship – which means cultivating relationships with others is key to both being a disciple of Jesus, and helping others to be disciples of Jesus.

Starting soon (late January/early February), we would like to form new "4-F Groups": for Fellowship, for Families, for Faith, and for Fun! The idea is that groups will be anywhere from 6 – 10 people, intergenerational, and a mix of singles and couples. Groups are encouraged to meet as often as you like (ideally, at least once every couple months) and share life together. Have meals together. Go on outings together. Pray together. Grow in your faith together! Devotional materials will be provided for each group to share in simple, short devotions together. Beyond that, you are free and encouraged to do whatever you like!

Look for a sign-up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary. Contact Pastor Brian with questions!

## Coming Full Circle,

### **2 Peter 3:11-18**

For the past 12 months, we have walked through the short epistle of 2 Peter, and we have dived deeply into Peter's encouragements, warnings, and teachings. As Peter brings his letter to a close, you'll see that he ends up right back where he started. He encourages his readers to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (v.18). In the original language, the word grow is written in a grammatical tense that means "as you keep growing." Growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus is not an option!! That's the essence of discipleship, to grow more and more each day, each week, each year like to be like our Savior and Lord, and to lead others to do the same. We never reach a point where we stop growing (at least, not in this life!)

Between now and then, Peter encourages us to "make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him." Friends, this is just one of many passages that teach that salvation is NOT a once and done transaction! Salvation is not a destination, but a lifelong journey that is lived out as we "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". Salvation is not "fire insurance"; it's not a special prayer or ritual saying that we recite once, and then go on to live our lives however we want to! Salvation is the beginning of a life that is, *from that point on*, lived out in dedication to knowing and serving Jesus. Jesus said "he who stands firm *to the end* will be saved." (Matt. 24:13, my emphasis) He said exactly the same thing on a different occasion, recorded in Matthew 10:22 and Mark 13:13. In Luke 21:19, Jesus said "by standing firm you will gain life." The writer of Hebrews said "Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, *if we hold on to* our courage and the hope of which we boast." (my emphasis)

Along that same line, Peter tells us to "live holy and godly lives" (2 Peter 3:11). The root word of "godly lives" comes from a Greek word meaning "to shrink or fall back", implying worship. Godly lives are lives that lived in worship to our creator. That doesn't mean that all day, every day, we sing songs and hymns and offer prayers and praises to God. It does mean, as Paul wrote in Romans 12:1, that our lives are to be "living sacrifices". We give up certain things, things that this world may offer, in order to live a life that is holy – set apart, notably different than the rest of the world. In our relationships, we honor our commitments. In our jobs, we work hard and honestly. In our finances, we give to God first, and we also manage the rest of it well and leverage it for His kingdom. In our leisure, we devote time to fellowship, to study of God's word, and in service to others.

One short side bar... 2 Peter 3:16 is one verse that gives me a lot of comfort, when I struggle to understand the scriptures. Peter says, speaking of Paul, that Paul's letters "contain some things that are hard to understand". Even Peter struggled to understand Paul sometimes! : D

Don't let Paul's writings... or Peter's... or any other bible writer's... confuse you. Pay attention to the things that you DO understand, and live them out before others to see. I have really, really enjoyed this study together with you, and I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to learning and growing together with you in the coming year! The invitation to talk about what you're reading over a cup of coffee sometime is always open!

**Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of reading, studying, and sharing your Word! Guide each of us through the coming year, as we learn and grow in knowledge, and grace, and the peace that comes only through You! AMEN!**

~ Pastor Brian

#### Prayer Requests

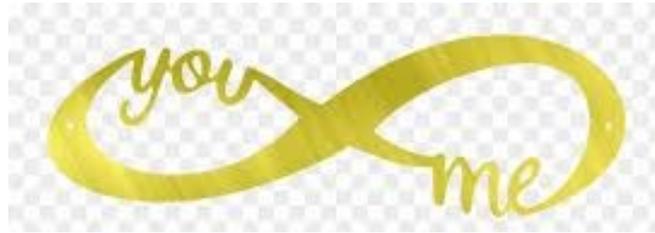
Need for adult leaders for youth Sunday mornings

Prayer for several new life groups starting

# Upcoming Events



**Staff Appreciation Dinner** Sunday, January 16, following worship. For all ministry volunteers and your families (spouses and children)! Sign-up sheet is on the table outside sanctuary. *Please sign up by Sunday, January 9.*



**"You and Me" Sweetheart's Dinner** Saturday, February 12, 6:00, held at Highland Vue Farms. Come enjoy a night out & celebrate being married. Cost per couple to be determined, and will include dinner, dessert, and evening entertainment.



**Weekend to Remember**  
by FamilyLife.

**Family Life's "Weekend to Remember"** Hershey Lodge, Feb. 11-13. Cost is \$137.50/person. See Pas-



**Marriage Retreat.** Friday, April 29 – Monday, May 2.  
*Informational meetings after church on January 2 and 23.*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of October 31, 2021	\$66,731.00		
DEPOSITS	\$69,810.14		
EXPENSES			
Donald C. Snyder ( Salary)	\$1,723.20	Lawrence Chevrolet (Van)	\$43,897.47
Donald C. Snyder (Housing)	\$1,192.10	Cash (Honorariums)	\$1,850.00
Donald C. Snyder (Travel)	\$280.25	Waste Connections Of Pennsylvania	\$76.97
Brian L. Ramsey (Director of Discipleship)	\$887.17	Concordia Supply (Junior Church)	\$138.96
Royetta G. Baughman (Secretary)	\$614.65	Lease Services (Copier Monthly Charge)	\$57.00
South Middleton School District (Health Ins.)	\$1,701.51	Emily Ramsey (Fabric, Christmas Down-loads)	\$107.67
The Board of Pensions	\$468.41	Tammy Snyder (Perennials 11/7 Luncheon)	\$24.03
ERC (Retired Pastors Insurance)	\$86.67	Transfer to Missions	\$300.00
ERC (Conference Tithe)	\$1,702.00	Big Spring Inner-Church (Benevolent)	\$100.00
ERC (MTI/Sept-Benevolent)	\$100.00	Paw Packs (Benevolent)	\$160.00
Bank Fee/Generosity	\$40.41	Christian Services Counseling (Benevolent)	\$1,000.00
ATA Alarm & Comm. (System Service Call)	\$202.50	Right Now Campaign (Monthly Service)	\$129.99
Jack Henry & Assoc. (Online Giving Charge)	\$25.00	Sherry Koppenhaver (Cleaning Service)	\$420.00
Zito Media (Telephone/Wifi)	\$187.40	Mirelle Associates (P/R & Tax Service)	\$85.00
Salvation Army (Benevolent)	\$683.00	Transfer to Building Fund	\$741.00
Safe Harbor (Benevolent)	\$500.00	Internal Revenue Service (FIT,SS,Medi)	\$1,056.10
PA Council of Churches (Benevolent)	\$387.00	PA Dept of Revenue (SIT)	\$170.47
Samaritan's Purse (Shoebox Postage)	\$2,178.00	Entrust (Mary & Al Ginter)	\$320.00
Susquehanna Val Roofing (CE Wing Roof)	\$875.00	Avant Ministries (Ruth & Scott Yingling)	\$145.00
Saylor's Market (Supplies,Sportsmen Dnr,Benv)	\$170.40	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$66,915.23</b>
Green Ridge Dining Service (Perrenials Lunch)	\$393.75		
Sheetz (Van Fuel/OCC Baltimore Trip)	\$161.50	Balance as of November 30, 2021	\$69,625.91
Corner Store (SS Curriculum/Winter 2022)	\$496.21		
Grand Point Church (DDM Workshop)	\$70.00		
Benevolent Gift	\$500.00		
Blue Mountain Bloom (Get Well, Altar)	\$95.00		
USPS (Postage Stamps/Live Nativity)	\$34.80		
Adams Electric Cooperative	\$227.00		
SoundCloud Transactions (Worship Mins Exp)	\$152.64		

**Building Fund                    \$ 297,945.25**

**(CD \$222,003.06 & Checking \$75,942.19)**

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

**Live Nativity Fund                \$ 3,347.46**

**Mission Fund                      \$ 2,676.40**

**Mission Trip Fund                \$ 10,235.31**

## Parent's Corner, January 2022

### **4 Big & Simple Principles the Mosaic Law Teaches Kids**

<https://www.ministryspark.com>

The Mosaic Law. Important? Yes. Easy to grasp? Not so much. Most adults struggle to understand the Old Testament books of Law. So how can we make it interesting and relevant for kids? For younger and older alike, we can pull out four big (and simple) principles that kids can learn from the Mosaic Law.

#### **1. God's law laid the foundation for a lot of what we do today.**

What do our laws today say about stealing another person's property? Taking another person's life? What do we know about keeping our bodies clean and separating people with contagious diseases until they heal? What about being presumed innocent until proven guilty? These are all basic principles we live by today, and they originated in the Mosaic law. God knew the best way for us to live, so He gave His people rules and instructions to follow. Those instructions still help shape the way we live today.

#### **2. God wants His people to live differently.**

We don't have to get into the gory details of animal sacrifices to make this important point. It's enough to explain that God gave the Israelites rules for how to worship Him and how to treat one another. In both cases, they were vastly different from the surrounding culture. God's people were to be faithful to Him, the one and only God, and worship Him alone. They were not to craft idols for themselves. That alone made them very different from their pagan neighbors.

God gave them very specific rules for temple worship, sacrifices, and offerings. He gave them rules about purification. They couldn't eat certain foods, touch a dead body or do other things that would make them "unclean." God went to great lengths to help them understand His holiness and their sinfulness. He told them not to steal from each other or lie to one another. He told them to pay their workers a fair wage and root out injustice from their courts. His law provided a way for the poor to eat. God's people were to love one another in a radically different way.

Through all of these commands, God was telling His people, *You are mine, and that makes you different.* Leviticus 20:26 is a great memory verse that conveys this idea: "You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." We can teach kids that "holiness" means "set apart." God wanted His people to be set apart 3,500 years ago, and He wants that for His people today. We can ask the question, "How does God call us to be holy, or

different, today?” Then we can help kids come up with some examples (respecting their parents by not talking back, sharing their possessions with others, memorizing Scripture, etc.).

### **3. Knowing the Mosaic Law helps us understand the New Testament.**

In Acts 10:9-16, Peter learns that no food from God should be considered unclean. Why was this important? Because Peter was a Jew, and he'd grown up with the Mosaic Law, which prohibited God's people from eating certain animals. After Jesus came, God's people were under a new covenant, and He wanted Peter to know that.

Stories like this make much more sense when we understand the Old Testament Law. We understand why it's such a big deal that Jesus pardoned the woman caught in adultery. Or why it was so scandalous that He healed people on the Sabbath and hung out with Gentiles. We can use the New Testament to teach kids how to come to saving faith in Christ. But until they understand the new covenant of Jesus in light of the old covenant of Moses, they won't fully grasp the significance of what God did.

### **4. The Law points to Jesus.**

Why are there 50 chapters (at least) in the Bible detailing the construction of the tabernacle, the rituals, and the priesthood? Because they all pointed to what was to come. God sent His Son to be not only the great high priest (Hebrews 4:14) but also the sacrificial lamb (John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7) who would take on the sins of the people. The tabernacle and the ark of the covenant showed that God wanted fellowship with His people, and that fellowship became complete when He took up residence in His church and the people of God were filled with the Spirit. The veil inside the tabernacle needed to be perfectly constructed so that Jesus, on the cross, could rip it apart. No longer was God off-limits; through Jesus, He is accessible to everyone.

The most important thing kids can learn about the Mosaic Law is that it was impossible for fallen humans to keep. *God designed it that way.* He wanted us to know just how perfect we have to be in order to fully dwell in His presence. And since we aren't perfect, the Law showed us there is no way we can earn His favor. It's not good enough to keep most of the law most of the time. God's standard is higher than that: "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10). God's standard is so high that only one person could ever keep it. That person was Jesus, who lived a spotless, sinless life and died in our place. We don't need to teach kids all the details of the Mosaic Law, but with these four big points, we can help them see what an important part it plays in God's redemption plan.



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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**“Talking With Your Kids About Jesus” with Natasha Crain.** Homes where deep and meaningful faith conversations happen regularly aren’t the product of lucky parents. They’re the product of intentional parents who believe nothing is more important than raising kids to know and love Jesus. In this six-session series, author Natasha Crain offers parents tools and encouragement for creating low-grade, consistent efforts to clarify who Jesus is, why he matters, and how kids can live impacted by their faith in him. There are 6 video sessions, averaging 15 minutes each.  
*There are no additional downloads, discussion questions, or other material available.*

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**“Crazy-Making” with Robby Angle.** Have you ever kept doing something you don’t want to do? We all have these patterns in our lives that we just can’t seem to shake. No matter how disciplined we are, how much willpower we drum up, or how many times we seek accountability, eventually we find ourselves sucked back into repeating the same patterns again. It’s crazy-making! Everyone’s struggle is different. For you, it might look like criticizing, substance abuse, over-working, sexual sin, people-pleasing, or hundreds of others. Jesus has given all of us a way out of these crazy-making cycles, and it has nothing to do with white-knuckling our way to freedom. This four-week study explores where these patterns come from, why we keep repeating them, and how to stop the crazy and live in the freedom Jesus makes possible. Video sessions range 8 – 16 minutes. A free study guide with discussion questions is available, and there is an optional book for purchase.

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**“Tensions” with Sarah Anderson.** It’s no secret that there can be tension between what our faith teaches us and what we see in culture. What do you do when faith and culture are at odds? It’s easy to distance ourselves from culture or to be overly critical. But Jesus modeled a better way. In this two-session study called Tensions, you will explore how to move toward people who see things differently—instead of moving away from them. Each session has a 15-minute video, and is accompanied by a free study guide with discussion questions.

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**“TrafficWatch Academy”, with Laura Parker.** TrafficWatch Academy is your opportunity to learn the facts about human trafficking on a local and a global scale. Education is one of the most powerful and crucial weapons in the fight to achieve freedom for survivors and dismantle systems of oppression. You’ll gain that education through two 20-minute modules full of facts, stories, and steps for action. At the end of this course, you’ll have a chance to test your knowledge and prove that you’re equipped to be an informed and effective activist in combating trafficking in all its insidious forms.



## Bulletin Board

January 2022

### Sunday Morning Life Groups (9:00 am )

Bobby Baker	“Standard Lesson Quarterly”	Room 9
Charlie Clouse	“Hope: Living Fearlessly” by David Jeremiah	CE Wing Classroom
Adam Cohick	“Gospel of Mark”	CE Wing
Mike Bolze	“Pilgrim’s Progress”	Room 10
Preschool – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Cliff & Connie Cornman	Room 11
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Tammy Cornman/Carl Baughman	Room 14
6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Shane Reed , Kyle Whisler, Gina Baldoni	Room 7

### Wednesday Evening Life Groups (7:00 pm)

- **“The Holy Spirit”** Leader: Pastor Brian Ramsey
- **“Breathe”, Ladies Bible Study** Leader: Carley Miller
- **Youth, Grades 6-12. Youth Room** Leaders: Shane Reed , Kyle Whisler , Gina Baldoni
- **Elementary, grades K-5. Gym** Leader: Pastor Don Snyder and Tammy Snyder, Carl Baughman, Joyce Smith

### Bi-Weekly Life Groups

- **“Men’s Bible Study”, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month-7:00 pm** Leader: Shane Reed  
CE Wing
- **Morning Bible Study-Hosea, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month-10:30 am** Leader: Pastor Don Snyder

## Forged Youth Group

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:10

*This time of year always seems to fly by. Whether it's family events, shopping, baking cookies, or decorating the Christmas tree, the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's is always gone in a flash. Before we know it, the new year is upon us. As we end 2021 and enter 2022, we have the opportunity to reflect on the past and wonder about the future. Unfortunately, we can do nothing about the past but learn from it. The future is a different story. No matter what happened in 2021, we have a new year. A new year to do things different. A year to make better decisions.*

*The youth have been working through the book of Hebrews. A book that can be challenging, but so rewarding. Chapter 6 is said to be one of the most difficult chapters in the New Testament. The topic of losing salvation has been debated over and over. Verse 4 of chapter 6 says "if they fall away". This verse is a warning. We have a decision to make no different from a parent telling their children "If you speed when driving", "if you don't do your homework", "if you don't clean your room" there will be consequences. If we don't want the consequences, then we need make the right decision. Clean your room, don't speed, do your homework, don't fall away. In most cases a Christian does not fall away overnight. It is a slow process. The words "fall away" can mean a drifting away, like a boat drifting from shore. The waters can take the boat so far away that it is gone, lost in the horizon. To get it back may be impossible. So how do we keep our boat from drifting away. How do we keep from falling away? The author of Hebrews gives us that answer in verse 19. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure". God has offered us a hope, an anchor in Jesus Christ. That promise should be an encouragement to us. The anchor keeps the boat from drifting away, the hope we have in Christ keeps us from falling away.*

*As we enter 2022, we will be faced with a year full of choices and decisions. The biggest may be how will we grow in our relationship with God. Will we make the decision to take hold of the hope we have in Jesus, or allow ourselves to be idle, or even fall away?*

### Upcoming Event

January 15<sup>th</sup> Game Night 6-9

February 19<sup>th</sup> Game Night 6-9

March 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Breakaway Youth Conference

March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Newville Retreat



Forged youth group meet  
Sunday mornings at 9:00  
am and Wednesday  
nights at 7:00pm



## **“Your money. Your story. Your life. This changes everything.”**

When do you change your life? Dave Ramsey says “When you get sick and tired of being sick and tired!” Dave is one of the current leading voices in conservative financial counseling – he is the “Larry Burkett” of this generation. A real estate millionaire by his mid-twenties, he ended up bankrupt by the age of 30, and along the way discovered God, and what God’s word says about how to handle money. And surprisingly, it’s a lot!

Financial Peace University is more than a study on personal finance. It is biblically-based, practical, hands-on guidance for how to manage your financial resources. 9 video-based sessions teach you everything from the “why” of handling money, to the nuances of saving and budgeting, to making smart purchases, to navigating mortgages, insurance, and investing for retirement. Your membership also includes access to all videos online, plus a variety of other online tools, and a membership using the Every Dollar budgeting app or software for your smart device or computer. Participants also get a workbook that includes all the forms discussed in the videos, as we learn how to use them.

This course will be led by Justin & Stephanie Morris. Specific dates and times for meeting will be determined later, based on those interested. **The cost for the course is \$60.** *Our church is willing to reimburse half the cost, for anyone who completes the course.* Please contact Pastor Brian for more information. If interested, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary, or contact directly:

Pastor Brian	717.262-3780
Justin Morris	717-448-2195
Stephanie Morris	717-226-7891



