

# Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

50 McCrea Road    Newville, PA 17241

717-776-6092

## Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

### From the Desk of Pastor Don

**"That if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is LORD' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9**

Those words from Romans speak into the reality of our relationship with Jesus. As I write this article for this month's Beacon, we are about halfway through the series 'FOLLOW: Living WITH Jesus'. Each week we meet to reflect upon what the devotional scriptures spoke into our hearts and discussed the challenges of walking out the truths contained therein. A theme that I have felt coming through was two-fold. One part was the need to stay connected with the Holy Spirit, being sensitive to His voice speaking into our lives. The second part, once again for me, was the Lordship of Christ. What does it mean to have Jesus as the Lord of my life? Is that something that happened at my born again confession or is it something that I needed to learn about as I walked, or worked, out my salvation? The more I study the teaching about that in the study of God's word, the more I believe the Christian community has watered down the need to have Jesus as Lord from the start of one's salvation experience.

The words that Paul wrote here in Romans 10 speak clearly and directly to that. If we confess with our mouth that Jesus is LORD, not just Savior, and believe in His resurrection, we will be saved. Lordship of Christ is not an option for any born again believer. To have eternal life, to have a relationship with Jesus is to hold Him as LORD and Savior. The two cannot be separated. In that truth there is freedom and power.

For those of you who have listened to my teachings over the years, you know that this has been a message I come back to often because it is so critical to one's living with Jesus. Without the submission to the Lordship of Christ, I sincerely doubt that there is a true conversion. And because I believe the teaching in this area has really been neglected for far too many years in the American 'church', I will continue to make it a regular part of my teaching.



**Churches of God**

General Conference

November 2022

Volume 22 Issue 11

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Special points of  
interest:

Pastor Don 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

Carl Baughman  
Bill Fulton-Vice Chairman  
Shane Reed-Secretary

#### Deacons

Adam Cohick-Chairman  
Tammy Cornman  
John Whisler

#### Deaconesses

Sarah Baughman  
Kelly Bier



### **Pastor Don**

For direction as we plan together for the Advent season.  
For the revival services at Enola First COG  
For a strong finish to the FOLLOW series!

### **Pastor Brian**

Pray families will be strengthened, and find focus and peace as holidays approach.  
For continued discernment of God's word, as Don and I preach and teach.

#### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

##### **November**

Monday through Thursday

8AM to 12 NOON

Fridays "off" day.

Also appointments can be made.

**Out of the office:  
November 7-11, 21, 24**



#### **SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**9 AM to 1 PM**

**secretary@doublinggap.org**

**Royetta will be out of the office-  
October 24-29**



**Next meeting is**

**Monday, November 7, 2022**

**All ladies of the church are invited to attend**

**Save the Date**

**Monday, December 5, Women's Christmas Dinner at Doubling Gap Center**

from page 1-Pastor Don

I believe so strongly in this Lordship relationship with Jesus that it will be the focus on my teaching for the Enola revival services that I will be leading on November 13<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Enola First Church of God. Pray for those services and for the message. If you have the opportunity, plan to join me there!

If you have any thoughts on this biblical concept of the Lordship of Jesus and what it means for one's salvation, reach out to me via text, phone, email or, and I really like this option, in person! I would love to chat with you about how the scriptures and the Holy Spirit are speaking to you about what it means to have Jesus as the Lord of one's life.

Be blessed this month as we celebrate our ongoing walk with Jesus and as we look forward to Thanksgiving! We certainly do have much to be thankful for here at the GAP!

Just a reminder about the reflection times on Sunday evenings @ 6:00. We will probably look to adjust the time for the November 13<sup>th</sup> one, but we will still meet for that week's reflection!

Oh, and one last thing; from the day of my writing this article, it is less than 6 weeks until our Drive-thru Live Nativity outreach on December 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>!! Get those warm clothes ready!!!

Pastor Don



All the information you need to 'fill a shoebox' is available on the table in the narthex. Please pick up shoeboxes provided or decorate/wrap one of your own.

Just a reminder the church will be covering the \$10.00 shipping fee.

**Deadline to return the shoeboxes is Sunday, November 13**

**If you have any questions, see Sarah Baughman or call the church office.**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20

We end our look at the 10 commandments with the command against *false testimony*. The grammar and context of the verse in Hebrew indicates lying in a judicial sense – what we would call “lying under oath” in our modern court! Old Testament law and judges (both Jewish and pagan cultures) relied heavily on eyewitness accounts, and the truthfulness of these witnesses. Some cultures (like Rome or Egypt) would even punish a liar capitally. The word “neighbor” meant anyone you came into contact with, rather than “someone living near you.” (*New American Commentary*) Leviticus 5:1 expands lying to include not speaking up when you knew otherwise (what we would call “consent by silence”.) Other scriptures expand the act of lying from a strict judicial sense to a more general social issue. Leviticus 19:11 ties lying to both stealing and deceiving another. And, Exodus 23:21 (which follows a section of teaching on *social responsibility*) explicitly forbids the spreading of “false reports”. The foundation of any society must be based on honesty, and *especially* the society of God as lived out by his children! Proverbs 12:22 tells us “The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.” One of the first sins recorded in the bible was the lie that the serpent told to Eve (Gen. 3:4.) In fact, Jesus described Satan as “a liar and the father of lies.”

Sometimes we might think that lying doesn’t hurt anyone, especially if it serves to make ourselves look good in some way. Psalm 34:13 reminds us to “keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.” There is more evil, more damage that we can do with our tongue – with our words – than simply telling lies. That’s one of the reasons the bible speaks so strongly against gossip. Gossip isn’t lying, in the sense that one is telling an untruth about someone else; but most often gossip serves to raise the social status of one person, while destroying another person’s character. Romans 1:29-30 lists gossip along with other more “serious” sins like murder, slander, and hating God! And, Revelation 22:15 warns that those who practice falsehood will be forced to stay outside the holy city, the New Jerusalem, where they will be separated from God and his presence!

Jesus encourages us to live a life of simplicity and honesty. One of my favorite verses from the Sermon on the Mount is “Simply let yes be yes, and your no be no. Anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (Matt. 6:37) By that, he meant that we should live our lives with such openness and transparency that people will believe what we say at face value. When we say “yes” or when we say “no”, people believe us, and we don’t have to overemphasize it by saying “I swear by...” whatever you swear by. I encourage you to take an honest look at yourself, and ask if you live each day truthfully and honestly. It will help you to consider specific relationships you have. Do you live honestly with your spouse – is there anything at all that you keep from them (aside from a surprise birthday present?!) Parents, do you lie to your kids because its more convenient? When you’re at work, do others trust you, or do they guard what they say around you because you routinely share it with others? Do you “stretch the truth” to make yourself look good to an employer, spouse, or group of friends?

Lastly, friends, remember that every word in the bible is relevant and important. “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16) Even the Old Testament, even the parts that we’ve heard since we were small children, and even the parts that seem irrelevant to us today. God doesn’t waste words. Which parts of the bible are you ignoring? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the importance and value of every scripture you read!

Praying for you all, as we FOLLOW after our Savior!

~Pastor Brian

**Check these out on**

Are you using Right Now Media to grow in your understanding and faith?

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**Bible Study!**

**“The 10 Commandments” with Albert Tate.** Are the Ten Commandments just a list of rules we are supposed to obey? Do they still apply today? And if so, how do we apply the commandments to our lives? In this ten-session series, pastor Albert Tate takes us through the Ten Commandments and shows us how we were first loved by God and what it looks like to love him in return. God wrote a love letter through his commandments so that we could know his heart and learn to love others in the same way. Each of the 10 videos average 8-10 minutes, and the free study guide includes questions for group discussion and scriptures for deeper, personal study. This is a perfect study to try, if you’re looking for something new for your daily devotion time!

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**For Men!**

**“Fighting Your Battles” with Jonathan Evans.** *“Walk by faith, because God is in your corner. Let’s fight together!”* In life’s difficult moments, we find peace when we remember that the God we serve fights our battles alongside us. Even when we feel like we can’t carry on, we can take heart knowing that in times of turmoil God equips us to grow in our faith and draw closer to him. In this six-session series with author, speaker, and former NFL chaplain Jonathan Evans, you will discover how you can face every hardship with strength and hope. You can be confident that God will always use your trials for his glory because he is fighting your battles. The 6 video sessions average 10 minutes. An optional book and/or workbook can be purchased (Amazon) for around \$16 and \$10, respectively.

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**For Women!**

**“The Struggle is Real”, with Nicole Unice.** Life is never as easy as we want it to be. Car tires blow out. Work piles up. Kids throw tantrums. It’s a struggle. But should it be? We often believe that when we follow Jesus, life should get easier. And when it doesn’t we tell ourselves we’re failing or stuck or abandoned by God. But it’s simply not true. In this 6-part series, Nicole Unice explores why life’s a struggle and what to do about it. With God as the hero of the story, a hard day has new meaning. We can find joy in him instead of feeling stuck. And our lives can be defined by redemption instead of struggle. The 6 video sessions average 12 minutes each. An optional book and/or workbook can be purchased for \$17 and \$11, respectively.

## **Parent's Corner, November 2022**

### **In the Moment Discipleship**

By Scott Kedersha

[www.fierceparenting.com](http://www.fierceparenting.com)

As parents, our most important—most basic—job is to disciple our children to Jesus. With three (soon-to-be four!) teenagers at home and 17 years of parenting behind me, I've grown in my understanding of what it means to disciple my kids. I came into parenthood with some very specific expectations, and for years felt I was a failure for not meeting them. In hindsight, however, I see that by taking advantage of "in the moment" type moments, my kids have learned what it means to trust and follow Jesus. Never forget that that's the aim of all our efforts: that our children would know, trust, and follow Jesus. Exactly how we do that looks different from family to family—but the end goal never changes.

**I thought I had a pretty good idea of what discipleship would look like.** Before becoming a parent, I thought I had a pretty good idea of what discipleship would look like in our home. When I trusted in Christ as a 24-year-old grad student, my friend Will met with me weekly and discipled me. He taught me how to read my Bible, pray, memorize Scripture, and share my testimony. My weekly meetings with Will had a huge impact on me, so I assumed that as a parent, I would disciple my kids the same way.

For a long time, my expectation was that we'd meet most nights around the dinner table as a family of six. We'd pray together, share highs and lows from the day, and then I'd teach them some great nugget of wisdom. They'd break out their journals, take copious notes, and maybe even spontaneously break out in worship songs. We'd also meet at a coffee shop or for breakfast weekly for a deep-dive Bible study together.

**My reality hasn't lived up to my expectations.** In reality, between youth group, games, practices, life group, and ministry commitments, we get to eat dinner together one or two times per week. Our sporadic meals together feature arguments over who's day was hardest, a barking dog, and reminders on things we need to do and places we need to be later that night.

The weekly breakfast doesn't happen because the kids need to be at school for sports or I scheduled a pastoral care meeting with a couple. My reality hasn't lived up to my expectations. In my lesser moments, I felt like I was failing my kids at the most basic level. For years I wouldn't blog or speak about parenting because I honestly believed we were failing as parents since our discipleship didn't live up to my unrealistic expectations.

Take advantage of teachable moments. And yet, somehow, our kids know the Lord, love the Lord, and genuinely desire to become more like Him. Even though our discipleship didn't look like I expected, our four sons were still discipled along the way. Consider Deuteronomy 6:7, "You shall teach [God's Word] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." And 1 Peter 3:15, "Always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..." As I reflect over the past 17 years, I see that we discipled our kids to Jesus during teachable moments. For our family, discipleship usually didn't take place in premeditated ways but "in the moment."

Here are three "in the moment" ways you can disciple your kids:

Bring someone with you. Look at errands and shopping as a way to get some quality one-on-one time with your child. Kristen and I always made this a priority whenever one of us ran to the store. You'd be surprised at the opportunities that come your way to share your faith, engage with someone in need, or learn from someone else's good (or bad) example. Some of my best conversations with my kids have come during quick trips to the store, so look for discipleship opportunities in the mundane moments of life.

My friend/boss/pastor Jonathan "JP" Pokluda says discipleship is "when we intentionally spend time with someone to help them follow Jesus." When we bring someone along with us—even just to the store—we're intentionally spending time with them to help them follow the Lord.

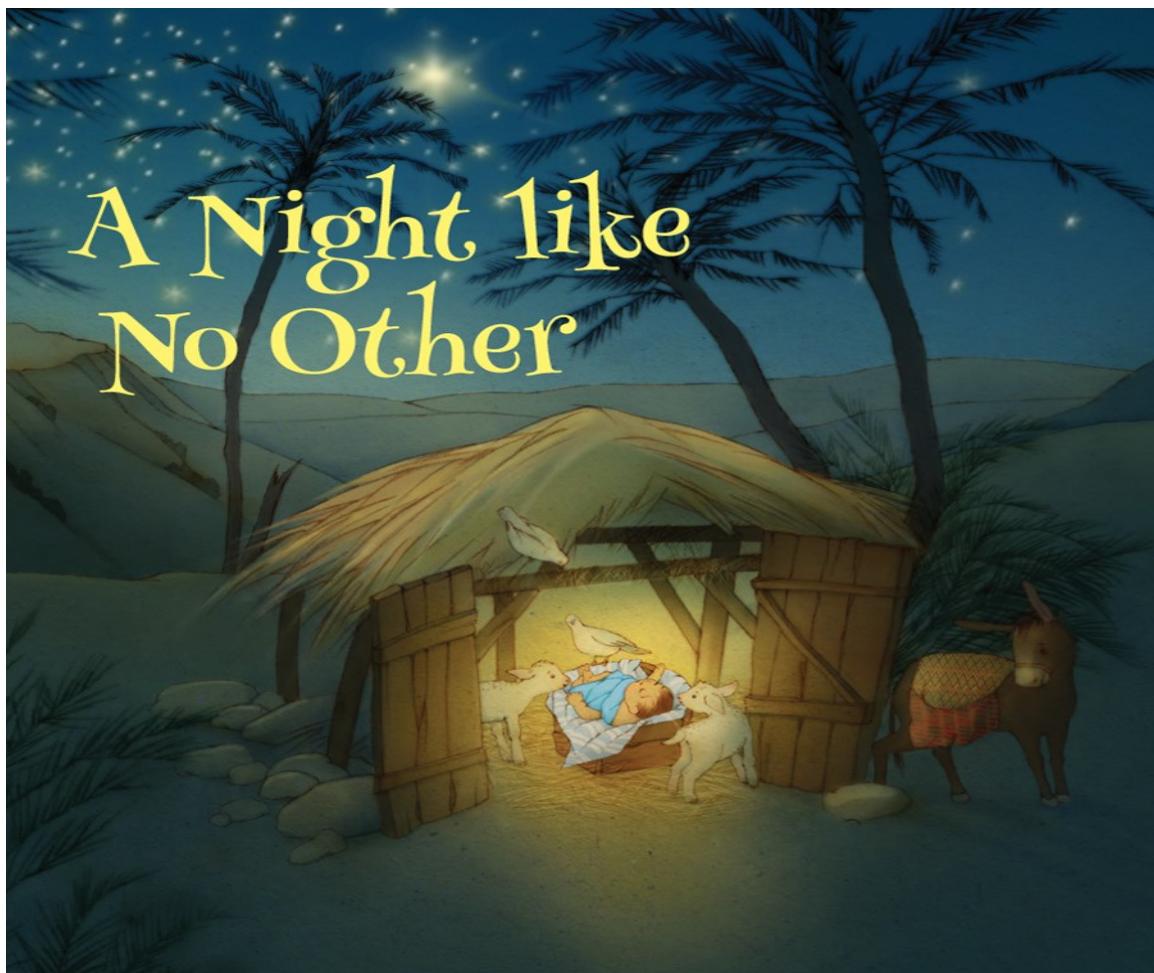
Apologize and ask for forgiveness. Earlier today I got frustrated with one of my kids. I complained to my wife about him and carried a grudge against him for hours. This evening, I apologized to him for my bitterness and sought forgiveness for my bad attitude and for whining about him to my wife. I don't always do well with this, but apologizing and asking for forgiveness shows our kids what it means to be humble and to consider the needs of others (Psalm 51:17, James 4:6, Philippians 2:3-4). Parenting provides countless "in the moment" opportunities to apologize and seek forgiveness. Be sure to take advantage of them.

Admit your weaknesses. Your kids might be surprised to know that you know what it's like to struggle with lust, body image, or people-pleasing. Let them know that you understand what it's like to compare likes and shares on Instagram—that you know what it's like to compare your clothes with someone else's—that you know what it's like to be jealous of someone else's athletic abilities. When we admit our own weaknesses to our kids, we show them that they're not

alone. We readily admit that we're not perfect and joyfully point them to the only One who is. We get to remind them who Christ is and who they are in Him.

They struggle every single day so we have opportunities to disciple them every single day! With twin sons in their senior year of high school, I'm sometimes petrified that they'll be out from under our roof in less than 10 months. They still don't always replace toilet paper, they leave doors unlocked, and they act like they don't know when a trash can is full.

But I'm confident they've been discipled well in following Jesus. Very little of that discipleship took place in the ways I expected—much more of it happened on the fly, in the on-going, teachable moments of life. Always be ready to point your kids toward the Lord in the moments of life when you (and they) least expect it.



## Live Nativity

Friday, December 2 & Saturday, December 3

6:30-8:30 pm

See Chad Baughman for details



## ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS KIDS (ARKK)

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

*1 Corinthians 11:1*

**ARKK IN 2023:** ARKK is going to be a little different in 2023. We are going to meet 4 times next year for our ARKK lessons and projects. We will meet in January, April, July and October. More details will follow in January 2023.

**ONGOING COLLECTION REMINDER:** Keep bringing in those aluminum soda tabs and glossy magazines for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey.

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



The Perennials will soon be celebrating their first birthday! It has been an amazing year of community for our group, and we have been blessed to experience some wonderful times together. Please consider joining us for as many activities as you are able. *Don't feel as though you need to make every event in order to participate!*

In honor of our first birthday, on November 5th we will be enjoying a meal prepared by Patrick LeBlanc, chef and owner of "Spoons" restaurant in Carlisle. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship as we reminisce about our year together and look forward to what God will do in and through us in the next year.

On Friday, December 9, the group will travel to Camp Hill to see the musical drama "A Reason to Sing." Certainly, all of us have a reason to sing as we enter into the holiday season that celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior!



## Bulletin Board

November 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	“Book of Joshua”	CE Wing
Mike Bolze	“Pilgrim’s Progress”	Room 10
Pastor Brian	“10 New Testament Characters”	Room 8
Preschool-Grade 1	Cliff & Connie Cornman	Room 11
Grades 2 & 3	Alan & Dawne Dewalt	Room 12
Grades 4 & 5	Tammy Cornman/Carl Baughman	Room 14
Grades 6-12	Emily Rosenberry	Room 7

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

- **“Ezra-Nehemiah”** Leader: Pastor Brian Ramsey
- **Youth, Grades 6-12.** Youth Room Leaders: Shane Reed , Gina Baldoni
- **Elementary, grades K-5.** Leader: Pastor Don Snyder and Tammy Snyder,  
Carl Baughman, Joyce Smith
- **Ladies’ bible study** –Quiet Talks on Prayer Room 8 Leader: Emily Dundas

### Bi-Weekly Life Groups

- **“Men’s Bible Study”** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month-7:00 pm  
CE Wing
- **Morning Bible Study-Revelation** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month-10:00 am
- **“Living by Faith”** Leader: Pastor Don Snyder
- **“Living by Faith”** Leader: Carl Baughman
- **“Living by Faith”** Thursday, 7:00 pm

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of August 31, 2022	\$102,382.98
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Deposits	18,296.66
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Expenses	27,891.05
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Balance as of September 30, 2022	<u>\$92,788.59</u>
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*The following is a breakdown of the major funds available within the general treasury:*

Live Nativity Fund	\$ 4,335.30
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Mission Fund	\$ 2,604.01
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Mission Trip Fund	\$ 7,590.41
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Building Fund	\$264,826.73
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(CD \$225,034.74 & Checking \$39,791.99)

*For an itemized financial report,  
please contact  
Eileen Bear, Treasurer.*

