



Cambridge Springs First Church of God

634 Venango Avenue  
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403

Check out our website at  
[www.csfcog.org](http://www.csfcog.org)

**GROW and GO!**

*Jesus is the subject!*

## Life in 6 Words/The Gospel

**G**od created us to be with Him  
**O**ur sins separate us from God.  
**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds.  
**P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.  
**E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.  
**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

This acrostic is a helpful tool in remembering and sharing the essence of the Gospel message, which is spelled out from cover to cover of the Bible. Cards with it are available in the church lobby.



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# FIRST CHURCH OF GOD CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

*Grow in and Go with the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

## From the Heart of "PK"

My lack of eyewear is something I have long been thankful for and, quite frankly, taken pride in. Well, I had an appointment yesterday that may have changed that. After dealing with much eye strain that even has led to headaches and even feelings of dizziness lately, due to looking at screens too much (Can you say "New Year's Resolution"?), I visited an optometrist for only the second time in over twenty five years. Only missing two tiny letters with each eye during the testing, I was feeling confident I would be leaving with confirmation that the only glasses I may need are the "blue light" glasses I bought at Walmart for when looking at screens. However, after having a full eye exam the doctor informed me that I have an astigmatism, which I then asked him to explain. From [mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org), "Astigmatism

is a common and generally treatable imperfection in the curvature of the eye that causes blurred distance and near vision." Back to my appointment, the doctor then casually recommended that I get a pair of glasses (Thankfully I do not need to wear them all the time, so you probably won't be seeing me on the stage with them on.). This was not casual news to me! Please pray for me (I'm fine with this news, but your prayers are still appreciated.).

This, in the grand scheme of things, little situation comes with some big lessons. First, what we are looking at and focusing on in life can lead to pain and disorientation. This does not happen when we are fixing our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Second, it is easy to become prideful and think we are seeing things correctly or simply good enough,

comparing ourselves to others who would miss more "letters" in their "test." However, because of our sin nature, we all have distorted and blurry vision. We all need our vision tested by our Creator. And we all need corrective lenses through God's Word. Furthermore, we are incapable of seeing the whole picture, but He sees all. Third, a day will come when all Christ followers will see clearly with completely restored vision for all eternity in Heaven. How awesome is that?!

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12



## From the Pulpit



We are going back to Acts, short for Acts of the Apostles, friends! This record of God’s movement in the early Church is packed full of rich messages, lessons, and life applications for us both personally and corporately. Again, if we want to be the First Church of God we’re called to be, we would do well to learn from the First Church and imitate it. Pastor Kevin will continue fashioning messages from Acts for most Sundays in the coming months.

## Bible Reading 2023



I can't make anyone get into God's Word, but I'll always encourage you to do so and do all I can to help you in doing so. The choice is yours.

Speaking of help, the daily podcast that goes with the Bible reading plan is a great help. It can be found online and on smartphone apps in various places. I can help you find them if needed.

Pastor Kevin

## Grief Share



Grief Share, which we are blessed to host in our facility, is a phenomenal support to anyone who is going through the grieving process after losing a loved one! These sessions last 13 weeks, and they are led by a godly and very empathetic woman, Stacey Walbridge. Please spread the word about this ministry.

## Women's Bible Study

Women are invited to gather in Amy Lombardo’s home on Monday evenings to discuss thoughts and questions pertaining to the Bible plan’s reading throughout the week. These gatherings will start on Monday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.

**Men participating in the Bible reading plan:** Such gathering opportunities with Pastor Kevin likely will be offered at various times this year.



## Communication Cards

If you are new within our church family or need to update any of your family’s information, please fill out a communication card, which are currently attached to the worship bulletins. These cards can be placed in the offering boxes or on an altar if they contain a prayer request. Updated church directories will be made soon, and we want to make sure you are included with accurate information.

## Church Trip to an Erie Otters Hockey Game



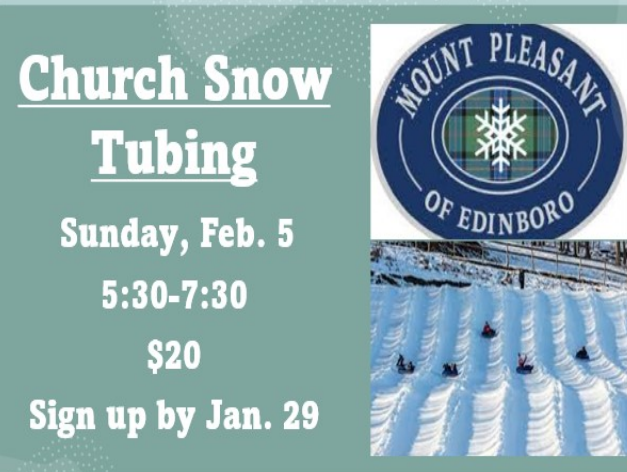
**Saturday, Jan. 28**  
**\$12**  
**Sign up by Jan. 22.**



## Church Date Night



**Sunday, Feb. 25**  
 More details TBD.



# Welcome Team Schedule

Date	Sanctuary	Parking Lot	Doors
Jan.8	Darlene Roudybush	Steve Dies, Bus Stivanson	Lisa Harned, Aaron Davidson
Jan. 15	Lorene Fosburg	David Spaid, Aaron Davidson	Steve Dies
Jan. 22	Darlene Roudybush	Scott Spaid, Bus Stivanson	Debbe Davison, Lisa Harned
Jan. 29	Lorene Fosburg	David Spaid	Steve Dies, Aaron Davidson
Feb. 5	Darlene Roudybush	David Spaid, Bus Stivanson	Debbe Davidson, Scott Spaid
Feb. 12	Lorene Fosburg	Aaron Davidson	Steve Dies, Lisa Harned

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Romans 15:7



Children's Ministry

We are blessed with some amazing children in our church! We must give thanks for them, embrace them, and encourage them. It is our responsibility to come alongside parents in support by helping them expose their children to the Gospel message. We need to help teach them the truths of scripture and give them opportunities to live out their faith in a loving community. We have some ladies who are doing a wonderful job at caring for and teaching our children on Sunday mornings. Thank you, ladies! They could use some help, though, and more leaders are needed to split up children by age and form another class. What a terrific opportunity to serve, share God's love, and make a foundational and eternal difference in young lives! This opportunity is open for anyone feeling God's tug on their hearts: men (Wow, it would be so good to have some godly men investing in our children!) and women both younger and older and teenagers. You do not need to sign a contract to seek out this opportunity, as you can simply observe at first and decide for sure if you are a good fit. All volunteers with children and youth do need to first provide background clearances, which are easy and free to do. Please talk with Pastor Kevin or Sarah Myers if you are up for exploring this ministry opportunity. You will not regret it!

Our children are currently going through a series about the Church, learning who we are and why we do what we do. For example, they just went through a lesson on why we should not forsake gathering, and they will next be talking about what worship is and why we do it. The lineup for children's lessons in the coming months are packed full of excitement and essential truths!

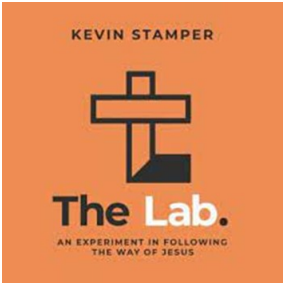
Please encourage our children to be involved and spread the word to young families in town that we love children. Also, be open to what our children can teach us. Through watching and interacting with them we all can better foster a childlike faith.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16



Upcoming Book/Partnership Study

In the spring a book study will be available for the church, and participants will be encouraged to discuss the book with a partner. We may also have a few group gatherings about the book. The book is "The Lab: An Experiment in Following the Way of Jesus" by Kevin Stamper, a Church of God pastor. It has seven weeks of short daily readings and questions on following Jesus, basically a discipleship manual. Please be looking for further information and plan on participating if you want to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.



Common Grounds



Just down the road near Saegertown, we are blessed with a wonderful place where teens and young adults each have weekly gatherings for connection, fun, worship, and growth. All teens and young adults are encouraged to take advantage by being involved in their programming. Teens gather for worship and Bible study on Mondays at 7:00 and for games on Fridays from 7:00-11:00 (9th-12 grades). Young adults meet on Tuesday evenings. Common Grounds' mission is to be "A gathering place where young people can socialize free of negative influences and where they connect and find common ground." The address is 19473 Grotto Lane, Saegertown.

January Events

- Jan. 9 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 15 Connect Lunch after morning worship
- Jan. 16 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 17 Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22 Last day to sign up for Church Night at the Erie Otters
- Jan. 23 Women's Bible Study at 6 :30p.m.
- Jan. 28 Church Night at the Erie Otter's
- Jan. 29 Last day to sign up for tubing
- Jan. 30 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

February Events

- Feb. 3-5 Winter Blast at Whitehall for grades 7-12
- Feb. 5 Snow Tubing at Mount Pleasant
- Feb. 6 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10-12 Winter Blast at Whitehall for grades 3-6
- Feb. 13 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22 Lenten Service & Lunch at CSFCOG at noon
- Feb. 25 Church Date Night
- Feb. 27 Women's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26 Critical Conversations at 6 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

- Community Lenten Lunches: Wednesdays at noon from Feb. 22 – April 5
- Church Bowling Outing: Sunday, March 5
- Annual "March Madness" Bracket Challenge
- "March Madness" 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament in the activities center: Saturday, March 25
- "Mommy & Me Market" in the activities center: Date TBD

Schedules For Jan/Feb

NURSERY

- Jan. 8 Lisa, Finley
- Jan. 15 Mollie
- Jan. 22 Kim, Makenzie
- Jan. 29 Lisa, Finley
- Feb. 5 Mollie
- Feb. 12 Kim, Makenzie
- Feb. 19 Lisa, Finley
- Feb. 26 Mollie
- March 5 Kim, Makenzie

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- Jan. 8 Sarah
- Jan. 15 Heather
- Jan. 22 Sarah
- Jan. 29 Heather
- Feb. 5 Sarah
- Feb. 12 Heather
- Feb. 19 Sarah
- Feb. 29 Heather
- March 5 Sarah

PRAISE TEAM-Heather Whitney

- Jan. 8 Kim, Madison, Finley, Martha, Mollie
- Jan. 15 Kim, Finley, Makenzie, Margie
- Jan. 22 Martha, Mollie, Madison, Kim
- Jan. 29 Finley, Makenzie, Mollie, Margie

Thanks to all who are serving!

Soup Needed

We are in need of 8-10 soups for the Lenten lunch will are hosting on Wednesday, February 22. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby.



# Who or What is Shaping Your Child's Sexuality?

Parents, join us for a **FREE** presentation equipping you to better protect your children in an over-sexualized culture



## CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

**Sunday, Feb. 26 • 6:00 p.m.**

First Church of God, Cambridge Springs  
634 Venango Ave. • Cambridge Springs, PA



Presenter:  
**Matt Riley, M.Div.**  
Development Director  
Be Broken Ministries

Get equipped to:

- Have 6 critical conversations to help protect your kids and prepare them to walk in healthy, God-centered sexuality from an early age
- Understand & overcome common fears related to discussing the topic of sexuality with your kids
- Find practical tools to help your entire family thrive in sexual integrity and wholeness

Contact Pastor Kevin Myers at [pastorkevin@csfcog.org](mailto:pastorkevin@csfcog.org) with questions or for more information.



Critical Conversations is a special presentation from Be Broken Ministries based on the book *Honest Talk* by John Fort – available on Amazon and at [bebroke.org/store](http://bebroke.org/store).



### Connect Lunches

As announced in recent months, we are going to start having connection lunches after a Sunday worship service every other month. The first of these gatherings will be on Sunday, January 15. This will be the last time we



will gather in the Activities Center before the postponed renovations are started the next day. The next connection lunch will take place soon after renovations have been done. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy a time of fellowship and food together, something the early Church was known for and something that is still a healthy (even when eating dessert) practice for us. **Needed: Volunteers and a point person/organizer** for these meals! Please talk with Pastor Kevin if you are interested in this serving opportunity.

### Prayer Calls

Did you know our church uses a phone messaging system to communicate prayer requests and praises, along with occasional announcements and reminders? If you do not currently receive these messages and would like to, please communicate that on a communication card or with Pastor Kevin.

### Winter Blast at Whitehall



“Winter Blast” is always a terrific time for students! They will take part in many fun activities while being cared for by godly counselors and connecting with peers. Students will also experience quality and meaningful times of worship and teaching. The registration cost is only \$50 when doing so through the church. Visit [whitehallcamp.org](http://whitehallcamp.org) for more information and registration.

### Youth Ministry



Our youth ministry has been mostly dormant for a while, but that is going to change! For example, a Sunday morning gathering may be started, along with periodic evening gatherings. Parents and students, be looking and listening for opportunities for connection, growth, and fun in the coming months.

### PREGNANCY CENTER OF MEADVILLE

Take & fill bottles with change, cash, or checks.



Return filled bottles by Feb. 26.

“Baby Bottle/Dale’s Crib” Fundraising Drive