

November/December



FIRST CHURCH OF GOD CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

Grow in and Go with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

From the Desk of PK

Greetings, church! While I we may not be ready for the colder temperatures, we have entered a wonderful time of year. As with every season of the year and of life, this season will be more blessed and enjoyable when we go through it together. I hope you choose to go through this season connected with the Body of Christ. Your presence and participation are valuable and impactful!

I believe we are either in drive or reverse, as there is no neutral or park in life. This is the case with every facet and relationship of life, and it is most of all true of our discipleship with Jesus Christ both individually and as a church. In the coming year, do you want to grow, or do you want to regress? If we answer grow, we must take initiative and action. Growth never just happens.

We have two discipleship initiatives that will last throughout 2022, and both will help us grow in the Gospel as disciples of Christ. I highly encourage you to take part, and you can sign-up for both until December 19. First, we will be reading the devotional/Bible reading plan “Connect the Testaments.” This book, which combines reading from the Old Testament and New Testament every day with a devotional writing, will spur on knowledge and obedience of God’s Word. It will also be a good tool for discussion throughout the year, which will help create relational growth in the church. Individuals who commit to this reading plan are asked to pay \$10 for the book (which is \$15 online) if they are able. Secondly, Growth Groups are starting. This is a discipleship initiative that will be aimed to simultaneously facilitate relational growth both with God and each other, and I hope for it to become a yearly endeavor. Groups of three, split up between men and women, will be assigned amongst those who sign-up. They will commit to meet a minimum of biweekly for an hour. There will be standard questions to go over, and individual groups can come up with other questions or topics to discuss each time they meet. Groups will also be expected to commit to a reading/devotional endeavor: the “Connect the Testaments” book, books of the Bible, another devotional book, a video series, etc. Growth Groups will connect us in Christ centered community while providing mentorship, accountability, and encouragement. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these initiatives.

Grow in and Go with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Kevin Myers



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who has donated items and money toward our efforts to this amazing ministry opportunity through Samaritan's Purse!

We will be packing boxes during our packing and pizza party on Sunday, November 7 in the Activities Center after the worship service. Our goal is to bless 85 children around the world with Christmas boxes, which will all be filled with Gospel literature and accompanied by a Gospel presentation. Please be praying for the eternal impact of these efforts.

Jesus is the Subject! The Gospel is our Message!

UPCOMING SUNDAY MESSAGES

Our Sunday mornings will be focusing on two different but connected areas in November and December. During the first few weeks the messages will focus on us being "Heavenly Harvesters" in this world. The focus will then shift to a series called "Joy Story," which will focus on different individuals and lessons of joy from the events surrounding Jesus' birth. As redeemed, remade followers of Christ and members of God's Kingdom, joy should be foundational and evident in our lives and fellowship! We will explore how this can be lived out in various life circumstances by following the examples of those in this essential chapter of the eternal "joy story," the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The logo for Sunday Sermons. It features the words "Sunday Sermons" in a serif font. Above the word "Sermons" is a small yellow icon of a church steeple. The logo is set against a white background with a light blue border.

Sunday
Sermons

Schedules For November & December

NURSERY —

Nov 7th	Barb Royer, Madison Royer
Nov 14th	Lisa Harned, Finley Rauscher
Nov 21st	Mollie Yanc, Madison Yanc
Nov 28th	Barb Royer, Madison Royer
Dec 5th	Lisa Harned, Finley Rauscher
Dec 12th	Mollie Yanc, Madison Yanc
Dec 19th	Lisa Harned, Finley Rauscher
Dec 26th	Barb Royer, Madison Royer

JUNIOR CHURCH—

Nov/Dec	Tentatively Sarah Myers
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SOUNDBOOTH —

Nov 7th	Kevin Whitney, Hunter Spaid
Nov 14th	Clint Rauscher, Aiden Rauscher
Nov 21st	Ken Hurst, Hunter Spaid
Nov 28th	Kevin Whitney, Aiden Rauscher
Dec 5th	Clint Rauscher, Hunter Spaid
Dec 12th	Ken Hurst, Aiden Rauscher
Dec 19th	Kevin Whitney, Hunter Spaid
Dec 26th	Clint Rauscher, Aiden Rauscher

PRAISE TEAM-

Nov 7th	Kim, Martha, Madison, Mollie
Nov 14th	Finley, Margie, Mackenzie
Nov 21st	Kim, Mollie, Margie
Nov 28th	Darla, Finley, Margie, Makenzie
Dec 5th	Kim, Madison, Martha, Mollie
Dec 12th	Darla, Finley, Margie, Mackenzie
Dec 19th	All
Dec 26th	Darla, Finley, Makenzie, Mollie

Happy Birthday

November

Lennox Manross	1st
Campbell Manros	2nd
Debbie Lemanski	4th
Madison Yanc	6th
Phyliss Ebert	11th
Tony Miles	12th
Makenzie Yanc	12th
Amanda DeArment	16th
Aaron Carico	18th
Hayden Carico	22nd

December

Joshua Harned	11th
Heidi Betchel	14th
Elizabeth Lilly	15th
Sarah Myers	18th
Kevin Whitney	31st

Anniversary

November

Harold & Mary	
Hunter	11th

December

Kevin & Sarah Myers	22nd
Ed & Julie Scott	31st

CHURCH DIRECTORY/NEWLETTERS

An updated church directory is available on the welcome table in the church lobby. Please feel free to take one. Also, please let the church office know if your information in the directory is either wrong or missing. If anything changes with your information, please fill out a connection card or contact us with the change.

Reminder: Starting in January, the church newsletter will not be sent in the mail to everyone. We will send it via email as a PDF to individuals who have provided their email address. We will also have hard copies available on the welcome table in the lobby. Finally, newsletters, will continue to be put on our website (csfcog.org). Newsletter will, however, still be mailed to select shut-in individuals. If you wish to have the newsletters emailed to you please make sure Barb has your email address.

THIRST YOUTH CONVENTION

We have twelve students and four adults attending the Thirst convention at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center November 19-21. This convention is always an amazing time filled with fun and, most importantly, quality worship and teaching. Please be praying for receptiveness and growth within those attending, many of whom are not regularly involved with our church. Also, thank you to the individual who anonymously donated funds that are helping our students experience this convention free of charge!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

Calling all women! A special Christmas themed gathering is being held for you on Saturday, December 4. It will include food, worship, teaching by Pastor Julie Lamberson from New Beginnings Church of God, and quality fellowship with sisters in Christ. Please see the attached invitation and invite friends and family members! Lets have dozens of women join together in this festive time of year in celebration of our Savior!



COMMUNITY ADVENT

WORSHIP SERVICE

The following is the schedule for this year's community Advent worship services. These services are held at noon, and they are followed with an offering of soup. You will see that we are scheduled to host the advent service on December 22. Therefore, we need a handful of soups donated for that day. Please communicate that you are bringing soup by Sunday, December 19. The community is also having a combined Christmas worship service on Sunday, December 12 in the Presbyterian Church. Please look for more information on that service in the weekly bulletins and announcements.



Grow in and Go with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

AMAZON SMILE

Are you guilty of shopping on Amazon? Would you like to combine this shopping with financially supporting the church? If so, we have good news for you! When you go on Amazon to make your purchases you can go to the Amazon Smile page and select our church. A small percentage of your purchase will then be donated to the church, amounts that will add up to make a difference.

AmazonSmile benefits—

Every little bit counts and charitable donations quickly add up. Same products, same prices, no cost to you. AmazonSmile has the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shipping as the Amazon you know.

Generate donations—

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop.

Maximize your impact—

Support First Church of God with every eligible AmazonSmile purchase from your phone or web browser.

Set up account—

Go to the main menu and choose "Gifting & Charity" then the "AmazonSmile" option. There you will be able to search First Church of God Cambridge Springs PA. It is that simple and you will be reminded to renew twice a year with your chosen charity.



CHILDREN MINISTRY

Did you know that our church is the only one in the community who offers programming for elementary students during part of the worship service? That is a characteristic we need to celebrate and share. We can also invest in this ministry and make it as effective as possible. If you are needing an area to serve and you can effectively care for children, feel free to inquire about a role within this important ministry you can fulfill.

We have some exciting upcoming plans for our children on Sunday mornings! The children's ministry room will be transformed into a "Toy Story" theme, as the children will also be talking about "Joy Story." PK here with full disclosure, Sarah shared this idea with me, and I am changing what I was thinking for my messages and copying off her. Everyone will have the same focus going at once, which will be exciting.

Family devotionals are also being purchased for the children to do with their families throughout the Advent season. Please make sure to do these activities with your children and grandchildren. Such an endeavor can be a memorable and meaningful practice in the lives of our children and families.

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Please attend and participate in our annual church business meeting on Sunday, November 14 after the worship service. We will be voting on important matters for the life of our church over the next year and beyond: a loan proposal for doing renovations to the Activities Center, new board members, ratifying a new treasurer, and new members to the nominating committee and offering counting team. Please read all of the information available in the annual report, which has been available since October 31, and please talk over any questions or concerns you have personally before the meeting.



WELCOME TEAM

Receiving a warm greeting and being connected with information and individuals are important needs on Sunday mornings, especially for visitors. Everyone needs to feel welcome, valued, and connected! With this in mind, Pastor Kevin would like to form a welcome team for Sunday mornings within the next couple months. This team will have a few different roles, and they will all positively impact the atmosphere of our worship gatherings. A minimum of six people are needed for this team, which will have at least a few members scheduled to serve each week. **If you are looking for an impactful way to serve on Sunday mornings, you are encouraged to notify Pastor Kevin ASAP about the welcome team.**

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Jesus is the Subject! The Gospel is our Message!

LOCAL FOOD BANKS FOR SERVING & RECEIVING

Many individuals within our area are struggling to “make ends meet,” including a struggle to have enough food for their families. Our community is blessed to have multiple food banks/drives available to help people in such circumstances, and you are encouraged to contribute to these efforts. The Second Harvest Food Bank distribution usually occurs monthly on the fourth Friday, and it is currently taking place at the CS Carnival Grounds starting around noon. Note, November and December’s distribution will be the third Friday to coincide with the holidays. To volunteer during this distribution all you need to do is show up. Secondly, the community ministerium has a food bank within the Presbyterian Church. This food bank currently needs replenished with good, new cans of food. Please feel free to bring donations to this effort to the church, as Pastor Kevin will take them to the Presbyterian Church. Finally, if you need help with obtaining food, there is absolutely no shame in doing so. Both these ministries would love to help you if you reach out to them.



GROWTH STUDY GATHERING

In conclusion of our recent gatherings for men (“Fight: Winning the Battles That Matter Most”) and women (“Warrior Women”) on Wednesday evenings, we will be taking a break from such growth studies until after the new year. Be looking for a similar series dealing with marriage early in 2022. Anyone interested in leading a study on a topic or biblical book of your choice is welcome to talk with Pastor Kevin! These gatherings do not need to be on Wednesday evenings, and they do not even need to happen within the church building.

CHURCH HOLIDAY MEAL

Other than Jesus, probably nothing builds community better than eating together. We are going to do just that on Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 with a special holiday meal. This will be held in the Activities Center. Meat and drinks will be provided, and you are asked to provide side dishes and desserts. Be sure to mark this on your calendar and join in this delightful time of sharing good food and fellowship. Also, please talk with Chuck Karcher if you are able to help setup for the meal the evening of December 4.

BAPTISM

Have you decided to accept salvation that comes through Jesus Christ and follow Him as Lord of your life? If you have done so, have you publicly declared and celebrated this through baptism? If you have not taken this important step of obedience in your relationship with Christ, you are highly encouraged to do so. Please let Pastor Kevin know if you would like to be baptized. We will have a baptism service again on Easter, but he would love to have another baptism occasion before then. There is never a bad time to recognize and celebrate the cleansing power and beauty of new life with Christ!



AWANA CHILDRENS PROGRAM AT CMA

Parents and grandparents, are you looking for a quality activity to involve your children in the middle of the week, one that will help them grow in their faith? The CMA Church has such a program in Awana, which takes place every Tuesday evening. In this program kids are offered a free supper before taking part in Bible teaching, scripture memorization challenges, and fun games and competitions.

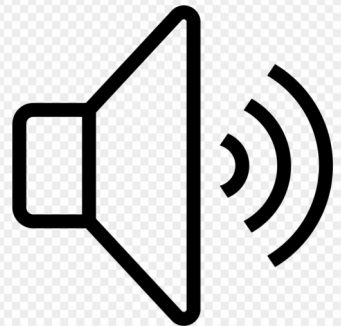
Pastor Kevin would love to offer a complimentary children's program to the CMA's program, even for a season, in the future. Please communicate to him if God calls you to leadership of such an initiative.



Grow in and Go with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

SOUND ROOM AND EQUIPMENT

Hello. Hello. Can you hear me?? Good news: Everyone should be able to better hear those speaking and singing in the sanctuary soon! While it is on back order like many things currently are, we will soon be getting a new digital sound mixer. We will also be using new microphones and a new computer in the sound room, and a camera is being ordered for better livestreaming our worship services. These are all items that have been needed. In conjunction with these changes, the current sound room will be removed ASAP, as everything will be relocated into the old/new sound room upstairs. This location change will free up space in the back of the sanctuary for more seating, wheelchair accessibility, or an information area.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan. 15 – Church Date Night to the Erie Otters game

Jan. 29 – Church Game Night

Youth Pumpkin Carving



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Pastor Kevin Myers



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE