

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

April 2017  
Volume 33 No. 3

## Holy Week Observances & Activities

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

### LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION



Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

### Children's Ministry Easter Egg Fair

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

**EASTER!** – He has risen!  
He Has Risen Indeed!!



## Golden Oldies

One of the main programs of the Golden Oldies is **quilt making**. For the last several years, we have made at least 50 quilts each year. The quilts go to people in the church, new members to the Golden Oldies, terminally ill members, the Red Cross, nursing homes, Crisis Pregnancy Care Center, Haven Ministries and other places in the community. We also give one each year to the church auction and one to the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction. This has been the **main project for outreach** from the Golden Oldies. We have 50 made so far this year and are still making a few more.

Steve White (AMT Leader), on behalf of  
Ken Haines (Chairman of Golden Oldies)

## Would You Like to Know Your Spiritual Gifts & How to Use Them?



Every follower of Jesus has been given spiritual gifts. These gifts are given to us by God to enable us to serve Him and others inside the church and in our world. These gifts are combined with our personal style and passions to help us to serve in ways that are helpful and in ways that energize us and bring us joy.

Here at Buffalo Valley we use a material called, “**Network**”, to walk you through finding your spiritual gifts and putting them to use. We are having a two session workshop to go through the material. The **first session** will be **Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** from **1 - 4 p.m.** The **second session** will be **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **1 - 4 p.m.** So, in six hours you will be equipped to know your gifts and explore possibilities of how to use them. You will also be offered the opportunity to meet one on one with someone at a later time to go over your results and questions on an individual basis.

If you'd like more information about Network and/or would like to sign up for the classes, please contact the church office.

Pastor Eric



What sunshine is to flowers,  
smiles are to people!



## Annual Auction a HUGE Success

There are many ways to measure success, but by all the usual standards, \$\$\$\$ , food, fun and fellowship the 2017 Auction was a huge hit. Thank you to all who participated by donating items, helping with the auction and purchasing items. We raised **almost \$16,000** towards **paying off our building debt**. Plans are already underway for 2018 so start thinking how you might participate in this unique event.

Steve Richard

## Easter Egg Fair



Saturday,  
April 15<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am to 12 pm

**All children  
through  
fifth grade  
are welcome!**

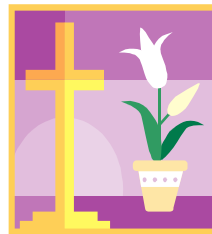
**Come and go!**

**Activity stations! Prizes!  
Easter Egg Hunt Station!  
Inflatable amusements!**

**A FREE hotdog lunch**  
will be served with chips and drink.



Volunteers will be needed for set up,  
tear down and the event hours.



If you can volunteer or have any  
questions, please contact the  
Children's Pastor  
**Donita Keister** @  
(570) 966-1183 (church)  
or email her at  
[pastordonita@bvcob.com](mailto:pastordonita@bvcob.com)

**We will soon be requesting  
candy donations.**

Watch your mailbox for upcoming details!

Teresa Chambers, Children's Ministry Team



## Our Walls

### Chocolate Rolls



If you ordered a chocolate roll, we thank-you! Chocolate rolls will be available for pick-up on April 9<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from this sale are used to offset the **cost of shipping** for the **Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes**.



### Westernport Mission

It is not too late to submit an application to be a part of our **summer mission trip** to Westernport Maryland. The dates of the trip are **July 22 - 28**. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Bastian or Brenda Eberhart.



### Operation Christmas Child

Yes, that's right. The Mission Ministry Team has begun planning for Christmas 2017! In 2016, we sent 456 shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse. This year our goal is 480! We can easily meet that goal with your help.

We assemble shoeboxes for three different age groups of boys and girls. You can see our Christmas tree at the Mission Ministry table. On the tree, you will see the items needed to complete the shoeboxes; items such as Chapstick, bar soap, crayons, pencils, washcloths and more! Once we have received the quantity needed of an item, we will remove that item from the tree.

Don't forget that you can also "adopt" a box for \$20. That money can be placed in an envelope and marked as such. Place the envelope in the offering.

Thank-you in advance for helping us to reach outside of our walls with this annual mission.

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team

## When Is a Secret Not a Secret?



When it is "Secret Church". It is not too late to sign up for "**Secret Church 2017**", a simulcast from David Platt (author of the books, "Radical" and "Counter Culture"). The simulcast begins at **6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** and ends at 12:30 a.m. the next morning for a total of six hours. The topic of the simulcast is "**Scripture and Authority in an Age of Skepticism**". David will cover topics like, "How did we get the Bible we have today? Who decided what would and wouldn't be included in it? How do we know it is true? Are there any errors in the Bible? Is the Bible necessary and authoritative in my life?"

The cost for the simulcast is \$10 which includes a large workbook that is yours to keep. If you plan to attend please sign up on the Secret Church bulletin board in the main entry. If you'd like more information please contact Pastor Eric. You can also obtain more information by going to the website, [www.radical.net/secret-church](http://www.radical.net/secret-church).

Pastor Eric



### Free As a Bird

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bowling at Best Bowl** and fellowship at Pizza Hut. Time to be determined.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, Rails to Trails** walk or ride. 1 pm, Purple Cow to follow.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>, Evening at the Buttorffs Campsite** at Airport Campground starting at 4 pm, Variety of Wings, bonfire and outdoor games. Possible Cornhole tournament??? Bring a covered dish.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** for an **ice cream social** at the Kline cabin, Time TBD.

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, Half Way Dam picnic** starting at 12:30 pm, bring a side dish and dessert to share.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, Tunnel Walk** at 1 pm then bonfire, games and food at Buttorff House. Mountain pies and hot dogs provided, bring a side dish to share.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>, American Music Theater and Shady Maple**, Time to be determined.

\*Events subject to change with weather. Any questions call Linda at (570) 713-5505.

Linda Buttorff

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



Longing for a Better Home?

When I was a young adult living in the Washington D.C. area I had a desire to buy a “single family home”. This was a term used to describe a house that wasn’t like a townhouse or other dwelling attached to another house. I was living in a new townhouse at the time which was more than adequate for Janet and me, but I wanted the “status” associated with a single family home. Yes, I know now how foolish that was but I was only 23 or so at the time! Anyway, I really “longed” for a different home. In 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 Paul writes the following: **5** *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* **2** *For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,*

The Bible routinely and regularly calls the follower of Jesus to consider himself to be a “stranger”, a “pilgrim”, in this world and reminds us that this world is not really our home. But how often do we think of this in the way Paul writes? I confess that far too often I cannot be characterized as “groaning” in my desire to leave this life and enter the next one. Yet, this is the attitude that you and I are called to have. This attitude doesn’t diminish the importance of our earthly life; rather it elevates the importance of our heavenly one. Living with the right perspective on the next life compared to this life helps us to make decisions with our time and resources that make the most sense for eternity.

If you are not looking forward to heaven, it might be because you’re not sure you’re going there; or, it might be that you’re not rightly focused on eternity. I think it is impossible to be “so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good” as the old saying goes. Keeping our minds focused on eternity, even groaning to get there, is how we have our best and most productive life on earth.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



Jesus’ power is best displayed through how His followers live their lives and love other people.

Pastor Eric

## PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for, Intimate with, Transformed by Christ

### School Year Sunday Nights:

Games & Supper: 6 - 7:30 pm

Devo/Lesson: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

March 19 My Story, Your Story, God's Story

March 26 {YLT meeting (5 – 7 pm)};  
Spiritual Life Service (all, 7 - 8:30 pm)

April 2 Worship & Game Night

April 9 Taking the Plunge (sharing God)

April 16 **Easter**– No Youth

April 23 Jesus in High School? (YLT, 4 – 6 pm)

April 30 Being Jesus in High School

May 7 Worship & Game Night

May 14 **Mother's Day** — No Youth

May 21 Suffering Servant

May 28 **Memorial Day** — No Youth

### Youth Events:

June 11 - 16 **Teen Week**  
(with Drama Team)

June 28 - July 2 **Creation!**

July 22 - 29 **Westernport Mission Trip**

August 11 - 13 **Summer Youth Retreat**

*Parents, we also send weekly emails, Facebook posts and a monthly "Fridge Flier" about upcoming events – if you are not getting them, you may miss something – let the office know!*

Our Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team, along with the Youth Leadership Team (YLT) has been digging into what discipleship means today. We typically think of those who followed Jesus around, learning and working alongside Him; but how do we do that today? Well, we have to read what He said and try to follow His example. So we've narrowed it down to 4 'practices': **Study** (John 8:31), **Community** (John 13:34-35), **Prayer/Worship** (John 15:1-8), and **Serving others** (Luke 14:25-33). Now, one part of Community is studying alongside other Christians – how many of you have someone who has checked in on your spiritual health, discussed and helped seek God's guidance? How many of you do that for someone else? Please let this challenge you as we continue to seek deeper discipleship.

Pastor K



## Buffalo Gals

Many thanks to all the women who attended our **Winter Retreat at Timberwinds Lodge!** Our small group time was a blessing to many- as we connected with one another and had the opportunity to draw closer to God. Our appreciation goes to Jodi Kurtz for organizing the retreat, along with Dani Sommers, Carol Pursel, Mel Yoder, Jodi and Tricia Dreese for leading group sessions. Cheryl Sowers once again provided all the comforts of home- which we cherish, thanks Cheryl! Finally, to all the ladies who provided soup for Friday's meal, we were grateful for the nourishment. *Friendly reminder... if you haven't submitted your payment yet for attending the retreat, please submit your check marked "women's retreat" in the memo.*



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - noon at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB)** we will offer a **basic canning class**. Plan to join us for canning insights provided by Naomi Brubaker. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to get answers for all your canning questions. Sign-up sheet at Women's Ministry bulletin board.

**May 6<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 8 pm at BVCOB** join us for an **evening together**, as we **celebrate the fact that we are Sisters in Christ**. Meal consisting of chicken tenderloin, salad, potato and veggie will be provided. Cost for adults is \$10 per person, children ages 5 - 12 are \$5 each and children under 5 are free. Entertainment provided as well. Invite that special woman in your life to join you- may it be your mother, sister, daughter, cousin, aunt, grandmother or close friend. Sign up at the Women's Ministry bulletin board. *Deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>.*



Our **Annual Garden Tea Party** will be held **June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - noon** at **Meg and Keith Phelps garden** on Green Street in Mifflinburg. Plan to bring a dish to share!

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31

Take time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, as we prepare to celebrate our risen Lord and Savior~

Tricia Dreese

## HOPE FOR SOUTH SUDAN



Hope is the one constant expressed by brothers and sisters of the church in South Sudan. Leaders in the refugee camp, church leaders and worshippers all have a strong hope that, God and people that care from around the world, can help bring peace to their new country.

Father James, the General Secretary of The South Sudan Council of Churches, described the role of the church eloquently when he declared, "Forgiveness is the walls and reconciliation is its roof." He works diligently with church leaders across the country for peace and reconciliation.

Hope was tested when fighting broke out soon after the country gained independence in 2011. The President Salvia Kiir and deposed Vice President Reik Macher are still involved in strife that has resulted in fighting in several areas of the country. The fighting and drought have caused famine in part of the country and food insecurity in all areas.

Last year many people including individuals, the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren through the Park and Ride Campaign, the Southern PA District of the Church of the Brethren, and Global Missions and Service contributed over \$30,000 for a vehicle to use at the Brethren Peace Center in Torit, South Sudan. The Land Cruiser was purchased but has not yet been delivered to Torit because of the insecurity that continues in the area. Alternate delivery options are being explored at this time. After a time of respite in the United States with his family, Athanasus Ungang, Church of the Brethren staff member, has returned to continue the ministry at the Brethren Peace Center during these uncertain times.

We continue to hope for peace so that the Land Cruiser may be delivered to enhance the ministry at the Brethren Peace Center.

Eli Mast

## Camp Eder Corner



So far, I only know of a few campers who are going to enjoy a week of their summer at Camp Eder! I know there are many more who hope to grow in their relationship with God and others by enjoying a wonderful time at camp! See me if you would like a brochure! Or register online. Make sure you check with Fay to get the financial portion from the church.

### Some great camps, including:

\*Barefoot

\*Kids' Swim, Farm, Colorful Creations, Dance, Explorers,

\*Jr. Culinary, Outback, Horse, Science, Fishing, Dance, new this year: Puddle Jumper and Hammock Camp (those finishing 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

\*Jr. High and Sr. High, Outdoor Rock Climbing, Wet and Wild, Appalachian Trail Trekkers

As well as other basic weeks of camp!

Any questions about Camp Eder, our church camp near Gettysburg, feel free to look online [www.campeder.org](http://www.campeder.org) or contact Fay Richard, our church camp representative!

Hope to hear from you soon!

Fay Richard



## Affirmation Results

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the calling and affirmation process. All people called were 100% affirmed. **Teresa Chamber** will continue as **Children's Ministry Team Leader** and **James Brubaker** will continue as **Finance Ministry Team Leader**. **Linda Miller** will become **Hospitality and Communication Ministry Team Leader** in 2018 after spending time with Jan Kline learning about the position. **Annual Conference delegate for 2018** will be **Jeffrey Bastian**. **District Conference delegate for 2018 and 2019** will be **Carol Manbeck**. Please keep all leadership in your prayers as they work to do God's will for our congregation.

Dale Lehman, Moderator



## WHO IS GRADUATING?

Attention: if you or someone you know from our church family has graduated from college since last June ~ OR ~ will **graduate from high school or college** before the end of June 2017, please notify Fay Richard at frichard@dejazzd.com or 570-966-0182 **ASAP (before April 7)**. I will be writing an article for an upcoming Lamplighter and don't want to miss anyone.

Thank You!  
Fay Richard



## Do Miracles Matter?

I believe that miracles do matter...I'm not referring to the "miraculous" idea of your teenager cleaning his room. Rather, I'm talking about the miracles that Jesus did that are recorded for us in the New Testament. During the month of April we are going to continue our series titled, "The Signs of Your Times" as we look at the signs or miracles recorded in John's gospel.

These miracles were used by Jesus to validate His message of salvation. John wrote this in John 20:30-31: **30** *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;* **31** *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.* By believing in the miracles, we put ourselves in position for God to help us increase or being our belief in Jesus as the Messiah. I hope you have been encouraged to see how God's supernatural activity relates to our ordinary lives.

Also, don't forget that April 16 is Easter Sunday. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family to attend our worship services as we talk about the miracle of the resurrection.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Delphia Lohr shares an amazing **Salmon Loaf** recipe on page 81 of ***Come to the Table* cookbook!**

- 1 (15.5-oz.) can - red salmon
- 1 C. - saltine crackers, finely crushed
- 2 T. - onions, chopped
- 1 T. - lemon juice
- 2 T. - butter, melted
- ½ tsp. - salt
- pinch - pepper
- 1 - egg, beaten
- ⅔ C. - milk

Preheat oven to 375°F. Drain and flake salmon. Add other ingredients. Mix and lightly pack mixture into a well-greased 8 x 4-inch loaf pan. Bake for 45 - 50 minutes. Let stand 1 - 2 minutes before slicing.

I've never made salmon loaf before, but I decided to prepare this recipe on a recent snowy day. As I was pulling ingredients, I realized that I didn't have saltines, as the recipe called for. So, instead of using saltines, I used 24 Ritz crackers. That was a good substitute for 1 C. of crushed saltines. This is an absolutely delicious way to prepare salmon. I served it with macaroni and cheese. Great combination.

On pages 48 and 49 of ***Come to the Table* cookbook** are numerous macaroni and cheese recipes. Most of us have a favorite macaroni and cheese recipe, but sometimes it's fun to try something new.

If you don't have a ***Come to the Table* cookbook**, you can pick one up at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. They really do make great gifts and the cost is just \$10.



The Mystery Chef



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Preschool and K-5 will both be on Wednesdays

Preschool 9:30 am – 12 noon & K-5 9:30 am - 4 pm

### Summer Day Camps

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
July 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

### Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 31, August 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Performances: August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team

### LOOKING AHEAD IN 2017!

June 10 – Strawberry Festival  
June 28 – July 2 – Annual Conference  
June 28 – July 2 – Creation



July 16 – All Church Picnic/Baptism  
July 22 – 28 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 31 – August 4 – Musical Day Camp  
August 5 & 6 – Children's Musical

September 10 -14 – Women's Beach Retreat

October 1 – LOVE FEAST  
October 8 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner  
October 27 – 28 – Kid's Retreat

November 5 – Church Council Meeting



Don't forget to "Feed the Bin" when you clean out your closets this spring. Your unwanted and gently used clothing, linens, books, etc help support mission ministries. Please use **bags!**



## **The Lamplighter**

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren  
46 Brethren Church Rd  
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

### ***The Lamplighter***

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churchoffice@bvcob.com

8:00 AM - Worship Service  
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time  
9:20 AM - Sunday school  
10:30 AM - Worship Service

### **February Offerings Summary**

General Fund	\$35,452.83
YTD Offerings	\$82,832.65
Needed YTD	\$91,682.01
Behind Budget	- 8,849.36

### **Other Deposits**

Children's Sunday school	13.65
Children's Ministry Team	10.00
Scrip Cards	4020.00
Weis Cards	5300.00
Wenger Cards	1350.00
Dominican Missionary	1460.00
Dominican Mission	1400.00
Thailand Missionary	277.50
Westernport Missions	191.00
Youth	81.71
Family in Need	2540.00
Family Connections	516.00
Ambit energy	67.00
Backpack Program	215.00
Baby Bottle Campaign	10.00
Anniversary Crock	50.00
Couple's Banquet	831.00
Women's Retreat	270.00
Facility Use	575.00
Income from Penn State Ext Mtg	1750.00
Cook Book sales	30.00