



Serving in Westernport

The 2017 team is preparing for a week-long trip from **July 22 - 28** in Westernport, MD. Your prayer is appreciated for each one as they serve the children in this needy area.

These 29 people have answered the call to serve: Brenda Eberhart, Athena Berkheiser, Kaye Hoover, Lynda Jarrett, Zach Showers, Janice Shively, Carole Hoffmaster, Linda Miller, Carol Manbeck, Denise Mullany, Jeff Bastian, Danielle Sommers, Alicia Showers, Jake Myers, Chris Graham, Tom Styers, Pastor Eric, Ruth Moore, Ashley Wetzel, Pastor K, Cody Heintzelman, Ben Chambers, Gabe Yoder, Briahna Heintzelman, Megan Reid, Vanessa Dye, Mandy Reid, and Heather Reid. We will be ministering to children and their families and working together to provide a Day Camp and serve healthy meals to children who are hungry for both the Word and food!

Please pray that we will be true servants of our Lord, Jesus Christ as we minister during this trip.

Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian



Musical Day Camp 2017

For kids who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade

Monday, July 31

through

Friday, August 4

from 9 am to 1 pm daily

Performances Held

SATURDAY, August 5

7:00 PM

SUNDAY, August 6

9:30 AM

Register Online – kids.bvcob.com

If you do NOT have internet access, please call the church office at (570) 966-1183 and we will be glad to register your child(ren).

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team



Our priorities are reflected
by our pocketbooks!



Summer Day Camps

June 28th
July 5th, 12th, 19th

Preschoolers: 2 ½ to pre-K
9:30 am – 12 pm

K5: those who have completed kindergarten through 5th grades
9:30 am — 4 pm

REGISTER ONLINE – kids.bvcob.com

Friends are ALWAYS welcome.

Food: Snack for preschoolers, lunch for K5

Special Notes for K5 camp: Weather permitting, we will go to the town pool at 1 pm (if not, we'll "STAY & PLAY" at the church).

Lunch will be served at noon. You may attend only the morning session or only the afternoon session or all day!

POOL PARTY



Wednesday, July 26th
7:30 - 9 pm
Mifflinburg Pool

ALL are invited! Bring your friends!

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team

Faith is the vision of the heart; it sees God in the dark as well as the day.

Unknown



All Church Picnic and Baptism

When: Sunday **July 16th** from **12:30 - 4:30 pm**
Where: Brian and Donita Keister's farm

Once again, Harold Himes will be roasting a pig for the event. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and a dessert to share. Paper products and beverages will be provided.

We will be looking for people to help set up tables and chairs and also life guard volunteers!!!

Look for the sign-up sheet.

Guess Who's Coming to the Picnic

Sunday **October 8th** somewhere **between 5 - 6 pm** at "somewhere"!!!

This event we used to do years ago and we tried it again last year. It was a great success and everyone involved said they had a great time! Approximately 49 people attended the evening.

More details coming!!!



Blessings,
Pam Kline, Special Events Coordinator

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Mixing of Politics and Religion

In the recent confirmation hearing of Russell Vought to be the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Senator Bernie Sanders said some things that in my view are very troubling, yet not unexpected. In fact, I think that many people would have espoused the opinion of Senator Sanders and that is why I'm writing this letter. Though I don't have time to write about the entire incident, Russell Vought had previously written an article where he said, "Muslims do not simply have a deficient theology. They do not know God because they have rejected Jesus Christ His Son and they stand condemned." Senator Sanders kept asking Mr. Vought if he believed that Muslims and Jews were condemned. Mr. Vought never really answered the direct question, probably under advice from those who counseled him in this process. Senator Sanders ended his remarks by saying, "This nominee is really not someone who is what this country is supposed to be about. I will vote "no"."

My concern is not with Senator Sanders. My concern is that Russell Vought simply wrote about a basic and fundamental truth of scripture regarding salvation. Anyone, regardless of his religious label, who does not know Jesus Christ stands condemned. And the only way to remove that condemnation is through Jesus Christ. John 3:18 says, "He who believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The Bible is very clear that because of our sin, we all stand condemned. Mr. Vought's earlier article was simply stating this point.

I suppose my letter to you is not really about the mixing of politics and religion but rather does your religion inform the rest of your life? If you are unwilling to stand up for what you believe then what good is what you believe? I wish that Mr. Vought had simply

answered the question, "Yes, I do believe that all Muslims and any other people, including you, Senator Sanders, who have not received Jesus Christ as Savior stand condemned." But he didn't say that. He probably didn't want to be on the news and all over the internet any more than he is now.

However, please understand that what we continue to see in our country, and I don't think it's going to change, is that by believing and expressing basic biblical teaching about salvation you will be accused of being "islamophobic", "racist" or "bigoted". You and I will need to decide whether our convictions are worth standing for or not. People say we should not mix politics and religion. I say that religion should mix into every aspect of your life and it is increasingly clear that there is a price to pay if that religion is biblical Christianity.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Buffalo Gals

Our Sister's in Christ Celebration was held in May. Many thanks to BVCOB Men's Ministry team for organizing this event and guest speaker, plus preparing and serving our meal. Nearly 60 women and children attended. *We truly appreciate all that this special evening had to offer!!!*

ALL Women at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are invited to join us for the fellowship events scheduled below. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

Secret Sister Reveal, combined with our **next LIFT brunch**, is scheduled to be held **July 15th** @ BVCOB from **9 - 11 am**. If you participated in our Secret Sister ministry* this session, plan to join us as we reveal each other's Secret Sister. Our LIFT brunch is open to ALL women who attend BVCOB, (regardless if you participate in our Secret Sister ministry). Bring a dish to share. **Sign-up sheet** is posted on our bulletin board.

**If you're interested in organizing the next Secret Sister session, see Alicia Showers as she's looking for someone willing to coordinate this ministry.*

BVCOB Women's **Annual Beach Retreat** is scheduled for **Bethany Beach** from **September 10 - 14**. A sign-up sheet is posted on Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Our **craft bazaar** is currently scheduled to be held at BVCOB on **Saturday, October 14th** from **9 am - 3 pm**. Gayle Stahl is organizing this event. We will have an application available in July for potential vendors. We would also like to offer food from the kitchen in the main gathering area, and set up a small café in the gathering area with seating. If you're interested, to help with the café & food that will be offered, see Tricia Dreese. *Her cell phone number is 570.768.2370 and email is plynn@dejazzd.com.*

Our **Basket Ministry** is in need of \$10 gift cards. If you would like to help sponsor the gift cards or any other part of the basket ministry, you can always earmark funds in the offering for "basket ministry" (we will then purchase the \$10 cards through the monthly Scrip orders). *Any questions, see Heather Reid.*

Women's Ministry will continue to collect **pill bottle donations**. We ask that you remove labels

from prescription or over the counter bottles, clean bottles and lids, let them completely dry and then return lids to top of bottle. Put them in a clean bag and deposit them in our bin at Women's Ministry table. We will be accepting ongoing donations throughout the year. *Any questions, see Lynda Jarrett.*

Discipleship Reconciliation Ambassadorship Mission Authenticity

2 Corinthians 5:18 - All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

As women, how are we living out reconciliation within our families, community and the world at large? How can we be more intentional as disciples? Find a friend this month and discuss your responses with one another.

Many Blessings to every Sister in Christ!
Tricia Dreese



Soon to Return

Austin Walter will be returning soon from his YWAM Thailand Mission. He is scheduled to be back in early July. Please continue to support Austin in prayer as he finishes his time away and also as he gets back, and then transitions to whatever the next step God has for him. I know that the Lord has used this time in wonderful ways in Austin's life and in the life's of those he has shared and touched.

For those who have been supporting him financially through the offering at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB), the final financial disbursement from our fellowship has gone out, so **further financial support** through BVCOB is **not needed**. I can't wait until we get to hear about some of his adventures.

Blessings,
Sarah Hockenbrocht for the Mission Ministry Team

Christmas in July!

For the summer Sunday school quarter (June, July, August) the Children's Sunday school classes will be working on filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Each class will fill one shoebox. An email link to a signup genius created for this will allow parents to sign up for what their child would like to bring. The link is included below but for easier access it will be emailed out to parents and posted on the BVCOB Kid Connection Facebook page. All items are going to be collected by **July 16**.



Then on **July 23** we will have a Christmas in July party and fill our shoeboxes. Besides items to fill the shoeboxes each class needs to raise \$9 to mail their shoebox. All details are on the signup genius! You can also see Stacy Mast in the Children's Sunday school department for help to sign up.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4aa8ad29a1f94-christmas>

Teresa Chambers



Free As a Bird

As you are reading this, we hope you had a good time at the picnic at the river or we missed you at the picnic. Our **next event** is at **Halfway Dam** on **September 10th**, Sunday at **12:30 pm**. We will provide meat, and you can bring a covered dish or 2 if you want. We will let you know location as we get closer. Have a great summer and keep cool.

Blessings,

Linda Buttorff and the Freebirds

Additional Up Coming Freebird Events

October 8th, 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 16th, American Music Theater and Shady Maple, Time to be determined.



You Asked for It!

I know that for many years of my life I watched too much TV. When I type the phrase, "You asked for it." I immediately begin to sing a tune in my head from the old Toyota commercial.. "You asked for it you got it, Toyota". Well, our sermon series for July and some of August will not involve getting a new Toyota or any car for that matter. What it does entail is preaching on some of the topics that you suggested over the past two weeks. We received about 25 different ideas and we will pick about six of them. We regret that we can't do all of them, but we will do our best to pick those that we feel are most beneficial to the congregation.

This great response means that we will likely try this again. But until then, if you have any **sermon ideas** or questions about topics that wander around in your mind, please don't hesitate to ask those questions and share those ideas.

Hopefully many of you will enjoy this next sermon series because "You Asked for It!"

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



"Feed the Bin"

A big Thank You to everyone who has helped by "Feeding the Bin"!! Please note, however, that **we only receive credit for bagged clothing and linens!! All other items need to be taken directly to the store.**

Thanks for your help and remember that the money received helps us pay the shipping on the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!!



Sunday Brunch

Mark your calendar for **August 20th** and plan to join us again as we have a "Summer is over/Back-to-School" celebration Brunch. Below is the list of items that can be collected for the school kits we will be assembling. Bring any donations for the kits to the SonRoom on Sunday mornings.

SCHOOL KIT ITEMS:

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, un-sharpened pencils with erasers removed from the package
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Thanks to all who have participated in the Brunch event. The goal of this event is to build a sense of community among families while teaching kids the value of serving others. Please feel free to share any appropriate activity ideas with Pastor Donita or Teresa Chambers.

Teresa Chambers



The passion of the *church* is dependent on the passion of the *individuals* that make up the church.

When Can I Reserve This Facility?



We are very blessed to have a facility like we do and to make it available for many kinds of functions and activities not sponsored by the church such as birthday parties and wedding showers. When the building is not being used for a church event/function it is open for the other activities. However, the priority use of the building is for ministry functions and events.

In order to facilitate this process, we do not reserve the use of the church building for parties and gatherings until the church's ministry events have been placed on the calendar. Here is how the process works.

Each ministry team at Buffalo Valley must provide the dates of their **ministry events by October 1st**. At that time our church calendar for the following year is put together, with any discrepancies resolved. Then, on **November 1st, the calendar is opened up** to receive reservations from the congregation for **non-church sponsored events**. For example, if you would like to host a birthday party in the Sonroom in April of 2018, we cannot reserve that room for you until after November 1, 2017. The only exception is for the use of the facility for a wedding that normally requires a large amount of advanced planning. This procedure allows us to make sure the required church events get on the calendar and eliminates conflicts or the need for someone to reschedule a previously reserved engagement.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Pastor Eric



CHURCH CALENDAR

Please remember that the calendar in The Lamplighter is only a copy from the church events calendar. For the complete view of the current official calendar including facility in use items visit the church website, **www.bvcob.com**.



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Jan Kline's **Three Fruit Smoothies** recipe is found on page 16 of **Come to the table cookbook**.

- 1 (11.5-oz.) can - frozen Welch's Strawberry Breeze juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 (8-oz.) container - vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 C. - milk
- 1 T. - honey
- 1 tsp. - vanilla extract
- 1 pt - fresh or frozen strawberries, pulled
- 1 lg - banana, cut in chunks
- 1 C. - fresh or frozen peaches, peeled and chopped

Place ingredients in a blender; cover and process until smooth. Pour into glasses. Serve immediately.

I was unable to find the Welch's juice concentrate this recipe calls for, so I used Old Orchard strawberry daiquiri juice concentrate. The result was a slightly tangy fruit smoothie. It was delicious!

I used frozen berries and peaches. The smoothie kept well in my refrigerator for about three days and tasted like it was freshly made!

There is a **Party Punch** recipe that Myrna Goss submitted that is found on page 15 of **Come to the Table cookbook** as well!

If you don't have a cookbook you can purchase one for \$10 at the Welcome Center.



The Mystery Chef

Together, we commit to build purposeful community through the DRAMA of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Discipleship/Reconciliation/
Ambassadorship/Mission/Authenticity**

Beyond Our Walls

Operation Christmas Child

During the summer the children's Sunday school classes will be working on filling shoeboxes. Please remember to check the Operation Christmas Child display to see what items are still needed.

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team

Just think,

You're not here by chance,
 But by God's choosing.
 His hand formed you
 And made you
 The person that you are.
 He compares you to no one else -
 You are one of a kind.
 You lack nothing
 That His grace can't give you.
 He has allowed you to be here
 At this time in history
 To fulfill His special purpose
 For this generation.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Roy Lessin

Dayspring co-founder

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
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Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor
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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183
churchoffice@bvcob.com

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

May Offerings Summary

General Fund	\$38,168.01
YTD Offerings	\$205,910.94
Needed YTD	\$223,565.76
Behind Budget	- 17,654.82
Other Deposits	
Children's SS	13.05
CMT	20.00
Scrip/Weis/Wenger Cards	8,835.00
Dominican Missionary	805.00
Thailand Missionary	125.00
Westernport Mission	405.00
Youth	20.00
CAS Material Gifts	687.00
Ambit energy	70.00
Music Day Camp	40.00
Spiritual Life Service	50.00
Women's Retreat/Ministry/Basket	1,260.00
Cook Book sales	10.00
Sisters In Christ	420.00
Metal Recycling	88.76
SS Reimbursement	111.06
Funeral Luncheon Donation	100.00
Walk Run Challenge	10.00
Facility In Use Donations	90.00
Youth Events	75.00