

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

October 2018
Volume 34 No. 9

LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION



Sunday, October 7 at 6 pm

Come and share what Christ did for us!



Welcome & Celebrate

We praise the Lord for the following people who joined our congregation as new members through affirmation of faith on Sunday, September 9: **Jon Arneson, Karen Arneson, Elaina Miller, and Becky Myer.**

Please show your support with a warm welcome to these new members of our congregation.



Thanks for Making It Happen

We want to thank **Fay Richard** for faithfully providing the featured family/person of the month articles for the Lamplighter. A lot of work goes into obtaining the information for the articles each month.

Fay also gathers all the information for the graduate booklet each year. Again a lot of work goes into obtaining the information and trying not to have anyone missed.

Thank you **Fay** for your faithful service to our congregation.

Jeff Bastian



Places Where Ministry Happens

We are going to receive special offerings in October for two different but related opportunities. One of those opportunities is the need to raise \$12,500 for land costs for the church project this year in the Dominican Republic. This money will be added to the amount saved by the **church in the Dominican to purchase the land** for a new church building that our group will work on in February, 2019. The second opportunity is a special offering to help **reduce our building debt**. We did this last year and received over \$12,000.

How are these two opportunities related? The money is needed in the Dominican to provide a church building for a congregation in Santo Domingo. This building will eliminate the need for the church there to pay rental fees that reduce the amount of funds they have for ministry. Here, reducing our building debt moves us closer to the day when we will no longer have debt payments that take resources that we could use for other ministry opportunities.

Would you please consider giving to one or both of these opportunities on **October 21st and 28th**? Perhaps you could give matching gifts to each or if you are more passionate about one or the other, designate your offering that way. Money for the land purchase can be designated "DR Land" and money for the building debt can be designated "Building Debt". Our goal for the Dominican land is \$12,500, which is the amount that is needed. We don't have a specific goal for the debt reduction, but everything that is given for that puts us closer to having a debt free facility. If you have any questions please contact anyone on the Finance or Mission Ministry Team.



Pastor Eric



On **October 14th** we are having a **special event** we call **“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?”** Host families have people show up at their house for dinner. The hosts provide the meat and designate how many guests they would like. The guests come to the dinner bringing side dishes and desserts. The exciting part is that the **hosts don’t know who is coming** to their house and the **guests don’t know where they are going** until the day of the event.

This is a great chance to meet some new people and have some great food. There are flyers in the church mailboxes with all the details. Everyone is encouraged to sign up and get ready for a great time!

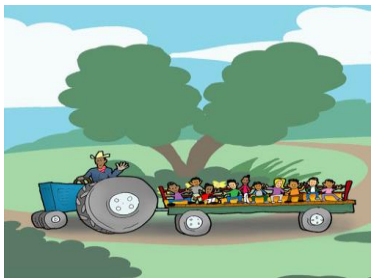
Pastor Eric



Family Hayride Event

September 28th

6:00 – 8:30 pm



Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
(rain date October 5th, 6 pm)

All children and families are welcome to attend.

Preschoolers should be accompanied by their own hay ride and activity attendant.

Food! Inflatables! Crafts! FUN!

Teresa Chambers for Children’s Ministry Team



Gift? What Gift?



Are you using your spiritual gifts? For many years at Buffalo Valley, we have used a curriculum called “Network” to help people **discover** and **put into practice** their **spiritual gifts**. Every follower of Jesus has been given at least one spiritual gift to use to glorify God and to serve the body of Christ both in and outside the church walls. Finding your spiritual giftedness, along with passions and personality style, helps you to find ways to serve that is energizing and rewarding.

Our **Network class** is offered in a **two session workshop**. These two sessions will be held Sundays, **October 14th** and **October 28th** from **1 – 4 pm** in the Sonroom. In six hours, you will be equipped to know your gifts and explore possibilities of how to use them. In order to benefit from the workshop, you need to attend both sessions.

If you have never taken the Network class, we encourage you to attend this workshop. Or perhaps you have already taken Network but find yourself in a different season of life. Are your gifts still the same? Do you have different passions? Come to the workshop and find answers.

If you would like more information about Network and/or would like to sign up, please contact the church office or you may sign up here in the Main Entry.

Pastor Eric



Have You Purchased a WEIS CARD?

The Weis Gift card program has been a great success. You get to spend 100% of your money on groceries and the profits still go to the “Building for Ministry” fund.



Youth & Young Adult Lineup

Young Adults:

2nd Thursday: Wing Night
4th Wednesday Night: PB&J
(Pizza, Blockbusters & Jesus)

Youth (6th - 12th grade)

Regular **Sunday Evening** Times: **6 – 8 pm**

October Theme: Social Media

October 7 - *Love Feast* (6 – 8 pm)
YOUTH JOIN CHURCH FAMILY
October 14 - Ultimate Frisbee / Ragball
(All hands & your brain)
October 21 - Family Gathering
- Lunch in Sonroom (12 - 2 pm)
(No evening Youth)
October 28 - Youth Retreat – (No evening Youth)

Youth Events:

October 21 – **Youth Family Gathering**
(Lunch & Social Media Discussion:
How to Use and not abuse)
12 – 2 pm

October 26 - 28 - **Winter Retreat**
(Crystal Springs)

Pastor K



Pumpkin Rolls are coming!

Watch your mailboxes for order forms for delicious pumpkin rolls. The rolls will be ready on **Sunday, October 28th**. Proceeds will benefit Operation Christmas Child shipping.

Amy Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



“Come Chill With Us”

CHILDREN’S RETREAT

Kids Chill with Friends and Warm Up to
Jesus- The Coolest Friend of All!

Crystal Springs Retreat Center

October 26th - 27th

6 p.m. to 6 p.m.

for any kids in 1st - 5th grades*
(*Kindergarteners welcome if parent attending as well)

Check out kids.bvcob.com or the children’s
table for more information!



Teresa Chambers for Children’s Ministry Team



Whether Jesus returns today or 100
years after we die, the task for our
tomorrow is still the same.



Buffalo Gals

Women's LIFT Ministry

Our **basket ministry** is in **need of the following items**: size 1 or 2 baby diapers, coloring books, colored pencils, pocket tissue packages, single serve peanut butter, crackers, hard candies, gum and journals. All donations can be left in the basket ministry collection bin at our **Women's Ministry table**.

We are also in need of **\$10 gift cards** for our **basket ministry**. If you wish to donate money toward the purchase of these gift cards, please put your donation check in an offering envelope *payable to "BVCOB" and mark "gift cards for basket ministry"* in your memo. Should you have any questions, please contact Heather Reid.

Women's Ministry will continue to collect **pill bottle donations**. We ask that you remove labels from your prescription or over the counter bottles, clean the bottles and lids, let them completely dry and then return lids to top of the bottle (should you find that you're not able to remove the sticky area where the label once was, you can recycle those containers - as we're not able to collect them either). Please put all **clean, dry, empty pill bottles** 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.

Ladies Mark Your Calendars...

Our **annual LIFT Holiday Brunch** will be held **December 1st** from **9 am – 11 am** at **Carol and Mike Manbeck's house** in Lewisburg. Come join us for a time of fellowship and devotions, plus plan to bring a dish to share. You won't want to miss Carol's tasteful knack for decorating!!! We will also be **revealing our Secret Sisters**.

May this Autumn Season draw you closer to God and bring you a renewed strength!

Many Blessings~

Tricia Dreese for Women's Ministry



2019 Dominican Mission Trip

We are now looking for **volunteers** for our fifth trip to the **Dominican Republic**! This trip will take place from **February 8 - 17th**. We are excited to be working on a church building in Santo Domingo for a local church that we visited this past year. This is a vibrant church that needs a church building. As in previous years we are looking for 12 - 14 people who will be able to go on the trip. I would estimate the cost to be around \$800 - 900 per person. This covers our expenses while we are there and a portion of the construction costs. The church pays for the airfare.

If you are interested in going and/or have any questions please see Pastor Eric or Sarah Hockenbrocht. Watch for more information coming out before the end of September. You don't need to be skilled in construction to be a valuable part of this trip. If you can't go on the trip you can pray for this trip and consider giving toward the costs of the project in our October special offering or later in the year.

Pastor Eric



Men after God's Heart

The **next men's event** will be the **Kettle Cook** to benefit "unpaid medical expenses". November 23 & 24 will be the dates. **November 23** we will be **preparing** what goes into the soup and on **November 24** we will **cook** the soup. There will be a lot to do both days. Please volunteer and make some soup. If you have questions ask Jake or Scott Myer, our master soup makers.

We are also looking for some men who would like to help Craig Gabel & Doug Diehl plan, prepare for, and hold the men's events. If you can assist us please feel free to contact Craig or Doug.

Doug Diehl

From Your Lead Pastor,



Distractions

"Now why did I come into this room...?" Have you muttered that to yourself recently? How about "Now where did I just put that...?" I find myself doing this rather frequently. I walk into a room or walk upstairs and by the time I enter the room I have forgotten why I went there in the first place. Or, I put down my phone and then less than a minute later I forget where I put it. I frequently like to chalk this up to "old age" but if I really think about it, it is not due to old age but rather it is due to "distraction". You see what happens is I think of a reason that I need to go upstairs, but on my way up the stairs I have already begun to think about four other items or things that I need to do or that I've just heard, etc... and by the time I get upstairs I can no longer remember why I came up the stairs. It's not age. It's just that I've lost my focus because of distraction.

In today's world there are so many opportunities for distraction. Cell phones might be the main culprit in all of this. I find it fascinating to think that there are young adults who know nothing of life without having a phone with them that is consistently buzzing or dinging or chirping with a new bit of information that just can't wait. Now, this is not a rant against cell phones...mine is with me almost all of the time. However, it is a warning about distraction.

In the Christian life we have a very clear, overarching command from Jesus..."Go and make disciples." But it's pretty easy to get distracted isn't it? Could you take a minute to ask yourself how your disciple making has been going lately? Have you been involved in the life of someone with the intention of helping them follow Jesus? Or, have you allowed yourself to be distracted and often by "good things"? I encourage you to stay focused on the primary command to make disciples. When we make that our primary focus we will find that we still have time to do the other things that are important...there goes my phone again....uggghhh!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Feed the Bin"

Please don't forget to add you're gently used clothing, linens, etc. to the Community Aid bin in the church parking lot.

Funds raised from the donation of these items is used to pay for the shipping of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Holy Events, Holy Moments (From daily Instagram reflections)

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9

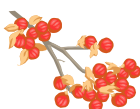
*“Love must be sincere.” Literally - “you can’t fake godly love.” ‘Agape’ is love for someone despite actions - just because they exist and are human. Can we really be selective in our love - and call it real love then?
(Wednesday, 9/12)*

If we realize that we are one body - it changes how we respond and help one another, for we realize we are taking care of ourselves. (For example, the brain takes care of the thumb because it realizes it can’t pick up or open things without it). And we realize that everybody needs our gifts (if the thumb doesn’t operate, the whole body is impeded).

With this ‘Agape’ love, we either love or we don’t - it is impossible to love one person and not another, prefer one over another. If we do - it is not agape (godly love). We value and care for each person that is in front of us, and love... Or we don’t ... have Love.

This love doesn’t just abstain from things that are ‘toilsome’ and ‘hurtful’ (the meaning of ‘evil’ / *poneros*) - things that bring pain to self or others - it hates those things. This love also doesn’t just do what ‘we are supposed to,’ it clings desperately to them - becomes one with them. Good (life-giving, from God) becomes our nature. So... Is there anything you or I indulge in that is painful to others? And on the other hand, am I bringing life to myself or others? Am I love? How can I be a channel of love? Of Jesus?

Peace,
Pastor K



Seeing God Move, Part 2

God was definitely moving in Westernport! We saw evidence every day. The team was asked to watch for Him in various ways and then in the evening we shared what we saw. We called them “God Sightings” and I would like to share with you some more ways that we saw God at work in Westernport.

“I saw God today as He answered prayer for a struggling shepherd.”

“I saw God in the impact a testimony had on the kids in my group.”

“The opportunity to minister to Westernport and surrounding areas.”

“Looking into the eyes of a little girl who was swimming with me.”

“Seeing the caring hearts of the teens and the loving compassion they have for these kids.”

“I saw children becoming more open to our love.”

“I saw God in the recognition and smiles on the faces of the children I have known for five years!”

“I felt God’s love in a personal way when Emily gave me the pencil holder she made for me.”

“I saw God when a member of this congregation gave time and resources to help get the stage ready for VBS.”

“One of my co construction partners for the week said he went to bed feeling good about working with us this week. That meant a lot!”

“Joy and gratefulness in the eyes of the children.”

“I was hugging this little girl at the pool and I looked down at her and she was looking up at me with her face glowing. I knew God was there because I couldn’t think of any other way I wanted to spend my time.”

“I saw God when a little girl asked me to “be her Mom.”

We serve such an awesome God Who led us to Westernport to serve Him and the children and families there.

Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



Deadline Approaching!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2019 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team have **practices, events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar.)

A **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** needs to be completed for **every church activity** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times, and rooms to be used. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facilities Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**.

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2019 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2018. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2019 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2018.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2018!



November 2 – Friday Fun Nights resume
November 4 – Church Council Meeting
November 24 – Kettle Cook



Lasting Words

We have just begun our new sermon series from the gospel of **John, chapters 14 - 17**. These chapters contain the last major block of teaching that Jesus left behind before His arrest and crucifixion. John is the only gospel writer to record most of this teaching. I decided on the title "Lasting Words" because these are close to the last words of Jesus and they are meant to have a **lasting impact on our lives** almost 2,000 years later.

I hope you will read John chapters 14 - 17 and that you will join us each week as we explore what these words mean for each of us and what they mean for us as a community.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Don't Forget!!



Bring all your aluminum cans for recycling and place them in the blue barrels at the BBQ pit. Especially during the summer we often have plenty of cans, so bring them to the church and help support Operation Christmas Child. The money from the recycling of these cans helps with the shipping costs for mailing the shoeboxes.

Also **any metal that you have that can be recycled**, please talk with Jake or Scott Myer. It is **not just aluminum!**

Thank you for your help in supporting Operation Christmas Child! Help make a child smile this Christmas.



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**.

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46 Brethren Church Rd
Mifflinburg PA 17844

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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183
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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service