



An Invitation to Love Feast

Jesus' last evening with His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion was spent with Jesus washing the disciples' feet, sharing a meal together and partaking of communion. This was a special time for the disciples and for Jesus. In fact, in the gospel of John we are encouraged to remember these events as part of our worship. At Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren we remember that night through a time we call "Love Feast".

At Love Feast we gather together to take turns washing feet as a way of reminding ourselves of the importance of serving one another AND allowing others to serve us. When we say "wash", don't think soap and scrubbing, but rather warm water and a towel. We share a meal together of beef, rice, bread and grapes that is prepared by our Spiritual Life Ministry Team and then we take communion with unleavened bread and grape juice. The service lasts a little over an hour and also has some devotionals and music.

The next **Love Feast** will be held on Thursday, **March 29th** at **7 PM**. Everyone is encouraged to attend and if you have any questions please contact any member of the Spiritual Life Ministry Team or the pastors. You won't be disappointed if you attend.

Dan Manbeck



Easter says you can put truth in a grave,
but it won't stay there!

Clarence W. Hall



Fill Jane's "Van"

Who: Children's Sunday School Classes
(preschool through 5th grades)

What: Collecting **paper goods for Children's Aid Society** (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, baby wipes, diapers, napkins). Money collected as offering will be used to purchase additional items.

Where: Sunday mornings during **Sunday School**

When: Items will be collected during the months of **March, April, and first two weeks of May**

Why: To help provide **items for the Lehman Center** that provides emergency 24-hour care for children age 6 and under

Any questions contact Stacy Mast at kyesmommy04@yahoo.com.

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



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 2018, 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



We're praising God for new life.

Men after God's Heart

May 5 is the **Sisters in Christ Banquet**.

The men will be **setting up, serving, and cleaning up** after the banquet. We will need your help to serve our Sisters in Christ. We will also assist the person who is scheduled for chair setup.

July 28 is the Brothers in Christ **Picnic and Games**. This is the annual quoit pitch tournament, however we are adding a twist to the usual by extending this to **all of the males out there!!!**

Boys, young adult men and adult men are invited to come here to Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren and enjoy any yard game or table game that you choose to bring. The boys can bring their toys too. We will share fellowship, food and fun.

Again, the location is here at the church because we are asking for a large turnout to kickoff this annual event.

August 25 will be the **Men's Spiritual Conference** on a Saturday from **8:30 am to 4 pm**. The theme will be **Allowing the Holy Spirit to Live and Work In and Through Us**. Light breakfast and lunch will be served. Matt Christ has agreed to come and share what God has laid on his heart.

November 23 & 24 will be the **Annual Kettle Cook for the Medical Needs Fund**. Jake & Scott Myer, and a gang of men will make, stir, and stir until the soup is ready. This is an awesome way to help reach out to those in need without leaving the comforts of the Church property. So, basically no man has much of an excuse not to help prepare or cook or stir or serve for others.

As you can see this is a schedule that will require much help to make it all happen so please mark your calendar and plan join us with your help and fellowship.

Who knows what relationships you will make there for eternity?

Doug Diehl for Men's Ministry



Camp Eder Corner

Quotes from the Camp Eder website: “The daily schedule varies for each age group so campers can participate in age-appropriate activities throughout the week. Activities include*: **zip line, climbing tower, giant swing, daily pool time, sports and games, arts & crafts, archery, canoeing, special events, Bible time, worship, campfires, nature activities, fishing, and more.** *(activities vary by age group.)

We take the **safety and care of your child** very seriously. All staff are referenced, screened, background checked, trained, and are required to be CPR and First Aid Certified. When you drop your child off for camp you can leave them knowing we will keep them safe, fed, spiritually nurtured, and having the best week of the summer!”

Check out the rest of the information on their website.

So far, I only know of a few campers from Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren 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 me (Fay Richard) to get the financial portion from the church.

Any questions about Camp Eder, our church camp near Gettysburg, feel free to look online www.campeder.org or contact me, our church camp representative!

Hope to hear from you soon!



Fay Richard, Camp Rep

Real true faith is man's weakness leaning on God's strength.

D.L. Moody



Buffalo Gals

Our **Women's Winter Retreat** was held last month in Lavonia. We thoroughly enjoyed our time of fellowship, worship and small group bible study with one another. *A sincere thank you to Dani Sommers, Mary Gorham, Linda Dorman, Jamie Manbeck, Lynda Jarrett, and Cheryl Sowers for volunteering.* Your efforts were greatly appreciated and enhanced our retreat in numerous ways! Also a special thank you to everyone that prepared soup and lasagna, or helped with meal preparation/clean up. What a blessing it was to spend this time together!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Our **next LIFT event** will be held **April 14th** from **9 am - noon** in the main kitchen at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB). Linda Dorman will provide a **canning demonstration**. Plan to bring your canning questions and leave this gathering better prepared to tackle canning season in 2018! Please sign up at the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board if you plan to attend.

On **May 5th** from **5 - 8 pm** at BVCOB join us for an evening together, as we **celebrate** the fact that **we are all Sisters in Christ!** Please invite that special woman in your life to join you - may it be your mother, sister, daughter, cousin, aunt, and grandmother or close friend. Evening meal will be provided by Men's Ministry. Cost for **adults** is **\$10** per person, **children ages 5 - 12** are **\$5** each, and children **under 5** are **free**. Entertainment will also be provided as well by Men's Ministry. Sign up at the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board.

Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study continues thru May 15th.

Our **Basket Ministry** is in **need of donations** for **\$10 gift cards**. If you would like to sponsor a gift card, just mark "basket ministry" in the memo of your check.

Matthew 28:5 - 7 (NIV) - *Jesus Has Risen*

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

He Has Risen Indeed! Happy Easter
Tricia Dreese

Your Spiritual Gifts & How to Use Them

According to 1 Corinthians 12, every follower of Jesus has been given at least one spiritual gift. These gifts are given by God to enable us to serve Him and others in our church and in our world. But how do we **discover what gifts have been given to us?** For many years at Buffalo Valley, we have used a course called Network, which helps in discovering our spiritual gifts and empowering us to use them. These gifts, when combined with our personal style and passions, help us serve in ways that are helpful in building up the body of Christ. When we serve as Christ intended for us, we will be energized and find joy.

We are offering a two session workshop to go through the **Network** material. These two sessions will be held **Sundays, April 8th and 22nd** 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 the Network class 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 for the workshop, please contact the church office at 570-966-1183 or churchoffice@bvco.com.

Carol Manbeck, Network Coordinator



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.

From Your Lead Pastor,



Why Wish an Atheist to “Rest in Peace”?

The famous scientist and atheist Stephen Hawking died on March 14th. I noticed an interesting thing on a couple of Facebook posts that commented or linked to articles written about Mr. Hawking. Those posts ended with the letters, “RIP” or said, “May he rest in peace”. Stephen Hawking was very vocal about his atheistic beliefs. Do you think he would want people to wish him an eternal rest of peace...if he didn't believe in eternity? As an atheist he believed that you and I are simply a collection of biological and chemical reactions. We have no soul. There is no eternity. When the body stops functioning that is it...there is no “rest”, peaceful or otherwise. I wonder if he would be offended by the idea of hoping that he would rest in peace?

Based on the testimony of his own words Stephen Hawking is not resting in peace. He is either just simply “no more” as everyone is if there is no God or he is not able to enter into the rest offered in this life or eternally through a life in Christ. Jesus promised this rest in Matthew 11:28 - 29: *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls.”* Jesus reminded us that only through Him could we have eternal life and thus eternal rest.

That led me to think about something else I find very interesting about our culture that I'm pretty sure you've experienced. It's interesting to me that a man or woman can live an entire life that seemingly paid little to no attention to God; sometimes even mocking or denying God, and yet when that person dies, God is back in the picture. We seem to want to “force” a relationship with God on others after they've gone. Does it make us feel better? Isn't it a bit disingenuous or hypocritical? You see I believe that within each of us is an understanding that eternity is real and there is a heaven and a hell. We then want to believe that those who have died are experiencing heaven. But most people don't talk to those same loved ones about heaven or Jesus when they are actually alive and when they could receive Jesus.

I exhort you to reach out to those you care about and know with the gospel of Jesus Christ before they die. We do a disservice to the gospel (and maybe even to the deceased) by simply

attempting to “tack on” a relationship with Jesus at the end and pretending that someone was someone in death they were not in life.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



PRAYER & SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to **Carol & Phil Hollister & family** on the death of **Carol's** mother, Mary Goodenow.

Our sympathy is extended to **Art Reamer & family** on the death of **Art's** brother, Luther Reamer.

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Pastor



Passing On Faith (From a Study by Theos: a compilation of over 54 national studies)

Some Findings:

Young people who are struggling to develop a meaningful and personal religious ID usually are not engaging with a worshiping community.

While parents were successful in transmitting a sense of significance and authenticity of their religious tradition, they struggled to communicate the precise meaning of its various core doctrines and practices.

Parenting is a daunting task - there are no guarantees. But there are many indicators that kids learn much more from what we do than what we say. Meaning, they learn to yell and scream when angry more than they learn to stop doing whatever made us yell and scream.

Ouch, that's hard.

So modeling desirable actions, behavior, and responses for our kids is going to be more effective than solely pressuring them. Also, being ready and able to explain why we think certain things are important, others aren't, and why we make certain decisions.

Also, we were never meant to do it on our own. Introduce them to other people you admire, hang out with them; your children will learn from them as well.

The Youth Ministry Team at Buffalo Valley COB recognizes that family is core to faith development. We want to support you to succeed as parents, not replace you as "faith instructors." Any 'success' we see is due in large to you as parents. So we are striving to better do that.

One resource: regular discussions with your child about the Bible are beneficial. I have been posting on Facebook, Instagram, and even Snapchat, a daily "picture-verse" and question, walking through Colossians. If you follow the youth page, one easy thing to do is mention it to your child and ask a question about it (have your answer as well to share).

Pastor K

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 - 6:45 pm - Game/Activity
6:45 - 7:30 pm - Meal
7:30 - 8:30 pm - Lesson Time

April 1 - NO YOUTH (Celebrate Easter w/family)
April 8 - Soccer/ Try, try, try, again? (Hinduism)
April 15 - [Deep] Do we have to hurt? (Buddhism)
April 22 - Volleyball/ Is Doubting for Believers?
April 29 - [Deep] How religious should we be?

Events:

April 28: **Turkey Dinner Fundraiser**
(for Mission & National Youth Conference)
June 27 - July 1: **Creation**
July 14 - 20: **Westernport Mission**
July 20 - 27: **National Youth Conference**

Pastor K

Stepping Stones For Children



If they haven't already participated, please consider having your elementary age child take the Children's Stepping Stones Classes. In these classes the **plan of salvation**, the **meaning of baptism**, and the importance of **living a life to glorify God** is thoroughly explained.

Classes will be held this spring, with dates to be determined. Please contact Pastor Donita as soon as possible if your child has any interest in taking these Stepping Stones to Baptism.

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



Successful Auction

The Annual Church Auction **raised over \$17,600 for the building fund.** These monies will be used to retire debt to the outstanding member loans.

Many local businesses were contacted for donations that were sold at the auction. These donations from businesses that had no tie to the congregation brought in over \$1,200 to the auction. If you do business with any of the businesses listed below, please thank them for their contributions.

Contributing Businesses in alpha order:

Bing's Auto Repair, Bobby's Auto Repair, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Chilly Willy's, Clark's Wiggly Worm, Cole's Hardware, Cold Run Crafts, Cooney Photo, Country Farm and Garden, CVS Pharmacy Mifflinburg, CVS Pharmacy Lewisburg, Decorating Center & Country Traditions, Mifflinburg Variety Store, Fisher's Auto Parts, Giant Food Stores, Green Ridge Country Market, Harry's Lawn & Garden, Hoover Tractor, K C Horse Training, Keystone Housewares, L & L Grocery Outlet, Martin's Small Engine, Mifflinburg Glass Shop, Orchard Hill Welding, Pompeii Soap, Premier Automotive, R E Davidson, Remember When, Son-Rise Meats, State Farm Insurance, Steve Shannon Tire, Thomas Garage, Turf & Trail, Weaver's Archery, Wenger's Discount Grocery, and Zimmerman Supply.

There were also businesses with ties to Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren Members which contributed For the in alpha order: Affordable Fuels, Baker Farms, Inspired Designs. Seedway LLC, Springhouse Farms, Attorney Steve Buttorff, Trutt's Pharmacy, and Waite Farms.

We want to thank everyone who contributed their talents in woodworking, sawing, and baking. Also to all others who donated new and used items to sell.

Jake Myer for the Auction Committee



Outside Our Walls

If you are interested in hearing more about what has been happening outside of our walls, please put **May 13** on your calendars.

During **Alleluia Hour** on that date we will be hearing from a representative from the **Children's Aid Society**, get an update from **Jason and Nicole Hoover**, and hear a report from the team that traveled to the **Dominican Republic** in February. We will also hear about some **community outreach opportunities** coming up this summer.

Please plan to join us between first and second service on May 13.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team

Holy Week Observances & Activities

Thursday, March 29

LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION



Saturday, March 31

Children's Ministry Easter Egg Fair

Sunday, April 1st

EASTER! – He has risen!

He Has Risen Indeed!!

For the most part, we are too quick to look at our human stature - age, education, maturity, leadership skills - and disqualify ourselves from serving the Lord and others. That is we tend to look at *our weaknesses* instead of *Christ's strengths!!*



David Jeremiah



It's Complicated!

On April 8th we begin a new sermon series on the life of Moses. We will look at several events from Moses' life, mostly from the book of Exodus. Moses lived a very complicated life. The circumstances surrounding his birth were complicated. He was born at a time when all the Hebrew baby boys were supposed to be killed. He then was raised as an Egyptian though he seemed to know that he was a Hebrew. He murdered someone and then fled for his life. He ended up being called by God to lead the Hebrews out of slavery. That was a complicated process involving death, devastation and deliverance. Moses did many miracles but he also put up with a lot of complaining. Ultimately, Moses lost out on being in the Promised Land because of his anger. His life was pretty complicated but his life was also a great success.

Isn't that the case for most of us? Are not most of our lives pretty complicated? Yet, regardless of the complications we can have a successful life. During this sermon series we will look at different aspects of Moses' life and challenge ourselves to learn from his successes and his mistakes. I hope you will join us each week during the spring as we look at the complicated and successful life of Moses.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Thank-You!!

Thank-you to everyone who ordered chocolate rolls. We hope you enjoy them! The money raised from their sale will be used to help pay for shipping of shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**, so your support is very much appreciated.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Preschool and K5 will both be on Wednesdays

Preschool 9:30 am – 12 noon
K5 9:30 am – 4 pm

Summer Day Camps

June 13th, 20th, 27th
July 11th, 18th, 25th

Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 30, 31, August 1, 2, 3
Performances: August 4th and 5th

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2018!



May 5 – Sisters in Christ Celebration
May 6 – Church Council Meeting

June 9 – Strawberry Festival
June 27 – July 1 – Creation

July 4 – 8 – Annual Conference
July 14 – 20 – Westernport Mission Trip
July 21 – National Youth Conference
July 29 – All Church Picnic/Baptism

July 30 – August 4 – Musical Day Camp

September 9 - 12 – Women's Beach Retreat
September 14 & 15 – District Conference

November 3 – 4 – Children's Retreat
November 4 – Church Council Meeting
November 24 – Kettle Cook

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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