



# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

August 2018  
Volume 34 No. 7



## Coming Together

The **Church of the Brethren Annual Conference** was held in Cincinnati, OH on July 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>. Our delegates to the conference were Jeff Bastian and Pastor Eric. Also attending from Buffalo Valley were Jake & Dixie Myer, Eli Mast, Brian, Donita and Becky Keister and Danielle Sommers. Jason & Nicole Hoover were also in attendance at the conference. We had a quite a crew from Buffalo Valley this year. As you already know, Donita is serving as the moderator for the denomination this year. This is a great opportunity for her, our church and our denomination. Please try to pray for Donita as frequently as you can as this is an important time in our denomination.

At Annual Conference the over 600 delegates sit at round tables to facilitate discussion around the items of business and also to provide a way to get to know each other a little. The tables are designed to have 7 or 8 people at each table, with people from different Districts. Often you have people with different theological perspectives as well. For me this year I only had five or six people and three of them were from VA. Our other delegate, Jeff, has a more diverse set of delegates at his table. Days are filled with bible study, denominational agency reports and items of business. Nights are filled with worship services.

Probably the most significant item of business this year was the beginning of the discussion on how the Church of the Brethren is working on adopting a "compelling vision" to help guide our life together as churches in the denomination. The process for this was laid out and discussed and about three hours were spent getting input from the delegates.

We also adopted a paper which is intended to move the Church of the Brethren in a global direction. Exciting things are happening around the world and even with ethnic congregations here in the United States. Most of the new church starts that were recognized were Hispanic churches being started here in the States.

Annual Conference is a great time to get to know the people you are with. We spend a lot of time together eating and in worship sessions. This is one of the most enjoyable things about Annual Conference for me. I also enjoy getting to see a new city and walking around the city. If you are called by the church to serve as an Annual Conference delegate, I highly recommend you accept that call. I don't think you'll regret it.

Pastor Eric

## Ready & Willing to Serve

On January 28<sup>th</sup> we had a leadership calling. **Jodi Wiand** was called to serve on the Spiritual Life Ministry Team (deacon body). Jodi accepted the call, but before she could be affirmed by the congregation Joel became ill with cancer. After prayer and discussion, she deferred beginning her term on the team. Since Joel is now doing well Jodi would like to fulfill the call to this team.

On July 22, the congregation unanimously affirmed Jodi's call to the Spiritual Life Ministry Team as a deacon.

Thank you all for your prayers and participation in the calling process.

Gifts Discernment Team



## Men after God's Heart

### Men's Spiritual Conference

August 25, 2018  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Matt Christ will be the speaker and will share what the Holy Spirit inspires him to share. Light snacks and lunch will be provided.

Doug Diehl for Men's Ministry

## Youth & Young Adult Lineup

### Young Adults:

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

### Youth (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

#### Regular Sunday Evening Times:

(All youth together)

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

July 29 - Church Picnic & Baptism  
August 5 - Youth Retreat, no evening youth  
August 12 - Pond Sunday  
August 19 - Bike & Hike (Rail Trail - Miff Park)  
August 26 - Summer Celebration (Pond)

#### Events:

August 3 – 5 - Summer Youth Retreat  
(Penns Creek)  
August 22 - First Day of School Breakfast  
(Old Turnpike Restaurant)  
November 2 – 4 - Winter Retreat  
(Crystal Springs)

Pastor K



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.

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



We are not finished works of art, but rather works in progress.

Pastor Eric



## Buffalo Gals

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Our **Annual Tea at Meg and Keith Phelp's garden** (on Green Street in Mifflinburg) will be held Thursday, **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **6:30 - 8:30 pm**. Please bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Women's Ministry bulletin board. **Deadline to sign up is July 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Our **next LIFT Brunch** will be held **Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **9 - 11 am** in the Son Room. **ALL Women** who attend Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren are invited to join us for fellowship, brunch and a devotion. Please plan to bring a dish to share.

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 lid 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.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 NIV*

May you find strength from God's word, no matter what season of life you find yourself in!

Many Blessings~

Tricia Dreese for Women's Ministry



### 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.



## Musical Day Camp 2018

*For kids who have completed Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade*

**Monday, July 30**

**through**

**Friday, August 3**

from 9 am to 1 pm daily

### Performances Held

**SATURDAY, August 4**

**7:00 PM**

**SUNDAY, August 5**

**9:30 AM**

### Pool Party



**Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**7:30 - 9 pm**

**Mifflinburg Pool**

**ALL are invited! Bring your friends!**

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team



We can be certain that God will give us the strength and resources we need to live through any situation in life that He ordains.

Billy Graham

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



## Pain and Prayer

As most of you know I post a blog each day on our website, our church Facebook page and my own personal Facebook page. For the past several weeks I have been writing about a hymn. Several of you have expressed how much you appreciate listening to and reflecting on the hymns that were such a large part of your worship experience; and in some cases still are. I have been immensely blessed and sometimes challenged as I have read and re-read the lines of each of these hymns and processed them through the lens of scripture. I have discovered a rich theology in some of the hymns that I had overlooked before.

This morning as I was prayer-walking I was reflecting on the familiar hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". The title of the hymn doesn't really reveal the content of the hymn. The word "friend" is only used twice in the entire hymn in reference to Jesus yet the word "prayer" is used six times. Here is a line that I thought about this morning: "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear...all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer." I've been a little frustrated with God lately because He's not answering some of the prayer requests I've been praying in the manner and/or time frame I have in mind. I know there are many of you who could say the same thing. So, if in most cases God is not going to take away the pain or the difficult circumstance, or heal the sickness, why pray? What does it mean that we bear needless pain?

I think the answer goes back to the original title. If you have a genuine friend there is very little that friend can do to take away whatever is causing you pain. He/she can't get you a new job, heal your disease, fix your marriage or your broken relationship with a child. So what do you want the friend to do? You want the friend to listen and to love you through the pain. You want to know there is someone who will serve as a sounding board; someone who will give you a hug.

I think this is part of the idea that the hymn writer has in mind. We often forfeit peace because we don't allow God to give us that peace that passes understanding because we keep it to ourselves. We bear needless additional pain because we don't bring God into the picture, even when He doesn't remove the pain.

I hope that you will use Jesus as a friend who will listen to you in prayer. However God chooses to answer your prayer, the time spent in prayer will be a huge benefit.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

## PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,  
Intimate with,  
Transformed by CHRIST



### Holy Events, Holy Moments

A couple of hours ago I stood in an arena with over 1800 other Church of the Brethren youth and advisors through a unique combination of loud excitement, quiet reflection and interactive unifying worship - my first experience with National Youth Conference. This comes after a fairly intense week of service alongside our own group of 32 volunteers serving in Westernport - a time that inspired several youth to deeper relationships with the kids there, authentic sharing with adults (who before were strangers), and asking raw questions of 'why me?' (Why was I born in my loving family, while these kids face abuse or neglect every day?) And before that was Creation Festival! It has been and continues to be a busy summer.

Each of these larger events facilitated moments of wow! - moments when I stepped out of my shoes because I felt God's presence working among us. They were events prepared for, and purposefully stepped into - making room for God to show up. I've also felt this is unexpectedly meeting an acquaintance that felt more like a dear friend - comfort in a lonely time. Or sitting in the diverse beauty of "natural wonders" of creation and being struck anew by God's apparent passion for beauty.

God can show up in orchestrated events that we step into with expectation, or surprise us in moments of solitude. It can feel like comfort or the challenge of shifting paradigms. We can't force or orchestrate God, but we can prepare our hearts.

Peace,  
Pastor K



Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?

Corrie ten Boom



## A Blessing Filled Week!!

Another week serving in Westernport, MD has been completed and we did indeed experience many blessings and saw God moving every day in many ways! God met our needs abundantly and each day we shared our God sightings on how we saw Him working in us, around us and in the lives of the approximately 90 children that we touched.

The children made thank you cards for us, thanking us for being there, for feeding them, for hugging them, and many said it was their best week of the year. These dear children are so in need of the things that many of us take for granted. We have our breakfast and other meals, we feel loved and we have towels. Yes, towels!! We probably have many towels, but a lot of these children do not even have one! One child came back for his third helping of scrambled eggs and said that he needs to eat when he can!! Those of us around him had tears in our eyes. Now, I know there are many hungry children, but when you see the face and hear the child say it, it becomes so very real.

Everyone did their part in making this week something for these children to remember. They loved the songs and singing along with them, hearing the Word through Bible story time, having the story reinforced through the Imagination Station, crafts, games, and through two hot meals and snacks. Our team was blessed at the end of the day with devotions, sharing God sightings, which was in no way, a struggle to write and worship.

Another dimension to our mission in Westernport is the "Construction Crew". Three men started their day by being van drivers and picking up the children for Day Camp and then spent the rest of the day serving in the community by making repairs at various homes. Some of these homes are in very poor conditions, but they did what they could to make needed repairs.

A huge thank you to all who served on Westernport 2018 for making this year a blessing to all that we served.

I encourage you to consider being a part of Westernport 2019. I guarantee you will be blessed beyond measure and you will bless the children and families of Westernport!! The dates are July 13 – 19, 2019.

Serving Him, Vicki Bastian



## Words of Wisdom

Through the month of August we will continue in our "Words of Wisdom" series as we look at various proverbs or themes in the **Old Testament book of Proverbs**.

If you are not very familiar with the book of Proverbs I suggest that you set aside time during the month of August to read one proverb each day. There are 31 days in the month of August and there are 31 proverbs; perfectly suited for one each day. Most of you will be able to read a proverb in just a few minutes. After you read it, meditate or focus on a section or even just one verse and see how that proverb fits into your life. This kind of spiritual exercise can be so incredibly meaningful and can even be life-changing.

As far as the sermons go, as I mention in last month's article these sermons are designed to be "stand alone" messages. Some of the proverbs are ones you are familiar with and some will be new to most of you. I hope you stay connected on Sunday mornings to your church family in the summer.

God Bless  
Pastor Eric



### Feed the Bin"

Remember to place your gently used clothing, and linens, if they are bagged, into the Community Aid Bin. Your donations help with Operation Christmas Child shipping.

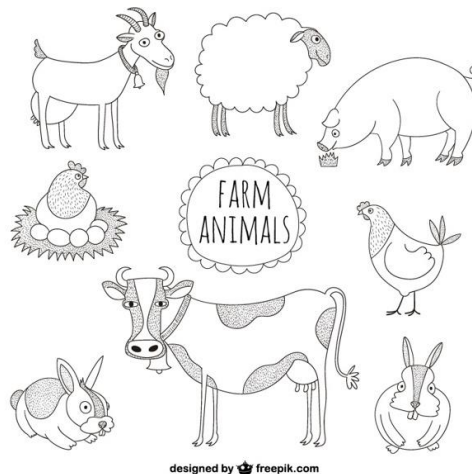


No other religion, no other, promises new bodies, hearts and minds. Only in the gospel of Christ do hurting people find such incredible hope.

Joni Eareckson Tada

## Children's Sunday School Summer Quarter Offering

For June, July, and August the children will be collecting money for Heifer International. Students will be helping to decide what animal or portions of animals will be purchased with the money we collect.



### THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team

### LOOKING AHEAD IN 2018!



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

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

Return Service Requested

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