

## Are You Thirsty? Come to the Waters

**Women's Winter Retreat** is coming on **March 8 - 10** at Timberwind Lodge in Livonia.

Engage in soul watering activities. Time for fellowship and personal space. Come for all or part of the retreat.

Sign up on the Women's Ministry Bulletin board. The whole weekend is \$60. Friday evening and Saturday is \$45 and Saturday only is \$25.

Any questions, contact Carol Pursel, 570-713-8035 call or text; or Cheryl Ilgen in the church office.

Carol Pursel for Women's Ministry



## Men's Retreat

Last year the men hosted a retreat at Timberwinds Lodge and those who were able to attend were blessed, encouraged, challenged and....very well fed! We have set the dates for this year's retreat at the same place. The dates are **Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

We will spend time together in teaching, talking, praying, playing and of course, eating. The theme of the retreat is "**moMENTum**" as we look at the importance of spiritual momentum in our lives.

If you are planning to attend, **please sign up** at the men's ministry bulletin board. The details are in a flyer that is available there as well.

Pastor Eric for Men's Ministry



## Getting Ready to Serve!!

We are making plans for the **Summer Mission Trip to Westernport, MD** and we would love to have you be a part of it. We will be serving the children and their families the week of **July 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you are a Christian who is willing to share your faith, if you want to be the hands and feet of Jesus to hurting children, if you want to be a blessing to others and receive more than you can imagine in return, then this is your opportunity to serve!!

We have so much to be thankful for and what a joy to spread the love for our Savior to those who need to feel that love. We minister through Bible stories, feeding the hungry, one on one conversations and hugs and more!! You can help make a difference in a child's life!!

Applications are ready and need to be returned by **Sunday, March 24**. Please do not delay. Please see me for an application.

Serving Him,  
Vicki Bastian



## Subcommittee Needed

The Mission Ministry Team is forming a subcommittee to explore the possibility of **planting a Spanish speaking church** in our area. If you have any interest in being a part of this process, please contact Pastor Eric.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team

## Young Adults Are You Aware?

Each month our Young Adults (YA's) (18 - 30 year olds) spend time getting to know each other better and enjoying food and movies. If you haven't come down to the PIT to join them why not start?

The YA's **meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** and they started a **Game Night Event** for everyone, no age restriction, on the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month**. A **Bowling night** on the **28<sup>th</sup> of February** and an IKEA trip are also in the works. Hope to see you attend one of these events!

Kristy Heintzelman



## Greetings from Building & Grounds

Hope all of you are staying warm. I know I am ready for spring.

It has been brought to my attention that on several occasions lights have been left on, the alarm has not been set, and the doors have been left unlocked. If you are using the building and another group is also there, please check before you leave to be sure no one else is still there. If you are the last to leave be sure to turn off lights, set the alarm, and lock the door. If someone is still there let them know that you are leaving and it is their responsibility to secure the building.

Also be sure that all doors are closed between different areas in case of a fire. If all doors are closed and there would be a fire, it can be contained to one area.

Your friend in Christ,  
Bill Baker



## Dr. Seuss and Beyond...

Dr. Seuss will continue to be our topic of conversation for the next few weeks. The three books we will finish up the series with starting on February 24<sup>th</sup> are "Horton Hears a Who", "Sneetches" and "The Lorax".

Then on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**, we have our **Spiritual Life services with speaker, Paul Munday**, at Buffalo Valley. Paul will speak to us on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Monday night.

After that it is time to think about Easter. Beginning March 24<sup>th</sup> we will begin looking at some of the common symbols and events surrounding the period of Easter. We will think about the application of the rooster crowing, the crown of thorns, Pilate washing his hands, the cross and the tomb. I hope you will find these fresh looks at familiar symbols to be challenging and encouraging.

Pastor Eric



## Camp Eder Corner

Reminder: Go to [www.campeder.org](http://www.campeder.org) to **register for summer camp** at Camp Eder! The **church pays a significant amount** for our regular attenders to go!

Bryan Smith, **camp director** is **coming** to our church on Sunday morning, **March 3**. Come, have your questions answered and your excitement raised regarding a summer camping experience at Camp Eder!

Fay Richard, Camp Rep  
frichard@dejazzd.com



## What Parents Need to Know

Parents of youth, do you know all the opportunities that await your student? The Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYA Team) has been planning lots of great events for the coming months. Is your youth interested in music? We will be taking a van or two to **Winter Jam** on **March 30<sup>th</sup>** and it's not too late to sign up to come along! Or maybe they would be interested in heading to Camp Eder for our **Winter/Spring Retreat (April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)** for some great time of bonding. We have Jay Trainer coming to be our speaker and we know we will have a great time being refined together in the woods of the camp. Now if your youth likes both of those things maybe they will want to go to **Creation (June 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>)** for both the time bonding together and the music. Sign-up sheets are on the Youth table in the Main Entry.

We also want you to put our next **Parent & Youth Luncheon (May 19<sup>th</sup>)** on your calendars. Please plan to stay after 2<sup>nd</sup> service that Sunday for a great lunch that you don't need to make and learn more about your youth!



We want to inform **EVERYONE** of our next **Turkey Dinner Fundraiser (April 27<sup>th</sup>)**. We will be cooking up a storm in order to help with our youth going on the **Westernport Mission Trip (July 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>)** which is another opportunity for your youth! We would LOVE to have your help! We need to have more volunteers to help so that no one is completely wiped out at the end of the day. We would like people to sign up for different shifts and different duties on the day. Look for sheets on the youth table to sign up and for details of jobs we would love you to fill.

Kristy Heintzelman

## Raising Money While Having Fun



Our highly successful and entertaining Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren **Annual Church Auction** is **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** and we are busy **collecting items for the sale**. Please let Jake Myer or Steve Richard (570-452-4854) know as soon as you have an item for the sale so we can begin to advertise the hundreds of items or services that we will have to sell. We accept **most anything of value** (new or used) to be sold at our popular silent auction tables or at the live Auction. If you would like to donate a theme bag or a themed basket we have some baskets available for your use or you can provide your own.

The details for the auction are much the same as last year. It will be **Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** and while we strongly prefer to know about the items ASAP, all items must be to the church by 8 AM that morning. Starting at **3 pm food** will be available, **silent auction tables** will open and you can look through the order of sale and review the hundreds of items that are donated. The **live bidding starts at 4 pm** with Auctioneer Jeremy Waite. All proceeds go directly to our **building debt retirement**.

Steve Richard

## *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



## PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,  
Intimate with,  
Transformed by CHRIST



### Holy Events, Holy Moments

(From daily Instagram reflections)

*“Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy... it is not proud... Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...for now I know in part...”*

1 Corinthians 13

‘Patience,’ ‘kindness,’ ‘not proud,’ ‘trusts,’ ‘perseveres’ - these characteristics/actions are hard enough on their own, much less predicated by “always.” It’s a description only God fulfills, at least for now. BUT remember, this whole chapter is a description of a “more excellent way.” It is something we strive for, yearn for, trust in, persevere in... wait... that sounds like... yep - love (the very act of trying to love IS love).

During February in youth, we focused on this chapter, since culture has surrounded us with its idea of love. To be fair there is an element of gifting and thinking about others, but too often it still comes back to ‘what I want to get out of it.’ In contrast, the love Paul talks about is all about laying our own desires, pride, and gifts down and seeking the good of others. This is hard: it’s not just the “perfect” gift or card, or even words; it is daily surrender and attention to other(s). It is acknowledging that there is a lot I still don’t know and need to seek to listen and understand and respond in a loving way. It never ends, but apparently, we do someday perfect it (or God perfects it in us - probably a mysterious combination).

Someday, I shall know and love perfectly. Will you daily seek that end with me? And be patient with me?

Peace,  
Pastor K

# Easter Egg Fair



Saturday,  
April 20<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am to 12:30 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



When we inflate our own value we almost  
always deflate the value of others!

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



### Where Do You Belong?

I'm writing this letter from the Dominican Republic and I wanted to share a conversation that briefly took place at the table this week. We have two translators from the Dominican Republic staying with us and of course, Jason and Nicole Hoover are here as well. I don't remember the details of the conversation but somehow the question was asked about whether Jason or Nicole considered themselves to be "American" or "Dominican". They sort of hedged on the answer a little bit. I think they are leaning toward identifying themselves as Dominican instead of American. They really love the people and the culture here. This is part of the reason why they are continuing their ministry with Solid Rock International in the Dominican. It isn't that they don't enjoy America, it's just that their greater joy and purpose is in the Dominican (at least that's how I see it). Their initial two year term is going to be significantly longer.

But that's not really my point. That night in bed I reflected for a little while about my answer to the question, "Where do I belong?" Would you be willing to ask yourself the same question...not in terms of American versus Dominican but rather this world or the next one? Where do you belong? If you are a Christian the Word of God reminds you again and again that this world is not your home. You are a stranger in this world and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life is clear indication of this. But how do you live and how do you think? Is your physical home more important than the fact that you are a "home" to the Holy Spirit? Do you think more about retirement plans than you do about how your actions impact your eternal future and the eternal future of others? Do you care more about the things of this world than the things of Christ? Where do you belong? Which actions and attitudes take precedence in your life? Please don't just settle for what you think you want the answer to be or what you know the answer should be. Ask yourself the question...sit with the answer for a while. You don't have anything to lose and yet you might have a life change to gain. If I can be of any help, please let me know.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



### Operation Christmas Child Shipping

Please continue to help us raise money to ship shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) by donating to our recycling bin as well as the Community Aid bin.

The Community Aid bin is for gently used clothing as well as other soft household items (linens, etc.).

Recycling is for so much more than just aluminum cans. Many types of metal are accepted (even washers, dryers and refrigerators). Check with Jake or Scott Myer for what is acceptable.

Thank you for your help with these two projects!

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team

## Youth & Young Adult Lineup

Young Adults:  
(6:30 – 8:30 pm)

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: **6 – 8 pm**

March theme: Under Pressure

March 3 - [GaGa Ball, Grey Wolf...]  
FUN Night, "What Pressures You?"  
March 10 - [Deep] Handling Pressure  
March 17 - [Wide] Better together  
(making friends)  
March 24 - [Worship] Positive Pressure  
March 31 - [NO Youth] Advisor only night

### Youth Events:

March 30 – **WinterJam**  
(Saturday 4 pm – 12 am)  
April 5 – 7 - Spring Retreat @ Camp Eder  
May 11 - **Turkey Dinner**  
June 25 - 30 - Creation

Pastor K



If we succeed in getting people to seek eagerly in the Book of Life for their joy, their spiritual life will be wonderfully strengthened and they will become altogether different people

Philipp Spener



## 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

### Musical Day Camp

CAMP: August 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>  
Performances: August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



## 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.



## My Mission Experience

I was asked by my team to write an article about my experience in the Dominican Republic (DR). A team of 13 people left Buffalo Valley COB on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 am in the pouring rain to begin our 9-day mission adventure. We landed in the DR in the warm sunshine, 80-degree temperatures, palm trees and fantastic smiles. Our guest house reminded me of a Spanish villa. We had truly arrived in Paradise complete with a refreshing pool.

Heading to our job site and looking around me on that initial van ride I saw a sea of humanity truly in need. I was assaulted by dilapidated houses, some partially finished, and garbage everywhere. Vehicles, stuffed with folks, were missing doors and other obvious parts, all in desperate need of repair. Basically, a people to rescue.

However, the moment I arrived at our worksite the only thing evident was an outpouring of love and hospitality. These confident, loving people opened their homes and hearts to us. They shared their bathroom and provided delicious snacks for us before lunch and in the afternoon. There was no concern for cost or inconvenience, only of sharing and showing their appreciation for us. They worked side by side with us in beautiful clothes and flip flops, happy to be of service. No amount of work would have stopped them. What skills they had they shared and all with that Dominican smile from ear to ear. I was also able to play and interact with the neighborhood kids. They are so loving as well.

The pastor of the church we helped construct welcomed us into her home each day for lunch. She showed no concern for our muddy, dusty clothes. Her only concern was our welfare. She fed us authentic Dominican food and made sure we had enough to eat. She treated us as family and even cleaned up after us.

The worship service on Sunday was an experience I will never forget. Their passion for the Lord flowed from their hearts. It would be impossible to duplicate that much devotion. I believe it comes from their faith that God will always provide for them. They really do Walk the Walk! The children welcomed us as we shared a Bible story skit and crafts with them. They were also enthusiastic and joyful. I became aware of how much I am missing in my mundane approach to Sunday. An obligation to fulfill, not the joyous praise for the Lord it should be.

We visited a congregation in LaBatata where our team had previously worked on their church. They treated us to a feast and greeted us in song. Their reception of our team was amazing beyond words.

I looked around and realized these people don't need rescued...we do!! These people are not lacking anything. They have what truly matters, an appreciation and zest for life each and every day. I received so much more on this adventure than I gave. My heart is bursting! Alleluia, Amen.

Member of the team,  
Lynda Jarrett

## We Need Your Help

The Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYAMT) is in need of your help. Do you sit at home on a Sunday night not really sure what to do? Do you enjoy cooking for others? Well if you fit into either of those situations we could use your help.

Every Sunday night of Youth we feed the youth that come out to build their relationships with God and others. That means someone needs to make and serve that food. We would love to see more people helping us do this so that no one has to do it every week.

We also would like to have adults come early to help welcome our youth to Youth Group and direct any late comers to where the group is currently in the building. This job would only take an hour out of your evening but would be so helpful.

If you want more information about either of these opportunities please see Pastor K or Kristy Heintzelman.

Kristy Heintzelman



*Worship the Lord with gladness and  
come before Him with joyful songs.*

*Psalm 100:2*



## Church Email Lists

Members, friends and attendees of the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are invited to participate in email lists to communicate with the church family. Listed below are the email addresses to be used when sending an email.

**Prayer List** ([prayer@bvcoob.com](mailto:prayer@bvcoob.com)) is used to share **prayer concerns and updates**.

**News List** ([news@bvcoob.com](mailto:news@bvcoob.com)) is for **church-related news and announcements** only. Emails to this list are normally generated from ministry team leaders and those who are planning events and activities.

**Share-Ads List** ([share-ads@bvcoob.com](mailto:share-ads@bvcoob.com)) is used to provide a forum for sharing **news-worthy info** not directly associated with the church that might benefit our church family. Examples: giveaways, used appliances, vegetables from your garden, yard sales, for sale items, etc.

### Email List Etiquette

1. Avoid using backgrounds and graphics in your messages to the email lists.
2. Stay on topic. Lists have a specific purpose and should be used accordingly.
3. Include a subject. Messages without a subject line will be rejected as spam.
4. Do not send attachments, solicitations or advertisements, except as permitted.
5. Do not forward chain letters, email petitions or virus warnings.
6. Replies to a message will go directly to the sender of the message. **Please do not reply all.**
7. To contact the church office, email [churchoffice@bvcoob.com](mailto:churchoffice@bvcoob.com).

**Linda Miller**

Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team Leader

(If you would like to join one of these lists or be removed from one of these lists, please contact the church office.)

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2019!



April 18 – LOVE FEAST  
April 20 – Easter Egg Fair  
April 21 – EASTER

May 5 - Church Council Meeting

June 8 – Strawberry Festival  
June 12 - Summer Kid Connection Begins  
June 21 – 22 - MifflinServe  
June 25 – 30 – Creation

July 3 – 6 – Annual Conference  
July 13 – 19 – Westernport Mission Trip  
July 28 – All Church Picnic/Baptism

August 3 - Men's Quoit Pitch  
August 5 – 9 - Musical Day Camp

September 20 & 21 – District Conference

October 6 – LOVE FEAST  
October 20 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

November 3 - Church Council Meeting  
November 30 – Kettle Cook



### 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.



*If Jesus Christ be God and died for me,  
then no sacrifice can be too great for me to  
make for Him.*

C.T.Studd



**The Lamplighter**

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

Return Service Requested

***The Lamplighter***

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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian  
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183  
[churchoffice@bvcob.com](mailto:churchoffice@bvcob.com)

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