

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 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, **April 18th at 7:00 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



When Satan tells me I am a sinner, he comforts me immeasurably, since Christ died for sinners!

Martin Luther



Men's Retreat

Last year the men hosted a retreat at Timberwind 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 31st**.

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



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 2019, 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



Shhhhhhhhhhhhh.....

I've got a secret...but it's a secret that needs to be shared. Buffalo Valley is hosting a Secret Church simulcast. What is "Secret Church"? you ask...I can tell you and I don't have to whisper.

Secret Church is a six hour time of Bible study, songs, and stories of unreached people groups in our world. It is modeled around the practice of people from countries that are closed or hostile to the gospel, gathering for extended periods of time to hear gospel truth. The material is taught by David Platt, author of Radical and Counter Culture.

This year's topic is "Cults and Counterfeit Gospels". We will consider the claims of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and other groups that claim to teach the truth about God. We will also explore more subtle distortions of the gospel, including prosperity teaching that is rampant across the church. In the end, our goal is to walk away from this Secret Church not only enabled to discern false gospels, but also equipped to share the true gospel with people around us and with peoples around the world.

Secret Church will be held **Friday May 3rd** starting at **6:30 p.m.** and ending at 12:30 a.m. on May 4th lasting 6 hours. The cost is \$10/person which includes a 175 page bible study guide. This year we are actually watching "last year's" program so we won't have problems with streaming the event and buffering issues as we've had the previous two times.

Watch for more information coming out as the date draws closer. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Eric or call the church office.

Pastor Eric



Quick, the deadline is Near!!!

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 13th to 19th**. 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

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

Easter Egg Fair



Saturday,
April 20th

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

Candy Donations are now being accepted.

Teresa Chambers, Children's Ministry Team



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.

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Holy Moments

(From daily Instagram reflections)

“I pray that out of his glorious riches God may strengthen you with power... So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... and being rooted and established in love may have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ - that you may be filled to the (fullness) of all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:16 - 19

“FILLED to the FULLNESS of ALL the FULLNESS of God.” Paul builds this passage to this word, the “*pleroma*” of God - *complete, perfect, overflowing- full*. His prayer for the Ephesians is that they would ultimately experience this overflowing of God - with his love, with life, with... well, God. But let’s back up a bit.

Have you ever felt that full of anything? Of food? Laughter? Friendship? Have you ever had the feeling of, “my cup runneth over?” It’s a wonderful feeling. But it takes work to get there; it doesn’t just happen. You have to earn food, or wait for it to be ready. We have to work at friendships. Usually for laughter to be that deep there is a lot of other things leading up to it. The same is true here to be filled completely with God.

Paul doesn’t start the prayer there, he builds to that fantastic ending. He begins by praying that the Ephesians might be strengthened with power, a power that will enable them to experience Christ dwelling in their hearts through faith. Wait - can’t I just ask Jesus in? Well... yes, but to REALIZE the benefits of Christ dwelling in us - that takes work. How does spiritual “strengthening” happen then? There is an element of God ‘magically’ enabling us. But if we notice how God worked with people in the Bible, it often takes time - God stretches their faith, helps them through hard times; they have to practice spiritual gifts of patience, love, joy, self-control, etc. Like physical exercise or physical therapy, we can choose to partake in it on our own, or it will often come to us to be healthy.

Once that work is done, and you are rooted and can dwell with Christ, Paul talks about realizing the WIDTH, LENGTH, HEIGHT, and DEPTH of the love of Christ. And ultimately being completely and overwhelmingly full. I imagine that fullness overflowing into others.

But how are you being strengthened? Maybe you’re being stretched into serving or being friends with others. Maybe you are facing trials that are impossible without God. Maybe you are attempting to do something out of your comfort zone to experience Christ in new ways. I pray that whatever it is, you experience Christ dwelling in you - so that together we can deepen our roots and grasp the impossible love of Christ and be “FILLED to the FULLNESS of ALL the FULLNESS of God.”

Peace,

Pastor K



Special Help, Special Happenings

Many thanks to ALL who helped transform the Sonroom into a banquet hall for the couple's banquet in February. Walls were pushed away beforehand, then returned for Sunday school preparation afterwards. Chairs were also set up beforehand and returned to main gathering for worship next morning.

Twenty-five couples were blessed by Linda Miller and crew's delicious meal and beautiful decorations. They were blessed by Brian & Dani Sommers’ games, and were blessed by 2 couples sharing dating & marriage experiences: Brian & Donita Keister, and Bill & Sandy Baker (Thanks)! Steve Walter, MC, kept things running smoothly. Linda Miller closed the evening with humorous stand-up comedy.

It was GREAT to see lots of you come out and support the All-Church Auction in March.

I am delightfully looking forward to the upcoming all-church events.



Strawberry Festival/Hymn Sing

Saturday, **June 8**



Church Picnic/Baptism

Sunday, **July 28**



Special Events Coordinator,
Karen Beiler

From Your Lead Pastor,



Loss or Gain...or Both?

I read an article by Wendy McFadden in our recent Church of the Brethren newsletter that got my attention. She quotes an essay from the Chicago Tribune about a story of a woman who was exiting a train car and realized that she only had one of her gloves. Just before the door closed behind her, she tossed the glove back inside, saying to herself, "Better someone else had two, if not me". She made a quick decision to rid herself of the glove she had so the person who found her gloves would have a pair and not just one. In essence, she made it possible for the person who found her gloves to have a useful pair of gloves, instead of her and the person finding one glove, having two useless gloves.

I wonder if I would have responded that way. I have never responded that way when I've lost something. I usually try to go back and get it or go back and find it. But should I? What if I were to consider my loss to be someone else's gain? Losing a glove is no big deal most of the time (unless you have really expensive gloves) but what about if I lose out on a promotion that someone else receives or if I lose out on another opportunity that someone else takes advantage of. Can I see my loss as their gain? What would God have me do?

I think that Christ would encourage us to see our loss as someone else's gain, focusing on the benefit it could bring to others instead of focusing on the loss that we have suffered. I think this is encapsulated in the teaching of Jesus and the writing of the rest of the New Testament. Can we have such an attitude on something that is really meaningful...even something that we really, really desire? Can we trust God to provide for us? I think that if we can focus on the gain of someone else in the time of our own personal loss that something supernatural happens. We have suffered a loss but we also "gain a gain". Our attitude and willingness to see our loss as a gain for someone else is a huge "gain" for us. So our loss becomes someone else's gain but it also becomes a gain for us. The loss turns into two gains. I know that sounds somewhat confusing but I think it can also be transforming.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

P.S. If you want to try this out by losing your car keys somewhere, my address is 126 Conley Rd. in Mifflinburg...just sayin'



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:

Game Nights (Church Wide ALL AGES)

1st Wednesday & 3rd Monday from 4 - 8 pm
April 3 & 15

Wing/Pizza & Movie Night

2nd & 4th Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm
April 11 & 25



Youth (6th - 12th grade)

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

April theme: Your Body is a Temple - Health

April 7 - NO Youth - Spring Retreat ending

April 14 - [Deep] True Health: Sanctuary

April 21 - NO Youth - EASTER

April 28 - [Wide] MACY Movie Night (time TBA)

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



Do You Have An
Offering Envelope?



If you have an **offering envelope number** it is important that you place your offering in the envelope on a Sunday morning, in order to receive credit for your donation.



BRETHREN
Disaster Ministries

Last Year we had 7 people from Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) who traveled to Lumberton, NC to help rebuild/cleanout houses and also help cook and clean at the church we stayed at through Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). For most of us this was our first time being involved with BDM and we were very impressed with how well organized and faith-based BDM is.

This year we will be traveling back to **Lumberton, NC** to help **rebuild houses** destroyed by hurricanes/flooding. The trip is **October 6 - 12**. We are looking for 8 people to go. We need 7 people to help with construction work and 1 person to help with the cooking/cleaning at the church we will be staying at.

You do not have to be a skilled carpenter to participate in this trip. The most important thing about this trip is we will be sharing the love of Christ with people in need. For anyone who is interested, we will have a sign up sheet available starting Sunday May 5th at the Mission table in the main entry. There is no cost to this trip. Any questions please call, txt, email, or talk to me at church. (570) 541-5298 or ashwet13@gmail.com.

God Bless,

Ashley Wetzel



May all bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole earth be filled with His Glory.

John Hancock, in a proclamation to
Massachusetts, October 15, 1791

Thank You...Thank You...Thank You



Our annual church auction raised \$16,476.17 this year.



There are many people who spend many hours getting ready for the auction. Some of you baked, handcrafted or purchased items that you donated to be sold. Others offered experiences and rentals. Many people also donated hundreds of hours to catalog, prepare and run the auction, including the food items that were sold during the auction. Then there were those of you who purchased items, not because you were looking for a “deal” but because you believed in helping the church to become debt free.

This event has benefits for our church family beyond the money raised, though that is important. It is a true “community building” event in our church family. Please accept a hearty “Thank You” from the Capital Funds Committee and we hope that you will continue to support the auction in future years.

Pastor Eric

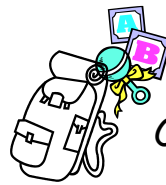
Greetings from Building & Grounds

Have you noticed, there has been a change in the front parking lot? If you use that lot, be very careful not to run into the bollards **protecting the well casing**. We needed to make some improvements to insure the safety of our water.



Sometime in April we will be **raking stones** out of the grass in the back parking lot. An Email will be sent out asking for volunteers to help.

Happy Spring,
Bill Baker. Building & Grounds Ministry Team



Camp Eder Corner

Quotes from our church camp website:

“Camp Eder is a camp located in Pennsylvania. Our caring and enthusiastic staff manages a wide range of creative and enriching programs for campers, grades 1 - 12. Our activities and offerings are fun, challenging, and accepting of everyone’s abilities. We are all about having FUN but, most importantly, we get to know God in a deeper way.”

Besides the large tuition amount paid by our Buffalo Valley COB family, (for our campers who are regular attendees), the camp has a scholarship form to fill out if needed. Check out the rest of the information on their website.

So far, I only know of a few campers from BVCOB 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 let me know/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



Easter Symbols



If you walked into a first century necklace shop around Palestine I can guarantee you that you would not find a cross necklace available for purchase. The cross symbolized death and oppression. Yet today, many people wear or display crosses. What changed? The obvious answer is the resurrection of Jesus changed the perception of the cross. Leading up to Easter Sunday we will examine some symbols from the Easter account. We will talk about the rooster crowing, the crown of thorns, the cross and of course, the empty tomb.

The goal of the sermon series is to challenge us to consider how these symbols are meaningful to each of our lives today and how God might "speak" through these symbols. Join us each week as we take a look at Easter symbols.



Pastor Eric

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2019!

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



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 12th, 19th, 26th

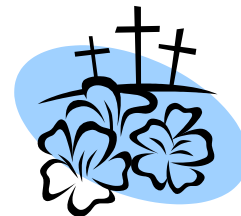
July 10th, 17th, 24th

Musical Day Camp

CAMP: August 5th - 9th

Performances: August 10th and 11th

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



A Reason To Celebrate

- **Jesus**-

What a wonderful name...

What a perfect Saviour...

What a reason to celebrate!

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
46 Brethren Church Road
Mifflinburg PA 17844
www.bvcob.com

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(570) 837-9393

Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor
for Children & Pastoral Care

Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
for Youth & Young Adults

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