

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

May 2019
Volume 35 No. 4



Are You a Member?

We are offering a class for those of you who might be interested in becoming a member of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. We value all of you who participate in the life of our church community and each year we seek those of you who would like to become official members of the church. American Express used to have a tagline that said, "Membership has its privileges". Though I wouldn't necessarily use that line for church membership, church members do have the privilege of voting in church council meetings and making recommendations during our annual calling process for team leaders. Only church members can be considered for team leadership positions, though you don't have to be a member to serve on one of our teams.

There are two essential requirements for becoming a member at Buffalo Valley. The first is **baptism** and the second is completion of our **Stepping Stones membership class**. We cover the topic of baptism in the Stepping Stones class and we have an **outdoor baptism** time scheduled to coincide with our summer church picnic on **July 28th**. I have scheduled two different times to offer this class. The first will be **Wednesday night, May 22nd from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.** The second time will be **Sunday, June 2nd from 1 to 4 p.m.** You only have to attend one of the classes. Also, if you are interested in membership but neither of these times work with you, please let me know and we'll set up something that fits your schedule.

If you have any questions about the class or have interest in becoming a member or at least attending the membership class, please contact me.

Pastor Eric



The Cross



The greatest first century symbol of death is now the greatest symbol for life.

children's AID SOCIETY
Southern PA District Church of the Brethren



"Material Gifts Month" for Buffalo Valley

The month of May is designated as "**Material Gifts Month for Children's Aid Society.**" Congregations in the Southern Pennsylvania District are asked to help the different centers by contributing material gifts or money to purchase such items as baby food, fruits, juices, art supplies, cleaning supplies, paper products and toys.

The Children's Sunday school is using **FILL JANE'S "VAN"** for their Spring Quarter Mission Project and are already bringing in their donations. Thanks, KIDS!

This year, in addition to the monetary collections in the Adult Sunday School classes, we will add a special paper product drive to **FILL JANE'S "VAN"** with diapers, paper towels, napkins, tissues and toilet paper. Cleaning supplies are also needed at each center. (The estimated value of items collected last year was \$560.) For additional information, please see the flyer in your mailbox in May.

May 19th and 26th are dates you can help support **Children's Aid Society** through the "**Material Gifts**" project during the Sunday school hour. See a detailed flyer in your mailbox.

Thank you so much for your support in helping hurting children and their families through Children's Aid Society.

Jane Mast, Contact Person



Spring Church Council Set for May 5th

Pot Luck Meal Meeting
Agenda Items

Noon
1 pm

Safe Place Guidelines
Church Plant Vision
Reports



See Eric Reamers article elsewhere in this issue for details on the Guidelines and Vision. Copies of the proposals will be available at the welcome center a couple weeks prior to the meeting.

Come to the potluck meal with a dish to share and stay to enjoy the abundance of food. Stay and participate during the Church Council to learn about the ministries and outreach of the church.

We promise good food, fine fellowship, and a meaningful meeting that will be over by 3 pm.

Eli Mast, Moderator

SECRET SISTER has returned

Have you ever thought of being a **special blessing to a "Sister"**? Would you like to be thinking and praying for a Sister in Christ on a daily basis? Do you like making someone smile with small gifts?

Consider signing up to be a Secret Sister. You in turn will be prayed for and receive small gifts from your Secret Sister as well. Forms are on the Women's Ministry bulletin board found in the Main Entry. Please take a form, fill it out and turn it in by May 5th. You will receive your Secret Sister form by Sunday, May 12th. Please remember to celebrate your "Sister's" birthday or half-birthday, Mother's day, Anniversaries, etc. We will reveal your Secret Sister in the beginning of November. This will only be for a 6 month period.



I have come to know that wherever I am standing, when God's work is going on, I'm on Holy Ground!

Tucker Heitman

Carol Pursel for Women's Ministry



Two Important Issues To Discuss at Church Council

It is commonly accepted that church council meetings are rather boring. In many cases a boring church council meeting indicates a lack of conflict or controversy which is usually a good thing. However, church council meetings are one of the ways that you have a voice about the direction of Buffalo Valley. On **May 5th** we will have a **church council meeting** where part of the agenda will contain two very important items.

First, we are going to vote on **approving new guidelines** that are used to ensure that Buffalo Valley is a **“safe place”** for children and youth. These guidelines cover procedures and policies on screening and training volunteers who work with children and youth. We'd like your input on those policies.

Second, we are asking the congregation to **approve a new initiative** to begin the planting of **“micro-churches”** in communities surrounding Buffalo Valley. This is an exciting opportunity for us to share the gospel with those who do not know Christ or who would not claim to be disciples of Christ. Who knows...perhaps God will call you to be a part of this new effort?

The details of both of these issues will be available to you by April 21st. Please pick up copies of these documents and read through them ahead of time. You are invited to ask any questions and provide comments before the meeting and during the meeting. If you have comments/questions, please contact the church office and you'll be connected to the right person.

Pastor Eric



Another Milestone

Many individuals from our congregation have graduated or will soon from **high school or college or other higher education**. A more detailed “Graduation Booklet” will be published on the upcoming **“Graduation Sunday”**. Please come on **Sunday, June 9** following the first service (approximately 9 am) when the following people will be recognized for their educational milestones:

December 2018 to May 2019 College Graduates

Samuel Beiler (Grove City College)
Riley Hanselman (Bloomsburg University)
Amanda Johnson
 (University of North Carolina at Wilmington)
Rachel Kline (Penn State University)
Michelle Klingman
 (Luzerne County Community College)
Brady Lloyd (East Carolina University)
Matt Reamer (Johnson and Wales Culinary)
Andrew Walter
 (Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology)
Megan Wetzel (Messiah College)
Margaret Wiand (Bloomsburg University)

June 7, 2019 Mifflinburg Area High School

Benjamin Chambers
 (ACE Program at Bloomsburg University)
Hailey Foresman
Shannon Heimbach (SUN Area Tech on May 22)
Dakota Heintzelman (SUN Area Tech on May 22)
Isaac Ilgen
Vanessa Martin
 (ACE Program at Bloomsburg University)
Victoria Martin (SUN Area Tech on May 22)
Megan Reid
Kelsy Stafford
 (ACE Program at Bloomsburg University)
Thomas C. Styer

June 11, 2019 PA Cyber Charter School

Robin Shultz
Hannah Smith

If I have missed any graduates, I'm sorry. Please let me know right away, so I can include their information in the next Lamplighter and in the Graduation Booklet!

Thank you,
 Fay Richard, frichard@dejazzd.com

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Holy Moments

(From daily Instagram reflections)



"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry," Ephesians 4:26

Wow - there's a verse... 'we could use some more help here, Paul!' How can we be angry but not sin? This is a quote from Psalms. 4:4... lets go there for some help:

"In your anger do not sin; when you are on your bed, search your hearts and be silent."

When you get angry - Stop. Don't immediately go out and act or write or talk.

Stop, "lay on your bed -" relax, breathe.

"Search your hearts and be silent". This act of searching your heart is trying to identify *why* you got angry. What happened, what led up to it? It is not an invitation to forget about your anger, but to understand it. The anger may enliven you to do something courageous and battle injustice. Or in reflecting on it, you may realize you were at fault or misunderstood (thank goodness you didn't act in anger and have to apologize... or maybe you did). You may even be able to see the other person's good intentions and be able to go back and re-engage the conversation with better perspective.

In our culture of immediate action and high tension, this verse could do us a lot of good. Especially as we seek to be a church that is a "light on a hill," and "salt to the earth." When anger comes up, we can see it as a reminder to pause and ask why - search our hearts. Let's use this God-given emotion as a tool for love and unity, rather than let it use us in hurtful and divisive ways.

Peace,
Pastor K

Discerning the Voice of God

A **new women's Bible Study** titled, Discerning the Voice of God, by Priscilla Shirer begins in May. Many of us enjoyed Priscilla's teaching from the last study based on the Armor of God. It is a seven session study consisting of video, homework and discussion.

How many of us have asked the question, Is that you, God? This Bible study will provide participants with practical help in knowing if what they hear is from God. Through this study we will become more familiar with the Holy Spirit, His character, language and tone of voice.

The study will be held the **2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings** of the month at **7 pm** at the Manbeck home, 426 Airport Road, Lewisburg. The **first session** will be held **Wednesday, May 8** at 7 pm.

The workbook looks in depth at each study with 5 days of personal study. Since we are meeting every other week, it means you will have 14 days to do your homework. Each person will be asked to pay \$10 towards the cost of the workbook.

Please sign up on the sheet on the Women's Ministry bulletin board. Any questions, contact Carol Manbeck at cmmanbeck@ptd.net.

Carol Manbeck

From Your Lead Pastor,



How Do You Understand God's Sovereignty?

Recently I shared an article that touched on the idea of God's involvement in creation; especially in devastating events that we call "natural disasters". Then this morning in Bible study at our men's group we were studying a time when the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. One of the kings made a very bad decision but the text lets us know something interesting about that decision: "*So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the Lord, that He might fulfill His word...*". So was the king responsible for his bad decision or was he simply a puppet of God in the entire process?

How do you understand the sovereignty of God in difficult circumstances and suffering? Does God simply allow suffering but not cause suffering? That is an answer that we often run to but it begs the question, "Can anyone, even God, "allow" something that he could not stop?" In other words, if God allows suffering then it means He could have stopped it if He wanted and does that mean that He sort of "caused" it? Does God ever use a hurricane or a storm as an instrument of divine judgment? He did in the pages of Scripture. God even took human life as an instrument of judgment. Does God still do that today? I don't see why not. Now, the advantage we have on biblical events is that we have a divinely inspired commentary on those events. We know that God "caused" the plague that killed 23,000 Israelites because the Bible says He caused it. But we can't make that same statement about a disaster or disease that occurs today. The church has at times wrongly made these judgments.

I won't pretend to answer this question on sovereignty except to encourage you to trust in God's character and nature. You will not have all the answers, but then again, no one else does either. To pretend we have all the answers about how a sovereign God works in our world today is a bit arrogant. Now, we can be confident in truths that are revealed in scripture such as major doctrines of Christianity, the resurrection of Christ and things like that but we can't go outside of what has been revealed to us. However, we can trust in the One who provides the revelation. We can trust His grace and His mercy in our lives. We don't want to put God in a box and we also don't want to minimize His ability to minister to us in times of desperate need. I don't understand God's

sovereignty over natural disasters, but I know He is sovereign over them. I don't understand God's motives but I know His primary motive is love. When I can't reconcile that, I'll simply trust that He can. I hope you will as well.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



You may never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have!

Youth & Young Adult Lineup

Young Adults:

Game Nights (Church Wide ALL AGES)

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

May 1 & May 20

Wing/Pizza & Movie Night

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

May 9 & May 23



Youth (6th - 12th grade)

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

May theme: A Place to Relax

(busy month - so we are a place to relax)

May 5 - Church Council [No Youth]

May 12 - Mothers Day [No Youth]

May 19 - **Youth Family Lunch**

[Youth from 12 – 2 pm]

May 26 - Memorial Day Weekend [No Youth]

Youth Events:

May 11 - **Turkey Dinner**

June 25 - 30 - **Creation**



July 13 - 19 - **Westernport Mission Trip**

August 2 – 4 - **Summer Retreat** @ Kline Cabin

Pastor K

Sister's In Christ Banquet

(Mark Your Calendar Now)



Saturday, **May 18th** @ 5 pm

More information will be coming in the next couple of weeks. Please sign up on the Women's Ministry bulletin board in the Main Entry. Cost is Adults \$8.00 and Children \$5.00.

Carol Pursel for Women's Ministry



BRETHREN
Disaster Ministries

Last year we had 7 people from Buffalo Valley who travelled to Lumberton, NC to help rebuild houses that had been destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and also to help cleanout houses destroyed by Hurricane Florence in 2018 through Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). For most of us this was our first time going on a mission trip through BDM and we were very impressed with how well organized and faith-based BDM is.

This **year's BDM trip** is going to be **October 6 - 12** in Lumberton, NC again to help rebuild houses destroyed by Hurricane Matthew. We are looking for 4 women and 4 men 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 a skilled carpenter to participate in this trip. All expenses are paid for.

Anyone who is interested in this trip can sign up on the signup sheet at the Mission table in the main entry starting May 5th and also pick up a brochure. If anyone has any questions about this trip please call, txt, email, or talk to me at church. (570) 541-5298 or ashwet13@gmail.com.

God Bless,

Ashley Wetzel



None of us can help everyone.

But all of us can help someone.

And when we help them, we serve Jesus!!

Max Lucado



Summer Day Camps

June 12, 19, 26

July 10, 17, 24

Preschoolers: 2 ½ to pre-K
9:30 am – 12 pm

K5: those who have completed kindergarten through 5th grades
9:30 am — 4 pm

REGISTER ONLINE – kids.bvcob.com

Friends are ALWAYS welcome.

Food: Snack for preschoolers, lunch for K5

Special Notes for K5 camp: Weather permitting, we will go to the town pool at 1 pm (if not, we'll **"STAY & PLAY"** at the church).

Lunch will be served at noon. You may attend only the morning session or only the afternoon session or all day!

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team

We Have a Team!!!

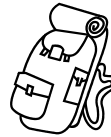
Thirty people have answered the call to serve in Westernport the week of July 12 – 19! We will be providing a Day Camp where children are fed spiritually and physically. They are shown love and caring.

Three men of the team will be working on repairs in the community and serving to provide transportation for the children.

Your prayers are appreciated as we work to prepare for this week of serving.



Vicki Bastian



Camp Eder Corner

Reminder: Sign up for summer camp at Camp Eder! Make sure you check with Fay Richard to get the generous financial portion from the church.

Get excited for a great week of camping and growing closer to God! More brochures are on the table in the Main Entry.

Camp Eder's Mission Statement:

"Camp Eder, Christian Camp and Retreat Center, supported by the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren, seeks to offer a place where persons can learn to know Jesus Christ through Bible based ministry in an outdoor environment."

Fay Richard, Camp Rep
frichard@dejazzd.com

Minor Prophets/Major Truth

I wonder how many of you can recite the order of the twelve books of the Bible known as the "minor prophets". They are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. In bible studies it seems like Jonah is the only one that is discussed very much. The books are referred to as "minor" not because they are unimportant but rather because they are smaller than the larger prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc... What we are going to do through the month of May and the first two weeks of June is to take a look at one or two verses from six of these different books.

I want to introduce or remind you of some of the important truths that are contained in these books. They call the nation of Israel to repentance and to follow the Lord in all areas of life. Though you might not have heard too many sermons from these books, I think you'll be encouraged and challenged as we explore six of these minor prophets that contain major truth.

Pastor Eric



Shhhhhhhhhhh.....

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



Musical Day Camp 2019

For kids who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade

Monday, August 5
through
Friday, August 9

from 9 am to 1 pm daily

Performances Held

SATURDAY, August 10

7:00 PM

SUNDAY, August 11

9:30 AM

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team



Women's Fall Beach Retreat

Mark your calendars now for the **Beach Retreat** to Bethany Beach coming **September 8 - 11, 2019**. More information and a sign-up sheet will be coming out shortly.

This retreat is for all women and friends of women that attend Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. We will be staying in condos right on the beach. Our day is filled with salt air, sounds of the waves, sunrises, sunsets, fellowship, Bible study on the beach, nutrition of souls and body, and also free time for walking, bike riding and swimming. Plan now to join us. Deposit of \$100 will be due by June 2nd. Balance of \$125 will be due by July 31st.

Carol Pursel for Women's Ministry

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

Lead Pastor – Rev. Eric S. Reamer
(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
churchoffice@bvcob.com

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