



BAPTISM!



We praise the Lord for the following people who were baptized in the Keister pond on Sunday afternoon, July 28: **Charlie Nogle, D'Arcy Sampsell, Jeremiah Zimmerman, Jonna Zimmerman and Kevin Zimmerman.**

Please encourage them in their faith walk as part of our congregation.



When Soup is "Way More" Than a Meal

In case you haven't heard, Buffalo Valley recently paid over \$4,400 in medical bills for several people in the Mifflinburg community. Most of that money came through the proceeds of our annual Kettle Cook which is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. One thank you note we received was shared already via the newslines but we received another one that I wanted to share:

"Dear BVCOB,
I received a letter in the mail saying you paid my medical balance in full. I am beyond grateful for this gift. There is absolute power in prayer! I thank you with all the love in my heart. I will find a way to pay this forward"

Men, when you hear the call for volunteers to make the soup in November please answer that call and may the rest of you consider purchasing the soup so that the soup, which is very, very good, will continue to be "way more" than a meal.

Pastor Eric



IT IS NOW TIME!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2020 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team has **practices, events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar.)

A **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** needs to be completed for **every church activity** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times, and rooms to be used. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again, don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facility Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**.

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

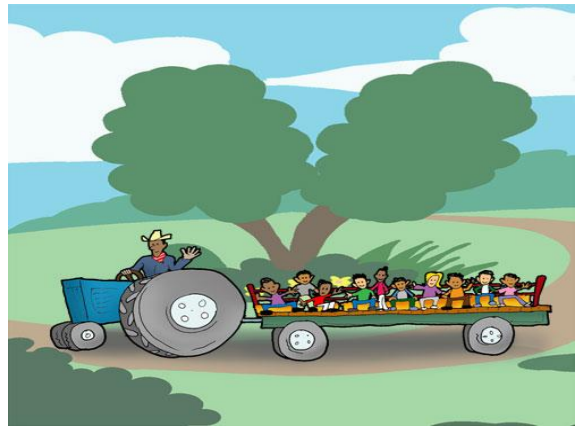
Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2020 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2019. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2020 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2019.



Family Hayride Event

September 27th

6:00 – 8:30 pm



Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
(rain date October 4th, 6 pm)

All children and families are
welcome to attend.

Preschoolers should be accompanied
by their own hay ride and activity
attendant.

Food!

Inflatables!

Crafts!

FUN!

Theology works when knowing what we
believe shapes how we live.



Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team

Sharing as a Church Family



Before they left for The Dominican Republic, it was an honor to have Jason, Nicole, Ethan and Miriam Hoover with us at our All-Church Picnic on July 28th. We celebrated the baptism of **Charlie, D'Arcy, Kevin, Jonna, and Jeremiah**. Everyone present shared lots of food together, and enjoyed soft ice cream after the baptisms. People played volleyball and other yard games, while the children splashed in the pond, bounced in a bouncy house, or got sprayed with water mist from Keister's garden hose. Thank you to all who helped set up before and tore down after that event.

In August we had 25 people participate in a "Guess Who's Coming To A Picnic?" May God bless you, hosts and guests, for making this event fun and successful.

Our next event will be "**Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?**", held on **October 20, 2019**, starting between 5 - 6:30pm. Look for the form in your mailbox in September, then decide if you would like to be a host or guest. The hosts choose the starting time, and provide meat and beverages for your guests. The guests will check your start time, and be asked to take food, such as a potato/pasta dish, a vegetable dish, pickle tray, rolls, fresh fruit, or dessert. Guests may also be asked to bring along a devotion or a game for an evening of fun and fellowship. I truly hope you will be able to participate in this fun, relationship-building event.

Blessings,

Karen Beiler, Special Events Coordinator

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Holy Moments

(From daily Instagram reflections)

"'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

- Luke 15:11-32 (31-32 here)

The Prodigal Son is one of the most popular stories of heartbreak, forgiveness, redemption, jealousy, etc. It does have a dubious parenting decision in it - I don't recommend giving your child everything and letting them run away (not the point of the story). This is the 3rd such story of "lost & found in Luke 15; the common theme in each of these stories is that there is rejoicing in the end.

I often find myself in the judging, older brother's shoes, skeptical of people's motives. I yearn and strive to be more like the father - never giving up, and automatically rejoicing that someone lost has come home. I struggle with 'when to search for what is lost' (as in the 2 previous stories in Luke 15), and when to wait for someone to walk their walk, suffer their consequences and come back asking for help.

May our hearts be softened, so that our response when people do ask to work with us toward life, that we rejoice, and provide ways to walk as family members, not "others" who have to fix everything and pay penance before they can be accepted again.

Peace,
Pastor K

The problem with atheism is having nobody to talk to when you are alone.



Unknown



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 was definitely moving around us, through us and in the lives of the approximately 95 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. They love the meals that are served and those of us that serve the meals find this is the best part of our day!

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 sharing God sightings, which was in no way, a struggle to write, and spending time in worship. Check out the board on the Mission table!

Again this year we had another dimension to our mission in Westernport the, "Construction Crew". This year, two 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 and at the church making various repairs.

A huge thank you to all who served on Westernport Mission 2019 and for making this year a blessing to all that we served. I also want to say thank you to our church family for praying for this mission and to those who gave financial support as well.

I encourage you to consider being a part of Westernport 2020. I guarantee you will be blessed beyond measure and you will bless the children and families of Westernport!! The dates are **July 11 – 17, 2020.**



Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian

From Your Lead Pastor,



Are You a Leaf or a Branch?

Today I was having a conversation with a man named Nathan Rittenhouse. Nathan will be our speaker for next year's Spiritual Life Services. He said something that has stuck with me this morning. He said, "In our churches we have a lot of leaves and not a lot of branches". I think he's right. We have people, who like leaves, show up and are the by-product of a branch but we don't have a lot of people who are, like branches, producing leaves. In John chapter 15 Jesus said that we are to be the branches that bear fruit. But we are often not fulfilling that role. Leaves just sort of show up but unfortunately they often fade away after a period of time. Leaves don't produce anything themselves...they are the end of the process. Obviously, leaves are important to a tree and please don't think I'm minimizing the importance of any one individual, but God calls His people to something even more important. God calls His people to be branches.

Are you a leaf or a branch? I believe that we are to be both at the same time. All of us are "leaves" in that we are the product of a spiritual process. Some are products of decades of spiritual growth. But far fewer people are branches bearing fruit, if we go with Jesus' words, or bearing leaves if we stick with the words I heard this morning. We desire to be a church of branches, not simply leaves. I hope that you are considering taking part in a discipleship group that will enable you to transform to a branch. If you are in such a group, I hope that you see the potential in you to use that group as a means to effectively produce other leaves from the product of God's activity through you. I will take some more time to reflect on my role as a "branch" here at Buffalo Valley. I encourage you to do the same. It is a privilege to serve with you and I look forward to many "fruitful" days ahead!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

"Cause I'm just a nobody, trying to tell everybody, all about Somebody, Who saved my soul."

Casting Crowns

Annual Conference Thoughts

The 2019 Annual Conference for the Church of the Brethren was held in early July at Greensboro, NC. This year was a special one as Pastor Donita concluded her role as Moderator for the denomination. Many of her family members and others from Buffalo Valley were in attendance and served in various ways. We had over twenty people attend! In my opinion Donita did an excellent job at the conference and I heard many positive comments about her role and the roles that people from BVCOB played.

This year's conference was a little different in that we spent the majority of our time discussing questions around the ongoing process of determining a Compelling Vision for the denomination. There is division in our denomination, as there is in most every denomination, and this division has an impact on the operation of the denomination. I won't take the time to outline the reasons for the division though you can ask Donita, me or others who are involved in denominational things and we would be glad to talk to you about it. The Compelling Vision process was birthed out of a concern for how this division is negatively impacting the work of the denomination as a whole. The process is designed to find the core values and purposes that tie us together as a denomination and the important values that should shape our life together. In my personal opinion, the process is not intended to keep us all together, but to identify the important issues that will allow most of the churches to coalesce together and feel like we are really accomplishing something for the kingdom of God...together.

Though there have been some grumblings about the process, I think that the process is working and a large amount of effort and time have been expended to get as much input from as many individuals and churches as possible. There was a lot of good discussion around important issues during the conference. It is now up to the Compelling Vision process team and denominational leadership to comb through the responses and to present the results to the denomination at next year's Annual Conference. I'm excited to see what is presented though I'm not sure it will be all that I expect or desire...we will wait and see. You will be kept informed as to what is being worked on regarding this process.

As far as we here at Buffalo Valley are concerned, we desire to keep fulfilling what God has called us to do. We have an important voice in our denomination, both nationally and at the District level. We value our participation and feel like the denominational connection enhances our opportunities for ministry in ways such as the Dominican Republic trips, Brethren Disaster Ministries trips, Children's Aid Society and more. It is my hope that the Church of the Brethren's compelling vision will align closely with our vision and desire to see God work in our little slice of His kingdom.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

P.S. Again, if you have questions we invite you to talk with us

Do You Get All The News You Need?

Contact the church office to receive:

Church News
news@bvcob.com

Prayer Concerns
prayer@bvcob.com

Share Ads
share-ads@bvcob.com



Community Aid

Thank-you for all of your donations to our Community Aid bin. The money earned from our donations is used to pay the **shipping costs** for our **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes**.

Going forward, Community Aid will **no longer accept** any items with an inner layer, or items that are stuffed. This would include, for example; stuffed animals, quilts, pillows, and bean bag chairs. Thank you in advance for your help with this change!

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team

Youth & Young Adult Lineup

Young Adults:

Game Nights (Church Wide ALL AGES)

1st Wednesday & 3rd Monday
from 4:30 – 8:30 pm

September 4 & September 16

Wing/Pizza & Movie Night

2nd & 4th Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm
September 12 & September 26



Youth (6th - 12th grade)

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

September Theme: Pursuit

September Sundays:

September 1 – (NO YOUTH) Labor Day Weekend

September 8 - YaYA Mtg.; 12:30 - 4 pm

Kayaking with MACY_(meet @ church)

September 15 - Youth Family Lunch

11:45 am – 2 pm [No evening Youth]

September 22 – (DEEP) Pursuing Jesus

September 29 – Youth Leader Training

Youth Events:

September 8 – **Kayaking Penns Creek**

(meet at church, 12:30 pm; end @ 4 pm)

October 25 – 27th – **Youth Family Retreat**

at Crystal Springs

Pastor K



Operation Christmas Child

Please help us fill the **500 shoeboxes this year!!** These shoeboxes go all over the world to children who may have never received any gift!! The box will also include the Gospel message in their own language!

Please check the tree next to the Mission table for what is needed to fill these boxes!!

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@bvcob.com) is used to share **prayer concerns and updates**.

News List (news@bvcob.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@bvcob.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@bvcob.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.)

Camp Eder Corner



Thank you Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren for your faithful financial and prayer support for campers and staff at Camp Eder!

We had four attend camp this summer. Here are campers' (and family) comments.

"Every year I go to camp I meet great people old and new. The environment is always positive and towards God. Every year makes memories of a lifetime" - Cara Snook

"I'm writing to thank the church family for sending me to Camp Eder. I don't know where to start. This was my fourth year at Camp Eder and it was also my favorite. I had a great time fishing which was the camp I chose. I also had a fun time playing games and singing songs at chapel. They added so many more fun things this year that made it even greater than the last. Every year I go there I always know I'm gonna have a good time. The kids and the counselors that go there are what keep me going every year. They have such a good attitude and personality. I can't wait for next year. Thank you, Kaitlyn Bridge

"Ethan and Miriam look forward to going to Camp Eder every summer. This past summer, Ethan's favorite things to do at Outback Camp were sleep under the stars, help the counselor's prank one another, the snack shack, and flat on your back time so he could read. Miriam's favorite things to do at Colorful Creation Camp were crafts, swimming, creek stomping, and eating. They say, 'Thank you BVCOB for helping us go to camp!'"

Thank you to all for sharing about your experiences with Camp Eder.

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

Fay Richard

Sermons from Romans Continue...

We will finish our series on Romans chapter 8 on September 15th but we will continue with some messages on Romans chapters 12 - 13. Chapters 12 - 13 move us from the theology of the gospel of Christ to the practical way the gospel impacts that way that we live. I hope that you will join us for six weeks as we see how behavior truly does determine behavior.

I haven't forgotten about the series on heaven and hell...that will hopefully come at the end of the year or the beginning of the new year.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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. It is **not just aluminum!**

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



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.

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