

Dear Church Family,

We are planning on having **Love Feast** on **Sunday evening, October 4th at 6 p.m.** Love Feast is a special time of worship for our church family. We have made some modifications to our normal observance to increase safety. We wanted you to be aware of these changes before arriving to participate.

Seating. We are planning to use our round tables with six chairs at each table. The tables will be spaced throughout the Main Gathering area. You are encouraged to sit with family and others that you would be comfortable eating with as if you were in a restaurant.

Meal. The soup and beef will be served in individual plastic bowls and we will use plastic table service. Grapes and a slice of bread will be served on individual plates, wrapped in Saran wrap. We will provide bottled water or you can bring your own.

Communion: Communion will be placed on separate tables similar to what we've been doing on Sunday mornings.

Feet Washing: Feet washing stations will be socially distanced. As always, we will offer hand washing. A regular part of the feet washing is a hug at the end. We encourage you to ask your partner if a hug would be welcomed before hugging.

You are requested to wear masks consistent with our current practice for Sunday morning worship. People are not expected to wear masks during the mealtime.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Pastor Eric



IT IS NOW TIME!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2021 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 2021 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2020. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2021 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2020.



Willing To Serve

Bill Baker has agreed to fill the vacant unexpired term as **Building and Grounds Ministry Team Leader**. Thank you Bill for returning to this role and using your expertise here at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.

Steve Richard for Ministries Coordinating Team

Upcoming Young Adult Events

Thursday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Wing Night

Wednesday, October 7, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Game Night

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 – 9 pm
Movie Night

Tuesday, October 20, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Game Night

Thursday, October 22, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Wing Night

Pastor K



Thanks for Making It Happen

We want to thank **Fay Richard** for faithfully providing the featured family/person of the month articles for the Lamplighter. A lot of work goes into obtaining the information for the articles each month.

Thank you **Fay** for your faithful service to our congregation.

Jeff Bastian

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



“Jesus said to another, ‘Follow me.’ But he replied, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’” - Luke 9:59-60

Here 3 people either ask or are asked to follow Jesus. Each has a “but;” Jesus “butted” back. I wonder if His response here is not “don’t worry about your dad,” but “life & death are going to happen - that shouldn’t stop you, proclaim the kingdom of God.” We each have “buts.” Maybe we need to identify them and declare - “nope, that’s not going to stop me; I can still proclaim God’s kingdom.”

What is God’s kingdom we are to proclaim? I think it at least starts with recognizing that God is with us; now (in the Holy Spirit) and forever. God’s kingdom means hope: hope that there is more than hate and revenge, more than violent death. God sees and responds. May we respond with God’s presence to the crisis facing us now. PRAYER: “God, may I live more like you are with me each day - live in joy of your presence and love, and healthy fear/respect of Your disciplining care. May I declare this to others as well - as hope and call to take actions seriously. Amen.”

Pastor K, Peace



Are you fully submitted to Jesus?
Submission is really trading slavery to Satan
to slavery to Jesus!!



Operation Christmas Child

Only **Seven** more weeks!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed donations to help make a child smile!! The Mission Ministry Team is so happy for your generosity! There will continue to be a bin in the narthex for now and a bin is always in the main entry for your donation.

Here is the updated list of what we need for the shoeboxes. Please consider how you can help us meet our goal for these shoeboxes!!

Bar Soap - 151
Chap Stick – 159
Colored Pencils - 48
Coloring Books - 198
Combs - 217
Plain Paper Pad (5X8) - 84
Play Doh - 80
Rulers - 89

Thank you for being a part of spreading the love of Jesus all around the world!

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

New Custodian

Please join us in welcoming **Bud Stewart** as our new Custodian replacing Duane Keefer who faithfully had been serving. Bud has 17 years’ experience as a custodian at the Mifflinburg Elementary School and will start the week of September 21st.

Steve Richard for Ministries Coordinating Team



Discipleship

Many draw a sharp distinction between the words Christian and Disciple.

Three important qualities of every Disciple are Submission, Love and Commitment.

From Your Lead Pastor,



Why Did Jesus Not Do Miracles at Home?

At the end of the 13th chapter of Matthew's gospel we read the following sentence in verse 58: *"Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."* This is at the end of a paragraph where Jesus was at home in Nazareth but the people didn't believe that Jesus was Who He claimed to be. I have always thought that this verse meant that the unbelief of the people prevented Jesus from doing miracles...in other words, their lack of belief inhibited Jesus from performing the miracles.

But in reading this again last week I believe that my earlier interpretation was incorrect. Jesus didn't need anyone's permission to heal people nor was His power to heal or do miracles limited by someone else's faith or lack thereof. Most of the time when Jesus does miracles we have no record of the miracle receiver having faith in Jesus...or even knowing who Jesus was. So what does this verse mean?

I've come to believe that what is being taught here is that Jesus knew that in His hometown at this time, there were few or none who would believe or receive His message. His miracles were almost always done in concert with the proclamation of who Jesus was. We see this continuing in the book of Acts where almost all the miracles are used as a precursor to the presentation of the gospel. If people weren't going to believe, there wasn't any sense in doing miracles. Or, if the people were ignorant of their spiritual needs, then they wouldn't have their physical needs met either.

I have come to believe that much of the reason why we don't see God's supernatural activity among us is because we are too afraid or ashamed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will continue to see very little "miracle activity" in the physical world until we are willing to share the gospel with people, attempting to engage in the spiritual world. Jesus didn't bother to do miracles in Nazareth because the miracles would not have accomplished their primary purpose. What if we shared the gospel regularly with others...would we expect to see God's supernatural activity more frequently? I think the Scriptures teach us "yes"!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

The larger the God we know, the larger will be our faith.

A.B. Simpson

Love & Respect

The Christian church has faced many trials in the last 2000 years, but clearly the challenges we face today are unique to all of us. Many of us are tired of hearing about Covid and just wish it to go away, but until God chooses for that to happen we are faced with how best to deal with a health issue that is now also being used by Satan as an attack on our spiritual lives as well. The leadership team (Ministries Coordinating Team) at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) has spent a huge amount of time pondering and debating the spiritual, health and practical day to day responses to Covid and there are no easy answers. As always, we seek to follow Jesus' example and teaching for guidance in how we gather and relate to each other in a way all feel seen and cared for.

Jesus tells us in the gospels that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind and secondly to love thy neighbor as thyself. We are excited that Covid restrictions are being relaxed and we as a church are able to provide more in person opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. We recognize that every individual is at a different comfort level, health risk etc. and encourage you to make appropriate decisions to participate in person or virtually based upon your individual circumstances. We encourage you also in obedience of the two greatest commandments to show grace and mercy to those who cannot make the same decisions you make and to consider how your personal decisions impact those you love.

Jesus also tells us in 1 Peter 2 to submit ourselves to the authorities as all are established by God. Several months ago, the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) made the decision that to the best of our ability we would follow guidelines established by the authorities in negotiating our way through the Covid crisis. That decision resulted in Sunday morning in person worship services being suspended for a time and ultimately the timing and process of reopening of Sunday morning live worship and continues to guide us today with all programming decisions. The decision to follow those guidelines was a desire to be faithful to the biblical instructions in 1 Peter 2 and was intended to also give us clear direction so that every difficult decision was made within the context of our love for God and our desire to be faithful to his instructions.

Church leadership cannot force you to, but we encourage you to follow health guidelines that have been established by the authorities that God has put in place. We respectfully ask that at church, you routinely wear a face mask as much as possible. As more people return to worship it becomes increasingly important to wear a mask, cover our cough, sanitize our hands, etc.

We recognize those actively leading worship cannot be heard by many while masked and have attempted to keep them a safe distance from the congregation. We also know that some people struggle when singing with a mask, and you may find that pulling the mask below your nose while singing resolves that issue.

We have been blessed at BVCOB that few in our congregation have contacted Covid and no one has had serious consequences. It is our desire to do all that we can to keep it that way while we continue to worship and minister. There is no right response for everyone, so we simply ask that as you continue to participate in the life of BVCOB that you prayerfully consider wearing the mask when possible, practice social distancing, cover your cough, wash your hands etc. as an act of love to those around you.

Steve Richard, for Ministries Coordinating Team

Upcoming Youth Events

October: Theme: *Social Media Literacy*

Sunday, October 4
LOVE FEAST

Friday, October 9, 6 – 8 pm
Drive-By Blessings & Cookout

Sunday, October 18 Youth
Disc Golf

Friday October 23, 7 pm – 12 am
Capture the Flag @ Crystal Springs?

Sunday, October 25, 6 - 7:30 pm
YaYA Meeting

Sunday, November 1, PIT Youth
(Fun & Teamwork)

Pastor K

Three Sermon Series in October

No, I didn't say that each Sunday in October would have three sermons! Though I admit I think I'd like that. Rather, we have three different sermon series that will occupy the four Sundays in October. On October 4th we will finish our Discipleship series. On October 11th and 18th we will have two sermons on the upcoming presidential election. These sermons are similar to the sermons I preached four years ago. Then on October 25th we will begin a brand new series of sermons from the Old Testament book of Daniel titled, "Standing Firm on Shifting Ground". I hope you will enjoy all of these times that we have together to gather around, listen to and apply God's word.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Please Bring Metal!



Are your soda cans piling up? Have you been cleaning out and find that you have metal items that no longer work or are of no use? Well...The Mission Ministry Team has a solution for you!

Bring your aluminum cans and any metal that you have, even appliances, piping, old metal ladders, car parts and even old tools can all be recycled.

There is a trailer by the shed where you can place your items. If you have any questions, please talk to Jake Myer.

Help support Operation Christmas Child by bringing in these items. The money from the recycling helps pay for shipping the shoeboxes.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



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

HOPING TO SEE IN 2020!



October 4 – LOVE FEAST

November 1 – Fall Church Council Meeting
November 12 – Freebirds Sight & Sound Trip
November 25 – Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 28 – Kettle Cook

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services



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.

Do You Have The Shepherd?

If you have the Shepherd,
you have grace for every sin,
direction for every turn,
a candle for every corner and
an anchor for every storm.

Max Lucado

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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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