



The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

December 2020/January 2021
Volume 36 No. 11



Dear Church Family,

For the second time our church is organizing **another disaster relief mission trip** through Samaritan's Purse. This trip will be taking place from **February 14 - 20, 2021**. We will be traveling to Chattanooga, TN to help rebuild houses destroyed by EF-3 Tornadoes on Easter Sunday 2020. We will strictly be **doing construction work**. You do not need to be a skilled carpenter to participate in this trip. There will be Samaritan's Purse construction supervisors at each job site to help those who are not skilled. The point of this trip is to **share the love of Christ** with those in need. We are looking for 2 women and 6 men to go on this trip. Youth must be at least 14 years old to go on the trip. The cost to go on this trip is \$50 per person.

COVID-19 information: Samaritan's Purse is requiring that all team members take a COVID-19 test 3 - 5 days before we leave for the trip in order to be able to go on the trip. All must test negative. We will also be required to practice social distancing, wear a mask when working inside or when not able to social distance. Samaritan's Purse is also making sure that everything that the volunteers touch is sanitized. It is recommended that those from the high-risk population group do not volunteer on this trip.

Anyone interested in this trip can pick up a brochure at the Mission table and contact me at (570) 541-5298 or ashwet13@gmail.com.

God bless,
Ashley Wetzell

New Christmas Eve Service Schedule

We are scheduling **three services this year** on Christmas Eve at **3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** We have made this change to keep our attendance at each service at around 125 people.

You will be asked to reserve a spot for you and those attending with you and will be provided with a ticket for the service time you've selected. All three services will be the same.

Look for more details as Christmas Eve approaches.



Pastor Eric

We Need Your Information

Annual Church Directory forms for 2021 have been placed in church mailboxes. We need to receive forms from all who regularly attend the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. It is not just for members!

Please complete the form even if your information has not changed. The information is also used to confirm that our church records are correct and up-to-date.

If you do not have a church mailbox, additional 2021 forms are available at the Welcome Center in the Main Entry. Directory forms are also available on the church website www.bvcob.com under resources.

Thank you,
Jeff Bastian



Blood Drive on January 5th

Our **annual Red Cross blood drive** will take place on Tuesday, **January 5th** from **1 - 6 p.m.** here at the church building. You can sign up by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or you can call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment. More information will come out later on how you can help volunteer to support the blood drive.

Pastor Eric



We Did It!



The shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** that you helped us fill with your kind donations are on their way around the world!!!! Thank you, thank you Church Family for your contributions! In spite of circumstances this year, you supplied us with all the items that we needed to fill the shoeboxes. We will be sending **506 shoeboxes** to children all around the world with the Gospel message.

Many of the children who receive these boxes have never before received a gift of any kind. When you watch videos on the website of Samaritan's Purse and see these children in their excitement, there really are no words to describe how they feel! Many lives have changed over the course of time when they read the Gospel message and learn all about Jesus and His saving grace.

In the New Year of 2021 we will begin again to start our new collection. Details will be out later. Any questions, please see Kaye Hoover who does an amazing job in organizing all that this involves! **Thank you, Kaye!!**

Thank you so much for helping us make a child smile this Christmas!

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Following Jesus today:

“Get dressed for service and keep your lamps burning;” - Luke 12:35

Literally, “Gird your loins (tuck your flowing robes into your belt to be ready to run; be ready at any time).” This is a much longer, complicated parable - that I look forward to spending more time with someday - or fun for you to read today; but this verse sums it up.

Always be ready to serve; always be ready to reach out to others. We could always carry some money, a gift card, or lunch to give to someone in need. More importantly our mind can always be attuned, looking for somebody in need: not just money, but of a compliment, encouragement, prayer, time, a friend, or just listen, understand, connect. Be a part of God’s kingdom today - reach out and encourage someone!

Gird your loins! (That’s such a fun expression).

(From Pastor K’s “Devo Snapchats,” found on BVCOB’s facebook page and Instagram “b.v.c.o.b.” & Snapchat).

Pastor K, Peace



Gift Cards Are Available

Weis and Wenger gift cards are now available. Call the church office (570) 966-1183 to let us know what cards you would like. Once payment is received, arrangements will be made for you to receive your gift cards. **Support our debt repayment program.**



We Are Losing It!

Community Aid has alerted us that they will be **removing our bin!** They have made the decision to remove the majority of their bins and rely on the donations that are received at the store. The Mission Ministry Team was disappointed by this decision, but there are ways that you can still help us earn money that goes toward Operation Christmas Child shipping costs.

But...how can you help us continue to receive credit? Glad you asked!!

*We are planning to have a fall and spring collection day when we will encourage you to bring donations to the church and they will be taken down to the store and we will receive credit. More information on this coming soon.

*You can take clothing items and linens directly to the store located in Shamokin Dam and provide our church name and the bin number (30003) for us to receive credit. We will be providing cards with the hours of the Donation Center and the bin number after the bin is removed.

While we were very disappointed by this decision, we will continue to look at ways to receive credit through your donations.

Vicki Bastian, 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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Another Year of Faithfulness

A few Sunday mornings ago I was overwhelmed with the thought of God's faithfulness; thinking that God has been faithful every step of the way. As some of our older people walked in that morning as we were singing a song on faithfulness, I was overcome with emotion; thinking about how so many of the congregation here at BVCOB could testify of God's faithfulness over the years.

2020 has been a year like no other for all of us in ways that have not stopped for many of us and in ways that we still have not even experienced yet. For many it has brought death and illness. For others it has brought financial strain or collapse. Relationships have been broken or strained over COVID and politics. Celebrations and special days have been cancelled and schedules and routines have been disrupted.

But in all of this God has been faithful. My mind goes back to the captivity of the Israelites in the day of Jeremiah the prophet. For many in that day things were far worse than what has happened in 2020. In a letter to the Israelite captives recorded for us in Jeremiah 29, Jeremiah quotes God as saying, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."* And then Jeremiah writes these words in Lamentations 3:22-23: *"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*

God has been faithful and will continue to be faithful. This past year will one day be part of a story that you will tell others...a chapter of the book of your life. Will you be able to share that story with examples of how you responded and reacted to God's faithfulness? I hope so. Many at BVCOB will be able to do this and for this I am very thankful. If you are struggling with God's faithfulness, please contact me. Let's talk.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



Through the years many things may change but the true meaning of Christmas remains the same!

Jesus!!

Youth & Young Adult Activities For December

Upcoming Young Adult Activities

Wednesday, December 2, 4:30 - 8:30 pm
Family Game Night

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Wing Night

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 – 9 pm
(because the 24th is Christmas Eve)
Movie Night

Upcoming Youth Activities

(NOTE: all activities are now on **Sundays**,
4 - 6 pm, at the church)

Sunday December 6, 4 – 6 pm
PIT Youth - **Fun & Teamwork**

Sunday, December 13, 3 – 6 pm
Christmas Caroling

Sunday December 20, 4 - 6 pm
Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 27, 4 – 6 pm
YaYA Meeting

Sunday December 31 – 7 pm - 1 am
Late Night Lock-In

Pastor K



Online giving to Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren is available at
<https://get.tithe.ly>



Order Gift Cards Online For Year End

We have decided to do an online gift card order in November and December as many people have actively started or are planning their holiday shopping. **Orders will be due by noon** on the first Tuesday of the month, **December 1st** and will be available for pickup at the church on the following Sunday.

Gift cards are great for your normal purchases at the pharmacy, grocery store and gas station.

Gift cards make a great gift but are also great for buying gifts as you can use them locally if shopping in person or used to purchase online from most any major retailer.

Restaurant gift cards are still a great way to support the church even if you are only doing take out or drive through.

Also remember the church gets 10% if you use Wengers cards, not available online, but they are available by contacting Jake Myer or the church office.

Thanks for your **support of our building debt reduction.**

<https://www.shopwithscrip.com/index.aspx>

If you have not signed up, you simply set up a family account using the link above and then under "Manage nonprofits:" use **Enrollment Code:** 6916BB3729429 to add the church so the church gets its contribution. Feel free to share this information with friends and family.

If you don't want to set up an account but want to order, let me know what you want, and I will place the order for you.

Steve Richard





Actions Taken

Some thirty people gathered at 1:00 pm on Sunday November 1st. for the **Fall Church Council Meeting**.

The Treasurers report indicated that the church has been able to meet all of its financial obligations even though offerings were lower the last several months. Ministry Teams have been careful with their spending and expenses were reduced because of less activities this year. The report was approved.

The budget for 2021 was approved. There was a significant reduction in the budget driven primarily by lower offerings during the past several months of economic uncertainty. A major item was lowering debt reduction from \$60,000 to \$10,000.

A motion to task the Ministries Coordinating Team to provide a framework for individuals to give directly to the building fund (debt reduction) was approved.

The Council retroactively approved the Ministry Coordinating Team's action to participate in the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). The PPP grant was accepted with no government regulations.

Eli Mast
Moderator

Sin is a little word with a long sentence!



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.



Are You Using the Correct Email List?

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 **BVCOB 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.

Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team

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



Christmas Light

Our Christmas sermon series for this year will focus on the word "Light". We are told in 1 John that "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all". Jesus claimed to be the "Light of the world". Believers in Jesus are called to be light in the world in which they live. This Christmas the pastoral team will exhort us to consider what these comparisons with light mean to us and how the word "light" shapes the way we live in our world.

In January we will have a three week miniseries on spiritual gifts and service titled, "Call to Serve". This series will prepare us for the calling process where we will call several new Team Leaders and Team Leader Elects. We are also hoping to add many new members to our Ministry Teams as we begin 2021.

As always your comments and feedback on sermons and sermon series are greatly appreciated!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Volunteers Needed

Beginning in November, we wanted to start clearing the chairs from the Main Gathering area for ministry that will take place.

Currently, there are not enough volunteers to set up a **chair schedule**. We would like to have 6 - 7 people who are willing to set up chairs for worship on Sunday mornings. That would mean you would set up the chairs about 2 times a quarter.

If you are willing to help serve the church in this way, please talk to Cheryl Ilgen or contact the church office at 570-966-1183 or churchoffice@bvcob.com.



Any 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? Do you have a dead mower? Tools that can no longer be used? 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

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2021



January 5 - Blood Drive

February 14 – 20 - Samaritan's Purse Mission Trip

April 1 – Love Feast

April 3 – Easter Egg Fair

April 4 – EASTER

April 11 - 14 – Spiritual Life Services

May 2 – Spring Church Council Meeting

June 16 - Summer Kid Connection Begins

July 10 – 16 - Westernport Mission Trip

August 3 – 6 - Musical Day Camp

October 3 – Love Feast

October 29 & 30 - Children's Retreat

November 7 – Fall Church Council Meeting

November 27 – Kettle Cook

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

Return Service Requested

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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