

The amplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

March 2020
Volume 36 No. 2



Spiritual Life Services



Our **Spiritual Life Services** will take place **Sunday morning March 1st** and then **Sunday through Wednesday evenings**, March 4th. Our speaker this year is Nathan Rittenhouse, a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He also is a cohost on a podcast called "Thinking Out Loud". It's a great listen.

Here are Nathan's topics under the general question: "Why Does Christianity Matter?"

Sunday a.m.

– Christianity Matters for the World:
Jesus, Science and the Human Heart

Sunday p.m.

– Christianity Matters for Meaning:
Responsibility, Freedom and Joy

Monday p.m.

– Christianity Matters for Morality:
What Jesus said and God's Original Intent

Tuesday p.m.

– Christianity Matters for Salvation:
Mercy, Justice and God's Original Intent

Wednesday p.m.

– Christianity Matters for Eternity:
Stability, Hope and a Future

Our Sunday morning service will be a normal schedule. The **Sunday evening service** will be at **6 p.m.** and the services **Monday through Wednesday** will be at **7 p.m.** There will be time for Questions and Answers during the evening sessions. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family for interesting topics and a chance to ask questions. If you have any ideas, please pass on to Pastor Eric.

Pastor Eric

Sign Up for the Men's Retreat



This year's **Men's Retreat** will be held on **Friday evening March 27th through Sunday morning March 29th** at Timberwinds Lodge in Livonia. We are designing a weekend of encouragement and challenge as the men will spend time together in study, prayer, games, and of course, eating.

Our theme this year is "Putting Christ First" as we study together the book of Colossians. The format this year will allow for you and your group to study through the topic together rather than listening to a long teaching session. We will then gather together to discuss what we've learned. Don't let that scare you. You will be able to receive and to add something to the retreat whether you are a veteran at studying the Bible or if, until right now, you didn't even know there was a book of Colossians in the Bible.

Please sign up at the men's ministry bulletin board in the main entry.

Pastor Eric



Community Aid

Please help support Operation Christmas Child shipping by bringing in your gently used clothing, shoes and soft household goods and place them in the Community Aid bin. We do have a very active bin. Let's make it even better!!

Your donations do make a difference!!

Vicki Bastian

Raising Money While Having Fun

Annual Church Auction



Saturday March 7th
3 pm to 9 pm

Come out and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!! Ask where you can serve, call Steve Richard at 570-452-4854.

Hope to see ya all there!

Thank you,

Karen Beiler, Special Events Coordinator



Getting Ready to Serve!!

We are making plans for the **summer mission trip** to **Westernport, MD** and we would love to have you be a part of it. 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 will be leaving **Saturday, July 11** and **return Friday, July 17, 2020**. Save these dates and make plans now!

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!

Please get your applications now!! They are **due back on Sunday, March 22, 2020**.

Serving Him,

Vicki Bastian, for the Mission Ministry Team



Who's Is It?

The good thing about giving frequently and generously is that we don't have time to get attached to what is not ours.

David Jeremiah



Greetings from Building & Grounds

Dear church family, I'm Marlin Yoder, new team leader for Building & Grounds Ministry Team. I'm really looking forward to serving with my church community in the upcoming years.

We are excited to announce this coming spring we will be adding a playground for children and youth ministry which is totally funded by donations. This will add to our ability to serve with our community and church body. We are trying to raise \$24,000.00 for this project so any donations will be greatly appreciated.

This month there will be new lighting installed in the Main Gathering area which will be a tremendous help with Sunday morning services.

Once again I'm looking forward to serving with you and covet your prayers in God's leading as I begin this journey with you in serving with our church body.

Thank You,
Marlin Yoder



Operation Christmas Child

The Mission team wants to thank everyone for helping us meet our goal to send 504 shoeboxes in 2019 to children all around the world. We received the needed items and also the money for shipping. Did you know that it costs \$9 per shoebox to ship? That's \$4500 plus! But thanks to generous hearts we did it!!

But...guess what? It is time to start collecting again!! Yep, 2020 and we are all set to begin. Our **goal is 504 shoeboxes**. The tree will be going up soon near the Mission table and there will be a container for your donations.

Below is a list of items that you can start to bring in and place in the container. If you have any questions, please talk to Kaye Hoover or Jo Hurst.

Baby Doll or Stuffed Animal – 165
Chapstick – 348
Coloring Books – 331
Combs – 490
Construction paper pads – 155
Glue Sticks – 95
Matchbox cars – 152
Pencil sharpeners – 312
Pink erasers – 493
Play doh – 155
Rulers – 156
Toothbrush – 480
Bar soap – 419
Crayons – 337
Jump ropes – 76
Pencils (2 per child) – 692
Pens – 279
Plain paper pad (5x8) – 154
Ruled tablet (5x8) – 317
Scissors (child) – 155
Washcloth – 461
Hand size balls – 66
Colored pencils – 154
Hair items – 172

Help Make a Child Smile this Christmas!!!

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



Would You Like Swinging on a Trapeze?

Today I had brunch with an old friend of mine that I have not seen in over 25 years. His life had a very unexpected turn in July, 2018, and he is in sort of a “holding pattern”, serving the Lord while waiting to hear God’s call for the next phase of ministry. While talking with him he described how he pictures this period of life as swinging from a trapeze. He has let go of the trapeze bar and is waiting for the next one to swing in so he can grab it.

But what do you do in the meantime; while you’ve let go of one bar and wait for another? Do you fret and worry about whether or not the next bar is going to arrive...and if it doesn’t you will suffer the consequences of gravity? Or, do you do somersaults and twists to entertain the audience until the next bar arrives?

Perhaps some of you are in the middle of those trapeze bars right now. I think there is a little bit of that going on in my life right now. I want to twist and turn and somersault, pleasing those who look at my life and accomplishing what God desires before the next bar comes into view. I hope that you have this desire as well. We can trust that God will send the next trapeze bar our way. Let’s be patient and active until it comes into view.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Our lives have purpose and meaning. God has a path for us to follow, a path that He marked out ahead of time. He already knows the way through every difficulty we will face.

Larry Richards

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

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



You Too, Can Be Great
(From daily Instagram reflections)

"Truly, I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Mt. 11:11

John questioned Jesus. Jesus gave evidence of compassion as an answer to whether he was the Savior. He then defends and praises John as the greatest of those born by women (which would be everyone- would it not?) However, Jesus then makes this comment - "YET whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John." Why did Jesus bring this up?

As I prepared my sermon (February 16) around this passage, one possible explanation emerged. I think we all want to be significant - do we not? Because to be significant means we are important and make a difference - we matter. We strive for significance in this world through many different venues: friendships, money, power, being right or on the "right team"... If Jesus was saying that to follow the Savior means showing compassion, it would follow that that is what is significant - to show compassion. And don't we need compassion in the world? People are hurting, many focused solely on what is good for themselves. The church (the kingdom of heaven) should stand in contrast by looking out for each other - for those others ignore. You don't have to be a great prophet (like John) or preacher or leader, just show compassion and kindness to the person in front of you or beside you.

You too can be great - just show compassion.

Peace,
Pastor K

Young Adult Lineup:

Family Game Nights

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday Night
from 4:30 – 9 pm

Wing/Pizza & Movie Nights 6:30 8:30 pm

2nd Thursday: Wing Night

4th Thursday Night: PB&J

(Pizza, Blockbusters & Jesus)



Youth (6th - 12th grade)

Regular Friday Fun Times: 6 – 8:30 pm
(activities include "hang out," gym games, snack & devos, & service)

March Theme: Under Pressure

March 6 - [GaGa Ball]

Movie Lesson: "What Pressures You?"

March 13 - [Jail Ball]

Team Video Games: Handling Pressure

March 20 - [Trash Ball/ Team building]

Better together (making friends)

March 27 - [Choice]

Service: Positive Pressure

Youth Events:

March 27 – 29 **Spring Camp Eder Retreat**
Pursing Peace

April 4 **Turkey Dinner**



Pastor K

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 February 9 - 15, 2020 Karen Beiler, Ashley Wetzel, Kurt Ilgen, Cody Heintzelman, Dan Creamer, and Jeff Bastian traveled to Horry County, SC to help rebuild houses destroyed by Hurricane Florence through Samaritan's Purse. We worked on two different houses.

The first house we worked, we spent two days cleaning and preparing for the home dedication. Our team had the opportunity to be present at the house dedication. What an awesome experience it was. There was approximately 40-50 people present at the dedication. First, they opened up with prayer and scripture reading. Then they presented the homeowner with a journal signed by all the volunteers who worked on the house, a photo album of the house being worked on, Billy Graham Training Bible signed by the Samaritan's Purse staff members, a sign that had the list of expenses with the words in big bold red letters "PAID IN FULL". Everything put into all the houses that Samaritan's Purse works on is paid for by Samaritan's Purse supporters, including appliances. The church we stayed at also presented the homeowner with a prayer shawl. At the end of the dedication the construction supervisor presented the homeowner with the keys to the house. After that the homeowner stood up and talked about how thankful he and his son are for Samaritan's Purse. What an amazing experience it was to be able to witness with this homeowner.

The second house we worked on, our group mostly painted and laid flooring. This homeowner is Buddhist. Our group did not have as much opportunity to witness to him due to his work schedule, but we did have the opportunity to pray over him and also work on the house with him.

Thank you to all of you who prayed for our team. We could not do mission work without the support of the whole church. If anyone would like more information about Samaritan's Purse, or would like to get more involved with the organization, they can go to www.samaritanaspurse.org. They do so much more mission work besides Operation Christmas Child and USA Disaster Relief.

God Bless,
Ashley Wetzel



Camp Eder Corner

Don't forget to check out summer camping at Camp Eder! Camps are for Elementary children through, and including High School youth. Register online at campeder.org. If you are a regular attendee here at Buffalo Valley COB, \$250 of your tuition will be paid by the church! There are also scholarships offered by the camp if additional funds are needed.

Last month, I highlighted the Senior and Junior High camps offered the first week; here's what is on the schedule during the second week of camp.

Week #2 July 5 - 10

Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12) \$400

Get ready for some wild water fun! Wet & Wild Adventure is for those who love water sports and adventure. Spend your week alongside friends white-water rafting, canoeing, floating creeks on rafts and having a grand ol' time exploring unique water excursions.

Junior Camp I (Grades 4 - 6) \$335

Come experience a week filled with adventure. Learn about God's gracious love, camp out under the summer sky, swim in the stream, play gaga ball in the mud. Junior camp is sure to be the best week of your summer and a week to remember for a lifetime.

Culinary (Grades 4-6) \$360

Spend a week learning delicious recipes and culinary secrets from Camp Eder's finest. Campers will experience making foods from different cultures from start to finish. This camp is a tasty treat you certainly will not want to miss.

Sports Camp (Grades 4-6) \$350

Sports Camp is a new addition to this summer's line up. Come to Eder and spend a week of action-packed sports fun. Your mornings will be spent exploring different sports and having a blast with friends!

Please consider camp for your child!

Fay A. Richard, Camp Rep
frichard@dejazzd.com



Moments in Matthew

We will continue in March with our sermon series on the gospel of Matthew. We invite you to read along at the pace of two chapters each week. Below is the schedule for March:

March 1st: Spiritual Life Services

(not Matthew series)

March 8th: What's Inside Matters Most...
Matthew 15

March 15th: Forgiveness...Matthew 18

March 22nd: How to Be Great...Matthew 20

March 29th: Love...Matthew 21 - 22

If you have not yet joined our sermon group on Facebook, please do so and then you can follow along with the comments/questions surrounding the sermon and the readings in Matthew.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Recycling!!



Wow! In 2019 we recycled over 13 tons with an income of \$2,000!!! Thank you for your support!

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 or Scott 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 the Mission Ministry Team



If you would have God hear you when you pray, you must hear Him when He speaks.

Thomas Brooks

Easter Egg Fair



Saturday,
April 11th

**All children
through
fifth grade
are welcome!**

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

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

**We will soon be requesting
candy donations.**

Teresa Chambers, Children's Ministry Team



Bible preaching about the Second Coming of Christ was thought of as "doomsday" preaching. But not anymore. It is the only ray of hope that shines as an ever brightening beam in a darkening world.

Billy Graham



Save Those Bottles

The Women's Ministry is collecting clean medicine bottles to send to other areas of the world to be used again. There are certain steps to follow:

- 1) bottles must be washed and dried.
- 2) they must be clear of all labels and adhesive.
- 3) they can be any prescription or over the counter bottles as long as above is followed.
- 4) place in gallon zip lock bag and put them in the pop-up hamper by the Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Carol Pursel



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 17th, 24th

July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 27 - 31

Performances: August 1st and 2nd

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2020!

April 9 – LOVE FEAST

April 11 – Easter Egg Fair

April 12 – EASTER



May 3 – Spring Church Council Meeting

May 16 – Mother/Daughter Banquet

June 13 – Men's Picnic

June 13 – Strawberry Festival

June 17 - Summer Kid Connection Begins

June 19 & 20 - MifflinServe

June 27 – Freebird Picnic

July 1 – 5 – Annual COB Conference

July 11 – 17 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 27 - 31 - Musical Day Camp

August 16 – All Church Picnic/Baptism

September 18 & 19 – District Conference

September 20 -23 – Women's Beach Retreat

October 4 – LOVE FEAST

October 18 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

October 23 & 24 – Children's Retreat

October 23 – 25 – Fall Youth Retreat

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**.

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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

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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
churchoffice@bvcob.com

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