



The Lamplighter

*Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren*

*April 2020
Volume 36 No. 3*

Dear Church Family,

The Ministries Coordinating Team and the Pastoral Team have agreed to postpone or cancel all of our church activities until further notice. The government has discouraged groups over 10 from meeting and we are following that guidance for meetings/gatherings in our church building. If additional restrictions are recommended, we will follow those as well. If you have any questions about this, please contact a member of the Pastoral team. We will keep you informed as time unfolds as to when we can begin some of our regularly scheduled activities.

We also ask that you keep us informed as to how you are doing and in what ways we can help you. Pastor Eric had great conversations on Monday with many of our older folks via the telephone, reminding them that we are ready to help in any way needed. Everyone was very appreciative of the contact and said they were seeking to take the precautions necessary. Pastor Donita and Pastor K. either have reached out or will reach out soon to youth, children and families to check in to see if there are any needs. No matter what your age or situation, we are available to you and desire to meet any emergency needs that you have, including financial. Please do not hesitate to share a question, a concern or a need.

Pastor K. will soon resend the link to RightNow Media for you to subscribe. There is no cost to you to subscribe and for you to utilize the great videos, studies and other activities available through RightNow Media. We are also going to provide a video worship service each Sunday morning until we are able to gather together again. We are working to provide a clearer feed than this past week and also working on ways for you to interact with

one other during the service. More details on this will be forthcoming later in the week.

We will have many opportunities to be salt and light and many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world. On Wednesday, Buffalo Valley and representatives from four other

churches will meet with an official from the school district to see how churches can assist in helping the school district get food to students who are in need while the schools are closed. This is just one way that we can help. Please keep your eyes and ears open to your friends, family, co-workers and to the voice of the Holy Spirit as to how help is needed.

It is likely that things will get worse before they get better. I was reminded in a recent article that I read that we don't know God's purpose in this current disruption. But God has millions of purposes. Let's be open to participate with God and even if things get very difficult, let's remember that: "though we cannot predict the next two weeks, Christ has predicted us. The near future is obscure; the ultimate one secure".

God Bless, Pastors Eric, Donita and K.



WHO IS GRADUATING?

Attention: if you or someone you know from our church family has graduated from college since last June ~ OR ~ will **graduate from high school or college** before the end of June 2020, please notify Pastor K at ericmk22@gmail.com **ASAP (before April 15)**. We are putting together an article for June's Lamplighter and a graduate booklet and video, and don't want to miss anyone.

Pastor K
& Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team

Youth (6th - 12th grade)

FRIDAY FUN: Due to concern over the spread of the Coronavirus, we have suspended Friday Fun for children and youth at the moment. As we listen to guidance from health professionals and authorities, we are seeking ways to serve our community and families. Please check in weekly to our Facebook page (BVCOB Youth) for updates and for ideas of what to do as a family.

Here are some fun websites for starters:

Thesource4ym.com (Bible & character lessons using popular music and movies).

RightNowMedia.org Access to thousands of videos of bible studies, funny illustrations, kids videos, seminars, parenting videos, etc. The church has an account, just email Pastor K to ask to be added. You will be sent an email to set up an account.

Youth Events:

April 4 - Turkey Dinner (**canceled**)

Pastor K



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.



Love Feast Q&A

Q: **What** is Love Feast?

A: Love Feast is a service where we as a church family come together to remember and celebrate the Last Supper by singing hymns, listening to teaching, sharing a meal and washing one another's feet.

Q: **When** is Love Feast?

A: We conduct Love Feast twice a year, once on Maundy Thursday and once the first Sunday in October. (At the time of publishing this article the spring Love Feast has been **postponed**. Watch for further announcements for the new date.)

Q: **How** does the feet washing work? Do I need to participate?

A: You will be dismissed from the tables to a separate room either for women or men where you will remove your footwear and put on a towel. You will kneel at a basin of warm water to wash someone's feet and then sit in a chair with your feet in the water to allow someone to wash your feet. Finally, put back on your footwear and return to the table. Participation in feet washing is not required, you can simply stay at the table or ask the room attendant to wash someone's hands and have them wash yours.

Q: What does the meal consist of?

A: We serve a simple meal of rice and beef with grapes and bread on the side. We are also offering a vegetarian meal. Contact the church office if you are interested.

Q: Will there be childcare available?

A: Yes, childcare and a meal for the children will be available.

Q: If I have more questions, how can I get them answered?

A: Contact the church office or Dan Manbeck

Dan Manbeck

for Spiritual Life Ministry Team



Operation Christmas Child 2020

It seems strange to think about Christmas in April, however, now is the time that the Mission Ministry Team begins their strategic planning on how to fill over 500 shoeboxes.

Last year, with your help, we completed 504 shoeboxes. Our 2020 Goal is again 500 boxes.

The shoeboxes are filled with age and gender-appropriate items so not every shoebox contains the same things. However, all shoeboxes contain:

- Soap
- Wash cloth
- Toothbrush
- T shirt
- Comb
- Toy

Think of it.....500 bars of soap, 500 wash cloths, 500 toothbrushes, 500 t-shirts, 500 combs and 500 toys. That's **3,000 items** not including school supplies (pencils, pens, paper, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, etc.).

There is no way this mission could be completed without the help of our entire church body. You have always been faithful to this mission and with your continued help we are stepping out in faith that this year we will fill even more boxes!

To keep track of how we're doing with collections and what is needed, you can check out the Christmas tree at the Mission table. Ornaments will be placed on the tree to indicate the items and amounts needed to fill the boxes.

Thank you for helping to make this mission one that truly reaches beyond the walls of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren!

Any questions, please talk with Kaye Hoover.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

A Pastoral Letter on Politics

At Buffalo Valley, like almost every church, we have people with different political views. We are concerned with how the extremely oppositional political arena has affected the church at large and how it could affect relationships at Buffalo Valley this election year. There are a couple of sermons planned in the fall around the topic of the election, but we would like to provide some suggestions on political discourse and interaction that we hope are helpful to you.

We are first and foremost citizens of the kingdom of heaven and it is this citizenship that is of primary importance. Below are four thoughts for your consideration in your own life and how political conversation and conflict can be navigated here at Buffalo Valley. Thanks for taking the time to read them and all three members of the pastoral team are receptive to talking to you about these suggestions:

1. We can and need to work alongside one another to make disciples and carry out God's purpose for our lives and church regardless of our political preferences. At Buffalo Valley we have an opportunity to accomplish things that no political candidate or party can do. We should not allow political differences to keep us from passionately serving Christ together.

2. We can respectfully engage in discussion about issues that are important to us if we desire to build understanding. These issues are important to many people and discussion about them can be very helpful.

3. We can value other people regardless of their political party or candidate of choice. We can't possibly know what factors go into someone's choice of a party or candidate; as politics is often quite complex. We should never determine a person's entire belief system simply based on who they support politically, nor should we nurture negative thoughts and beliefs about the character of someone solely as a result of a political position. Loving and being compassionate toward one another is more important than division over "being right" about a candidate.

4. We should not disparage or denigrate a party or candidate. Using words like "stupid", "dumb" or "naïve" when talking about someone else violates many biblical commands about how we treat one another. Using images on social media

that attack an individual's or candidate's name or character is not helpful. Being positively passionate about what we believe doesn't ever require belittling or attacking another individual.

Pastor Eric

Young Adult Lineup:

Family Game Nights

from 4:30 – 9 pm
1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday Night
April 1 & April 21

Wing / Movie & Discussion Nights

from 6:30 - 8:30 pm
2nd Thursday & 4th Thursday Night
April 9 & April 23



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

From Your Lead Pastor,



A Viral Opportunity

I've never had anything in my life go "viral". The closest I've ever come is the word "believior" ☺. As I write this the world is in the grip of the coronavirus. Like most, I don't really have any great knowledge of the virus. What I know is what I read. But I am somewhat surprised by the sense of panic that I've read online. Yesterday, I read things about toilet paper and Purell being out of stock in various stores. I know other stores have placed small quantity limits on similar items. It makes me wonder how our society will respond if the spread of the virus continues and/or if a strain develops which is more lethal.

The reason I use the word "opportunity" in the title of this letter is that followers of Jesus have an opportunity to live out the peace and fearlessness of Christ in the midst of what seems like an increasing panic. Living without fear is not callousness or indifference. Rather, living without fear is exemplifying faith and trust in God and, if things do get much worse, an acknowledgement that this world is not our home.

It is often reported in historical accounts that Christians played an important part in caring for others in times of great plague and hardship. May it be said of us. I don't think we are anywhere close to the level of great plague and hardship in this country yet, but we can still model fearlessness in our words and actions. I am reminded of Paul's words to Timothy recorded in 2 Timothy 1:7. *"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind."* Paul wasn't writing in reference to disease or pandemics. But I think the mindset serves us well in whatever situation we find ourselves in where fear is the natural response.

As followers of Jesus we have an opportunity to spread the Gospel through our words and deeds, and often this opportunity increases during times of suffering and uncertainty.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Are Jesus, the church and your role in the kingdom the most significant portions of your life?

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



Holy Moments

The Christian Imagination plays a great role in the spiritual development of the soul.

- St. John of the Cross

Experiencing God is much different than hearing about God. 'Devotions' on an ancient book like the Bible can be a difficult topic to broach with anyone, much less a teenager seeking their independence. To be honest, sometimes I struggle in putting together a lesson to describe what life was like 2,000 years ago, so we can understand some of the things Jesus said. Yet, they are so important! I recently came across a helpful book, and have enjoyed working with it in my own family. "Imaginative Prayer," takes concepts and stories from the Bible and uses our imagination to actually experience them. It does take deliberate time to sit and be still (around 15 minutes is good to start).

Here is a shortened sample:

Find a quiet spot where you can sit together and not be interrupted (phones off). Sit together, close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. (10-15 seconds).

"God, I pray that you will release our imagination and help us to hear you speak to us during this time together. We open our hands to you. We open our ears to you. Come Holy Spirit. (Pause 8-10 seconds). "Come, Holy Spirit."

"Close your eyes and imagine that you see 2 hands knitting. Imagine there are 2 hands in front of you with a great ball of yarn sitting next to those hands. What color is the yarn? Is it all one color, or is it different colors? If you were to knit something special, what color yarn would you choose? (Pause).

"Watch as the hands begin to shape the yarn into something. The yarn loops around the knitting needles and begins to form a shape that you recognize. You aren't sure exactly what it is yet, but you have the sense that the person knitting is taking great care and paying attention to every detail. The hands that you see in front of you are strong hands, but they gently hook and loop the yarn so carefully.

You notice now that you begin to see a set of feet being formed. They are perfect feet and they seem about the same size as your feet. (Pause). Suddenly you notice that these feet are no longer made of yarn; they seem to be real live feet and

they are your feet! And yet the hands continue to knit more.

Are you wondering who this is? Who is knitting you and forming you, so carefully, from the ground up?

Take a few minutes to imagine the hands continuing to knit up your legs, body, arms, hands. THE Hands stop for a moment to reach out and gently squeeze one of your hands. Then continue knitting to your head, face, and finally eyes. You see the hands were the hands of Jesus....

Think for a moment about who you are. Who God has made you to be. What do you notice about yourself? What are you good at? (Pause) What makes you laugh? (Pause) What makes you cry?

God has knit you together just the way you are! (Pause). Listen to these words:

"Oh yes, You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me [knit me together] in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God - you are breathtaking!" (Psalm 139:13)

Hopefully, you experienced this familiar Psalm in a new way - there is much more depth and detail to this meditation that I will post and email, and continue putting individual prayers like this out. Take some of your upcoming time to experience God together.

Peace, Pastor K



Bring it On!



Do you have aluminum cans, please bring them and place in the barrels near the kitchen entrance.

Do you have any metal, old appliances, old aluminum stepladders, the list goes on? Please bring them and place in the open trailer that sits beside the garage shed. If you have any questions, or need help, please talk to Jake Myer or Jeff Benner.

Vicki Bastian, for the Mission Ministry Team



Camp Eder Corner

“Our caring and enthusiastic staff manages a wide range of creative and enriching programs for campers grades 1-12. Our activities and offerings are fun, challenging, and accepting of everyone’s abilities. We are all about having FUN but, most importantly, we get to know God in a deeper way.”

Besides the large tuition amount paid by our Buffalo Valley COB family, (for our campers who are regular attendees), the camp has a scholarship form to fill out if needed. In past newsletters, I have featured weeks #1 and #2. Here’s the exciting schedule for....

Week #3 July 12-17

Family Camp

New this year! Calling all families to join us for a week packed with family fun! Families will have the opportunity to join in camp activities as they please. Make your own adventure join us for swimming, canoeing, rock climbing and all the classic fun camp activities.

Kids Camp I (Grades 1-3) \$335

Come make new friends and experience camp fun. Learn what it’s like to sleep in the wagons, stomp through the stream and catch lightning bugs under the beautiful summer night sky. Kid’s camp is sure to be a memorable experience where kids will learn about God and why so many people call Camp Eder their home.

Colorful Creations (Grades 1-3) \$360

Stretch your creative mind and talents at colorful Creations camp. Splatter paint, Screen print, and tie dye your way through the week as you make friends and learn different creative art forms.

Zoology Camp (Grades 1-3) \$360

Do you love animals? Join us for an action-packed week exploring the fascinating world of animals. From farm animals to zoo animals campers will have the opportunity to take field trips and get a first-hand look into the different habitats of these amazing creatures.



Kid’s Camp Sports Camp (Grades 1-3) \$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!

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

Hope to hear from you soon!

Fay Richard



Freebirds

The Freebirds’ **next event** is on **June 27th** at the Buttorff’s campsite at the Sunbury Airport Campground. We will provide meat and rolls. Everyone please bring a covered dish to share. More details and a signup as we get closer to time.

Also we will have the **Halfway Dam picnic** on **September 13th**.

Then on **November 12th** is our bus trip to **Sight and Sound** to see Esther. This brand new and expected to be awesome. Also Shady Maple to eat. We are taking reservations now with a \$61 deposit to hold your spot, the total cost is \$105. We only have 20 spots left. See me soon to sign up.

Blessings,

Linda Buttorff for the Freebirds

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



Moments in Matthew

We will continue in March/April 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 through the end of the sermon series:

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

March 29th: You Are What You Love

...Matthew 21-22

April 5th: Signs of the End Times

...Matthew 24-25

April 12th: Why Jesus Died

and the Importance of the Resurrection.

Please continue to read through the gospel of Matthew this month. After Easter we plan to do a series on the family; looking at how the gospel informs some of our most important relationships.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



It's Getting to be That Time!!

Spring Cleaning!! It's just about here!

When you go through your clothes and find items that you no longer want or that does not fit, please help us by remembering to feed our Community Aid bin! Gently used clothing, shoes and linens, (no comforters, quilts or pillows) help us with sending the 500 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Every quarter of the year we receive a check calculated by the weight and amount of what is received in the bin. This is a huge help in paying the \$4,500 needed for shipping.

Just a small thing, but with huge rewards!!

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



A BIG Thank You!



Thank you to all those who came out to support both, the Couple's Banquet, in February, and the Church Auction, in March! It is good to see us Loving God, Loving Others & Loving Well!

If you have any ideas how we can improve the Couple's Banquet, feel free to let me know.

In His Service,

Karen Beiler, Special Events Coordinator

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2020!

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



Those who have been changed by the Gospel are commanded to forgive.

Matthew 6: 14 - 15

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
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Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183
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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service