



# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

May 2020  
Volume 36 No. 4



## Family Focus

Starting April 19<sup>th</sup> we began a new series of sermons titled, "Family Focus". These messages will talk about some aspects of family. Here is the schedule:

- April 19<sup>th</sup>: Marriage
- April 26<sup>th</sup>: Divorce
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Singleness
- May 10<sup>th</sup>: Releasing Adult Children
- May 17<sup>th</sup>: Parenting
- May 24<sup>th</sup>: The Family of God

I will post commentary on the BVCOB Sermon Group Facebook page each day that has something to do with the next week's sermon. You are invited to "like" that page so you will receive those posts and you are invited to comment or ask questions.

For me, preaching to a camera falls far short of being able to interact with all of you on a Sunday morning. Hopefully we will soon be able to gather together again. However I hope you are staying connected online with our services, both preaching, meditations and sermons. Thanks also for your continued financial support of the ministry.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

## Mifflin Serve Coming!

We are still planning the summer Mifflin Serve projects for Friday and Saturday, **June 19 and 20**. This is a way that we can help our neighbors with small projects at their home. We would love to have your help! If you can help one or both days, or for more information, please call the church office.

Vicki Bastian

## Kid Connection News

With the necessity to cancel all gatherings, keeping connected with our families has been a priority. We hope families have been enjoying the **packets of resources** which we have been delivering to them. We intend to continue making these deliveries about every two weeks until we are able to gather again for worship and Sunday school.

Each **Sunday morning at 11:00 am** children can join a **ZOOM conversation** on their computers where we will talk about the lesson that has been delivered to them, and where we can just have fun conversation together about what they have been doing while stuck at home. We think we have included all our families in this invitation email, however if you have not been getting these emails about the lessons and the ZOOM calls please call/text Pastor Donita at 570-765-1734.

As of now we are continuing to plan for the summer day camp program. We will begin making calls to put staff in place over the next few weeks in hopes that we will be able to move forward with these ministries when the time comes. **Summer KidConnection Day Camp begins Wednesday, June 17** and will continue each Wednesday through July 22. **Musical Day Camp** will be held **July 27 - August 2**. Please plan now for your kids and their friends to join us.

Pastor Donita



Worshipping God in the storm doesn't mean we know the outcome, it means we trust the Captain.

Chris Tomlin

## Messages from Your Church Family!

During these unsettled times, we all need support. May you be encouraged by the following verses and testimonies.

"I really appreciate Pastor Donita for conducting all the Bible Studies."

Margaret Keefer

"I thought of the song 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'. I think it is especially meaningful and important during the current situation and a reminder to keep the ties between our Christian families going strong. This is the first verse of the song.

'Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.'

Lori Hunsberger

"Psalm 46:1 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble'. Missing my church family but trusting in God's strength."

Marsha Libby

"I always look to Psalm 121 when I need a boost."

Sandy Baker

"I am incredibly thankful for our new church family. As new members transferring from another church, I am grateful for being remembered. We have enjoyed getting all the children's lessons, Easter activities, and zoom meetings and people checking in on us to see how we are doing."

Amber Ulrich

"I'd like to give a shout out to BVCOB children's ministry! Their dedication to our children is unbelievable. In the midst of a pandemic they continue to show support through packages for each child within the congregation. I hope they realize how much this means to all the families. Thank you!"

Kaitlin Raup

"I would like to share how this quarantine has affected our family. The first week it happened, Duane and I had no work at all until they decided what to do. A big fear was that I would not be able to pay my bills and ruin my credit. It has taken us years to restore our credit that was bad at one time. We immediately prayed and the Bible verse that came to me was Psalm 46:1. 'God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble'. This verse just kept coming to my mind. The very first week of the quarantine, we had someone come to the door of our house and give us some money to help us get by. This was a huge answer to prayer. The next week I went back to work and was moved to a Group home working with 3 girls that are disabled. I also still have 3 of my other clients. My job is now 6 days a week. My whole routine and schedule have changed, but I am reminded daily God is in control and this is keeping my mind at peace. Duane was back to work for a short time but laid off again. In the last few weeks our needs have been provided. My boys are not being educated much, but will be fine. Isaiah struggles the most with not being able to go anywhere. Zayden is content being at home. I just want to thank my church family who has helped us. We love and miss you all. We all need to keep trusting God that His faithfulness will carry us through. Love in Christ,"

Nancy Keefer

During these days, may you be both a blessing and be blessed by your church family!

Fay Richard

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in *Christ Jesus*."

Philippians 4:6-7

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

## Prayer for Graduates By Chloe Gemberling



Even though you are missing  
Milestones, as you graduate,

I pray that you keep your  
heart and mind open.  
That you allow yourself  
To be the wonderful person  
God made you to be.  
Cherish the moments you  
Have with your loved ones,  
And use your bright light to  
Shine brighter than ever before.  
Amen.



## Have You Met Your "Neighbor"?

In the beginning of April I suggested that you call one or two church directory entries that are directly above you or below your family's entry...have you done that? My hope is that you will talk to someone that you don't currently know or you will check in on an old friend. Ask how he/she is doing and even ask if there is anything about which you could pray.

I know this is something that some of you have never done, but these are unusual days...why not try something unusual? I'd love to hear about a meaningful or interesting experience that you have had by meeting your "neighbor".

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Gift Cards Are Available

\$100 and \$50 **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.



## Distant and Yet Together

As you might expect, most activities and events that fall under the **Adult Ministry Team** have been canceled or otherwise postponed. We continue to meet monthly (via Zoom) as a ministry team and are looking forward to when we can all see each other again and take part in discipleship and fellowship activities.

We do have some social distancing-friendly activities available for you to take part in, however!

Pastor Donita is leading a **women's Bible study every Saturday** at 9 AM via Zoom (watch for an email each week with the meeting invitation and link via [news@bvcob.com](mailto:news@bvcob.com)).

Eli Mast is leading a **men's Bible study every other Saturday** at 7:30 AM via Zoom (watch for an email each week with the meeting invitation and link via [news@bvcob.com](mailto:news@bvcob.com)).

Our men's ministry leaders are also working to put together another weekly meeting for prayer and discussion at a time to be determined.

Finally, I am recording a **weekly Sunday school lesson** based on the Standard/International Lesson curriculum that we were previously using for the Sunday school class in the Main Gathering. Each weekly topic is largely independent from the others, so it's no issue if you were not originally a member of the class, or if you have not watched any of the videos yet. Links to the videos are sent each week alongside the weekly worship service video links.

If you have any ideas or requests for ways the Adult Ministry Team can serve you and your family during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or another member of the team.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Steve White**, Adult Ministry Team Leader



## Outside Our Walls

I wanted to share an update on the various ministries of the Mission Ministry Team since we are unable to gather as a church family.

**Operation Christmas Child** – we will be quite a bit behind in gathering the various items for the shoeboxes. I am hoping that we will be able to make up for lost time in bringing in the needed items.

**CAS – Fill Jane’s Van** – This is usually done in the month of May. We still will want to collect the various items to support Children’s Aid Society (CAS) and we will plan to do this the first month that we can gather again.

**Expectations Baby Bottle Drive** – We had planned to do this ministry in the month of June, but will plan it for the month after the CAS collection.

This is certainly a strange time, but as we strive to be faithful, we know that God has it all under control. We trust that our outreach will again be strong and we can all get back on track with the various ministries that we support.

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team Leader



## Where You Can Help Right Now?

Hi, everyone, I hope all is well. I’m sending out an invitation to serve at our Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren building site to help with **mowing and trimming**. If we have a few people willing to help out once a month it would be a great help. Please contact me (Marlin Yoder) 570-492-0380 and we can set up a schedule and go over details.

Thank you,  
**Marlin Yoder**  
for Building & Grounds Ministry Team

## "God Be With You Till We Meet Again!"

"When life's perils thick confound you,  
Put HIS arms unfailing round you,  
God be with you, till we meet again."

"Keep the light of HOPE ETERNAL dwelling in your heart, rest upon the Father's promise, and you'll find that care and trouble quickly will depart. Heaven's peace will enter in."

"Back of the clouds, the sun is always shining. After the storms your skies will all be blue. God has prepared a rosy tinted lining, back of the clouds, it's waiting to shine thru."

SHINE LIKE THE STARS!!!

Karen Beiler



## HOPING TO SEE IT HAPPEN!

Preschool and K5 will both be on Wednesdays

Preschool 9:30 am – 12 noon

K5 9:30 am – 4 pm

## Summer Day Camps

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 27 - 31

Performances: August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

Teresa Chambers for Children’s Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



### Don't Flatten This Curve

We've all been hearing about the need to "flatten the curve". This term refers to changing the growth of something from an exponential growth rate to a much smaller growth rate. If I plot the curve of growth, a flattened curve means slow growth or no growth. That's great news for combatting a virus or disease. You also might want to flatten the curve if the curve represents credit card spending. ☺

Here is a curve that you do not want to flatten. It is found in Philippians 1:9-11: <sup>9</sup>*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,* <sup>10</sup>*that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,* <sup>11</sup>*being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* Paul's prayer for the Philippians is their love would "abound more and more". Paul has in mind an exponential growth curve that shows our love growing in supernatural ways, fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit.

During these days we have opportunities to show this love to those who desperately need it. How is your love growing? Is it abounding more and more?

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

### 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



### CHURCH CALENDAR

The church calendar is not included in this edition of the Lamplighter due to the current uncertainties of May's church schedule.

## PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,  
Intimate with,  
Transformed by CHRIST



*"I will not abandon you as orphans, I will come to you." - John 14:18*

Have you ever felt like you just didn't belong? Nobody saw you, or would miss you if you were gone? OR just abandoned - somebody you trusted or expected to be there for you left? Something must be wrong with you?

You are not alone! Apparently even people who walked with the Son of God felt this way - about God... Which is why Jesus gave this promise. Jesus is comforting His disciples before He leaves, and part of that comfort is direction in what to do when He isn't there to show them - "Love each other." This is not a condition that we must fill so God will love us, this is direction and encouragement in what to do when we feel abandoned, alone, lost.

We need to lift our eyes beyond our self and show love to someone else. A message, a quick note or comment, maybe even a phone call in this time of quarantine. It's amazing how reaching out to someone else lifts OUR spirits. We realize that not only that we are not alone, but that we do matter to someone else. We can help someone else. In giving love, we experience love; and even more - we experience God.

I would recommend reading the whole chapter (or 2), but here is the immediate context to Jesus promise:

"I will not abandon you as orphans, I will come to you. In a little while the world will not see me any longer, but you will see me; because I live, you will live too. You will know at that time that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you. The person who has my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will reveal myself to him." - John 14:18-21 NET

Peace, Pastor K



## How Are We Doing?

On behalf of the Finance Ministry Team, I would like to thank you very much for your continued support of our church during this unusual time. I am sure that this time has affected all of us to some extent. Some may have lost income and other resources that has caused reduced ability to support our church, so your support is especially appreciated.

At this point, we are approximately \$10,000 behind budget. Our operating expenses continue, but at a somewhat reduced level. In light of these circumstances, the team has decided not to make any principle payments on member loans until we get a better understanding of how this current situation will play out.

Thanks again to all of those who have continued with your support both online and by mail to the office. If there are questions about online giving, information is on the church website.

May God bless each of us in these times.

Jim Brubaker, Finance Ministry Team Leader



## Possible Opportunities for April & May

### Saturdays

- Men's Zoom Bible Study – 7 am  
(Every other Saturday)
- Women's Zoom Bible Study - 9 am

### Sundays

- DISC Zoom Sunday School – 9:30 am
- PIT Zoom Sunday School – 10 am
- Children's Zoom Sunday School – 11 am
- International Lesson on YouTube

### Tuesdays

- Zoom Bible Study w/Donita 7 pm

### Wednesdays

- Zoom Bible Study w/Pastor Donita 9 am

\* Emails will be sent  
with the Zoom/YouTube links  
and the sermon study guide.





## Reaching out to Others

At times like this, our mission field can be right from our own homes as we reach out to people here in our community. A simple phone call to a neighbor who is alone might be a huge comfort and a welcome moment in their day. Our prayers can touch people near and far and can be a ministry at any time. Mail a card, bought or homemade, to a friend or a neighbor or relative at a distance or maybe just down the street. We can all find ways to minister to others and serve one another in love.

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team Leader

None of us can help everyone.

But all of us can help someone.

And when we help them, we serve Jesus!!

Max Lucado



## Freebirds Hope to Have

The Freebirds' **next event** is on **June 27<sup>th</sup>** 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 13<sup>th</sup>**.

Then on **November 12<sup>th</sup>** 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



## Online Resources

Are you getting antsy and ready for something new or different or to connect with people?

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren provides several online resources to edify, encourage and help us grow, and sometimes laugh!

**Right Now Media** has video devotionals for kids, teens, parents, singles, etc.; as well as book studies, kids shows, funny illustrations and much more! I will post one each day in the first week of May - on email and our FB page. I will also send out an invitation. You can click the link and set up your own account (the church pays for membership to RNM). If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Zoom** video conferencing is like "Facetime" for groups of people. Our ministry teams are using it to meet at this time, as well as several Sunday School classes and Bible Study groups. You can sign up for your own free account, which gives you meetings up to 40 minutes long. If you would like to utilize our accounts to meet with people, please contact me. You can create your own account at zoom.us.

Pastor K

## HOPING TO SEE IN 2020!

June 13 – Men's Picnic

June 13 – Strawberry Festival

June 17 - Summer Kid Connection Begins

June 19 & 20 – Mifflin Serve

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

(at Buffalo Valley COB)

September 20 -23 – Women's Beach Retreat



**The Lamplighter**

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

Return Service Requested

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