



MifflinServe 2020 is Still On!...

As of right now we are still planning to have **MifflinServe 2020** on **June 19 - 20**. We need additional projects to be done and we also need some additional volunteers. If you know of someone who has a small construction project, please contact Pastor Eric and he will get you the forms that are needed.

If you would like to volunteer, we will be working all day on Friday and half the day on Saturday. We will take your time on either day or both. Please contact Pastor Eric if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Pastor Eric

You Can Still Help Us Out!



There is an Operation Christmas Child bin that has been placed in the **Narthex entrance (RT 45)** to accept your donations to the **Shoebox** ministry. The bin is accessible Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.

Quite a few donations have been dropped off and the Mission Ministry Team is very grateful for your support. If you are out shopping, perhaps you could pick up a few items that are needed. Some items are: toothbrushes, washcloths, bars of soap, combs, and small stuffed animals.

Thank you for helping us, even during this time when we cannot be together, but we can still support ongoing ministry.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

New Sermon Series Titled "Foundations"

Starting May 31st, we will begin a new series of sermons titled, "Foundations". These messages will be taken from the book of Genesis, the foundational book of the Bible and I think, in many ways, a book that contains foundational truths for our lives. Each day you will be asked to read one chapter from Genesis. I will comment on something from that chapter on the BVCOB Sermon Group page and you are invited to interact with me and others there.

The sermon for the week will focus on one story or scripture from those seven chapters. Here are the first five weeks:

- May 31st: God "Cain" Make You "Abel"
- June 7th: The Call that Keeps Ringing
- June 14th: The Thread of Promise
- June 21st: The Dangers of Deception
- June 28th: God Makes Lemonade from Lemons

Hopefully we will be meeting together again fairly soon. We are awaiting PA state guidelines for moving into the "green phase". If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm available to talk and answer any questions you might have.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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

Chris Tomlin

Thank You & Please Keep Them Coming!!!



The response has been wonderful in "Feeding the Bin"! Please bring your gently used clothing, shoes and any linens without fillers (no pillows or comforters, please) and place them in the **Community Aid bin**.

Just a reminder that currently the bin is only emptied once a week, so if the bin is full, kindly hold your donation for another time. Remember that your contributions help us pay for the shipping costs of the **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!**

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



We Really Need Your Help!!!

I'm asking for help with **mowing and trimming** at our Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren building site. 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



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



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).

Eli Mast is leading a **men's Bible study** on the 1st & 3rd (& 5th) Saturday at 7:30 AM via Zoom (watch for an email each week with the meeting invitation and link via 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



Camp Eder Corner

With much sadness, I need to report that the board of Camp Eder voted to **cancel all summer camps**. They had to make that decision based on the COVID-19 pandemic. Fairfield is still in the red zone and so there is no way they could proceed to host campers safely.

Please remember the Camp and staff in prayer as this is a very difficult time for them. And pray also for the campers who were so excited to be going to Summer Camps!

Mike Kovacs (now a co-director) said if they go to green yet this summer, they plan to have some day activities/events. **Keep posted**. Perhaps your family can still experience a bit of Camp Eder this summer.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

Fay Richard, Camp Rep BVCOB
frichard@dejazzd.com



Secret Sister

This fun activity will be starting again for **July to January 2021**.

If you would like to participate in this activity with a "sister" from the church to send encouragement or give small gifts for different life celebrations, contact Carol Pursel. When you send your name and address to carolpursel@gmail.com or call/text to 570-713-8035, I will mail you a form to fill out and you can mail it back to me by June 22nd in an enclosed envelope. I will then mail your Secret Sister to you by July 1st.

Hope to have many women join us. Any questions, please contact me any of the ways above.

Carol Pursel for Women's Ministry



Recycling is Happening!



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 or Jeff Benner.

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



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.

Musical Day Camp is still scheduled for **July 27 - August 2**. Please plan now for your kids and their friends to join us.

Pastor Donita

(Summer KidConnection Day Camp has been cancelled.)

Payment Protection Program Used By Buffalo Valley

At a meeting on May 11th, the Ministries Coordinating Team affirmed the receipt of a loan of \$42,500 under the federal government's Payroll Protection Program. The decision to apply for the loan was made by the Finance and Executive teams based on the financial uncertainty of future offerings and financial needs.

Normally, an action like this would have been subject to congregational approval; however the small window of opportunity to apply, the impossibility of meeting together and the knowledge that we can pay back the loan quickly if not needed by the congregation necessitated this loan be applied for without congregational approval. Money obtained under this program has begun to be used to pay staff salaries and utilities.

This loan can be turned into a grant or it can be repaid at 1% interest. As with many programs, the guidelines of the Payroll Protection Program are still evolving. The Ministries Coordinating Team will evaluate the congregation's financial situation by the middle of June and will determine what action should be taken regarding the status of this money.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Brubaker or Jake Myer.

Ministries Coordinating 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,



A Good Conspiracy Theory

We've all heard about "conspiracy theories". What is a conspiracy theory? Very simply, a conspiracy theory is a belief that a group of people or governments are conspiring together to accomplish a purpose or an agenda that is most often a hidden agenda. The word "theory" is used because there isn't enough proof to move from "conspiracy theory" to "conspiracy law". Many of us have read these theories concerning the details and the response to the Coronavirus.

Conspiracy theories are both good and bad. They can be good in that sometimes a conspiracy theory can be used to unearth the truth. Those who began to get some facts about the Watergate conspiracy followed their theory to the inevitable proof of an illegal cover-up at the highest levels of government. They can be bad in that they are often, I believe more often than not, untrue and the theories are based on evidence that is not true or things that are made up. Add in social media and the monetary value of getting us to "click" on a story and you see a multiplication effect.

I have a theory about a good effort to conspire that we should all be involved in. Let's conspire to make disciples and to share the gospel with others. Let's work together in private prayer to ask a powerful "official" to intervene on the behalf of those we know and love. Let's have many private conversations with people to challenge them to consider the claims that Jesus makes on their lives. Let's conspire together to serve others in unexpected and surprise ways.

Let's live and speak in ways that others will talk about us behind our backs and wonder what has gotten into us...and wonder how they can get what, really Who, lives inside of us. If we do this, we move from "theory" to actuality as God does His work in our lives and the lives of those around us.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



CHURCH CALENDAR

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

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



“...complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had,” - Philippians 2:2-5 NET

This is a familiar passage, which we often quote to others (mainly children, but adults too). Like many such challenging passages, we would do well to sit with it ourselves, regularly. However, I am wondering if we should sit with this as a group-family, small group, church, etc. Instead of just an individual exercise, where we assume “the interests of others.”

There is a story that exemplifies this concept well. As it goes, an anthropologist was studying a tribe, when he proposed a “game” to the children. Candy was a novelty, so he put a basket of candy under a tree, and made a line some distance from the tree, which all the children must stand behind. He told them that on his signal, they could race to the tree, the first one to the tree would win the basket of candy for themselves. On his signal all the children held hands and ran toward the tree together, and then shared the candy. He asked them why they did this, when one person could have had it all. A girl replied, “how could one of us be happy if all the rest of us are sad? UBUNTU.”

Besides the very predictable outcome of one person winning all the candy, we could also imagine one person winning, but then sharing with the others. I like the original version, because even in the latter one person is seen as the winner and then as benevolent, and the others may feel obligated to that person.

Obviously this idea is difficult to work out, but what if we lived with this type of philosophy? Let it start in our homes, shaping our discussion from “what is mine” to “this is ours”- how can we all enjoy it? From our homes, may it move to the wider community. Instead of sharing “what is mine”, ask “how can we share what is ours?” Whether it is toys, money, or even time, may we wrestle with this question, “how can one of us be happy, if others are sad?” Having the same attitude as Jesus.

May God bless you with discomfort,
At easy answers, half-truths,
And superficial relationships
So that you may live
Deep within your heart.
(A Franciscan Blessing)

Peace, Pastor K

Possible Opportunities for May & June

Saturdays

- Men's Zoom Bible Study – 7 am
(1st & 3rd & 5th 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.



2020 Women's Beach Retreat

We are still hoping to be able to go to **Bethany Beach** this **September 20 - 23**. This is a week later than usual due to cost of Beach tags and lower cost of Condos to keep the total cost of the week as in the previous years.

If you are planning to go, please contact myself or Cheryl at the church office with your name, phone number and email. Once we have made reservations, we will send you a letter via email.

Thinking Sunny Skies,
Carol Pursel, 570-713-8035



Reaching Out to Others

Just a reminder to reach out to others during this time when we are unable to gather on a Sunday morning. Send a card, leave a meal, pray and let people know that you care about them.

We serve our Lord when we serve others!

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



Freebirds Hope to Have

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 Queen 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



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.



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!

July 27 - 31 - Musical Day Camp

September 18 & 19 – District Conference
(at Buffalo Valley COB)

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



The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

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Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
for Youth & Young Adults

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