



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who has contributed donations even while we were not meeting for worship. The Mission Ministry Team is so happy for your generosity! There will continue to be a bin in the narthex for now and a bin is always in the main entry for your donation.

Here is the updated list of what we need for the shoeboxes. Please consider what you can contribute.

- Stuffed Animals – 75
- Bar Soap - 357
- Chap Stick – 310
- Colored Pencils - 154
- Coloring Books - 304
- Combs - 413
- Crayons - 327
- Glue Sticks - 95
- Hair Items - 144
- Matchbox Cars - 67
- Pencils - 408
- Pencil Sharpeners - 302
- Pens - 208
- Pink Erasers - 485
- Plain Paper Pad (5X8) - 154
- Play Doh - 134
- Ruled Tablet (5X8) - 315
- Rulers - 156
- Scissors (KID) - 143
- Toothbrush (Single) - 465
- Washcloth - 390

Thank you for being a part of spreading the love of Jesus all around the world!

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

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 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

HOPING TO SEE IN 2020!

July 27 - 31 - Musical Day Camp



August 9 - Baptism

September 18 & 19 – District Conference
(tentative) 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

Summary of Our Reopening Guidelines

Below is a summary of the reopening guidelines that we are using for our corporate worship times.

1. We ask that adults and children over the age of 2 wear a mask while in the building for worship. If the discomfort of wearing a mask would prevent you from attending, you may remove your mask while you are seated in the main gathering area for the service only. Please wear the mask at the conclusion of the service and at all other times and places in the building.

2. If you are at high risk or have underlying health conditions, please consider not attending our corporate worship at this time. If you've had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID 19 in the past 14 days please stay home. We are only encouraging those who are completely comfortable with attending and understand the elevated risk of attending a large gathering to attend at this time. Our service will continue to be available on the internet.

3. Our seating is limited to approximately 120 people in each service. We ask that you sign up on the homepage of the website on the tab in the upper right hand corner to indicate which service you plan to attend. For the immediate future, please sign up each week as this will help us in planning.

4. At this time regular Sunday school will not take place. We will be offering a modified Sunday school including the DISC class, an outdoor youth class and a family style Sunday school class in the PIT. We hope to make some additional plans to provide Sunday school as soon as possible. We plan to continue our Zoom bible studies and encourage you to participate in those whenever possible. Steve White will continue to record an adult Sunday school lesson.

If you have any questions please contact any member of the pastoral team or the church office.

Pastor Eric



CHURCH CALENDAR

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



Please Bring 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? 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 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 Mission Ministry Team



Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 27 - 31

Performances: August 1st and 2nd

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



Kid Connection News

Each Sunday we will have a **family Sunday school class** in the basement (the PIT) at **9:15 am** where families will each sit at their own table. This will be an intergenerational class where we supply activities for all ages around the same lesson topic. We are working our way through the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT this summer. Sunday's lesson will be on LOVE. If your family will be joining us for the Family Class, please let Donita know so that we can be sure to have a table reserved for your family. **ALL AGES ARE WELCOME** from the tiniest to the oldest. I'm hoping we will have a good time gathering together in a safe way. The class will begin at 9:15 a.m. immediately following the early worship service.

We will also be preparing **Bible Lesson Activity Bags (BLABS)** for children to use during the worship service and then take home with them. For families who are not yet attending we will deliver the BLABs to your home every 2 weeks, or you may come to the church and pick them up during church office hours Monday - Friday. On Sunday mornings the bags will be organized in alphabetical order on a coat rack in the main entry for families to pick up as they arrive for worship. BLABs will also serve as worship activity bags as we will not be having the usual reusable cloth worship bags available. During the week the rack with the BLABs will be located inside the Narthex doors off the smaller parking lot by RT 45. For those who do not pick up their BLAB at church, our next home-to-home delivery will be over June 21 - 23 when we will deliver all the BLABs that have not been picked up. This will continue throughout the summer.

We hope many of you will be able to join in with our family Sunday school class.

Summer KidConnection Day Camp has been cancelled, however **Musical Day Camp** is still scheduled for **July 27 - August 2**. Please plan now for your kids and their friends to join us.

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



When you don't know what the future holds, remember Who holds the future.



To Mask or not to Mask....

...that is the question...at least on many people's minds right now (apologies to Shakespeare). Our guidelines ask you to wear a mask to the worship service at this time unless you are unable to do so. If that is the case, you are asked to remove the mask during the worship service only. There are different approaches being taken by businesses, restaurants and churches on the wearing of masks. Is there a biblical principle that might apply here?

I'm glad you asked. There is no bible verse that deals directly with masks; but you knew that already. However, imagine having a group of people on one side who feel uncomfortable attending church wearing a mask and then a group of people on the other side who feel uncomfortable attending if others are not wearing a mask. Is there biblical guidance on how to bring those two groups together? I think that Philippians 2:3-4 speaks quite clearly to the issue: *"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but for the interests of others"*.

I think the verses above are relevant to the mask discussion. If I can wear a mask and I know this makes others more comfortable then doesn't Philippians 2 make it pretty clear what I should do? If I wear a mask but know there are others who cannot, doesn't Philippians 2 make it pretty clear what I should do? If there is disagreement, let's be guided by the desire to serve each other's interests above our own.

I don't think that wearing a mask or not wearing one is any indication of spiritual maturity or a level of fear. We are all "making this up" as we go along to a certain extent. Let's be patient with each other and apply the Philippians 2 passage above to how we approach many issues in this time...if we do we will glorify God as we serve one another.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

From Your Lead Pastor,



Be Ruthless with Ideas...Gentle with People...

The above quote is from Robert Sirico. I heard it this morning on a podcast I listen to every morning, "The World and Everything In It". The quote is a great philosophy of life, one that we see taught in God's revelation.

We should be ruthless with ideas. We should check into why we believe the things we believe. We should know the sources of the information that shape our ideas; whether those sources be individuals, groups, media or God's revelation. We should stand on ideas and those ideas can and should shape how we think and act.

We should combine this with gentleness with people...and you guessed it...especially those people who live according to different ideas than we do. Is it possible in your mind that someone can believe in a political, spiritual or societal idea that is completely opposite of what you believe and still be someone whom you think is a good person...someone whom you love? If you can't answer that question "yes" then you need to seek a way to change your answer.

I'm not asking you to change your idea. Jesus was very ruthless about His ideas. Jesus was very clear about the truthful ideas He was communicating. However, Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. Jesus was gentle in all but very few instances with those who greatly disagreed with His ideas. Can we do the same? Yes, I know that Jesus called some "vipers" but let's concede that He is Jesus. He, not you or me, could see the inside thoughts and motives of every person He came into contact with.

Finally, if you have any desire to see others come around to your ideas, the "gentle" approach is usually the most effective. Let's follow the example of Jesus; an example that I think is going to help us be most effective.

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

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



In June, 9 high school students associated with our church completed their high school career and graduated. It was unique in the history of school as we know it. In their last three months they were quarantined and had to finish school at home, through a computer, away from friends. It took extra strength and perseverance to keep doing school work that was not demanded of them every day, without the usual rewards and milestones that normally mark a student's last year - last musical, last prom, last dance, last class... For some it didn't seem real, and was hard to talk about. But we did get a few to share their experience and what their plans are for summer and beyond. You can check out the videos we made at our website, under "announcement & service videos." Here is the basic information. Pray for them and encourage them in the days to come.



Graduate List 2020

Myessiah Herrold graduated from Mifflinburg Area High School. She is working at Ard's Farm and planning on going to Susquehanna University in the fall for Luxury Business Marketing.

Cordell Lohr graduated from Lewisburg High School. He is helping his Pap work on tractors and keeping them running.

Angela Reamer graduated from Mifflinburg Area High School. She is attending Bloomsburg University in the fall to study Exercise Science and play field hockey.

Amanda Reid graduated from Mifflinburg Area High School, and will be attending Susquehanna University in the fall for Early Childhood education.

Cara Snook is a Mifflinburg Area High School graduate and will be attending Lebanon Valley College to pursue her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Brandon Vonada graduated from Mifflinburg as well as completing the Automotive Tech program at Sun Tech. He will be working in the family business of Susquehanna Valley Auto Glass.

Also graduating:

Graham Wiand

Mckenzie Wiand

Rebekah Wiand

"Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."

- Luke 9:23 NET

This call to follow Jesus has been weighing on me as we try to follow Jesus in these new circumstances of Covid-19, racial and political tensions. In my devotions, I am examining again Jesus' life and words in Luke to see what following Jesus would look in these circumstances. How did He grow up, who did He identify with and spend time with / choose as friends, how did He talk to people, who did He confront, who did He comfort, what did He do, when did He not respond...?

Previously I thought of following Christ more "in general" (love, be kind, etc). This has brought more specific ways that I can follow Christ everyday - (how did Jesus identify and confront injustice, or deal with differences of opinion, or talk about government, etc.)?

I invite other perspectives on my weekday posts on BVCOB Facebook and Instagram. May we pray for the humbleness to share our perspective as well as be open to others, and courageous enough to act justly and love mercy. How can we follow Christ in this season of tension?



Peace,
Pastor K



Continuing to Build on the "Foundation" of Genesis

We are still in our series on Genesis, the foundational book of the Bible. Many of you are following along on our BVCOB Sermon Group page and I sincerely appreciate the questions and comments that have been made. Below is a listing of how the next few weeks will unfold:

June 21st: The Thread of Promise
June 28th: The Dangers of Deception
July 5th: God Makes Lemonade from Lemons
July 12th: The Right Way on the Wrong Way
July 19th: Forgiveness

It's great to be meeting together again on Sunday mornings. We look forward to the day when all of you are able to return. May you continue to connect online and over the phone. Let's continue to build on the good foundation that has been given to us.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Freebirds

June is the month for the **Freebird picnic** at the Buttorff Campsite. It is **June 27th at 3 pm**. Bring a covered dish to share and we will provide the meat and rolls. There will be games, boat rides and great conversation. If you could, reply to me if you are coming, that would be great. I will also try to get a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Hope to see you there.

Also, our bus trip for November is still on as of now. I will keep you posted if things change.

Blessings to you all,
Linda Buttorff for the Freebirds

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



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



The truly wise man is he who always believes the Bible against the opinion of any man.

R.A. Torrey

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