

What if Jesus Wrote a Letter to Your Church?

What if Jesus wrote a letter to Buffalo Valley? Of course today, Jesus wouldn't likely write a letter. He would probably send an email or a tweet. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we read of seven letters (or more like a couple of paragraphs) to seven different churches in existence at the time of the writing of Revelation. Jesus gave John, the writer of Revelation, seven different messages to those churches.

Each one of these messages contains a condemnation, a commendation and a recommendation. I think there are some things we can learn from these letters and apply them at Buffalo Valley.

Beginning July 26th we will take seven weeks to look at these messages. Each day's Facebook sermon group post will deal with additional details and thoughts for the church for that week. Hope you'll join us in person or online and on Facebook for this series titled, "Seven Letters".

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



When you don't know what the future holds, remember Who holds the future. God's fulfilled prophetic Word gives assurance from the past, peace in the present and hope for the future.

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 how you can help us meet our goal for these shoeboxes!!

- Bar Soap - 308
- Chap Stick - 310
- Colored Pencils - 149
- Coloring Books - 292
- Combs - 413
- Crayons - 320
- Glue Sticks - 95
- Hair Items - 142
- Matchbox Cars - 40
- Pencil Sharpeners - 48
- Plain Paper Pad (5X8) - 154
- Play Doh - 130
- Ruled Tablet (5X8) - 250
- Rulers - 149
- Scissors (KID) - 133
- 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

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Corrie Ten Boom



Church Picnic & Baptism



The Adult Ministry Team is planning to have our **picnic and baptisms** at the Keister pond on Sunday, **August 9th**. The meal will begin around 12:30 pm and the baptisms will begin at 2 p.m. We are making a change to the menu for the picnic. We will roast a pig as in previous years and instead of asking people to bring food, we will serve macaroni and cheese and baked beans with the pig. We will also have ice cream sundaes for after the baptisms but not the ice cream machine we've had in previous years.

It's very important that we have an idea of how many to expect for the food. We have a **sign-up sheet in the main entry** but you can also sign up with how many plan to attend by email. We are asking for responses by July 26th.

Thanks!
Pastor Eric

Upcoming Young Adult Events

August 5, Wednesday, 5 -9 pm
Game Night

August 13, Thursday, 6:30 - 9 pm
Movie Night

August 18, Tuesday, 5 -9 pm
Game Night

August 27, Thursday, 6:30 -9 pm
Wing Night

Finances in Uncertain Times

A very big thank you to all who have continued with your support of our church during this stressful time. I want to update you where we are in regard to finances at this time. At this time our cash balances allow for approximately six months of expenses to be covered. Our year to date spending is about \$197,636 plus about \$39,863 charged to our PPP loan. This makes actual year to date spending \$237,500. The offerings were \$217,873 year to date. The short fall in offerings was covered by the PPP loan, which in all likelihood will be forgiven. We have been able to keep current in our member loans payback according to our budget and meet requests for member loan payouts.

Going forward if things continue as they have, we may need to forego the budgeted member loan payouts. If we do that and Ministry Teams hold the line and spend approximately what they have in the first six months of this year, we should be able to closely match income and expenses. Please remember that some of the money housed in the checking account is for special designated needs/funds and as such cannot be used for general expenses. At the last Ministries Coordinating Team meeting it was decided to ask Ministry Teams to try to stay close to the amount that they spent the first six months of the year.

As Ministry Teams begin the process of putting together a budget for next year we realize that it is difficult to project for a year in advance at this time. Because of this, there may be some changes in the various budget line items for next year. At this point there have not been any cuts to any mission or Church of the Brethren giving. I would ask that you be in prayer for the various Ministry Teams as they begin to put together their budgets for the next year. Thank you again for your support of the mission of our church.

Jim Brubaker, Finance Team Leader



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

Upcoming Youth Events

July 31, Friday, 6 - 11:30 pm

Drive-In Movie with pre movie games

August 9, Sunday, 12 - 5 pm

Church Picnic, Baptism & pond hangout

August 14, Friday, 8:30 -11 pm

Drive-In Movie

August 20, Thursday, 9:45 am

Back to School Breakfast @ Gable House

August 23, Sunday, 4 - 6 pm

Pond Night

August 28, Friday, 8 – 11 pm

Drive in Movie & End of Summer Bash



PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



“He also told them a parable: “Someone who is blind cannot lead another who is blind, can he? Won’t they both fall into a pit? A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be like his teacher.” -Luke 6:39-40 NET

Who do we listen to? Who are we following? Who do we spend time around? Ok, besides Jesus. I hope that is true, but it can be hard to follow someone who lived physically on the earth 2,000 years ago. Reading the Bible is a good way to learn about Him and see how He acted but it can be too easy to make Jesus into whoever we want Him to be. We need others' perspectives and people who are physically and consistently in our lives. Who is physically in our lives that we admire - how they respond to people, how they handle stress, how they treat others, how they manage time? It seems there is something in what has been said about cautioning who we pick as friends. By the way, this applies to adults as well as kids.

Here Jesus is saying we become like the people we follow - we will end up in the same place - acting like them. There are plenty of lovely people in our neighborhood - people who volunteer to help others, people love to read and discuss how to better live toward God's kingdom, people who work hard & take time to relax, people who ask good questions. Who would you like to be more like? Spend time with them, talk with them, listen to their story, and ask questions. Their beauty will begin to rub off on you. (And, if you are one of those people described above - usually older with more life experience - who are you sharing life and time with? Who are you rubbing off on?) Or we can just fall into a pit... :)

Peace,
Pastor K



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,



Are you Optimistic or Pessimistic
About Uncertainty?

I think it's safe to say that 2020 has been a year with a lot of uncertainty. As 2020 began, no one anticipated what would unfold over the next seven months. Some of us have had to deal with a great deal of uncertainty and others less. Things change often and things are often out of our control. Sometimes we like what happens and sometimes we don't. What is your attitude about uncertainty?

Uncertainty can be good or bad. There are many unexpected surprises that come into our lives that totally caught us off guard and brought amazing joy into our lives. If we remember these occasions, we may be optimistic about uncertainty.

Unfortunately, there are many unexpected circumstances that bring disappointment or even despair into our lives. These things tend to move us toward pessimism.

I'd like to encourage you to be optimistic about uncertainty. I think that the Bible points us to optimism toward those things we do not know. We are told that no matter what circumstances are upon us, God loves us. He is with us. He has not forsaken us. Do you believe that? The entire Bible is filled with examples of uncertainty that revealed God's greatest activity and blessing. Uncertainty can make us uncomfortable but if we keep our eyes on Jesus and we are in total submission to Him, I think we will be able to experience His presence and blessing in unexpected ways.

I encourage you to be optimistic about our uncertain times. They are not uncertain for God and He is on our side!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

*When we see even a small glimpse of
God's holiness, we will bow in worship.*

R.C. Sproul

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



Kid Connection News

Each Sunday we will have a **family Sunday school class** at **9:30 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 9:30 a.m 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.

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



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

HOPING TO SEE IN 2020!

- September 13 – Freebirds Picnic
- September 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



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.

The Lamplighter

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
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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