

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

November 2021
Volume 37 No. 10



Church Council Meeting

The **fall Church Council meeting** will be held Sunday, **November 7** at 1 pm. All those active in the life of the church are welcome to attend the potluck lunch at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

The agenda will include reports from our treasurer, pastors and ministry teams, approval of the **2022 church budget** and a proposal to make a lump sum payment on our **building debt**.

Steve Richard

We Need Your Help!

Time is running out and the Mission Ministry Team needs your help to gather the last items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Our goal is to send **500 shoeboxes**. These shoeboxes are sent to children all over the world through Samaritan's Purse. Every box contains the Gospel message and what a blessing to know this is one way that children can hear about the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!

The **last Sunday** to bring in items for the shoeboxes is **Sunday, November 7th**.

Please consider how you can help meet this goal! I know we can do it!

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



Samaritan's Purse® Disaster Relief Trip

January 30 - February 4, 2022
in Kentucky

5 men and 1 woman needed

For more information, contact
Kornelius Reimer at 570-768-0448 or
reimer.ks@yahoo.com

Continuing In "The Chosen"



Through the first three Sundays of November we will continue our sermon series on "The Chosen". I hope you have been enjoying the sermons and I also hope that you are watching the series on computer, TV, phone or wherever you watch things. Each Sunday we focus on one episode of the series. We don't simply rehash or discuss what happened in the episode, rather I focus on one particular aspect of the episode and use the Bible text that the episode covers or a related Bible text.

What I've really enjoyed about this series is the visual interaction between Jesus and the people He comes into contact with. His facial expressions and gestures seem to fit my understanding of the character and nature of Jesus. I also enjoy the fact that the Jesus of "The Chosen" likes one liners like "**Get used to different**" or "Sometimes you gotta stir up the water". Simply awesome!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

November Youth & Young Adult Activities:

Game Night: 1st Saturday of each month, (November 6, 5 – 8 pm). Whatever your age, join us for adventure board games of many different kinds!

Schedules are crazy. Pastor K is meeting individually with several Young Adults, and would love to meet with more, until we can establish a regular movie night again. Text him @ 570-369-0533

PIT Youth Schedule

- November 7 - No Youth
(Church Council Meeting)
- November 14 - Off site: Bounce Plex
in Shamokin Dam
- November 21 - No Youth
(Advisor Planning Meeting 4 - 6 PM)
- November 28 - Youth 6 - 8 PM (Bonfire)

Peace,
Pastor K



Family Connections Wednesdays

October 6 - November 24

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family



Nursery is now staffed and available for:

- Early service 8:00 - 9:30 am
Sunday school 9:30 - 10:30 am
Second service 10:30 - 11:30 am
(The nursery is for children under 3 years old.)

Children's Ministry Sleepover

We hope your children have enjoyed the sleepover and events at Crystal Springs Retreat center.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the event possible. We appreciate you.

Friday Fun Nights

Beginning November 5th from 6 pm - 8:30 pm

Open gym time, devotional, snack time. Each week is themed. We will have a calendar available soon.

This event is open to the public. Tell your friends and share it on Facebook.

Volunteers are essential for this event to happen. We would be overjoyed to have eager and able help with the Friday's events. We would love to have you. Please let Pastor Donita know.

Gingerbread Night

December 3rd from 6 pm – 8 pm

We are welcoming all our friends and neighbors as this is a public event. Sign-ups will be available to reserve your Gingerbread. Please be watching for those announcements.

Volunteers! Baking gingerbread day is in November and help on the day of the event is much needed. Then also, candy donations.

"Let the children come to me. Do not stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children." Mark 10:14

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team

BVCOB Youth: PIT

(Youth and families striving to be more
Passionate about, Intimate with, Transformed by
Christ)

“The beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them. God’s love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God’s Word, but also lends us God’s ear... Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God, either.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

One of the most important actions and attitudes of love that we can take with a teenager is to *listen* to them. That is actually true of most people we encounter, especially in our culture that struggles with listening to each other. Since 2010, Kara Powell and the Fuller Institute have interviewed thousands of teenagers studying what churches have done right in aiding young people in their spiritual walk. Those churches that have managed to keep young people involved, had one thing in common: teenagers felt heard and seen and a part of the church.

The BVCOB Youth and Young Adult Ministry team is working on how we can keep improving in this area. Here are a few starting points we can all do individually (again, this applies to anybody in our life; it is just amplified for young people):

NOTICE & CARE: Also known as empathy.

NOTICE: Take time to watch and learn about 1 person: what makes them happy, angry, sad, etc? What do they spend a lot of time doing?

CARE: Ask about that specific thing - “What makes you happy about _____?” “You seem a little sad today, I care about you - do you want to tell me about it?” “I notice you play _____ a lot on your phone. I’d love to learn more about it and you. What do you like about it?” I know this can be hard, but it shows that we care about them, and hopefully (over time) opens the door to further conversation. And then, once that door is open, use these magic words: *Tell me more* (and mean it). Rather than argue, or try to make them feel better with



compliments, or try to dissuade them that screen time is harmful, become curious and ask more about them. (This will bring someone’s face out of a screen, and put a smile on it).

I will continue to write about “how to better listen to people” from Kara Powell’s book (*Three BIG Questions that Change Every Teenager*), and other work I’m doing. Here is some practical starter suggestions I appreciated: When a teenager (or probably anybody) is talking with someone, these questions tend to be going through their mind:

Do you know my name? This makes people feel noticed, memorable, honored.

Do you know what matters to me? This communicates their unique worth.

Do you know where I live? This makes me feel understood and accepted.

Do you know what I have done? This lets me know I’m loved despite mistakes.

Do you know what I can do? This reminds me I am significant and have potential.

In next conversations work to be able to affirmatively answer these questions for 1 person. It will go a long way in helping someone feel loved, but also stretching our empathy and listening (and Christlikeness) skills.

Peace,
Pastor K



Did you buy your gift cards?

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Holy Spirit and a Beard

Earlier in October I attended a Radical conference focused on the urgent spiritual need of the population of the world who have no known access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is estimated that over 3 billion people live in countries and people groups which have no visible church, no bibles in their language and no or almost no known followers of Jesus. Yet, the worldwide Christian church spends about 1% of its mission funds and about 3% of its missionary force in these areas. This is something called "The Great Imbalance". If you go to youtube and search, "The Great Imbalance" you can watch a three minute video which highlights this concern.

Buffalo Valley gives 0% of our mission money to these people. This is something that will change now that we are aware of ways that we can give to support work that is going on in these countries. More on that in coming months.

I expected I would get this information at the conference and make some personal contacts in this area but what I didn't expect was the move of the Holy Spirit in my life during the worship services. The Spirit moved in my life in an unusual way. I believe that God changed my heart in some ways that will be evident over time. One visible change is my attempt to grow a small beard. I have not attempted this in more than 30 years because...it takes a very long time to fill in and it just doesn't look that good. However, at the conference I was praying with and crying with a man from India who had a rather lengthy beard. As I left the conference the last night, I felt God's leading to grow the beard as a spiritual marker of what God had done in my life and to remind me to pray for the unreached people of the world.

So, in my life the Holy Spirit intersected with a beard. I don't know how long I'll have the beard but I know I'll have the Holy Spirit for all eternity. Some of you have asked about the beard and this is the answer. On a note of application, please consider laying down a spiritual marker of some sort when God enters into your life in a special way. It doesn't have to be something everyone can see; but you'll know what it is and you'll know what it represents.



God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Solid Rock International

Please remember to keep Jason and Nicole Hoover and family in your prayers as they serve with Solid Rock in the Dominican Republic.

Vicki Bastian
Mission Ministry Team Leader





Camp Eder

What do you know about our church camp?

Did you know Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren has sent several hundred campers there?

We've had campers, camp pastors, counselors, other staff and families enjoying Camp's great natural beauty for over fifty years.

During these next few months, I'd like to highlight some history of the camp which is located in Fairfield, Pennsylvania, not far from Gettysburg. I'm including some of my own experiences to give you a glimpse of the impact it has made on our family.

"When Camp Eder was created, the purpose was to provide an opportunity for the children in the Southern PA District to experience God's creation in a way not possible at home.... It is the experience of combining the 'place' with the 'community' that impacts visitors and campers alike and makes Camp Eder special for all those who come." Quote from the Preface in Our Home in the Hills: A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years (1958-2008).

My first experiences with Camp Eder began shortly after I was married to Steve in 1983. He had been telling me about this special place where he had gone as a camper, counseled as a teenager, and had many wonderful times. So of course, I wanted to check out the camp to see what made it so awesome.

We spent several weekends at camp, taking along friends to camp with us, building relationships. Beautiful and so much fun!

Later after our children were born, we went down with the Richard side of the family for continued memories. Weekends of camping, attending Fall Festival, etc.

As our boys grew older, we counseled as volunteers for their short camps. The training was excellent, reminding us how to help curb the younger campers' homesickness (we still

had some of that) and other issues that might come with those on their first camping experiences!

Our sons continued to go each summer: Steve and I loved taking the boys down, and enjoyed even more picking them up, hearing them share about all they did, learned etc. We often had a carload of boys who had spent the weekend camping and although they were exhausted, talked nonstop about their adventures! Hiking to the Moose Tree, singing by the campfire, worship, devotions, crafts, cooking on the open fire and eating with their mess kits. Some of you can remember your own times camping or when your children went to camp.

Back in the 90's, Buffalo Valley COB would send over 30 campers each summer, which was amazing because our church is one of the most physically distanced from camp.

"The creation of Camp Eder was an endeavor that began in the early 1950's. At the time, there were thirty-five camps owned and operated by the Church of the Brethren." More to follow in the coming months from the book Our Home in the Hills, giving details of the camp's unique history. I'd love to hear your stories too!

Fay Richard



Did you Know??



We accept all types of metal for recycling??

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.

Help support Operation Christmas Child by bringing in these items. The money from the **recycling helps pay for shipping** the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



Is Prayer on Your Calendar?

We have a prayer meeting that meets in the Sonroom on the **third Wednesday night of the month** from **7 - 8:00 p.m.** Here is how our prayer meeting works. You can bring requests or pray for the requests that are listed on the white board or add other things that come to mind while you are sitting there. Each item is prayed for by about 3 people. You are encouraged to pray 30-60 seconds about each item but no one is forced to pray...we don't simply go around the room. By praying this way we spend a few minutes on each request before moving on to the next one.

My goal for this is to reach 50 people gathered together for prayer. Would you join our group on the third Wednesday? Prayer precedes almost every significant activity of God in the book of Acts, the history of the early church. I don't think God has changed His method of operation. If we really want to see God's supernatural activity, we must pray together. Our **next meeting** will be **Wednesday, November 17th**. I hope you put it on your calendar.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Please Feed the Bin!



Please bring your clean gently used clothes in a bag and place them in the bin. The bin is emptied every week and we will receive credit for your donations. The money received will help pay for sending the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Thank you in advance for your clothing and shoe donations!

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team



A question to ponder:

Would people who know you best consider you a follower of Jesus?



Get ready for the Baby Bottle Drive!!



The baby bottle drive to fill with coins or bills to benefit Expectations Women's Center will be from **November 21 to December 5**. More information coming soon.



Church Auction 2022

The date is **March 5, 2022**. Please continue to **collect items** and **make items** for the auction. We do not have unlimited storage but if you have items that must be stored, please let us know.

Also please **consider volunteering** – we are in need of additional people to help plan starting in early 2022, individuals who can collect and haul items, individuals who can help categorize and list auction items and many hands the day before and the day of the auction.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Steve Richard

LOOKING AHEAD



November 24 – Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 27 – Kettle Cook

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

March 5, 2022 – Church Auction



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**.

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

Return Service Requested

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46 Brethren Church Road
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www.bvcob.com

Lead Pastor – Rev. Eric S. Reamer
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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