

Will You Have a "Good Christmas"?

I am often asked at the end of December; "Did you have a good Christmas?". I never really know how to reply. How do I evaluate whether or not I had a good Christmas and doesn't this change over time? A good Christmas for a 9 year old looks different than a good Christmas for a 49 year old...at least I think it does. I also think there are some consistent things that we can receive and give that would help make for a good Christmas.

The pastoral team has been reading and discussing a book titled, "The Church Called Tov". Tov is the Hebrew word for "good". We've decided to take this idea and apply it to Christmas. We will be looking at some actions and attitudes that we think will help each of us have a good Christmas, and also will serve us well for the entire year.

This series begins on November 28th with a focus on compassion. Subsequent topics will include truth, justice, putting people first, grace, service and Christlikeness. Join us on Sunday mornings for a look at "A Good Christmas".



God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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**. Sign out a bottle on Sunday, November 21!

Share & Learn Together

Winter Quarter Adult Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, December 5th. Sunday school is a great way to get connected and explore new topics to help you grow in your faith.

This quarter, ask questions and find biblically-based answers with Vicki Bastian in her Questions class. Learn How (Not to) Read your Bible with Zach Showers. Join Steve T. Buttorff in examining how Paul argues the case for the necessity of salvation through Jesus in the book of Romans. Or, learn what the Bible has to say about caring for aging family members with Steve Richard.

Watch for more detailed class descriptions in your mailbox and sign-up sheets in the narthex over the next few weeks!



Stacy Reitenbach



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 570-768-5120 or
reimer.ks@yahoo.com

Is It 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.

I continue to hope that we will one day reach my goal of 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, December 15th**. I hope you put it on your calendar.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Did you buy your gift cards?

December Youth & Young Adult Activities:

Game Night: 1st Saturday of each month, (December 4, 5 – 8 pm). Whatever your age, join us for adventure board games of many different kinds!

Schedules are crazy. I (Pastor K) am meeting individually with several Young Adults, and would love to meet with more. I strive to provide space to share questions, joys, doubts or what is on your mind, no matter how crazy; we might even discover some new questions to ask and new joys to wrestle with. Text him @ 570-369-0533

PIT Youth Schedule

November 28 - Bonfire (after Thanksgiving)
December 5 - Game Night?
(Gingerbread weekend - no youth?)
Stay tuned for details
December 12 - Caroling?
December 19 - Christmas Party
@ Linda Miller's, 5 – 7 pm
December 26 - Lock-In, 6 pm – 1 am

Peace,
Pastor K



Family Connections
Wednesday
November 24

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family



Sunday Morning services available:

Nursery
Sunday school K-5th grade
Junior Worship

Children's Ministry Sleepover was a blast. The children were excited to attend. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped make this event possible.

Friday Fun Nights

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.

Our first Friday fun night was such an excellent group of children and helpers. We cannot wait to see how this season of events unfolds. We are such a blessed community.

Gingerbread Night

December 3rd 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.

Candy donations will be accepted in the main entry.

Volunteers

These awesome events could use your help. Volunteers are needed for all our events. Do you feel led, or you love these events and want to see them continue, or love kids and are willing to volunteer? We would like you to reach out to Donita, the church office or Angela Zimmerman.

“Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.”

Jeremiah 30:19

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team

BVCOB Youth:

PIT

(Youth and families striving to be more **P**assionate about, **I**ntimate with, **T**ransformed by Christ & Community)



“Meaningful Conversations”

*“When we talk about Christ-centered answers... we mean reading the stories of Jesus alongside the cries of today’s young people to answer their 3 big questions of **identity, belonging, and purpose.** Our deep hope, and what we’ve seen ourselves, is that this way of exploring the questions resonates as truly good news for teenagers.” - Kara Powell, (3 Big Questions that Change Every Teenager.)*

I am confronting my fear of starting conversations and I invite you to join me. Last month I mentioned 5 things that help teenagers feel seen and valued by adults. Here are 3 guidelines to how to be with and talk with teenagers and people: “NOW, GOD, HOW.”

Start with NOW: what do we hear that is going on in the person’s life *right now*? Did a friend insult them, a teacher frustrate them, did they discover a new joy? They may even be playing a game or flipping through reels on their phone... Ask what they are doing, be willing to sit with them for several minutes and express interest. Ask them to show you something or explain the game and why they like it. Say the 3 magic words: “*tell me more.*” (Note: don’t be discouraged if they don’t engage every time; the goal is to show we care. This interaction might just be planting seeds, they will feel a little more seen and valued - it will open doors in the future).

If they do engage and you can go further, it is an opportunity to practice wonder and discernment. We can take a posture of looking for *how GOD is present with others.* We can plant the question of “where might we see God in this?” “I wonder what God might be up to here?” “I wonder if you’ve sensed God’s Spirit present with you in this?” (Resist the temptation to answer, I have been surprised many times, with what students see, that I totally miss).

“HOW” is a conversation way down the road. Sometimes and eventually we get to offer direction. It is a time to trust that the Holy Spirit is working in their lives, just like ours. We can become trusted guides only *after* we have listened well and empathized with them. Again, ask questions: “how might seeing God in this situation help inform how

we respond?” “What are possible outcomes of that action?”

I know this can seem overwhelming; it has been freeing to me as I realize I don’t have to solve every question in one conversation. Relationships take time. It is better to find one good question to leave with someone than 3 “good” (in our eyes) good answers. Answers close conversations, questions inspire further conversations. Enjoy!

Peace,
Pastor K

Dwell Orphan Care Hope Chest

The Hope Chest is a ministry of Dwell Orphan Care based in Lycoming County. Dwell provides support for foster/adoptive children and their families.

When foster children experience the disruption of an emergency placement, they don’t often have a chance to gather their belongings and they come to the foster placement with few necessities.

The Hope chest provides basic and essential items that help ease the transition for both children and their families.

Items being collected November 21st, 28th & December 5th are:

Bath Towels

Washcloths

Body Wash

Shampoo/Conditioner

Vicki Bastian for the Mission Ministry Team



When you get right down to it
The only thing that matters is *Jesus!*

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Blessing of Community

In November Janet and I drove to Lancaster to celebrate our son John's 26th birthday. We went to a restaurant with about 12 other people from John's church. We met at the restaurant and talked together and got to know one another a little bit. [For those of you who have been at Buffalo Valley for a while, John attends the church that is pastored by Tim King. For several years in a row Tim brought a group of teens to Buffalo Valley to do drama and other things. Tim is doing quite well. He and his wife are expecting their first child soon, I believe in December.]

I was so impressed by the wonderful community around that dinner table. There were people of varying ages and life experiences. That night they shared a bond in Jesus Christ and a purpose of celebrating John's birthday. The sense of community was special to me and warmed my heart. I told John later how happy I was for him to have such a great group of friends who shared friendship and fellowship in Christ.

I hope you have this. I hope you have genuine fellowship with other believers; people who will be there for you when you need them and for whom you will also be there for when needed. This kind of community takes time. It takes investment of time and energy to build those relationships. I'm glad that my son John has this. I have this and am very grateful. I hope you do as well.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Through the years many things may change but the true meaning of Christmas remains the same!

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



Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16



Camp Eder History (Part 2)

What do you know about our church camp?

Did you know the first Camp Committee included David Fleming from the BVCOB congregation? “One of the first decisions the committee made in 1958, was to adopt a style of camping called ‘small group camping’. This style, later became known as units...encourages the development of a sense of community...and creates a setting where youngsters experience the power of Christian Community.”

According to Camp Eder’s book, Our Home In The Hills (A History of Camp Eder’s First Fifty Years), “The first years of summer camping were undertaken with eight covered wagons, a tarp-covered shelter, an outdoor privy, and a lean-to that held equipment and tools. Eight trails had been forged, the most popular known as the Moose Trail which led campers past the well-known Moose Tree. Others included the Bog Trail and the Flower Trail. Every day there were meals to plan, wood to gather, fires to be built as well as lots of fun to be planned. Volunteers developed many of the early curricula. ‘God in Creation’ was used to help campers explore the Camp and the area around it.”

“The active Men’s and Women’s groups in the Southern PA District added Camp Eder in their budgets and in their volunteering ministry efforts. The Men’s group would help winterize the camp and underwrite the expenses for the bulldozer that came to grade and excavate for a swimming hole in 1960. The volunteer labor was a part of the camp from its beginning.”

“One of the early camp leaders and board members, Glenn E. Kinsel, commented concerning the first camp, ‘The campers lived in covered wagons and focused their attention on living under tarp shelters. Having no cook, no kitchen, or manager, we did everything for ourselves’.”

Obviously, over the past 63 years, some things have changed at Camp Eder. The camp, however, continues to be “a place where persons can learn to know God through Bible-based programs in a loving, caring environment.” Visiting the beautiful setting this summer, I can attest that Camp Eder is still “our home in the hills” for many.

More to follow in the coming months from the book Our Home in the Hills, giving details of the camp’s unique history. I’m hoping some of you will also share your stories with me and the rest of our church family!

Fay Richard

506 Shoeboxes on the Way!



Thank you to all of you who have contributed items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection throughout the year. With your help we were able to collect the items we needed to fill all the boxes. These boxes are transported to a collection center where they are double-checked and then they will be sent on their way to children all over the world. These boxes contain some necessary items like soap, washcloth and a toothbrush, but they also contain fun items, like crayons, coloring book, toys and other items.

While these items are nice and fun, the real item that it contains is the message of Jesus Christ and the Way to salvation! Praise God for His indescribable Gift!

Thank you again for helping us reach our goal!

Praising God,

Vicki Bastian for the Mission Ministry Team



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

Are You Using the Correct Email List?

Members, friends and attendees of the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are invited to participate in email lists to communicate with the church family. Listed below are the email addresses to be used when sending an email.

Prayer List (prayer@bvcob.com) is used to share **prayer concerns and updates**.

News List (news@bvcob.com) is for **BVCOB church-related news and announcements** only. Emails to this list are normally generated from ministry team leaders and those who are planning events and activities.

Share-Ads List (share-ads@bvcob.com) is used to provide a forum for sharing **news-worthy info** not directly associated with the church that might benefit our church family. Examples: giveaways, used appliances, vegetables from your garden, yard sales, for sale items, etc.

Email List Etiquette

1. Avoid using backgrounds and graphics in your messages to the email lists.
2. Stay on topic. Lists have a specific purpose and should be used accordingly.
3. Include a subject. Messages without a subject line will be rejected as spam.
4. Do not send attachments, solicitations or advertisements, except as permitted.
5. Do not forward chain letters, email petitions or virus warnings.
6. Replies to a message will go directly to the sender of the message. **Please do not reply all.**
7. To contact the church office, email churchoffice@bvcob.com.

Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team

(If you would like to join one of these lists or be removed from one of these lists, please contact the church office.)



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



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



February 12 – Couples Banquet

March 5 – Church Auction

June 11 – Strawberry Festival

July 9 – 15 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 31 – Church Picnic

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
46 Brethren Church Road
Mifflinburg PA 17844
www.bvcob.com

Lead Pastor – Rev. Eric S. Reamer
(570) 837-9393

Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor
for Children & Pastoral Care

Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
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