

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

February 2021
Volume 37 No. 1



Dear Church Family,

From February 14 - 20 a group of seven people will be traveling to Chattanooga, TN to help rebuild houses destroyed by EF-3 tornadoes on Easter Sunday 2020. Please pray for these individuals:

Ashley Wetzel
Loretta Aurand
Eric Reamer
Kornelius Reimer
Benjamin Reimer
Kurt Ilgen
Clair Kline

Please pray that our team does not test positive for COVID so we all can go on the trip. Also please pray for the homeowners, Samaritan's Purse staff, and the community.

God bless,
Ashley Wetzel



How many of our sleepless hours might be traced to our untrusting and disordered minds. They slumber sweetly whom faith rocks to sleep.

Charles Spurgeon



Helping Us Send Appreciation

Thank you for helping us send appreciation. The Mission Ministry Team with your help is providing seventy-five Weis **gift cards** with handwritten notes of **encouragement** to some of those who are **standing in the gap** to provide care for COVID - 19 patients and others who have sacrificed much during these past few months.

Thank you to those who took the time to write the **handwritten notes** to go along with the gift cards. These notes and cards will be distributed at Evangelical Community Hospital just as soon as all the notecards are returned. This is just one way that we can reach out to those who are serving daily to meet the needs of those who are hospitalized.

If you would like to contribute and help us expand the number of cards that we can provide, please place your donation in the offering and earmark it "COVID Gift Card Program". What an awesome way that we can serve and provide to those "Outside Our Walls"!

Vicki Bastian
for the Mission Ministry Team



I would rather walk with God in the dark than go alone in the light.

Mary Gardiner Brainard

Godly Giving

January 24th through February 7th we will share in a series titled, "Godly Giving". I want to thank you for the way that you have given to support the ministries of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB). We have had a decrease in offerings but we have also had a decrease in expenses so that we ended the year on a slightly positive financial note. This series is not being shared now because we have an urgent financial need; rather it is being shared as a reminder of how important giving is to our spiritual lives.

Here is a question you can ponder before the series begins: "Does your standard of giving really impact your standard of living?" I'm concerned that many people give out of their surplus or excess. They essentially use their resources for their needs and desires and if there is something left over, it goes to God. Or, the percentage that we choose to give is small enough to not really impact how we live.

I believe that God's desire...even His command...is that our standard of living is impacted by our standard of giving. I hope to challenge you and exhort you to evaluate how much you give and your attitude around that giving.

Also in February, Pastor K will begin a series of sermons on the parables of Jesus. Look for more information on that later.

As always your comments and feedback on sermons and sermon series are greatly appreciated. If you have not joined our sermon group Facebook page I would highly recommend it.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



The devil is not afraid of a Bible that has dust on it.


Anonymous

Time for Spring Clean Out?



The Mission Ministry team is happy to announce our first **Clothing Collection** to benefit our Shoebox Ministry! As you go through your clothing and closets to get ready for spring, and find clothing you no longer want or that fits, we have the perfect solution for you!

We will transport your clothing donations to the Community Aid store for you and we will receive the credit toward shoebox shipping.

So...on **Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28**, bring your gently used clothing only and place the bags  in the trailer by the Main Entrance. The trailer will be available from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday and 7:30 am to noon on Sunday.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Vicki Bastian
Mission Ministry Team

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



BVCOB PIT:

“My commandment is this- to love one another just as I have loved you.” - John 15:12

A modern parable (by Pastor K)

There are people who love politics.

There are people who love religion.

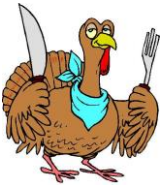
There is a child I know who loves games.

Unfortunately, this child is not too good at games.

This child prefers to keep everybody in the game, than win himself.

Therefore they lose quite often...
therefore they win.

February Youth & Young Adult Activities:



Saturday, **January 30, 4 – 6 pm** is our **Turkey Dinner!** It will be take-out only, \$9/ container. Usual Turkey Dinner: Turkey, Mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, corn, gravy, applesauce, brownie for dessert. Money goes to help fund mission or service trips, and National Youth Conference (next year).

In-person Sunday School has returned - youth can join Megan Wetzel, Terry Ruhl and Pastor K each Sunday morning in the PIT at **10:30 am**. We are tentatively planning a few small events as we reach out to individuals. It is very difficult to plan ahead in this time, so please follow us on Facebook (BVCOB Youth), and email.

Thank you for your prayers & support.

Pastor K, Peace

From Your Lead Pastor,



Asking for a Friend...

I'm sure that all of us have seen this phrase used in a humorous way...."Is it OK to eat an entire bag of potato chips...I'm asking for a friend". The phrase "asking for a friend" is a cute and humorous way of hiding the fact that that we are really revealing something about ourselves, something that we are not quite willing to admit. I laugh when I hear the phrase; in fact I just saw the phrase in a Facebook post this morning which is why I'm writing about it.

When we use that phrase we also know that other people know that we are most often talking about ourselves. We are not *really* revealing that the words are about us...attempting to hide behind the veneer of anonymity. It's all in good fun.

However, we must realize that we all need a consistent exposure to the truth of how we live and who we are. This is what we get when we expose ourselves to the word of God. In the letter to the Hebrews we read these words in chapter 4, verses 12-13: *12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

We desperately need the word of God to function in our lives this way, to reveal the thoughts and intents of our hearts and minds. The word of God is like a scalpel that penetrates and ultimately leads to healing. When we are "asking for a friend" we might not want to actually change our behavior but when we expose ourselves daily to God's word, we should be willing to respond to the correction when the Spirit brings it to us.

Perhaps we can think of "asking our Friend", our friend, Jesus as an alternative to "asking for a friend". It's a little more beneficial, though I still think the phrase "asking for a friend" is fun!

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



Everyone lives to please somebody. Most people live to please themselves.... Pleasing God ought to be the major motive of the Christian life.

Warren Wiersbe



The Children's Ministry team is proud to offer some virtual options for you and your families.

Pre-K: A Preschool Storytime will be uploaded by Saturday of each week. A link to the story time video on Vimeo will be sent to you and will also be available on Facebook.

A resource is also offered that corresponds with the story. If you are interested in receiving these resources (which will be delivered on a monthly basis) email or call Donita or contact the church office for this resource.

K- 5th grade: Zoom Bible Club Saturday @ 10:00 am a zoom link will be emailed to you. If you are not receiving this link and would like it, please contact Donita or the church office.

Not interested in Zoom? Still want to stay connected? We are offering a resource for K-5th as well. Just reach out and we would love to get you connected with the resource.

~We will continue these online options for the foreseeable future. ~

Junior Worship: We are offering all children up to 5th grade to come back to the Sunroom for a bible lesson and play during the worship service.

Sunday School: Starting back Sunday, January 17. We will have a Pre-K, K-1st, and a 2nd – 5th grade classes.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Angela Zimmerman,
for Children's Ministry Team



If every Christian would tithe, the church would begin to make an impact on the world that would change it.

R.T. Kendall



Any 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? Do you have a dead mower? Tools that can no longer be used? 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.

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



There were 62 pints of blood donated at the Red Cross blood drive on January 5th here at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.



Online giving to Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren is available at <https://get.tithe.ly>

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2021



April 1 – Love Feast

April 4 – EASTER

April 11 - 14 – Spiritual Life Services

May 2 – Spring Church Council Meeting

June 16 - Summer Kid Connection Begins

July 10 – 16 - Westernport Mission Trip

August 3 – 6 - Musical Day Camp

October 3 – Love Feast

October 29 & 30 - Children's Retreat

November 7 – Fall Church Council Meeting

November 27 – Kettle Cook



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
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

November & December Offerings Summary

General Fund	\$72,904.92	
YTD Offerings		\$434,616.45

Other Deposits

Ambit	24.00
Weis/Wenger/Scrip Cards	9,755.00
Children's SS Mission	28.61
Playground	2,058.11
OCC	1,127.00
Recycling	1,848.06
CMT	1,174.50
Sam's Club reimbursement	80.00
YMT	159.40
Brethren Mutual Aid Share Fund	500.00
Debt Service	1,000.00
Gingerbread House Donations	111.00
Youth Soda Fund	52.89
Kettle Cook	3,424.91
Community Aid	220.00
Memorial Fund	80.00
Cemetery Fund	900.00
Building Fund	170.00
Land Rent	250.00
Amazon Smile	52.29
Christmas Eve Offering FAAST	3,977.00