

The amplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

April 2021
Volume 37 No. 3



LOVE FEAST

The Spiritual Life Ministry Team will be hosting **Love Feast** on **Thursday evening, April 1 at 7 pm**. Love Feast is a **special time of worship** for our church family. We will keep the same modifications to our service that were in place in fall 2020. Below is a description of these changes so you can be aware of them before arriving to participate.

Seating: We will use our round tables with six chairs at each table. The tables will be spaced throughout the Main Gathering area. You are encouraged to sit with family and others that you would be comfortable eating with as if you were in a restaurant.

Feet Washing: Feet washing stations will be socially distanced. As always, we will offer hand washing. A regular part of the feet washing is a hug at the end. We encourage you to ask your partner if a hug would be welcomed before hugging.

Meal: The soup and beef will be served in individual plastic bowls and we will use plastic table service. Grapes and a slice of bread will be served on individual plates, wrapped in Saran wrap. We will provide bottled water or you can bring your own.

Communion: Communion will be placed on separate tables similar to what we've been doing on Sunday mornings.

You are requested to wear masks consistent with our current practice for Sunday morning worship. People are not expected to wear masks during the mealtime.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Dan Manbeck

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. There will be someone available during these times to assist you as well.



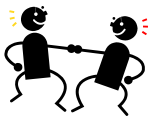
Any questions, please feel free to contact me or the church office.

Vicki Bastian
Mission Ministry Team



The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of Kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Phil Wickham



Outside Our Walls

Pastor Eric mentioned in a recent sermon that he wanted to provide more opportunities for us to share our financial resources in a sacrificial way. The Mission Ministry Team would like to suggest a way that we can help several mission efforts, both locally and around the world.

Many of our church family will be receiving stimulus checks from the government. These funds have been very helpful to those who have been financially devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic; likely including some in our congregation. We know that some of you have already made decisions about how to use the stimulus money you will receive, either for your own needs or to meet the needs of others. We are providing this additional opportunity to give all or a portion of the money you will receive to meet important needs “outside the walls” of our congregation. We are establishing a goal of \$100,000 for this short term **Mission Stimulus Fund**.

We have identified a few possible projects for these funds. We can assist the Delmas congregation in Haiti which has not been able to meet together in a church building since a devastating earthquake in 2010. We can help congregations in Rwanda make necessary government mandated COVID related alternations to their church buildings so they can meet again. We can help purchase a school bus to transport children to their school in Nigeria so they do not have to walk long distances to school, risking abduction by Boko Haram or other terrorist groups. We also will look to identify mission projects in our local area such as InterVarsity’s ministry on the campuses of Bucknell and Susquehanna. We will identify projects both here and abroad that can utilize the resources we give to make a real difference. All of the projects we would support in other countries will be through the Church of the Brethren. These projects have been properly vetted and there is financial accountability in place.

When we receive the money, we will identify the projects we can support, get Ministries Coordinating Team approval of each project and then present the projects for congregational approval at our May Church Council Meeting. We are excited to share what the Lord can do with these resources and to get your valuable input on how the money is allocated. We will also be able to share updates from those who are being helped as they put our offering to good use.

Can we as a congregation, out of our abundance, help our brothers and sisters in our area and around the world? This is a time when our church can focus on God’s greater mission outside our walls. If you choose to donate toward this effort please designate your contribution to the **“Mission Stimulus Fund”**. We will start receiving money into this fund on March 21st and expect that the effort will conclude on April 11th. Of course, if you do not receive your stimulus check until after April 11th but would still like to participate, you can do so, up to the end of April. If you have any questions or comments please contact one of the pastors or our Mission Ministry Team leader, Vicki Bastian.

¹⁰Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. ¹²For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, ¹³while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, ¹⁴and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:10-15.

Mission Ministry Team



Children's Ministry Team CHALLENGES YOU!

The Resurrection Egg Story Box

We want to give you an opportunity to build relationships and be a witness to others. How? You may be asking. With a resource we are preparing.

The Resurrection Egg Story Boxes have 12 eggs, each with a piece of candy and a story piece that goes with a story card also included in the box. We are asking that you reserve as many packages as you would like to deliver to the families of your choosing. They will be ready on Palm Sunday March 28th for you to pick up and deliver. Please call Cheryl at the church office (570) 966-1183 or email churchoffice@bvcob.com

Easter Sunday we will hold a special event from 8:30 – 10:30 am in the Sonroom. We hope your children will join us for special games, craft, and a Bible lesson.

Weekly options for worship

- ❖ **Pre -K: A Preschool** Storytime will be uploaded by Saturday of each week.
- ❖ **K- 5th grade:** Zoom Bible Club Saturday @ 10:00 am, a zoom link will be emailed to you.

In-Person:

- ❖ **Junior Worship:** We are offering all children up to 5th grade to come back to the Sonroom for a Bible lesson and play during the worship service.
- ❖ **Sunday School:** We have a Pre-K, K-1st, and a 2nd – 5th grade classes available.

Angela Zimmerman, for Children's Ministry Team



The Need is Still Great!



The last year has been very difficult for everyone, including the Children's Aid Society (CAS) located in the Southern PA District Church of the Brethren. The CAS and its staff are committed to helping children and their families build stronger, healthier lives through the services they offer.

The CAS still has children and staff in their facility and once again we ask for your help. Each year we support their services with a paper goods drive. This year the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren will set aside the 16th and 23rd of **May** to assist in obtaining **paper towels, Kleenex, wipes, toilet paper, paper plates, napkins and diapers.**

Will you consider being a part of our effort to help? We will have more information in the coming weeks. Please pray about your part in this effort to help the children by purchasing an item when you head to the store. It will be as simple as dropping the item inside the doors as you enter church on May 16th and May 23rd.

Leni Springfield
for Mission Ministry Team



Paying It Down

At the November Church Council meeting the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) and Finance Ministry Team were tasked to offer the means of giving to directly help **retire the building debt.**

The Finance Ministry Team recommended and MCT approved that money can be designated to the building debt by labeling your donations as **"Debt Service"**. These funds will go directly to debt retirement.

Jake Myer, Treasurer



Camp Eder Corner

Don't forget to check out summer camping at Camp Eder! Camps are for Elementary children through, and including High School youth. Register online at campeder.org. If you are a regular attender here at Buffalo Valley COB, \$250 of your tuition will be paid by the church! There are also scholarships.

Week #1 June 20 - 25

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12) \$335

2021 Senior High Camp will be a week to remember! You will spend your days at camp meeting new friends, playing crazy games, exploring camp's 400+ acres and making memories that will last a life time. Senior high camp is all about discovering more about God and yourself while being supported by great counselors and friends.

Junior High (Grades 7 - 8) \$335

Join us for a week of fun! Jr. High Camp is a week of excitement and discovery as campers meet new friends, climb the climbing wall and engage in classic camp activities with a new twist of fun.

Rock climbing (Grades 7 - 12) \$360

Have you ever wondered what it's like to climb real rock? At Outdoor Rock Climbing Adventure campers will learn basic climbing and safety skills at camp and then explore local climbing spots. Learn to rappel, belay, and how to safely set up a top roping system for outdoor climbing. This week will culminate with a one night camping trip and climbing adventure. Don't miss this!

This camp is physically challenging

Shining Stars (Ages 15+) \$335

Shining Stars camp (formally known as Bumblebee Camp) is for campers with special needs ages 15+. This time at camp will focus on having fun through doing classic Camp Eder activities and making memories while doing so. Campers will stay in Tree of Peace Lodge and attend activities at their own pace. (Contact camp office for more information)

Any questions, contact Fay Richard at 570-716-2442.

Fay A. Richard, BVCOB Camp Rep



From February 14 - 20 Loretta Aurand, Ashley Wetzel, Kurt Ilgen, Kornelius Reimer, Benjamin Reimer, Clair Kline, and Eric Reamer traveled to Chattanooga, TN through Samaritan's Purse to help rebuild houses destroyed by EF-3 Tornadoes on Easter Sunday 2020. Our group worked at three different job sites. The work consisted of painting, spackling, building cabinets, cleaning, and laying trim.

The highlight of the week was seeing a house dedication. Some of the things that Samaritan's Purse gave the homeowner included a Billy Graham training Bible signed by all the staff, a notebook with Bible verses and encouraging words written by all the volunteers, PAID IN FULL sign, and the keys to the homeowner's house. What a rewarding sight it was to be able to see the homeowner with tears of joy to finally be able to move back into his house and also to be able to hear the homeowner share about his relationship with Christ.

We are in the process of planning a mission trip for next year. You do not have to be a skilled carpenter to participate in these trips. The most important thing about all mission trips is that our purpose is to share the gospel.

God Bless,
Ashley Wetzel



God blessed us to bless others. It's not about feeling bad about everything you have, but using what you have to bless others.

Using your time and can be a wonderful and selfless way to serve the needs of others.

BVCOB Youth:

PIT

(Youth striving to be more **P**assionate about,
Intimate with, **T**ransformed by Christ)

"How to make your Ice Cream last forever:"

Eat your Ice Cream - enjoy it for 5 minutes.

Freeze your Ice Cream - savor it very slowly - for maybe 5 days.

(Or let it get freezer burnt and be disappointed after 5 weeks.)

Invite someone to eat the ice cream with you.

Get to know what ice cream they really like, and the memories associated with that ice cream. Let that lead to deeper conversation and relationship.

Enjoy a friend forever.

How far can we stretch this metaphor?

Can we make our savings, our houses, our words, even our social media posts last forever?

We can use any of these just for ourselves - right now.

Maybe use them carefully and make them last a while longer (our houses - maybe our entire earthly life, good words will be remembered by some for a long time).

But what if we viewed each of these temporary things as ways to build relationships to draw people along with us, as we follow Jesus? We could enjoy the benefits of our words, houses, and money - forever.

Peace,
Pastor K



Jesus didn't die so that we would come to
church

He died so that we would become the
Church!!



Following God's Financial Plan

The Finance Ministry Team (FMT) would love to have you, the congregation, join us in personal, reflective, daily prayer around the recent sermon on "Following the Spirit's Leading". Everything that we have is **of God, and for God**. However, we can easily forget that fact when it comes to money, no matter how much or little we have.

As Pastor Eric mentioned, you may come up with more questions than answers as you pray about and reflect on how you are using your financial resources. Remember the importance of community input! The FMT would love to give advice on any questions or ideas you may have.

To help get you started - If you typically get breakfast and coffee from a large retail establishment, consider brewing your own and allowing some extra time to make breakfast at home. That can add up to thousands in savings per year!

Thanks!

Elaina Richard



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 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



What Was Lazarus Thinking?

Today I was reading chapters 11-12 in the gospel of John and I was struck by the words of John in chapter 12, verses 1-2: *"Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him."*

This is the Lazarus that Jesus raised from the dead which is recorded in chapter 11. John writes so matter-of-factly that "Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him". I wonder what Lazarus was thinking? What does a person think who was dead and is now alive...eating food and spending time with family and friends when he was dead just a few days ago?

When Lazarus was raised, John tells us that this produced two reactions. Some people worshiped Jesus. Others determined to kill Jesus. John also tells us that people had decided to kill Jesus. We don't have any further reference to Lazarus in the Bible. There are some conflicting accounts of what happened to Lazarus after the timeline of the New Testament. We don't really know what happened.

I began to ask myself, "What would I have thought if I was Lazarus?" To some he was a celebrity. To others he was an enemy. We don't know what happened. Did Lazarus become an avid follower of Jesus, going from village to village telling others about Jesus after the resurrection of Jesus? Did Lazarus fade into the background? I think we've all known people who have responded in different ways to the activity of Jesus. I've known some who have had God step into their lives in a special way and those people have gone on to do important things. I've also known others who have had little response to God's incredible activity.

I hope that each of us is excited to follow Jesus. I know that none of us have been brought from physical death to life but many reading this have been brought from spiritual death to life. Should that not move us to great activity and fervor? I think it should. Though we don't know what Lazarus did, I exhort each of us to live our physical lives in a passionate way of following Jesus as He has changed our spiritual lives. There is a saying

that says, "Dead men tell no tales"....but "Spiritually alive men and women have a lot of tales to tell". Let's tell those tales!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



You will not worry about what you deserve when you understand your purpose to serve!

Pastor Eric



What is a Ga Ga Pit?

Hello from the Building and Grounds Ministry Team. As you may have noticed the playground is almost completed. The Ga Ga pit should be completed by the time you read this article. (Ask a youth if you don't know what a Ga Ga pit is.) A basketball post and backstop will be added soon. There will be some additional things added on the east end for younger children.

As spring gets closer we will be leveling the stone from the winter snow plowing. The parking lot will also be relined. We can always use volunteers to help with these projects.

Bill Baker, Building & Grounds Ministry Team



April Youth & Young Adult Activities:

We continue a revised schedule for Youth activities. Young Adults are meeting individually in small groups - if you are interested, contact Pastor K.

Youth Sunday school - 10:30 am in the PIT
with Eric Kauffman and Terry Ruhl.

Youth Sunday Afternoons
(Theme: *Building Relationships*)

April 4 - EASTER - No Youth – Family

April 11 - Escape Room
meet at Church, travel together (1 -4 pm)

April 18 - LL: Spiritual Health Resources
(4 – 6 pm @ Church)

April 25 – YaYA
(Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Meeting)

Peace,
Pastor K

Caught in the “Cross” Fire & then the Supremacy of Jesus

Starting March 21st we will have a three week Easter series titled, “Caught in the “Cross” Fire”. The cross of Jesus Christ caused a lot of strife and struggle. Of course, the cross was the instrument of death for Jesus Christ. We look upon the cross today as an instrument of life but in the time of Jesus the cross was only an instrument of death. No one had a cross hanging on their wall or a pendant around his/her neck.

The reality of the cross had some ramifications for those close to Jesus. What we will do is take a look at three different men who had to react to the reality of the cross of Jesus Christ. On March 21st we will take a look at Peter, specifically his denial of Jesus. On March 28th we will focus on Pilate and his interaction with Jesus during the trial of Jesus. Then on Easter Sunday, April 4th, we will take a look at doubting Thomas and his reaction to the cross of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus.

Then on April 11th, we will begin a series on the book of Hebrews. We will take about 12 weeks to look at how Hebrews exalts the person of Jesus Christ but I'll talk more about that next month.

As always, there will be conversation on our BVCOB Sermon Group Facebook page. We welcome your engagement there. Your comments and questions are always appreciated.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



For online giving to BVCOB,
go to bvcob.com and click on the green box
“Set Up/Manage Online Giving”.

Remember a New Purchase Process



The pandemic has affected the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) in many ways including our **gift card program**. In 2020 we sold about \$70,000 less in gift cards which resulted in more than \$4,000 less in proceeds for our building debt reduction. As a result, we are making some changes to make it easier for you to order and use the gift cards.

The **monthly online order** which gives you access to 100's of businesses will start again the first Tuesday of every month. Gift cards ordered online by Tuesday of that week will be available on Sunday as has been past practice. February orders are due by noon on Tuesday February 2nd.

In addition, each week there will be an email containing a link to a **new simple online order form** that allows members to select from our usual stocked gift cards (Wengers, Weis, Walmart, Sheetz, CVS) that can be picked up on Sunday or arrangements made for local delivery. This process means that your cards will be ready for payment when you arrive on Sunday morning. Cards not picked up on Sunday will be held for following week or delivered if prearranged.

On weeks when online scrip card orders are processed through Shop with Script, the online orders will be combined with stock orders for easy distribution.

The monthly online link remains **<https://www.shopwithscrip.com/index.aspx>**.

If you have not signed up, you simply set up a **family account** using the link above and then under "Manage nonprofits:" use **Enrollment Code:** 6916BB3729429 to add BVCOB so the church gets its contribution. Feel free to share this information with friends and family.

If you don't want to set up an account but want to order, let me know what you want, and I will place the order for you.

Steve Richard

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2021



May 2 – Spring Church Council Meeting

June 16 - Summer Kid Connection Begins

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

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



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**.



Man to little boy - "If you can tell me something that God can do, I'll give you a shiny red apple."

"Sir, if you can name something that God cannot do, I'll give you a whole box!"

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46 Brethren Church Rd
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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