

LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION



On Sunday, **October 2nd** at **6 pm** we will be sharing in a time of **Love Feast** here at the church. If you have any questions or are interested in knowing more please contact one of the pastors or deacons for more information.

Blessings,

Linda Buttorff

on behalf of Spiritual Life Ministry Team

Your Time to Shine...or at Least Share

We are looking for volunteers to share a 3 - 5 minute testimony of God's activity in their lives as part of our Sunday morning worship service. You can share something related to a recent sermon, a song, something you've heard or something you've read from the Bible. You are welcome to share it in the service you attend or you can be a part of both services on a Sunday morning.

We really want to provide an opportunity for our church community to be exhorted and encouraged by what God is doing in all of our lives. We plan to start this on September 25th as we begin our new sermon series, "Love Your Church".

Would you consider being a part of this? If you like, we can coach you through it or we can put you on the schedule. Please reach out to any member of the pastoral team and we will put you on the schedule.



God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Learn and Grow

It's not too late to join one of our **Fall Adult Sunday School classes!**

Brian and Donita Keister are leading a parenting class that focuses on how to parent children through the challenging dilemmas that are raised in our complex cultures.

Steve White is facilitating a class on Galatians that will look at what Paul's letter meant for the Galatians, and also what it means for the daily lives of Christians today.

Gods & Kings is a book-club style class where participants are reading a book based on the lives of Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah who face difficult decisions about where to place their trust during historically uncertain times.

Jonna Zimmerman and Doug Frank will lead a class where participants can dig deeper into the Sunday sermons while walking and talking with each other.

Finally, there is another opportunity to participate in Pastor Eric's Discipleship (DISC) class and learn more about how to be a disciple of Jesus.

Even if you missed the first class or two, please feel free to join one of these opportunities for you to get to know fellow church members and grow as a community together.

Stacy Reitenbach
and the Adult Sunday School Team



Don't Wait Share Your Dates!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2022 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team has **practices, events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar. Please continue to do so as new dates arise or as changes are made throughout the year.)

A **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** needs to be completed for **every church activity** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times, and rooms to be used. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again, don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facility Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**.

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2023 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2022. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2023 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2022.



TRUSTING HIM

Don't be anxious or self-conscious about things you can't change about yourself. Let Jesus change the things that need changing and trust Him with the rest!

David Jeremiah



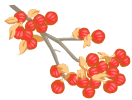
Discernment is not a matter of simply telling the difference between right and wrong; rather it is telling the difference between right and almost right.

Charles H. Spurgeon

Please Feed the Bin!



This year we have not been receiving the generous amount of donations as we had previously. The money in return has been quite low. As you prepare your clothes for fall and winter, please bring any clothing or shoes that you no longer want in a bag or bags and "Feed 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.



Grieving?

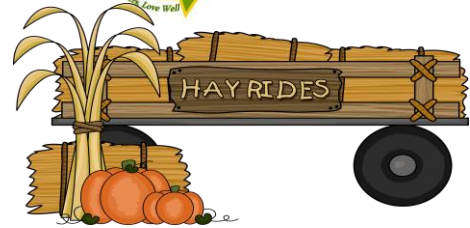
Have you lost someone who was very close to you? Are you feeling stuck after the death of a loved one? Perhaps you feel overwhelmed with grief that seems to never end.

Griefshare may be able to help you move forward with your life. **Griefshare** is a **support group** that helps us understand grief and how it impacts us and how to begin to move forward in life. It is a **safe place** where someone can share very personal and deep feelings in the confidence and support of others and find that you are **not alone in grief**. No one is ever forced to talk or embarrassed for what you may share.

The format for the evening consists of sharing a light meal together, a time of open sharing and watching a video about some aspect of grief with the goal of finding healing for our life. Our next Griefshare **began September 6** at 6:30 pm in the Sonroom and runs for thirteen weeks.

If you know someone that would benefit from Griefshare please invite them to attend or perhaps volunteer to come with that person. This is an opportunity to bless someone who may be grieving silently and has never come to terms with their situation.

Jim Brubaker



Family Hayride Night

September 23rd 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Bring a friend & invite your neighbor to the event. The activities will be craft, scavenger hunt, inflatables and food will be provided. **Activities will be available until 8:30.** However, the last hayride will leave the church by 8 pm.

Upcoming events:

Friday Fun Nights begin November 4th

Gingerbread Night on December 2nd

Sunday Mornings

The **new Sunday school quarter** has begun. Sunday school classes are:

Preschool 2's with Carol Pursel

Preschool 3 - 5's Teresa Chambers

K-1 grade with Jeff Bastian and Lori Hunsberger

2 - 5th grade with Angela Zimmerman and Clint Stetler.

Nursery is also available to infant - 2 years old. We look forward to a new year of growing in faith together.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and savior Jesus Christ" ~2 Peter 2:18

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team



Advent Devotional

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart.”

(Hebrews 4:12, NET)

For Lent this year our church (you) shared devotions and thoughts around scripture each day leading us into a shared celebration at Easter. Many found this a valuable experience - not only in writing, but in reading and sharing thoughts with each other. We will be preparing to do this for Advent, starting November 27; they will run the 5 weeks leading up to Christmas, and the 12 days after. I will be asking for contributors again soon, so I wanted to give a heads up in what to prepare for.

The reason we do this is because we believe the verse from Hebrews above. The word of God is still living and working in us. It helps to have living eyes read it, and listen to the living spirit speak new things to our hearts; it can make the static words come together into a Spirit-filled message. We need each other.... But this can be daunting. As a refresher, here are a few ideas to direct us in reading, contemplating, and writing about Scripture for others.

Prepare: Set aside 15-60 minutes of uninterrupted time when you are fairly alert.

Pray: Formally invite the Holy Spirit to join you in reading, and guiding you

1) **Read:** Read the passages for the day. Pay attention to what sticks out to you. Trust the Holy Spirit to direct your thoughts.

Re-read the passage that "grabs you."

2) **Reflect:** Visualize what is being said/narrated. What feelings does it bring up? Read for each character/points of view - how does this passage look for them? What verbs are used? What action is called for? What word/phrase stands out to you? (that you like/or troubles you?) Spend time with that word - what does it mean/say to you? (Don't fret about 'distractions,' let them "flow" through, mentioning them to God.

3) **Response:** Simply and honestly respond to God. What do you want to say to God in return/question? What are you bringing to reading this passage: stress, peace, joy, frustration – be honest, nobody but God is reading this...

4) **Contemplation:** Enjoy the time you have spent with God. Thank God for listening, for being with you, for speaking to you... What is God affirming in you? Asking you to do/work on? Write out a sentence, paragraph, poem, song, etc. from your time with God.

This is a way to spend time and hear from God on a personal level. Another step is to share it with others - we can then see and experience God through each other.

Articulate/Share (Options:)

What stood out to you? What actions do you see called for? What questions come to mind? (Note: the goal is not to provide answers, but inspire thoughts and reflection)

Here are some ideas for how to share for the Advent Reflections:

Options:

- 1) Reflect on how the 2-4 passages tie together.
- 2) Pick one passage and share some questions and thoughts that it inspires in relation to Christ's life, death, and resurrection.
- 3) Focus on 1 word / phrase / image that sticks out;
- 4) Share a song / art that comes to mind from the passage, how that encourages or challenges you (give credit to authors).
- 5) Share an original poem or story that the passage inspires. (Anything that reflects on something in the passage, submitted to the Holy Spirit, and is meant to help others reflect will be a blessing...).

I will be following the Liturgical Calendar and sharing daily thoughts, questions, and prayers on BVCOB's FB page, to help us prepare for Advent. I will be asking for you to contribute some writings shortly. I look forward to hearing from you'all.

Peace, Pastor K



BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

PIT "Together passionately pursue
& demonstrate the transforming life of Christ."

October Youth & Young Adult Activities:

We aim to meet the first Thursday or Friday of each month, over Wings, a movie, or other common interests. Stay tuned for specifics.

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 me @ 570-369-0533.

Fall Activity Schedule:

- September
 - 18 – PIT *Lessons of The Way*
 - 25 – PIT, *Lessons of The Way*
- October
 - 2 – YaYAMT Meeting
 - 9 - Disc Golf
@ Camp Mt. Luther, 2:30 -5:30 pm
 - 16 – Leaf Raking?
 - 23 – PIT, *Lessons of The Way*
 - 30 – YaYAMT Meeting

Pastor K



We cannot Withhold It

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors.*
Matthew 6:12

When we forgive someone who hurts us, it not only follows Christ's example, but it also brings healing to our own souls. The Lord alone can give us forgiving hearts, and when H does, we cannot withhold forgiveness.

David Jeremiah



Operation Christmas Child

Have you noticed the OCC chart is slowly turning more green than red? So far, we have finished collecting the following items: jump ropes, bandanas, matchbox cars, sewing needles, buttons, sewing thread, safety pins, measuring tape, and the black pens. But we still have a long way to go to filling all 378 boxes.

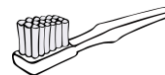
As the season is slowly changing and we get closer to our final collection date of November 6, the following donation items are needed the most: nail clippers, hairbrushes, combs, toothbrushes, bars of soap, wash cloths, coloring books for both adults and children, pencil pouches, and colored pencils. Please refer to www.bvcob.com/occ for an even more detailed list.

As always, please contact Cowell Gemberling 570-716-1424 with your purchased items and the count. Then before placing your items in the bin in the main gathering area, please mark it "counted" and your name on the bag. This has been very helpful in keeping a more accurate account of what we have collected so far.



FINAL COLLECTION DATE for
INDIVIDUAL ITEMS and FAMILY BOXES
is **NOVEMBER 6**

Cowell Gemberling for Mission Ministry Team



From Your Lead Pastor,



Why Do We Rush to Judgment?

You may have heard about a black volleyball player from Duke University claiming that a fan at a volleyball game played at Brigham Young University (BYU) was shouting racial slurs at her throughout most of the match. Her claim was published on almost every media site and sports site in the US. The fan who was identified by the Duke officials was banned from attending further BYU games (though it was discovered he was not a BYU student after all). The basketball coach at the University of South Carolina cancelled two years of basketball games with BYU over the incident. BYU has been the subject of much media scorn and the Duke player widely praised for how she handled the matter. A lot of judgment has been passed by many people...but there's a problem...

Extensive video review and witness interviews by BYU authorities have been unable to find any evidence of this man uttering racial slurs at all, not even one time, let alone repeatedly throughout the match. No student near this person heard anything. Despite the presence of what must have been dozens if not hundreds of cell phones nearby, not one person has come forward with any video evidence of the fan. No student or official reported the fan during the game. There is just no evidence. Does that mean he didn't say those things? Not necessarily. But what does something like this teach us?

This incident may be an example of a rush to judgment. Media pundits and news sources run with the accusation without any proof or evidence to substantiate the claims. It seems strange that a woman would lie about this. I doubt she would. But maybe she misheard something? I don't know. I would assume that more will come out around this. The man who allegedly uttered the racial slurs will likely be identified by name and he will tell his side of the story; but for many, much damage has already been done. BYU's reputation has been sullied. Some might even say, "It doesn't matter if the man actually said it...we all know that racism exists and even if he didn't say it, someone else might have said it or thought it". But the truth really does matter.

God's word reminds us of how important it is to tell the truth. It is far better to be right about any news that we share than it is to be first about any news that we share. One of the 10 commandments

warns us not to bear false witness against our neighbor. This commandment is commonly referred to as "Thou shalt not lie", however, the actual command is not to lie about another person. These kinds of lies are often very damaging and have a particular appeal to our sinful nature. I think we rush to judgment because we value being able to pass that judgment on our own. It feels good to our flesh to do that; but it doesn't follow the pattern of God for His followers. He says, "Vengeance is mine"...I think we should follow that advice.

I exhort you to speak truth always and when you hear something about someone else, be very careful about repeating it or judging that person about which you hear. In time the truth will usually come out. Wouldn't it be better for all of us if "rightness" was prioritized over "immediacy"? As you live in this broken world, I exhort you to be salt and light. Speak the truth in love. You'll be better for it and your witness in this world will be also.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

CAMP EDER Fall Festival

It's that time of year again!



Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren sent over a dozen campers this summer from BVCOB.

Let's continue to show our support of Camp Eder, our church camp, by heading there again on **Saturday, October 15**.

Volunteers are needed or just go for the fun!

Hayrides
Silent Auction
Yard Sale and Craft Vendors 10 am – 3 pm
Kids Activities
Live Auction starts at 10:30 am
Pork meals served 11 am – 3 pm
Apple butter sale

If you'd like more information on how to sponsor some food or if you'd like to set up your yard sale or craft items, let me know!

Fay Richard, Camp Eder Rep for BVCOB
570-716-2442

Do You "Love Your Church"?

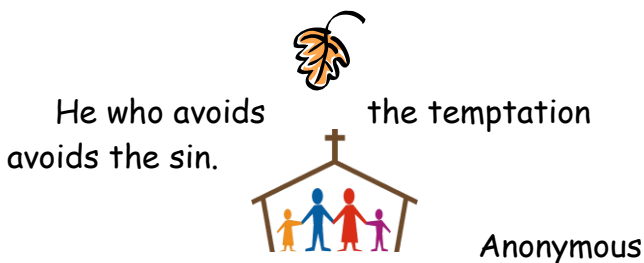
On September 25th we will begin a new series of messages titled, "Love Your Church". This series is based on a book, "Love Your Church: 8 Great Things About Being a Church Member".

Every once in a while, the pastoral team comes across a book that helps us with a sermon series. This book captures many of the themes that the pastoral team considers to be important to our church family. We'll follow the following schedule

September 25: Belonging
October 2: Welcoming
October 9: Caring
October 16: Gathering
October 23: Serving
October 30: Honoring
November 6: Witnessing
November 13: Sending
November 20: Thanking

Of course, though the book provides a skeleton, the meat of the sermons will come from God's Word. Each sermon will end with some suggested action steps for us to consider. These steps come from the book.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Wednesdays
October 5 – November 23

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm
Buffet-Style Meal
\$4/person \$12/family



Camp Eder Corner

Here's some feedback from a few more of our church family campers:

Evan Ulrich: My favorite part was hiking the trail up to vespers. I enjoyed the vesper services where we sang songs and had lessons about God. I really liked my counselors and how willing they were to do the activities with us.

Ethan Hoover: I liked playing gaga ball at camp.

Miriam Hoover: I liked floating down the river. She added that when she wasn't getting along with a friend, they figured things out. (Camp is a place to work on friendships.)

Nic Hoover (Ethan and Miriam's Mom) shared that she and Jason always appreciate hearing the stories that the kids come home with and the new friends that they make!

Myles Mast: I really enjoyed playing gaga ball at camp and making new friends. I really loved seeing my old counselor from last year!

Addie Kline: I enjoyed Chapel, the watermelon hunt, the pool and making new friends.

All had memorable experiences with worship, swimming, hiking, friends and campfires.

Thanks for your support!

Fay Richard, Camp Eder Rep for BVCOB



Did you buy your gift cards?



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

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022



- October 22 – Women's Brunch
- November 4 – Friday Fun Night begins
- November 6 – Church Council Meeting
- November 26 – Kettle Cook
- November 30 – Women's Christmas Gathering
- December 11 – Christmas Caroling
- 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

The Lamplighter

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

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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