

## November 6<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting

This year's Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) Fall Church Council meeting includes some important church items in addition to the usual reports.

The proposed church budget is actually reduced in total dollars, but includes some significant shifting of dollars and attempts to make our budget more realistic. Ministry teams were challenged to focus on the total \$\$\$ needs of the team and to not budget the max they might need in each line item as most teams never spend all the \$\$\$ budgeted.

In addition there have been significant changes in the salary scales approved by the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference that have forced some significant restructuring of our pastoral salaries. Financially we were unable to totally adopt all the changes including the 8% cost of living adjustment. However the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) working with the pastors have a plan put together and all the details will be explained at the meeting.

MCT has also committed to look at budget versus expenses prior to our spring congregational meeting and will propose budget revisions, if appropriate.

Other items on the agenda include a proposal to allow Pastor Reamer to work some weeks remotely from Florida and the establishment of the Malaysian Mission fund. The Malaysian Mission fund recognizes BVCOB as the sending church and will hold and control all tax deductible donations from church members or others. The fund will submit \$1200 a month, if available, to the designated Missionary which will be Ashley Wetzel while she serves.

Join us for a potluck lunch after the second service and the meeting will start at 1 pm.



Steve Buttorff & Steve Richard

## Your Time to Shine...or at Least Share

On September 25<sup>th</sup> we started having volunteers from the congregation share a little bit about God's activity in their lives each Sunday. We'd like to continue this through the month of November.

We are asking you to share a 3-5 minute testimony of God's activity in your life 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 don't have anyone on the schedule for November right now so if you're interested, please reach out to any member of the pastoral team and we will put you on the schedule.



God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Operation Christmas Child

On behalf of the Mission Ministry Team, we'd like to express our gratitude to all of you who participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project this year. We are able to package and ship off close to 400 filled boxes.

Be in continued prayer that the boxes reach their exact destination and land in the hands of children who are ready to learn about Jesus.

THANK YOU!

Cowell Gemberling for Mission Ministry Team



## November 1 Is Almost Here!

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](http://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 were to 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.



The potential we have for bringing glory to God is unlimited and eternal!! Think about that and all the ways that we can bring glory to our wonderful, powerful and mighty God and Father!

## Teaching our Children (& Ourselves)

For those of you who don't know me well, teaching Godly financial principals to my children is a high priority. I want them to understand financial stewardship, the importance of being intentional and having a plan.

We decided to give our children a weekly allowance – if they clean up after themselves, help with chores and overall display good behavior for the week. They can earn \$2.50 week. I looked up some ideas online and found an easy project using mason jars that we had laying around. We used my label maker to put the following descriptions on each of the 3 jars:

Tithe 10%, Save 30% and Spend 60%

They may have glazed over my lecture about how technically it's all God's money and that we are merely stewards of His money. How we always put the first 10% in the tithe jar and then put the remaining amounts in the other two. We talked about the allowance and how they earn it and then we practiced doing the math to put the correct amount in each jar – which they absolutely loved doing. Not only do they split their allowance, but any other money they get such as birthday money, tooth fairy or money earned for extra chores.

This small project has led to meaningful conversations about what's important to them; immediate gratification, saving for a larger purchase and how quickly small things can add up.

For example; at the intermediate school you can buy ice cream at lunch for \$1. I let Sophia know if she wanted ice cream she would need to reach into her own allowance for it. She ran to her spend jar every morning and proudly put her \$1 bill in her lanyard to get ice cream that day. After the first week, I decided to have a heart to heart with her to help her understand her choice to spend daily from her jar. When I quantified it for her - helping her to understand her allowance of \$2.50 per week would not support her daily ice cream habit and how quickly the "extra spend" that she had would dwindle with this daily behavior; she decided on her own that maybe once a week or even less would be a better choice, and she concluded on her own that it would be more special to her that way too. Proud moment.

We all come from different backgrounds and of different means, but I want to encourage you to talk to your children about money. Find opportunities

and encourage them to commit to your family's budget or even contribute where they can by "giving something up" or by contributing with their time – helping around the house.

I pray God will richly bless the time you invest in your children.

Heather Buttorff for Finance Ministry Team

## We Continue with "Love Your Church"

We continue with our series of messaged titled "Love Your Church". This series is based on a book, "Love Your Church: 8 Great Things About Being a Church Member". Here is the schedule of topics:

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.

On November 27<sup>th</sup> we will begin an Advent series titled "Carols of Christmas" where each sermon will focus on the text of a popular Christmas carol.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



## Women's Christmas Gathering

November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Join us for an evening of fellowship and light hors d'oeuvres as we learn how to put together a giftable box of cookies. We all have postal workers, teachers, neighbors who would enjoy a box of homemade goodness for Christmas. Come join us! Signups will be out in November.

Sheri Reimer for Women's Ministry

## BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

Pastor



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

### November Youth & Young Adult Activities:

#### Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

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

#### Youth (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

#### Fall Activity Schedule:

- October
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> – Leaf Raking?
  - 30<sup>th</sup> – YaYA
- November
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - Church Council
  - 13<sup>th</sup> - "Murder Mystry"
  - 20<sup>th</sup> - Visiting
  - 27<sup>th</sup> - Lessons of "They Way"

#### Renewed Community

*"These remained faithful to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers... And all who shared the faith owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and distributed the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed." (Hebrews 4:12, NET)*

#### Formation in the Way of Christ :

For many, Christianity has been a source of legalism, judgment, and hurt. It can easily lead to a suspicion of discipline and religion. Reacting against the institution's sickness, we easily find ourselves with few rituals or practices to help us

heal from our own wounds, create new ways of life, and carve out a space where goodness triumphs.

Imagine athletes who suffered under an abusive coach: it will be very difficult to hear anyone urging discipline - suggested diet, exercise, etc.; but without some form of regular exercise, they will not be able to play as a team, perform to their ability or enjoy the sport to its full potential. There must be another way that is good.

After being forced apart in the pandemic, 'community' is making a comeback. "The longing for community is in all of us. We long to love and to be loved. But if community doesn't exist for something beyond us, it will atrophy, suffocate, and die." God's dream for humanity was love and harmony (if we look at the "Garden experience" in Genesis and Revelation). Humanity turned inward toward fear and protecting our self-interests. God, through Israel, prophets, Christ, and even the Church, longs to form a new humanity with distinct practices that offer hope and good news to the world. There are models of people and communities, like St. Francis of Assisi, that can be a model for us not only of what it looks like to follow hard after Jesus but also how we can celebrate the disciplines that have been passed down to us and become the church that we long for.

"Like any culture, we who follow the way of Jesus should have distinct ways of eating and partying, different from the culture of consumption, homogeneity, and hedonism. Our homes, our living rooms, even our parties can become places of solace and hospitality for those with addictions and struggles. But it doesn't happen without intentionality. Dorothy Day said, 'We have to create an environment where it is easier to be good.'"

Our communities should be places where people can detox, whether that be from alcohol, tobacco, gluttony, shopping, or gossip, maybe even self-centeredness and anger. We long for a space that tips us toward goodness rather than away from it, where we can pick up new habits - holy habits - as we are formed into a new creation, transformed by God.

(Inspired by "Common Prayer" by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. October- "St. Francis of Assisi")

Peace,

Pastor K

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



## Could This Be Your “Season”?

I like prayer walks. I find it easier to pray while walking than in any other position. I’ve never fallen asleep while walking and for some reason the movement of my feet seems to keep my mind from wandering as much. One thing I’ve found helpful in extending my prayer time is to pray Scripture back to God. Right now I’m using Psalms in the morning and Colossians in the evening. I had something happen two weeks ago that I thought might be an encouragement to many of you.

Psalm 1 contrasts the ungodly and the faithful through the metaphor of chaff and a firmly planted tree. I was drawn to the words, “that brings forth its fruit in due season” from verse 3, in reference to the tree.

I think that we all go through seasons of life. Adolescence is a season, being a student is a season, marriage, parenting small children, parenting older children, taking care of parents are all seasons. They can overlap but they also come and go in varying intensity. We all are familiar with the metaphor of bearing fruit as it relates to discipleship. Jesus taught in John 15 that a good tree bears good fruit.

As I was thinking about that phrase, I believe God revealed to me that I still had a season of “fruit bearing” in my life. I’m not exactly sure what this means...but I got a little excited about this. I’ve had seasons in my life where I felt like more spiritual fruit was produced than at other times and I am excited to see what God has in store.

Perhaps someone reading this has been a little frustrated with your fruit bearing results in this season of life. If so, perhaps you can be encouraged that other seasons await. Be patient and be faithful. God isn’t finished with you yet.

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 13 to November 20..** More information will be coming soon.



## Friday Fun Nights

**Starting November 4<sup>th</sup>**  
from 6 pm - 8:30 pm

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

Contact Angela Zimmerman or Donita Keister if you are available to help with this event. Even if it is only once a month.

## Gingerbread Night

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sign-ups will be online in November.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” ~ Galatians 6:9

Angela Zimmerman for Children’s Ministry Team

## We Need Your Help to 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. There has been less clothing going in the bin lately, so help us keep the bin fed. 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



## Family Connections Continue Wednesdays

October 5 - November 23

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family

Sign up at the bulletin board in the Main Entry

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022

November 26 – Kettle Cook



November 30 – Women’s Christmas Gathering

December 2 – Gingerbread Night

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](http://www.bvcob.com).



Is there enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian?

**The Lamplighter**

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

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