

Learn & Grow in Sunday School

Winter Quarter (December 2022 – February 2023) Adult Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, December 4th. There is a bit of a theme this quarter with each class focusing on deepening our approach to scripture in different ways.

Karen Arneson is leading a class called **Your Divine Design** that will help you discover ways to serve your unique role in the body of Christ with the gifts God has given you using Bible study, a Chip Ingram video series, and self-reflection.

Steve Buttorff will be facilitating a lively discussion-based class on the book of **Ephesians**.

Search the Scriptures with Vicki Bastian for answers to questions about Christ's return and assurance that the Bible has all of the answers we need.

Pastor Eric will facilitate a class focused on **1 Peter** where participants will engage with the text and learn how to use tools to enhance their understanding of the scripture in this class and future Bible study.

Finally, Zach Showers will lead a class on **How to Read the Bible** responsibly, considering the genre, the author's purpose, and the context in which it was written.

Learn and grow in your understanding of God's word by signing up for one of these classes in the Main Entry.

Stacy Reitenbach

Leadership Changes

Every January we have several positions of leadership that change and we want to inform you of those changes.

Steve Richard will leave the position of Ministries Coordinating Team Leader. He has served in this position for the past 6 years and has done a wonderful job leading the team through some challenging days. Many thanks to Steve for serving in this role. Brian Keister will assume this position beginning in January.

Bill Baker will leave the position of Building & Grounds Ministry Team Leader. Bill has served in this role for over 8 of the last 9 years. He stepped in to fill a vacant position this past term after having served the 6 prior years. We are very thankful for Bill's leadership. Jamie Martin will take over this position in January.

Jake Myer is leaving the position of Treasurer having served for over 7 years. Jake has done a wonderful job in this role and has provided valuable advice and information to the financial side of church operations. Many thanks to Jake for his service. Diane Reigle will take over as Treasurer in January.

The ministry of Buffalo Valley does not work without the many hours of time and energy devoted to leading and serving here. We are thankful for all our volunteers. Please thank these folks who are leaving these leadership positions and pray for those who are stepping into these roles.



God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Congratulations

I would like to recognize that **Pastor Eric Kaufmann** was recently approved for ordination by the Southern PA District Ministry Commission and Board and confirmed for ordination by the congregation in 2022.

In September Pastor Eric Kaufmann was ordained into ministry here at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.

Thank you Eric for the devotion you have made to this body of believers!

Steve Buttorff,
Moderator



Women's Christmas Gathering

November 30th 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 gift able box of cookies. We all have postal workers, teachers, neighbors who would enjoy a box of homemade goodness for Christmas.

Come join us! Signup now at the bulletin board!

Sheri Reimer for Women's Ministry



Bring Cheer to Someone's Day



Do you like to sing Christmas carols while spreading Christmas joy to others? You will have an opportunity on Sunday, **December 11** from **5 -7 pm** to bring a little cheer to others.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the main entry. Please sign up early to determine interest and for planning purposes. The more the merrier!

Holly Lehman, Special Events Coordinator

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



"The Carols of Christmas"

Through the Advent season we will look at four Christmas carols and think together about the message of this carols. Here is the schedule:

Nov. 27: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Dec. 4: Holly & and the Ivy
Dec. 11: What Child Is This
Dec. 18: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Morn

Dec. 25: Christmas Program

On January 1st we will be exhorted to set our minds on things above as we focus on the New Year. Beginning January 8th we will start a 12 week series on main themes through the Old Testament.

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and we are planning to have our normal schedule though Sunday morning will look slightly different than normal. We hope to see you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together on that day.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

Pastor



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

After God's Heart

"After removing him, God raised up David their king. He testified about him: 'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who will accomplish everything I want him to do.'" (NET, Acts 13:22, loosely quoting 1 Samuel 13:14)

David is mentioned 974 times in the Bible (2nd only after Jesus - 1,310 times; he even beats Moses - 803 mentions), according to "The Bible Answer" <https://thebibleanswer.org/persons-name-mentioned-most-in-bible/>). He has also been one of the more troublesome characters I've studied in the Bible. For someone described as "a man after my (God's) heart," he does not live an exemplary life. Lying, cheating, stealing, and treating women casually, appear frequently in his memoir. These are often left out of our teaching about David, as we focus more on his good feats: uniting the 12 tribes, success as king, and writing many beautiful poems / songs that inspire art even today.

When we went to see "David" at Sight & Sound this past August, I was curious how they would portray this controversial character. It was a great show with animals and new special effects, and great songs incorporating the different Psalms that David wrote. And they did show some of the complications of David's mistakes as he got busy being king and didn't continue to spend time with God. It made it very relatable to our lives. What struck me was how they portrayed the phrase, "after God's heart".

I realize I've interpreted that phrase as being 'good/perfect' (like God). The Sight & Sound David more 'sought after God's heart' - for wisdom, and for friendship. There are many other factors in how David's life is recorded, but I am encouraged by this perspective. God has shown this desire to "be with us" and for us in turn to desire God: God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden, marriage is a metaphor for God & Israel, and eventually the Church. To help seal that metaphor into reality He took the drastic step of becoming human under the name "Emmanuel"- "God with us." While on earth, Jesus sought lonely people who were eager for relationship with human and divine. He promised us that if we seek we would find. God wants to be

with us, and wants us to want to be with God. This is discipleship.

This fall and maybe spring, the Youth Sunday School class (playing with the name, "Wisdom Seekers") will be studying the life of David to discover how David "sought after God's heart:" learn from his mistakes, wrestle with the consequences, and hopefully catch glimpses of God's heart. David is a raw, vulnerable character that had a huge impact on Israel and the world. We hope to catch his passion and be remembered as "after God's heart."

Peace,
Pastor K



Giving to Help a Life

The **American Red Cross Blood Drive** will take place on Tuesday, **January 24th** from **1 - 6 p.m.** at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.

You can sign up by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or you can call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment. Blood donations are always needed so please consider participating to make a difference in someone's life.

Holly Lehman, Special Events Coordinator



Oh, Come let us adore Him!!
Christ the Lord!!!

From Your Lead Pastor,



A Thought About John the Baptist

One of the things that I enjoy about the Bible is that when I read a passage that I've read before there are times when I see something that I had not seen before. It doesn't always happen...right now I'm slogging my way through Leviticus and the offerings...looking for some new insight there...But it does happen at times and it happened on Tuesday.

John the Baptist was the forerunner to Jesus. In Luke 1:17 John's father, Zacharias, is told that John will go before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah. John's role was to get people ready for the coming Messiah. We then read how John said these words about Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". In a very real way, John announced the arrival of Jesus onto the prophetic scene.

But that wasn't the first time that John announced the arrival of Jesus. In Luke's gospel we read that Mary has been visited by the angel and told of the conception of Jesus. The angel also tells her about her relative, Elizabeth, who has also been granted a miraculous birth by the power of God in that she is carrying John the Baptist at an age that would normally be beyond the age of bearing a child.

Mary goes to see Elizabeth and we are told in Luke 1:41 that when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby in her womb, John the Baptist, leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. How cool is this? Then Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophecies to Mary about the birth of Jesus. I can't be sure about this, but I don't think that Elizabeth knew anything about Mary's immaculate conception. I think that John "revealed" this to her by leaping in her womb.

In a very real way, John "announced" the arrival of Jesus when Mary walked into the room, even though both John and Jesus were still in their mothers' wombs. John announces the arrival of Jesus two times! I really enjoy when things like this occur to me as I read. I feel blessed to think that God can use His word in my life to encourage me about His activity. I hope you feel the same way.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Camp Eder History (Part 8)

After a few months break, I'd like to pick up our church camp's history from back in 1973. (I'll be continuing to highlight information from [Our Home in the Hills: A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years 1958 - 2008](#). Quotations from that book.)

Joel and Nancy Knepper served as camp managers from 1973-1978. Outdoor Education Programs for local elementary schools and handicapped programs continued. Joel Knepper enjoyed bicycling and introduced a bicycle camp during his leadership. Day bike hikes were established following the logging trails through the camp. Summer camps became well attended.

By 1977, Joel announced "In many ways it is the best of times for the camp!" He continued sharing how more and more people were using the facilities of the camp and becoming involved. Also in 1977, someone had donated a van for use in transporting children to swimming and other events off the camp grounds.

"Camp Eder had grown and its growth placed increasing pressures on the existing facilities."

Schwarzenau, a new lodge, was constructed and campers collected stones from the campground, which were then used to construct a fireplace in the multi-purpose shelter. Campers watched as David Lehigh built the fireplace; "this was a teaching-learning experience for those who watched him work."

"The name for the new lodge commemorated the village in Germany, where the Church of the Brethren had their beginning on an early August morning in 1708. The eight courageous founders were celebrated for their devotion to the Scriptures and for their dedication to the Christian life. Interestingly enough, Schwarzenau was a small community offered to persons seeking refuge from oppression in the 18th century. As we shall see, Camp Eder was also destined to minister to refugee families."

Next month, we will look at the naming of other campsite sections of Camp Eder.

Fay Richard, Camp Eder Rep.

December 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. Pastor K and others are working on a gathering group: "Now What?" To discuss 'what does life mean now? What should I be striving for? '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 (6th - 12th grade)

Fall Activity Schedule:

- November
 - 20th - View "The Chosen" @ AMC
 - 27th - Lessons of "They Way": preparing for Christmas
- December
 - (Sunday School (Wisdom Seekers): Discipleship with David: follow the adventurous, somewhat disastrous life of David on the way to be King; we might find wisdom in how to survive to adulthood)
 - 4th YaYA
 - 11th Caroling, 5 – 7 pm - (if adults sign up); Alternate: 3 – 5 pm "Hurry up and wait" (Finding our staff in the woods)
 - 18th Christmas Party
 - 25th Christmas (No Youth)

Peace,
Pastor K

Jesus is the gift
that perfectly fits
the size of every heart.



Your Time to Shine...or at Least Share

Many thanks for those of you who shared a testimony through our "Love Your Church" series. We will pick this feature back up in January and would like to have people share their testimonies during one or both of the services. This has enriched our worship experiences.

If you would like to share something please let one of the pastors know and we will get you on the schedule.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

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

Church Email Lists

news@bvcob.com
church news, church events

prayer@bvcob.com
prayer requests

share-ads@bvcob.com
requests for help (moves, yardwork, rides, childcare, etc.), yard sales, items for sale, etc.



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

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023



February 11 – Couples Banquet

February 24 – 25 – Women's Retreat

March 4 – Church Auction

March 5 – Brethren Brunch

April 1 – Easter Egg Fair

April 6 – Love Feast

April 22 – Women's Brunch

April 28 – Secret Church

May 7 – Church Council Meeting

June 10 – Strawberry Festival

July 8 – 14 – Westernport Mission Trip

August 6 – Church Picnic

November 5 – Church Council Meeting

November 25 – Kettle Cook

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**.



Rejoice this Christmas

This Christmas may your heart rejoice in knowing you've received from Him the Greatest Gift of all!!

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

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46 Brethren Church Road
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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service