

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

February 2022
Volume 38 No. 1

New Sermon Series in 1 Corinthians



It has been a while since we have studied together through a book of the Bible on Sunday mornings. In February we will begin a 16 week sermon series through the book of 1 Corinthians. This is one of Paul's longest letters and it contains some of the most discussed and controversial passages in the New Testament.

I want to encourage you to read through this letter at the pace of one chapter each week. Through the Facebook sermon group and through an email that you can sign up for, we will read through each chapter verse by verse and provide an opportunity for more detailed discussions/questions than we can do during a Sunday morning service. I hope you will take advantage of this and join in helping all of us to interpret and apply this important letter to our lives individually and to our church community as we begin the new year. Watch for opportunities in the coming weeks to sign up for the discussion.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Winter Quarter Sunday School

It is **never too late** to join an adult Sunday school class! We are currently offering classes on the book of Romans, Questions Christians Ask, Christian Caregiving, and Common Misconceptions about Bible topics. See the sign up board by the entrance for class locations, but there is no need to sign up to attend!

Stacy Reitenbach
for the Adult Sunday School Team



\$3,194.55 for 10 TONS of JUNK!

That's right! Last year we recycled over 10 tons of aluminum cans and other metals through our Operation Christmas Child Mailing fundraiser. That would be 10 tons of junk that wasn't taken to the landfill and gave us over \$3,000 to help with mailing our OCC Shoeboxes. THANK YOU!

Please continue to bring your **aluminum cans** and place them in the **Blue barrels** by the bar-b-que pit. **All other metal** can be placed on the "**Metal Recycling**" trailer in the south side of the parking lot next to the Yoder Sheds.

I go through all of the metals that are placed on the trailer and separate the different types for recycling. Anything that has any type of metal in it or part of it can be placed in the trailer. We also recycle batteries. These would be 6 Volt or larger (no small flashlight type) up to the large car type batteries.

I have listed below the number of pounds and income from the different types of metal.

Aluminum Cans	1,481 lbs.	\$788.25
Other Aluminum	578 lbs	\$298.85
Batteries	1,388 lbs.	\$258.10
Copper	33 lbs.	\$110.00
Insulated Copper Wire	253 lbs	\$250.10
Stainless Steel	164 lbs.	\$67.30
Brass	83 lbs.	\$167.15
Electric Motors	118 lbs.	\$23.95
Metal/Tin/Steel	16,165 lbs.	\$1,230.80

If you have any questions about recycling please contact me.

Jake Myer



Couples Banquet

When: February 12th at 6 pm

Where: BVCOB Main Gathering

Cost: \$28.00 per couple,
\$14.00 per person

Sign-up deadline: February 4th

Menu

Baked Chicken Breast, Pulled Pork, Hash Brown Potato Casserole, Corn, Tossed Salad, Rolls and Cake. There will be Hors D'oeuvres of assorted fruits and cheese available when you arrive.

Join in for a night of amazing food, a former missionary couple's testimony, fellowship and games. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Main Entry. Payment can be put in the offering box earmarked "Couples Banquet" or pay the night of the event. Please feel free to invite other couples or friends. All are welcome! Any questions, contact Holly Lehman.

Holly Lehman, Special Events Coordinator



Family Connections
Wednesdays
January 19 - April 27

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family

We Want You, We Need You



The Sunday School Team is looking for people willing to facilitate adult Sunday school classes. What does it take to be an Adult Sunday School teacher? Check out the myths vs. facts below.

Myth: In order to teach others, I have to be an expert on a topic.

Fact: No one has all of the answers and there is no better way to learn about something than to teach others.

Myth: If I teach a Sunday school class, I need to be able to lecture about a topic for an entire hour.

Fact: Many Sunday school classes are discussion-based and require a *conversation facilitator* rather than a lecturer.

Myth: I have to come up with everything on my own, which will take hours of preparation time.

Fact: While you *can* come up with your own topic and materials, many topics come with excellent study guides and resources that help you to efficiently prepare for each class.

The Sunday school team is willing to provide you with the support you need to take on this role ranging from helping you with basic teaching strategies to co-teaching a class with you to help you gain confidence. Please contact Stacy Reitenbach at stacyreitenbach@gmail.com or (570) 847-1801 if you are willing to serve as a teacher or if you have more questions.

Stacy Reitenbach
for the Adult Sunday School Team



Did you buy your gift cards?

February Youth & Young Adult Activities:

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 him @ 570-369-0533.

PIT Youth Schedule

February 6 - Sunday, 3 – 5 pm: No Youth:
YaYA Planning meeting
February 12 - Saturday: Young Adults
& Senior High Youth Race Day
February 13 - Sunday, 3 – 5 pm:
Drive By Blessings
February 20 - Sunday, 3 - 5pm: Movie Lesson
February 27 - Sunday (TBA): Family Bowling
Future: March 27: Turkey Dinner

Be thinking about joining our Westernport Mission Trip, July 9 - 15!

Peace, Pastor K



Sunday Morning services available:

Nursery

Sunday school K-5th grade

Junior Worship

Friday Fun Nights

From 6 pm - 8:30 pm
Friday Evenings through April

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

This event is open to the public. Tell your friends and share it on Facebook.

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team



Annual Church Auction 2022

Our highly successful and entertaining **BVCOB Annual Church Auction is back**. The date is **March 5th** and we are busy collecting items for the sale. Please let Steve Richard know as soon as you have an item for the sale so we can begin to advertise the hundreds of items or services that we will have to sell. We are asking this year that you not provide any soft furniture. We will accept most anything else of value (new or used) to be sold at our popular silent auction tables or at the live auction. However, we do reserve the right to recycle or donate any items that are not appropriate for the sale. We are encouraging families or groups to donate a theme bag or a theme basket as they are always great sellers and a lot of fun. All items must be to the church no later than 8 am the day of the sale.

The day of the sale **March 5th**, starting at **3:00 pm** food will be available, silent auction tables will open and you can look through the order of sale and review the hundreds of items that are donated. The **live bidding starts at 4:00 pm** with Auctioneer Jeremy Waite. All proceeds go directly to our **building debt retirement**.

In addition to donating, and/or bidding if you would like to **help with the sale** in some way please let me know. We encourage you to share the date with your friends and encourage them to come and enjoy the fun.

New this year, in addition to a silent auction table geared toward children, there will be a few minutes of **kids only bidding** (with Parents on hand to pay).

Thanks for your support and watch for more news.

Steve Richard



People are most passionate about the things in which they are most involved.

Pastor Eric

BVCOB Youth:

PIT

(Youth and families striving to be more **P**assionate about, **I**ntimate with, **T**ransformed by Christ & Community)



"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal..." -1 Cor. 13:1

This is the passage youth are memorizing right now. It is considered one of the more beautiful passages of the Bible and as words run through our minds, the Holy Spirit can use them to reach and change our hearts!

This is one reason I am working on the Church participating in our very own Lent Reflection collection! There are so many different ways to interact with Scripture and ways that scripture can change us, because it can be God speaking to us! Such a task can be daunting, but here is a way that people have interacted with Scripture for centuries that has had meaningful results:

Lectio Divina (Latin for Holy Reading):

It is less of a "studious" way of reading the Bible, and more of a reflective, simple way - trusting that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to hear God's voice.

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

Read:

Read the 2-4 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."

Reflect:

Read the selected passage
visualize what is being said/narrated
What smells, sounds come with the passage?
What feelings does it bring up?
Read for each character (if there are)/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

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...

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:)

Share your experience

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)

Share a song that encapsulates the experience

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

Options:

Reflect on how the 2-4 passages tie together

Pick one passage and share some questions and thoughts that it inspires in relation to Christ's life, death, and resurrection

Focus on 1 word/phrase/image that sticks out;
Share a song/art that comes to mind from the passage, how that encourages or challenges you (give credit to authors)

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 find great excitement in talking with anybody about this process. If you want examples - I can send some to you, or check out the BVCOB Facebook weekday posts. I would also love to work with anybody on this. I hope the above process helps, but don't feel constrained by it; there are other ways to reflect on scripture. This is the fun of doing this together - I look forward to hearing and sharing what God is saying to us!

Peace, Pastor K



Taking on a New Role

To begin, I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) community as the Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team Leader. As I am new to this position, I am continuing to gain new insight into my role and responsibilities.

We are continuing to serve through having coffee and other drinks available, having personal care items available in the restrooms, and decorating the church lobbies for the seasons in an effort to make our facilities a welcoming and hospitable environment.

Since the start of COVID, one area that has been in need of revamping is the Welcome Center. Jan Kline has championed restaffing the Welcome Center, and it has been great to see a smiling face behind the Welcome Center in recent weeks.

Cheryl Ilgen continues to coordinate greeters for Sunday mornings, and the Bastians continue to serve through publishing the Lamplighter and the yearly church directory.

One area that I plan to take on is using the church Facebook page to communicate about events and other updates, as this has been mentioned to me as an area of need. If anyone has anything they would like posted, please email me (lathomas10@gmail.com).

I want to thank everyone who has helped me out in getting started in this role as team leader. I look forward to continuing to serve in the months ahead.

Laura Zimmerman,
Hospitality & Communications
Ministry Team Leader



Forgiveness is not just an occasional act,
it is a permanent attitude.

Martin Luther King, Jr

From Your Lead Pastor,



Is There Really Strength in Weakness?

A passage of the Bible that has come to have a richer meaning for me in the past year is 2 Corinthians 12:9. In this part of Paul's letter, he is describing a "thorn in the flesh" that he has asked God to remove. We don't know what the thorn is, but it appears that it was something or someone that caused Paul great distress. Paul says that he prayed repeatedly for God to remove this "thorn" but God did not. In verses 8 and 9 we read this: *"Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."*

I exhort you to believe these words. I am concerned that many do not. What often happens is that when tragedy or trouble enters into someone's life, he/she seems quick to pull back from ministry or service. People may indicate that because their life is in a difficult place, they can no longer serve...they don't have the time or emotional energy to contribute any longer. I acknowledge that this may be the truth for some, but I think this passage can be helpful in considering an alternative. Is it not possible, perhaps even likely, that the difficulty we are going through actually makes us more effective in serving Jesus Christ because we must rely more on God's power and strength instead of our own? Perhaps our "thorn" is a real benefit to our service for Jesus, but we'll never know it if we pull back or pull away?

Did Paul stop his missionary journeys because of the thorn? No. Here is how Paul responded, recorded for us in verses 9 - 10: *Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

We must realize that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. We are likely to be the best version of a leader we can be when we are weak. We are likely to have the best insights into solving problems when we are in the midst of our own problems.

Is it time to pull back? Maybe. But it also might be time to push forward allowing God's grace to be sufficient and allowing His strength to be made complete in our weakness. As Paul said, when we are weak, we are strong.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Camp Eder History (Part 3)

What do you know about our church camp?

Let's start this section from 1960 information found in [Our Home In the Hills -A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years.](#)

"Against the backdrop of Nature, campers were offered a curriculum filled with wonder and inquiry. The principle beliefs of the Church of the Brethren were presented under such themes as peace, the need for community, the importance of each individual and the resolutions of conflicts. The real curriculum became something more than whittling wood, tying notes in ropes, using tools or weaving baskets from natural products. The Brotherhood published printed materials...to assist the developing camping programs of the churches."

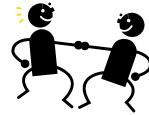
For those of you who attended in the past 20 years, you probably recognize several of those themes.

The first summer's scheduled camping experience was small in numbers but was considered successful (1960). "The Camping Committees secured the services of Ed Crill, a former Director of Camping and Youth programs for the Brotherhood (1952-1959). He conducted a camp of eight youth from August 14 - 20. The youth cleared the land at the site that became known as Vesper Hill." Many of you might still recognize that area!

Many nature lessons were discovered while camping....tadpoles, salamanders, slugs, mollusks, snails, spiders, squirrels, birds and more! Virginia Fisher, instructed the camp counselors, reporting, "The essence of worship is wonder....thus we come into the presence of God in His Majesty and the grandeur of His creation."

Next month, we will look at how the Southern District camp committees tackled the tasks of construction plans. Do any of you remember what was built first?

Fay Richard



Outside Our Walls

Christmas Eve Offering

Thank you so much to those who gave to this mission outreach offering. The amount given was \$8,031.67!



Operation Christmas Child

We sent 506 shoeboxes to children around the world, containing the saving message of Jesus Christ! More info on 2022 coming soon!



Samaritan's Purse®

Six people from our congregation, Heather Buttorff, Jim Libby, Kurt Ilgen, Jeff Bastian, Eric Reamer and Kornelius Reimer, will be traveling to Kentucky from January 30 to February 4 to help rebuild flood damaged homes. Please keep them in prayer!



Community Aid

Please continue to "Feed the Bin" with your gently used shoes and clothing. The money we receive goes toward shipping of our OCC shoeboxes.



Westernport

A trip is planned for **July 9 to 15** to Westernport Church of the Brethren. More information will be coming soon!

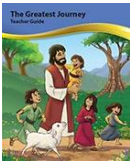
Solid Rock International

Please remember to pray for Jason & Nicole Hoover and their family serving in the Dominican Republic. Read Nicole's blog posts that she shares via News.

Baby Bottle Drive & Dwell Orphan Care

Thank you to all who contributed to one or both of these collections! You are making a difference! Next drive will be in June 2022!

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team Leader



The Real Reason!

The Mission Ministry Team met in January and at this meeting we had a very good discussion regarding the “Christmas Shoebox” program that we participate in each year.

One of the topics that we discussed was the “main reason” behind the Shoebox gifts. I had to confess to the team that up until I became a part of the Mission Ministry Team, I was not aware of the “Real” reason for the gifts. For many years, myself and family members would gather items to fill a shoebox enjoying the fun of giving and thinking about the smiles that we hoped the gifts would bring to the children receiving the box. Did you know? The boxes are filled with necessary items, and some fun things too, but that is not why they are sent. It is to send the message of Christ to the children everywhere. That is the REAL REASON for the Shoebox Ministry; spreading the Gospel to as many children as we can reach and sending along with that a few items to enjoy. The boxes that we donate are then filled with the message of the Gospel by Samaritan’s Purse. All of you may already have known this, but just in case there was anyone like me, who was not aware of the primary reason for the boxes, we wanted to make sure that you do know.

Did you also know? That you and your families are very welcome to fill a shoebox yourselves. We have had a few families that mentioned that they like to contribute to the Shoebox Program but they like to do it as a “family” project. In previous years, there were a few boxes donated “filled” with their own items, and it was discussed that maybe people were not aware that they could do this. We want everyone to know that they have the opportunity to do just that, fill a box with your love and a few items from the store!

There will be information coming in the near future regarding this. We want those of you in the congregation to feel free to start or continue your tradition of giving to the children through the Christmas Shoebox program. And those of you who like a more structured way of giving, that will be available also.

Spreading the Gospel to the children is the reason for the season of the shoeboxes!

Tracie Diehl, Mission Ministry Team



Is It On Your Calendar?

We have a prayer meeting that meets in the Sonroom on the **third Wednesday night of the month** from **7 - 8:00 p.m.** Here is how our prayer meeting works. You can bring requests or pray for the requests that are listed on the white board or add other things that come to mind while you are sitting there. Each item is prayed for by about 3 people. You are encouraged to pray 30-60 seconds about each item but no one is forced to pray...we don't simply go around the room. By praying this way we spend a few minutes on each request before moving on to the next one.

I continue to hope that we will one day reach my goal of 50 people gathered together for prayer. Would you join our group on the third Wednesday? Prayer precedes almost every significant activity of God in the book of Acts, the history of the early church. I don't think God has changed His method of operation. If we really want to see God's supernatural activity, we must pray together. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 16.** I hope you put it on your calendar.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

LOOKING AHEAD



- March 5 – Church Auction
- March 8 – Grief Share Begins
- March 26 - Take Out Turkey Dinner
- April 14 - Love Feast
- April 16 - Egg Fair
- May 1 - Church Council Meeting
- June 11 – Strawberry Festival
- June 15 - Summer Day Camp Begins
- July 9 – 15 – Westernport Mission Trip
- July 31 – Church Picnic

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

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