

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

March 2022  
Volume 38 No. 2



## Just for Men

The 2022 **Men's Retreat** will take place on **March 25 - 27** at Mountain Dale Farm near McClure. Arrival will be between 5 - 6 pm on Friday and departure will be after a morning session on Sunday (around 11:30 am). The cost is \$75 and will cover lodging for both nights & meals, Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

It will be a **relaxing weekend** where we will focus on the book of Colossians and the topic of Putting Jesus First. There will also be plenty of time for fellowship, games, hiking, etc.

**Sign-up** on the Men's Ministry board by March 6<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, contact Zach Showers at 570-765-2011 or zshowers@yahoo.com.

Zach Showers for Men's Ministry



## Ashley's World Mission

Ashley Wetzel is currently in Louisville, Kentucky with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Discipleship Training School. She has found this lecture phase to be an amazing learning opportunity. Ashley's next phase will be the Outreach Phase and she will soon find out where she will be traveling for this phase. She will be here on **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to share** with us.

Please keep her in your prayers as she trusts the Lord to guide and protect her.



## Are You Ready to Serve?

We are making plans for the **summer mission trip to Westernport, MD** and we would love to have you be a part of it! If you are a Christian who is willing to share your faith, if you want to be the hands and feet of Jesus to hurting and needy children, if you want to be a blessing to others and receive more than you can imagine in return, then this is your opportunity to serve!

We will be leaving **Saturday, July 9** and will return **Friday, July 15, 2022**. Save these dates and make plans now!

We have so much to be thankful for and what a joy to spread the love for our Savior to those who need to feel that love. We minister through Bible stories, an Imagination Station, craft time, providing breakfast, lunch and snacks, one on one conversations and hugs and more! You can help make a difference in a child's life!

We have not been able to go the last two years and I have been told that the children really miss us and all that we are able to share. Won't you consider being a part of the team that ministers to these children? No previous experience necessary!!

Applications are ready now and need to be returned by **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please do not delay. Please see me for an application.

Serving Him,  
Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team



## Annual Church Auction 2022

Our highly successful and entertaining **BVCOB Annual Church Auction is back.** The date is **March 5<sup>th</sup>** 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 5<sup>th</sup>**, 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



“Don’t chase rewards...chase Jesus”

Pastor Eric from BVCOB Sermon Group



Jesus is the Center of our Faith  
Community is the Center of our Life  
Reconciliation is the Center of our Work



## Learn and Grow with Others

Spring Quarter Adult Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. This quarter features two family-focused options, as well as two Scripture-based studies.

**Parenting the Heart of Your Child** is designed for parents who have children under the age of 13 and will explore the issues surrounding raising children who have a love for others and for God amid an ever-changing world.

Pastor K will walk participants through **The Path Between Us**, a class designed to help families know each other better and communicate more effectively. This is a combined youth and adult class, so all are welcome to attend.

Dan Manbeck will be facilitating a discussion-based class on **2 Corinthians** that will connect what Paul's teaching to the Corinthians can mean for us today.

Finally, Tracy Ericson will lead a class on finding true success through our character, conduct, and lifestyle based on lessons learned from King David in **I Samuel**.

Learn and grow with others by signing up for one of these classes in the Narthex.

Stacy Reitenbach

## LOOKING AHEAD



April 14 - Love Feast

April 16 - Egg Fair

April 29 – Secret Church

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

## Stewardship & Generosity

When we hear the word Stewardship and Generosity – what comes to mind first? Often our immediate thoughts lean towards giving and tithing. Stewardship and Generosity encompass much more than what we do with our finances.

*Stewardship is our whole life response to God; how we manage our lives, our gifts, our talents, our resources and possessions, our time and our energy.*

1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

*Generosity is the state of one's heart and not the size of their wallet. It is our opportunity to serve our creator by serving others with all that He has given us.*

Matthew 10:8 - ...freely you have received, freely give.

Proverbs 11:25 - A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Are you using the resources that God has given you to bless others? Are you unsure of how to use your gifts and talents to further God's Kingdom? Spend time in the word and prayer – ask God to reveal and present opportunities for you to serve and when the time comes – step out in faith and say yes to serving others.

Heather Buttorff for Finance Ministry Team



"If you can explain what's going on,  
God didn't do it." Dr. Robert Cook



## Camp Eder Corner

First call for **summer camps!** Remember our **church pays a large portion of tuition** for our campers! Camp Eder camps are for Elementary children through, and including High School youth.

Register online at [campeder.org](http://campeder.org). If you are a regular attender here at Buffalo Valley COB, \$280 of your tuition will be paid by the church (\$280 is for full week camps; \$150 for barefoot camps). There are also scholarships for our church camp, near Gettysburg.

### Week 1 June 19 - 24

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)  
Junior High (Grades 7 - 8)  
Rock climbing (Grades 7 - 12)  
Shining Stars (Ages 15+)

### Week 2 June 26 - July 1

Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12)  
Junior Camp 1 (Grades 4 - 6)  
Culinary (Grades 4 - 6)  
Sports Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

### Week 3 July 10 - 15

Kids Camp 1 (Grades 1 - 3)  
Colorful Creations (Grades 1 - 3)  
Zoology Camp (Grades 1 - 3)

### Week 4 July 17 - 22

Junior Camp II (Grades 4 - 6)  
Outback Camp (Grades 4 - 6)  
AT Trekkers (Grades 7 - 12)

### Week 5 July 24 - 29

Dream It, Build It Camp (Grades 4 - 6)  
Kids Camp II (Grades 1 - 3)  
Puddle Jumpers (Grades 4 - 6)  
Barefoot (Wednesday - Friday)  
(for young campers)

Hope you check out the summer adventures being planned for your child's Christian camping experience at [campeder.org](http://campeder.org). Buffalo Valley COB has at least one signed up already!

**Any questions**, contact **Fay Richard**, BVCOB Camp Rep 570-716-2442



## Let's Get Started!

Last month, the Mission Ministry Team kicked off **Operation Christmas Child (OCC) 2022** by giving individuals the opportunity to complete a shoebox on your own. We had 7 different families claim 23 boxes, which was a fantastic start!

This month, we are throwing down a challenge. We have committed the BVCOB congregation to fill 378 shoeboxes!

To simplify the collection process, we are providing the following link: [www.bvcob.com/occ](http://www.bvcob.com/occ).

This link will send you directly to a chart which will show the number of collected and still needed items in real time. Our hope is that a live status update will empower you to buy exactly what's needed to crush our goal. You can also access this link from the church website by clicking on [OCC Dashboard!](#)

### PROCEDURE:

- STEP 1: Refer to the picture list in your church mailbox or by following the link on the church website: [OCC Dashboard](#).

- STEP 2: Decide which item(s) you are purchasing.

- STEP 3: Refer to the link: [www.bvcob.com/occ](http://www.bvcob.com/occ) to check the quantity of each item that is still needed. This will reveal a chart that shows the exact amount of each item we still need purchased to achieve our goal.

- STEP 4: Within minutes of your purchase, contact Cowell Gemberling at 570-716-1424 or email [cogemby@gmail.com](mailto:cogemby@gmail.com) with the quantity of each item you purchased. This way the list can immediately be updated and accurate within seconds of your purchase. The chart will then adjust and show exactly how many items are left to buy for the next participating shopper.

Happy Shopping!

Cowell Gemberling for OCC Project

## 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*

Our youth have had a lot of fun last month. Working with volunteers to pull together a turkey dinner, helped us learn others stories and experiences. Racing go-karts gave some families a chance to healthily compete with each other, and diverse members of our youth to interact and find friendship. We do have a wonderful, eclectic mix of individuals. And we would love to have other adults join us.

When we announced the race day, there was a murmur of excitement from adults to maybe race with us - and I want to extend a formal invitation for adults to do just that! One way we each learn and grow is to get to play with and know people from places differently than ourselves. You don't have to commit to coming to youth events to make a difference, just join us for one. Please contact Pastor K if you are ever interested.

### March 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 me @ 570-369-0533

### PIT Youth Schedule

- March 6 - Sunday, 3 – 5 pm: No Youth:  
YaYA Planning meeting
- March 13 - Sunday, 3 – 5 pm:  
Drive By Blessings
- March 20 - Sunday, 3 – 5 pm: Movie Lesson:  
The Empire Strikes Back
- March 24 – 26 - Turkey Dinner Prep
- March 26 - Saturday, 4 – 6 pm: Turkey Dinner

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

Peace,  
Pastor K



**F**riday **F**un **N**ights are going great! The group of children are sweet, full of life and bring the fun each night. The cold is not slowing the attendance. So if you have a child that wants to come, bring them for the fun and bringing a friend is always welcomed.

### February Themes:

- 2/11 – Wear hearts for Valentines night
- 2/18 – Pajama night
- 2/25 – Recite a Bible verse night

### March Themes:

- 3/4 – Crazy sock night
- 3/11 – Glow in the dark night

The Children's Sunday school classes K - 5<sup>th</sup> sure loves a Kahoot (interactive learning game on Kindle). We have been working on the Books of the Bible.

We look forward to seeing you and your children each Friday and Sunday.

**We love because he first loved us**

~1John 4:19

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team



Did you buy your gift cards?

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



## How Is Your Vision?

At a recent visit to the eye doctor, I was told that my eyes are developing cataracts...not to the point yet to do anything about it but they are on their way. I was told that this is a normal part of the aging process. I've been blessed to have pretty good eyesight and I hope this continues but those tiny parts of the eye that function so miraculously as a part of God's creation do wear out over time; just like knee joints and rotator cuffs.

Though our physical vision may deteriorate our spiritual vision does not have to. In fact, I think that as a natural part of spiritual maturity, our spiritual eyesight should get sharper. This is what God promises us. In a recent study of Psalm 119 our Tuesday morning men's group read Psalm 119:18: *"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law"*. God desires to open our eyes so that we may see and understand things about God.

When our eyes are opened, we see many things. We will see God's wisdom revealed in His word. The truth of God's word is only available to those who have spiritual vision through the Holy Spirit. This truth is not received by those without the Spirit.

When we look into God's word, we see so many things. We see who God truly is. His attributes are revealed to us...omniscience, omnipotence, love, grace, mercy, etc... We are told about these qualities and we see them at play in God's response to human beings.

We also see who we truly are. God's word reveals that we are sinners, desperately selfish and separated from God and yet we are loved, so loved that God gave us His Son to bridge that separation from sin. In God's word we see the world in which we live; it's beauty and its brokenness. In God's word we see the importance of community and fellowship with one another.

I exhort you to ask God to open your eyes so that you may see all of this wonderful truth and so that you will gloriously respond to what you "see" as you read. Begin by opening God's word and you will not be disappointed.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

## Camp Eder History (Part 4)

Let's continue with what do you know about our church camp?

Starting this section from page 9 in Our Home In the Hills -A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years. The camp committee reviewed plans for a main lodge. Was it needed? "In 1961, the Southern District Board approved the construction of the lodge. The announcement was made at a special Camp Eder Day on May 28, 1961."

Funding was tough. "Faced with indebtedness and a restricted budget, the camp committee was grateful for individuals and groups who came to their aid with gifts." The recommendation to open facilities to be used by other denominations was approved. And after difficult years, the Camp Committee was thankful that the lodge was completed in 1964.

I'm guessing many of you know what this lodge was....and still is! The lodge was dedicated (September 20, 1964) with a plaque that states "Geigley Lodge ...Camp Eder... in the memory of The Rev. A. W. Geigley, Mennonite minister, Philanthropist, and Orchardist who gave 155 acres of land to The Church of the Brethren for spiritual guidance through church camping."

The dedication "gathering concluded a summer season that witnessed 193 campers enjoying the benefits of the great outdoors."

As the 1960's continued, so did the gradual interest in camps. Bible and other Conferences, Southern District youth meetings, weekend camps/retreats, and more extended the use of Geigley lodge and the camp grounds past the summer camping experiences! Camp Eder signs were posted, trees were "felled" to let in more light.

Stay tuned next month for information on some of the earliest managers for Camp Eder. And how did the camp programs expand?

Until then...check out the summer camps currently offered; look online at [Campeder.org](http://Campeder.org).

Fay Richard



## Continuing in 1 Corinthians



We will stay in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians through the month of March as we begin to enter into some of the "stickier" chapters. On March 6<sup>th</sup> we look at chapter 5 and how to deal with sin in the church. On March 13<sup>th</sup> we look at how God has given us the ability to make sound judgments and to live sexually pure in our world as we study chapter 6. Chapter 7 focuses on marriage and the primacy of one's relationship with Jesus. We'll look at this on March 20<sup>th</sup>. On March 27<sup>th</sup> we will focus on being sensitive to the consciences of others with a look at chapter 8.

I do hope that you are following along in the BVCOB Sermon Group on our Facebook page. On Sunday mornings we move pretty quickly through each chapter. There is much more opportunity for detail and discussion during the week on the Facebook page.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



Family Connections  
Wednesdays  
January 19 - April 27

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family

### Community Aid:

Please remember to "feed the bin" and pass the word to your friends!



## \$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



"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

I Thessalonians 5:11

## 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](mailto: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

## 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



**The Lamplighter**

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren  
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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