



Come to Secret Church 2022

Imagine if you were a follower of Jesus in a country where it was illegal to meet together or to study the Bible... Imagine what it would be like to have a Bible teacher come to your village under the cover of darkness... What if you had to travel for two or three days to get to the meeting place? You wouldn't want to leave in an hour or two...you'd have so many questions you would want to stay for days; drinking in the teaching and the fellowship with other believers. **Secret Church 2022** attempts to "re-create" some of these emotions as people in the United States gather for a 6 hour Bible study. Secret Church is taught by David Platt and simulcast to other churches around the world. The topic this year is **"Who Am I? What does the Bible say about gender, sexuality, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, race, the Metaverse, genomics"**.

We will gather here in the PIT on **Friday, April 29th** between 6:30 - 6:45 pm as the simulcast begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts until 1:00 am on April 30th. Our time together will include teaching, prayer and we'll have some food to share as well. Each participant will receive a 200 page study guide to help follow along and to use as a future resource. The cost will be \$20/person though please don't let that be an impediment. This cost covers the study guides and the fee for participating in the simulcast. Please invite others that you might think would benefit from this study.

If you would like to join us or if you have any questions, please reply to this email or contact Pastor Eric. You can visit the Secret Church website for more information at www.radical.net/secret-church.

Pastor Eric



An Invitation to Love Feast

The Spiritual Life Ministry Team will be hosting Love Feast/Maundy Thursday on **Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 pm.**

Please join us as we celebrate and remember The Last Supper of Jesus. We will be singing, washing one another's feet, sharing a meal, and taking communion.

We will be serving the meal in the traditional family style way.

Please consider joining us. If you have questions, please reach out to anyone on the Spiritual Life Ministry Team or one of the pastors, we would be happy to help in any way.

Also, childcare will be provided.

Blessings,

Linda Buttorff for Spiritual Life Ministry Team

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022

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

October 2 – Love Feast

November 6 – Church Council Meeting

November 26 – Kettle Cook

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services





Friday **F**un **N**ights are the highlight of the week. Bring a neighbor, friend, or cousin to join in the fun.

March Themes:

3/25 – Inside out night

April Themes:

4/1 – Crazy hair night

4/8 – Pajama night

4/15 – No FFN – Easter Egg Fair Saturday

Upcoming Events:

Resurrection Eggs is a community outreach we started last year. All our families with children 1 year through 5th grade will get a package of Eggs/a story that corresponds with the eggs and a package of 12 candies for each child.

These kits will be available for you to give to a family, neighbor, or friend, to show your love and offer the knowledge of Christ to them. Sign-ups for this resource will be available soon, watch for it on the announcements.

Candy donations are being collected for this and for the Easter Egg Fair. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Easter Egg Fair: April 16th 10:30 – Noon

If you would like to **volunteer for the Easter Egg Fair**, please let someone on our team know, or call Cheryl at the church office.

“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”
Proverbs 11:25

Angela Zimmerman for Children’s Ministry Team



Don't Miss Out

Adult Sunday school classes for the Spring Quarter are underway, but it's **not too late** to join!

Tracy Ericson is a wealth of knowledge and this quarter she is sharing about how to find **true success** in our character, conduct, and lifestyle based on lessons found in the life of King David. Her class is meeting in the Main Gathering Area.

Pastor K is teaching a youth and adult combined class about **communication** within families and how **knowing each other better** can help us have healthier relationships. This class meets in the PIT.

The next two classes are meeting in the Sonroom. Dan Manbeck is leading a discussion-based class that picks up in **2 Corinthians** with Paul's interactions with the Corinthian church and what we can learn from them today.

Brian and Donita Keister are leading a **parenting class** geared toward supporting parents of children through age 13 and how to raise children who love others and God.

Please consider joining one of these classes even if you haven't signed up or previously attended. All are welcome!

Stacy Reitenbach



Family Connections

Wednesdays

January 19 - April 27

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family

LET'S GO! www.bvcob.com/occ



Have you had a chance to check out the OCC SHOEBOX CHART on the church website?

Did you notice how red it is? Our goal is to turn it all green!

We have begun accumulating a few items, but we still have a long way to go.

As you are out Easter basket shopping in the upcoming weeks keep your eyes peeled for deals on jump ropes, tennis balls, hackey sacks, marbles, and playdoh.

In order to help keep our accumulated items accounted for, please remember to contact Cowell Gemberling at 570-716-1424 after you finish your shopping trip. And then before placing your items in the collection bin, please mark the bag with your name on it. These small steps will help us have a more accurate count all throughout the year.

Thanks for your participation!



Cowell Gemberling for OCC Project

More Wisdom from 1 Corinthians

We will stay in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians through the month of April. On April 3rd we will look at chapter 9 and think about the privilege we have to surrender our rights. April 10th and 17th will see us skipping ahead to chapter 15 with two sermons on the resurrection of Jesus. April 24th will take us back to chapter 10 for a look at...I don't know because I haven't written that sermon yet!

Please continue to follow along in the Facebook group for more in-depth discussion of each chapter.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

P.S. I don't have a sermon series planned yet for June, after 1 Corinthians is completed. If you have any ideas please pass them on.

BVCOB Youth:

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



"If I am extremely smart, and know the right answers to the hardest questions BUT have not LOVE, I am nothing."

(1 Corinthians 13:2, MSG)

Last night (March 19th), I had the privilege of watching the final production of Mifflinburg's 2022 Spring Musical, "Fiddler on the Roof." It is obviously a community favorite. Shout out to Chloe Gemberling, Noah Hurst, Kirsten Kuhns, and Kurt Ilgen, from our own congregation whose hard work paid off in a fabulous show! If you saw it or are familiar with the show, you know that "Tradition" plays a centerpiece for order and conflict.

Tevey narrates the changing of their community and changing times through the lens of his daughters pushing against and then outright rejecting his guidance in their marriages. A lot of change happens within the few years the musical depicts - from his eldest, Tzeitel, marrying a poor tailor instead of the "match-made" older Butcher, to "the quiet daughter," Chava, running away after marrying a Russian non-Jew. It breaks Tevey and, by extension, us.

Traditions do give us understood guidelines to operate by. And all through history, usually the younger generations pushes against them toward a different way of living. As Tevey reflects at one point, the Traditions of today are often the renovations of yesterday. Jesus himself pushed against the traditional understanding of the Law of his day. And even alluded that he could not teach everything, but was sending the Holy Spirit to continue to teach us. This cycle of learning, wrestling with and making new traditions may very well be part of life and the Kingdom of God. We are yet again in a time where times are changing, and our understanding of how to live together changes. Some will be slight pushes like Tzeitel asking to marry a poor tailor instead of the rich butcher, others may break us, like Chava running away, forced to choose one love over another. May we hold and release each other in love, with the knowledge that our relationships in the end are more important than being right or wrong.

Peace, Pastor K



Westernport Mission

Plans are being made for this year's trip to Westernport, MD for a week of serving the children through meals, Bible school day camp, crafts, friendship and sharing the love of Jesus.

If you would like to be a part of the team, please let me know ASAP! I promise that you will not be sorry!

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



Camp Eder Corner

Time to register for summer camps! Remember, our church pays a large portion of tuition for our campers! Camps are for Elementary children through, and including High School youth.

Register online at 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 available!

Five weeks of camping opportunities! Highlighting the first two weeks (for those who missed it!)

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)

Hope you check out the summer adventures being offered for your child's Christian camping experience at **campeder.org**.

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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Thinking about Ukraine

The pictures and videos from Ukraine are heart-wrenching. The sights of the devastation of war are not new to any of us, but something feels different about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. How are followers of Jesus to think about it? I'll share some of my thoughts, the ways that I am processing and praying regarding Ukraine.

1. An invasion like this is a byproduct of the sinful heart of man. The Bible is clear that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Most people are restrained in their actions only by their fear of the consequences. What we see is Russia not really fearing the consequences of its actions and therefore doing what it wants...or perhaps more likely what Vladimir Putin and his closest allies want. If we are honest with ourselves, we can see this in our own thoughts and actions.

2. People are not valued by other people as we'd like to think they are. The reality of human history is that people don't hold other people in very high regard most of the time. Subjugation and slavery have proved this out. War often proves this out. Innocent civilians being targeted and killed is a product of the fact that people aren't highly valued. We must value human life greatly, from the womb to the grave.

3. People not changed by the Gospel will act in very sinful ways. This is because of 1. above. This helps us see why spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ is so very important. People who are genuinely transformed will not behave in this way. The Gospel is the cure to every "ism" out there...racism, materialism, militarism. Are you sharing that good news with those you have relationships with?

4. Pray for God's people in Ukraine and Russia. God has His people in both of those countries. The church in Ukraine is working at meeting physical needs. Pray that the church is not shy about meeting spiritual needs. From the very beginning of the church, recorded in Acts, the church of Jesus Christ has risen to the occasion to meet the needs of the suffering and when this happens, those without Christ are drawn to those who know and love Him. Pray that the church will be bold in her witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. All this is part of God's plan. You will hear and read how some are attempting to fit today's events into the timeline of Bible prophecy. I am normally reluctant to do this unless there is a clear connection. I see Russia as playing a part in the events leading up to the return of Jesus. In places like Daniel, Ezekiel and Revelation we are given some details about future events. However, it's not clear to me that Russia's invasion fits into any of those parameters. However, all history leads to the writing of God's history. Followers of Jesus need not fear war, invasion or even death. If this is part of God's prophetic plan, then so be it...come Lord Jesus!

These are some of my thoughts. I'd be interested in hearing your thoughts as well.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Continuing Camp Eder History (Part 5)

I'm starting this section from page 23 in Our Home In the Hills -A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years.

"In 1968-69, steps were taken toward placing Camp Eder on a sound footing for a year-round camping program. Southern District's Children's Aid Society offered \$ to subsidize scholarships for campers, particularly for those from inner city regions....The Waynesboro Church of the Brethren placed \$ in their budget to assist funding for children at camp. The camp's financial outlook brightened. It was encouraged even more by the news that a series of bonds had been 'incinerated', amounting to about \$14,900."

With the boost of funding, the Camp Committee took steps towards salaried leadership.

"Ronald R. Boose, a licensed ministerial student of Elizabethtown College, (and from the Green Tree Church of the Brethren), was employed for the (1968) summer to manage the Camp Eder program. A staff of college students from Elizabethtown and Juniata Colleges spent the entire summer at the camp providing programming and a continuous ministry to the 217 registered campers. Additional seasonal staff from local churches rendered assistance."

Excitement surrounded the successful summer camping and the Camp Committee took action to bring the camp's standards into compliance with the American Camping Association ideals. This required "proper refrigeration for foods, available First Aid kits, a supervised waterfront, isolation quarters for the ill, proper waste disposal, physical examinations for campers, and regular examination of the water supply."

1969 was another successful season with Earl Dibert as manager and Edward Poling as his assistant.

A trailer was put in place as a residence for the camp manager. Groundwork was being laid for a full-time manager for the camp.

Camp Eder extended opportunities for children and youth from diverse backgrounds to learn to live together and get along with each other.

Next month, we will look at growing pains and continued expansion!

Fay Richard

April Youth & Young Adult Activities:

We do have 2 Movie Nights scheduled in the coming weeks:

Saturday, April 9th, 6 - 8:30 pm (in the PIT)
Watching *Dr. Strange* and talking about life changing events and our purpose in life.

Friday, May 13th, (in theatres)
Watch *Multiverse of Madness*
and talk about issues that come up.

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

April 3 - MCT Luncheon for All Teams (12 - 1:30)
- Short YaYA meeting afterwards
April 10 - Spring Cleaning/mulching at Church
April 17 - No Youth (**Easter**)
April 24 - Bike or Hike

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

Peace,
Pastor K



Spring is Here!



Are you cleaning out your closets? Getting rid of nice clothing that no longer fits? Have your children outgrown their clothes? Well...the Community Aid Bin at church is waiting for your donation!

Please remember, though that **ONLY** clothing and shoes are accepted at the bin. Any other items can be taken to the store.

Thanks for Feeding the Bin!

Vicki Bastian
Mission Ministry Team

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