

Join Me On a Bible Journey



The statistics are pretty grim regarding how much people read the Bible, even those who profess to be Christians. What about you? You and I cannot possibly understand who God is or what His plan is for us without reading His word. Maybe it's been difficult for you to get started...maybe you don't know where to begin?

I have an idea. I have developed a Bible reading plan for the gospel of John, the book of Acts and Genesis. I encourage people to start with John. I will send you via email about 15-20 verses with about three questions on that part of the text. The questions are not meant to be difficult. Rather, they ask you to think for a few minutes about what you've just read. You can then type out your answers and send them back to me, or simply say that you are ready for the next section. Within 24 hours, usually within 12 hours, I will send the next section to you. You can also request that I send my answers to you when I send the questions...either way is fine with me.

This way you can stay on track to read every day or just a few times a week, whatever you like. You will have a chance to ask questions and/or provide your thoughts. It is my desire that every person at Buffalo Valley is regularly engaged in reading God's word. There is just no substitute for this spiritual discipline.

If I can help, please send me an email at pastoreric@bvcob.com or call/text me at 570-837-9393 and we'll get you started.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Guess Who's Coming to a Picnic



Do you like to eat, experience anticipation and go on a picnic? After a long break, Guess Who's Coming to a Picnic is back! This is an afternoon set aside for you and one-two-or-three families to fellowship together at someone's home or another designated picnic area.

You will get to **choose to be a host or a guest**. If you choose to be a host, you will be asked to prepare a meat and a beverage. You will be notified how many to expect but not who. That surprise will come when the doorbell rings!

If you choose to be a guest, you will be asked to prepare a potato/side dish, vegetable, or dessert and how many to prepare for. On Sunday morning, **May 15**, you will receive an envelope with your destination inside and the time of the event. Please wait to open your envelope until after you leave church!

We ask that you return the sign-up sheet in your mailbox to Holly Lehman by Sunday, May 8 if you would like to participate.

Hope you all can join in for a picnic and time of fellowship!

Holly Lehman, Special Events Coordinator



Christianity says to be empowered by the resurrection of Christ.

Pastor Eric



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



Faith shows *God's* love and Jesus' victory,
even through the chaos of life.

Corrie ten Boom

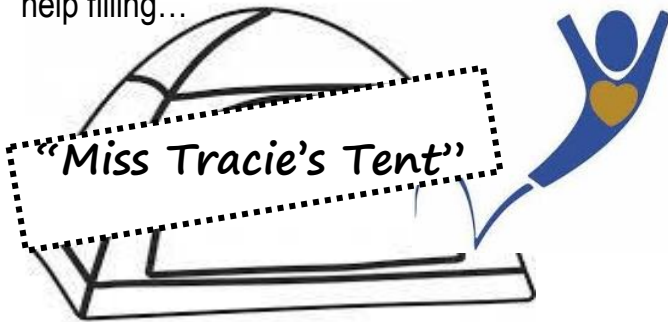


Watch for It!

Our annual collection for the **Children's Aid Society** is back in May!

Watch for further instructions in your church mailbox and on your church email.

The Mission Ministry Team will need your help filling...



One More month in 1 Corinthians

We will wrap up our study of 1 Corinthians through the month of May with a look at chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14. The final Sunday of May we have set aside to answer any questions you might have about what we've studied in 1 Corinthians. If you have any questions or would like further clarification about what you've heard or what you've read, please send in those questions or comments and we will put the sermon together.

I do hope that you are following along in the 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

No matter what storm you face, you need to know that God loves you!

Franklin Graham



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.

UPDATE: WE HAVE AT LEAST 5 CAMPERS GOING FROM BVCOB! Including 2 new to Camp Eder!

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 last 3 weeks (for those who missed these in the March newsletter!)

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.

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



Check out the **OCC SHOEBOX CHART** on the church website at

bvcob.com/occ

To see what items we still need towards meeting our goals for this year.

In order to help keep our accumulated items accounted for, please remember to contact Cowell Gemberling 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.

Cowell Gemberling for OCC Project

Fireside Friday



May 20th

6:00-8:30 pm

at the Keister Farm

Greetings from Building and Grounds

Things are starting to open up at the church since Covid. If you have not been in the kitchen recently, we purchased two new wall ovens.

We pulled the stones out of the grass and back onto the parking lot from snowplowing and relined the parking lot.

We will be mulching around the church. The youth have volunteered to help with this, but additional help is always welcome. I will send out an Email when a date has been decided upon.

We can also use some volunteers to help with trimming around the church and cemetery. If this is something you would be interested in helping with, please contact me.

Within the next few weeks the carpets will be cleaned. I am asking that you please be extra careful with your drinks.

Looking forward to a pleasant summer.

Blessings,

Bill Baker, Building & Grounds Ministry Team



Church Council Meeting Sunday

Sunday, May 1

12:00 pm - Potluck Luncheon



1:00 pm - Church Council Meeting



Knowing where you are going takes the uncertainty out of getting there.

Anne Graham Lotz

BVCOB Youth:

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



"If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:11 NET

"Dad, can we wrestle?!" is a common question from the 2 boys in our house... If they bother to ask, and don't just dogpile me suddenly. It is one of our favorite times of day. Our wrestling has evolved from me simply throwing them onto couches and playing bucking bronco, to team wrestling where I face the eventual possibility that they will take me down. A big round trampoline helps take the energy out of the house and onto a more forgiving surface.

Also, as they get older, I am seeing "wrestling" take on an esoteric nature, as they become better at board games that I have to struggle to win, or even the simple fact that they argue and question everything. It keeps me on my toes. Even after accidental injuries, disappointing losses, or when I get exasperated with arguing, they both will never agree that "we should give up wrestling."

With Spring, I look forward to re-entering the trampoline of ultimate smack down once more. I'm wondering if I'll ever get too old for this... I also wondered about these times when I read Jesus' words, "if you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts (the Holy Spirit) to those who ask?!" (Luke 11:13; Mt. 7:11) This might be a stretch... comparing wrestling with my sons to "giving good gifts."

Then, I also consider our scriptures. The name that the "Chosen people of God" eventually take comes out of an epic wrestling match: According to Genesis 32, a mysterious stranger gave Jacob the name Israel, "because you have fought with God and with men and have prevailed."

And we see multiple other times throughout:

- Job argued with God to answer him, and is called righteous
- Abraham argued with God about destroying 2 cities; Sarah laughed (possibly at God), and God joined in that laughter
- Moses confronts God on Mount Sinai
- Many women joined Jacob in breaking the "rules" and are praised:

- Jael, Tamar, Esther, Rahab, Mary, Mary...

And I also see how wrestling and gameplay helps Atticus and Finn grow in strength and character. Not to mention continue to develop me. Yes, it can be inconvenient, and I don't always feel like wrestling - especially when it comes to arguments. I'd honestly like to win more easily in games, or have them just trust me and accept what I have to say. But then we all miss opportunities to grow and learn.

I expected Bethany Theological Seminary to stretch me and push me into the arena to wrestle with ideas and people, and maybe even God. But where I expected to wrestle in a Colosseum full of jeering spectators, I found a giant trampoline with allies encouraging me to grow.

Won't you join me in the joy of "wrestling with God and men?" "Dad, can we wrestle?"

Peace, Pastor K



Time to Clean Out!



If you are doing your spring cleaning and trying to get rid of all the items that you have stored away over the winter, now is the time!

Bring all your metal to the open trailer, including aluminum cans for recycling. **The price recycling cans is currently up!** If you have any questions about any items, please talk with Jake Myer.

Are you cleaning out closets of all those clothes that you no longer want or that no longer fit, please bring them to the Community Aid bin. Please remember that clothing and shoes are accepted, but all other items must be taken directly to the store.

Thank you for supporting the bin and recycling! The money received helps pay the shipping costs of our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Aftermath of Easter

When you read this, Easter 2022 will be a part of your memory. I hope that you thought through the resurrection of Jesus and that it made a difference in your life. What was the immediate aftermath of the resurrection of Jesus for His followers?

We know from the Bible that none of Jesus's disciples or followers believed that He would be resurrected. Even when they were confronted with the reality of an empty tomb, they thought someone must have stolen the body. I don't blame them. I am sure I would have thought the same thing.

Everything changed for them when they actually saw Jesus; except just seeing Jesus didn't change anything right away. In Luke's gospel we read that when the disciples first saw Jesus they were terrified and frightened. They thought they were seeing a spirit. (Luke 24:37). We are told that Jesus showed them His hands and feet but what really seems to do the trick is this *"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."* Jesus explained the Old Testament scriptures in light of Himself. That must have been an amazing Bible lesson.

The Holy Spirit now provides this function for us. He enlightens the Scriptures to us, and it is in the revealed words of the Bible that we understand the revelation of Jesus. If you really want to know Jesus, the resurrection won't do it for you. Of course, you will never see the hands and feet of Jesus on this side of His return, but you can know Him through His revelation.

I hope that you will embark on a journey with God's word if you don't already participate on this journey. In another article in this newsletter I describe a reading program that I offer as well as the sermon group on Facebook. I hope that the aftermath of Easter for you will be a renewed or a beginning desire to know the resurrected Jesus through His revealed word.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Prayer Meeting

May 18th

7:00 pm

In the Son Room

Continuing Camp Eder History (Part 6)

Chapter 6 in Our Home In the Hills -A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years, is titled "Growing Pains".

The camp was growing and the Camp Committee members were optimistic about the camp's future. I found these guidelines to be quite interesting (note the \$ amounts):

--Seek further financing for future growth and expansion of the camp acreage, including as many as sixty new acres.

--Create new settings for the small group units and locate them for the best use of the land.

--Endeavor to acquire a manager's residence at an estimated cost of \$10,500.

--Develop a swimming pool under a long-range plan at an estimated cost of \$40,000.

--Develop well and water storage facilities.

--Purchase a Jeep or truck.

--Develop a crafts pavilion for which \$600 has already been set aside.

--Develop an area to encourage family camping."

A celebration of the first decade of the camping grounds was held on May 19, 1968. "Those at the gathering ate ham and beans and drank sassafras tea."

Objective modifications were established in 1970: (I'll end this part 6 by listing 2 of the 6 objectives.)

--to confront every individual with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to enable him to respond to God's call to discipleship in Christ.

--to examine the relationship of the Christian faith to the pressing social issues of our day such as war, peace, and race relations." (I think these are timely objectives for today as well.)

Next month, we will look at workshops and visits that helped the Camping Committee embrace additional programs at the growing "Camp Eder".

Fay Richard

March Youth & Young Adult Activities:

We do have a Movie Night scheduled in the coming weeks:

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

- May
 - 1st - Church Council
(YaYA Check in)
 - 8th - Mother's Day (No Youth)
 - 15th - Miniature Golf
 - 20th - (Friday) - Fireside Friday
 - 22nd - No Youth
 - 29th - Memorial Day Weekend
(No Youth)
- June
 - 5th - YaYA Meeting
 - 12th - End of School Celebration
 - 19th - Father's Day Appreciation
 - 24 - 25th - Canoe / Kayak Trip
down Penns Creek?

Peace,
Pastor K



Did you buy your gift cards?

Ashley's YWAM Mission Update

My team and I are doing well in Mexico. I have had the opportunity to share about Christ with many people and even led 3 people to Christ. I still have two more weeks here in Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. On May 2nd my team and I will be moving to Monterrey, Mexico to finish the outreach phase of my DTS.

Prayer request: pray for safe travels. Also we have had some illnesses with my team here in Mexico. So pray for good health.

Thank you,
Ashley Wetzel



Serving in Westernport

Our Mission trip to Westernport is coming quickly! Our trip will be July 9 – 15. And...there is a team of 27 preparing to go and serve through Bible lessons, games, Imagination station, crafts and, of course, food! We want to nurture both spiritually and physically. The children and youth that attend are always hungry for both and what a joy to meet the needs.

The team this year consists of some new faces, as well as, a number of returning members. I am so very appreciative to all who willingly give of their time to travel to Westernport, MD to serve in this way. Team members are: Kurt Ilgen, Janice Shively, Jeff Bastian, Stacy Mast, Shellie Hurst, Sheri Reimer, Joshua Reimer, Ben Reimer, Brenda Eberhart, Amy Noaker, Athena Berkheiser, Deborah Whistler, Linda Miller, Cindy Kelly, Eric Reamer, Kathy Kuhns, Kirsten Kuhns, Eric Kauffman, Clayton Frank, Heather Reid, Amanda Reid, Megan Reid, Maria Reigle, Sarah Davis, Mason Reitenbach, Stacy Reitenbach and myself.

Vicki Bastian,
Team Leader

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022

June 11 – Strawberry Festival

June 15 - Summer Day Camp Begins

July 9 – 15 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 31 – Church Picnic

September 16 – 17 – District Conference

October 2 – Love Feast

November 6 – Church Council Meeting

November 26 – Kettle Cook

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services



The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service