



## Do This in Remembrance of Me

For those of you new to Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, we are having our semi-annual **Love Feast** on **October 1** at **6 pm**. This is a time of gathering together as a church family to partake in singing, feet washing, communion and a small meal (similar to Jesus and His disciples and the Last Supper). If you are uncomfortable with feet washing, you are welcome to observe.

We will provide childcare and a light meal/snack will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Entrance, please also note how many children will be needing childcare.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact one of the pastors or a deacon.

We hope you will plan to join us as we celebrate in a humble way the love of our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,  
Linda Buttorff  
on behalf of the Spiritual Life Ministry Team



Ponder how valuable your soul  
must be for Satan  
to tirelessly pursue it,  
and  
the King to lay down  
His own life for it!!



## Family Connection Meals Return

Our Wednesday evening Family Connection meals will begin on **October 4<sup>th</sup>**. The meal is served at **5:30 p.m.** until about 6:15 p.m. The schedule for the first several weeks is below. All the meals are served with salad and dessert, usually brownies and ice cream.

A suggested donation of \$4/person and \$12/family is asked. We are in need of people to volunteer to help clean up after the meal is over. If you could help with that, please let Pastor Eric know.

- October 4: Lasagna and garlic bread
- October 11: Ham, baked potatoes, broccoli
- October 18: Meat loaf, macaroni & cheese
- October 25: BBQ chicken thighs and chicken breasts with stove top stuffing, cheesy potatoes

Pastor Eric



## Operation Christmas Child

We are closing in on our final months of collecting items for the shoebox mission! We appreciate the support that you give to collecting items for the shoeboxes!! These boxes will travel all over the world to children who have never received a gift before!

Please check the list in the Main Entry to see what is still needed

Items can be placed in the box provided! Thank you for all your support!

Judging others makes us blind, whereas  
love is illuminating.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



## Have You Done It?

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2024 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team has **events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. We also need to make sure that heating/cooling is set for the area(s) you want to use. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar. Please continue to do so as new dates arise or as changes are made throughout the year.)

A **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** needs to be completed for **every church activity** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times, and rooms to be used. You can also use a **calendar Google form** to submit dates. If you are interested in submitting your dates in this way, **contact the church office for the link**. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again, don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facility Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**. The forms can be located by going to "Resources" then "Forms".

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2024 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2023. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2024 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2023.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ilgen, BVCOB Ministry Assistant



## It Is Not Too Late!

It's not too late to join one of our Fall Adult Sunday School classes!

Vince Loss and Tammi Gwinn are leading a class about how to overcome one of Satan's most deceitful snares: the trap of offense.

Steve Buttorff's class will help you connect your Christian faith to your workplace by exploring God's plan for work, the problems with work, and the Gospel as it relates to work.

Learn about what it means to be **in** Christ with Brian Keister's class on Colossians and Philemon.

Navigating Life With Adult Children led by Steve Richard will explore how to handle the changing role of parents as children move into adulthood.

Finally, I am leading a class on Themes of the Bible where each week focuses on a different theme that originates in Genesis, Exodus, or Leviticus. We will follow how each theme ultimately connects to Jesus.

Even if you missed the first class or two, please feel free to join one of these opportunities for you to get to know fellow church members and grow as a community together.

Stacy Reitenbach  
& the Adult Sunday School Team



Be patient and understanding. Life is too short to be vengeful or malicious.  
Phillips Brooks



Have you lost someone who was very close to you? Are you feeling stuck after the death of a loved one? Perhaps you feel overwhelmed with grief that seems to never end.

**Griefshare** may be able to help you move forward with your life. **Griefshare** is a **support group** that helps us understand grief and how it impacts us and how to begin to move forward in life. It is a **safe place** where someone can share very personal and deep feelings in the confidence and support of others and find that you are **not alone in grief**. No one is ever forced to talk or embarrassed for what you may share.

The format for the evening consists of sharing a light meal together, a time of open sharing and watching a video about some aspect of grief with the goal of finding healing for our life. Our current Griefshare **began September 5 at 6:30 pm** in the Sonroom and runs for thirteen weeks finishing on November 28.

If you know someone that would benefit from Griefshare please invite them to attend or perhaps volunteer to come with that person. This is an opportunity to bless someone who may be grieving silently and has never come to terms with their situation.

Jim Brubaker



## Sermon Series in Matthew

Here is our schedule for the coming month for the gospel of Matthew.

- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: Matthew 6:16-21
- Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 6:22-24
- Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 6:25-34 (Pastor Donita)
- Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Matthew 7:1-6
- Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 7:7-12

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

## KidConnection News

As we **move into fall** in Children's Ministry we are excited to welcome approximately 7 kindergarten students who move from the preschool area of Sunday school to the Elementary area in the Sonroom. It's always exciting to see them enjoy the new ways of doing things on Sundays. We also are sad to say goodbye to the ones who leave the Sonroom and move to the basement "PIT" and we will miss them very much. As Kindergarten children arrive they receive a Bible that we hope they will learn to navigate and read as they become readers.

We also enjoy helping our young students **memorize scripture verses** that are good for all followers of Jesus to commit to memory. We hope parents will help all our kids memorize these verses that we send home with them on flash cards. When they say a verse we make a note that they have memorized that particular verse, and they can choose a small prize if they wish.

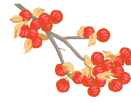
We look forward to our **Friday Fun** program on **November 3**. Parents may bring their children beginning at 6 pm and pick them up by 8:30 pm. During that time the kids will have times of open gym, organized games, crafts, snacks, and Bible lessons. All children in Kindergarten through grade 5 are welcome to attend. We love the community that forms between the children who frequently attend Friday Fun. We hope your k-5<sup>th</sup> grade children will plan to join us on Friday nights from 6 - 8:30 pm.

The children's Sunday school offerings will be used to pack 10 **Operation Christmas Child** boxes. Children may also bring items to place into the boxes when they come to Sunday school or Jr. Worship.

We will be having our **Family Gingerbread Night** once again this year. The date is Friday, **December 1**, so watch for announcements on the newline email for signing your family up for this fun holiday event.

Donita Keister for Children's Ministry

## October Young Adult Activities:



Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

We are getting some things scheduled and would love to have you join us!

August we threw axes at the The Blue Moose - we'll definitely do that again.

September we met for dinner at Hometown Eatery.

**October 19**, (Third Thursday), at **6:30 pm**, we will watch a movie and provide wings. Hope to see you there!



Our goal is to stay connected, have fun and support each other in the different lives we have.

We have a Messenger chat group (BVCOB Young Adults) to help communicate and share news - message me if you want to be added!

Pastor K

## Attention College Students

(or parents of college students)

The YYAMT (Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team) needs to update their list of College **Student Addresses**. Even if you think they haven't changed it would be great to still hear from you to confirm that. Please email Stacy Mast (kyesmommy04@yahoo.com) with this info as soon as possible.

Stacy Mast



## Youth News

### Upcoming Youth Events in October!

- October 1 - NO YOUTH - LOVE FEAST
- October 8 - YaYA Planning Meeting (No Youth)  
- during second service
- October 9 - Pie Crust Prep 9 am to 3 pm  
- make sure you sign up if you can help!
- October 15 - Service Sunday  
(more details will be coming)
- October 20 - Pie Crust Rolling 2 - 6 pm  
- make sure you sign up if you can help!
- October 21 - Pie Prep 8 am - 5 pm  
- make sure you sign up if you can help!
- October 29 - YaYA Planning Meeting  
(No Youth)

### October Is Time For Pies

Please remember apple pie orders are due by **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Pies are \$18 each and will be unbaked. Pies can be picked up on October 21<sup>st</sup> between 2 and 4 pm. Thank you for your support!

PLEASE NOTE - the apple crumb pies do contain walnuts so if you are allergic to walnuts please do not order any pies from us as there could be cross contamination. Sorry!

And remember we would love help from anyone (you don't have to be a youth or youth parent)!

- October 9 - volunteer during the day  
to help mix up pie crusts
- October 20 - volunteer in the afternoon/evening  
to help roll out pie crusts (2 to 6 pm)
- October 21 - volunteer during the day to help  
prepare the apple pie filling and get  
the pies ready for pick up (8 am to 5 pm)

Check out the sign up geniuses that have been sent out if you are able to help in any way! Thanks!

**Stacy Mast**

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader



## As We Enter Fall

Entering into a new season can be a good time to reconsider and review various things in our lives.

When is the last time you reviewed your finances? How is your monthly or yearly budget doing? Are your retirement or other savings account contributions and allocations what they should be? Should you consider giving more to charities, or has your heart changed and maybe you feel led to give to different or new charities? If you participate in giving Christmas gifts, it's a great time to start saving up for those. It's also never too early to start budgeting for Spring and Summer trips (big or small) to give us something to look forward to through the cold months!

If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the Finance Ministry Team (FMT)!

Elaina Richard for the Finance Ministry Team

### Please Feed the Bin

Please remember to "Feed the Bin" at church with your gently used clothing and shoes.



We are in need of donations to help defray the cost of sending our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Vicki Bastian, for Mission Ministry Team

### Did you buy your gift cards?



## *From Your Lead Pastor,*



You Are Great Sheep & We Serve a Great God!

A pastor named Alexander Lang has resigned from his congregation in Illinois after 10 years. He wrote an article about this as he preached his last sermon, and it has gone viral. You may know that a lot of surveys and discussion have occurred around the idea of pastors leaving churches after COVID. A survey by the Barna Group indicated that as of March, 2022, 42% of pastors considered quitting and the top five reasons given were these:

1. The immense stress of the job (56%)
2. I feel lonely and isolated (43%)
3. Current political divisions (38%)
4. Unhappy with effect on family (29%)
5. Pessimistic about church's future (29%)

In the post he wrote Lang talked about the pressure of having each congregation member as a "boss", having unrealistic expectations to be proficient in many different areas such as public speaking, CEO, counselor, fundraiser, etc..., unseen damage in a pastor and dealing with people who have a fixed mindset versus a growth mindset.

I found this article particularly interesting because Lang had served his church for 10 years and I just passed 11 years. His congregation had shrunk by about 50% of those ten years. Buffalo Valley has decreased in worship attendance by about 40% in the past 10 years. However, I don't feel the kind of pressures that Andrew Lang writes about. What is different?

I have two thoughts. First, you are different. When I arrived here in 2012 I inherited a congregation with rich and varied leadership resources and a long tradition of loving one another even through conflict. That had nothing to do with me, but I think we've been able to keep that DNA in place and it served us well through the COVID years. I don't feel like I have hundreds of bosses or unrealistic expectations. You don't communicate those things to me and so many people step into roles of ministry that I simply cannot do. You have greatly cared for me and my family even when that has not looked "normal".

Second, I am very different than Andrew Lang. Lang doesn't believe in a literal resurrection of Jesus and doesn't think it's that important that you do either. I did not do a deep dive into Lang's theology but I looked enough into it to form an opinion that Lang and I serve a very different God.

I wonder if the reason Lang feels the way he does is that he is not nourished and strengthened by a vital relationship with Jesus Christ? That's something I don't know for sure but when I read what he writes, I have reason to wonder. I have that privilege...again, not really because of me but because of Jesus Christ. The God I serve is able to meet all of my needs and uses you as a community of people to help form and shape me through good times and bad.

I encourage you to pray for pastors in America and around the world. Pray that the flocks they serve will be as you are and also pray that pastors who have strayed away from orthodox Christian beliefs would return and find comfort in the One true God.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## **BVCOB Youth & Young Adults: Pastor**

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



### **Light of the Lord's Prayer:**

*"Our Father, Who art in heavens, (Ot-che nash)  
Hallowed be Thy name. (Ee-zhe ye see na nye-  
bye-sekh!) Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive  
our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from the evil one.*

Kenneth Bailey, a Middle Eastern New Testament professor, tells a story of when he went to lecture for the Latvian Lutheran Church soon after the fall of the Soviet Union (during when all education was meant to indoctrinate their people in atheism). He asked one of the young women about how she came to faith:

"Was there a church in your village?"

She replied, "No, the communists closed all of them."

"Did some saintly grandmother instruct you in the ways of God?"

"No. All the members of my family were atheists."

"Did you have secret home Bible studies, or was there an underground church in your area?"

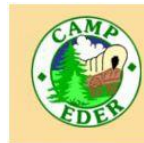
"No, one of that... At funerals we were allowed to recite the Lord's Prayer. As a child I heard those strange words and had no idea who we were talking to, what the words meant, where they came from or why we were reciting them. When freedom came at last, I had the opportunity to search for their meaning. When you are in total darkness, the tiniest point of light is very bright. For me the Lord's Prayer was that point of light. By the time I found its meaning I was a Christian."

The Lord's Prayer has been a point of light to many people that I visit in the hospital. Some share memories of being forced to repeat and memorize it with threat of punishment; some just heard it every Sunday and it stuck in their mind. Some cannot communicate anything else, but when we begin saying the Lord's Prayer, their mouths begin to shape the words, and peace enters their countenance. There are those who struggle with saying it, because of terrible abuses of power associated with it, so we are careful - it is not a "fail-safe." But The Lord's Prayer has been a

connection point for many people, and can lead into broader conversations.

It is one of the benefits of memorizing scripture and prayers - not only can we constantly reflect on them in the moment and new meaning and "words from God" make impressions on us, they return in moments when nothing else makes sense, and communicates God's presence and ear turned toward us. Bring some light into your life - bring some light to others - pray.

Peace, Pastor K



## **Camp Eder Corner**

Thank you to those who donated to our theme baskets to support Camp Eder's Fall Festival; if you have any more items for our auction "snack basket" or our "care basket" (soaps, body wash, band aids, any things along those lines), please let me (Fay Richard) know as we will be wrapping these up before the end of September.

## **Camp Eder 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fest**

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**10 am to 4 pm**

**Live Auction 10:30 AM**

**Pork Meal Served 11AM to 3 PM**

**Live Music!**

- \*Barrel Train Rides\*
- \*Hayrides\*
- \*Kid's Activities\*
- \*Craft Vendors\*
- \*Eder Made Apple Butter\*
- \*Yard Sale Vendors\*



914 Mount Hope Road  
Fairfield, PA 17320

Fay Richard, Camp Eder Rep for BVCOB  
570-716-2442



## Help Make It Happen



We are again making **gift cards available every Sunday morning** after first service and Sunday school. We are hopeful the convenience will increase participation and help us get our building debt paid off sooner.

I am asking if you would consider volunteering to staff the card sales on a Sunday morning. We are hopeful that it would be at least a 5 - 6 week rotation and maybe less frequently. If you are interested let me know and we will arrange to provide you proper training prior to beginning.

Thanks for considering serving Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren in this way. Please contact me.



Steve Richard

### Church Email Lists

**news@bvcob.com**  
BVCOB church news & events

**prayer@bvcob.com**  
prayer requests

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



God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13



Thank You, Thank You!



Thank you to all those who have been bringing metal for recycling!! A huge Thank You to Jake Myer for transporting the metal to the recycling center! Due to your contributions and his faithfulness in transporting the donations, we have been blessed with some very nice checks that go toward our Operation Christmas Child Ministry.

**Bring your aluminum cans and any metal** that you have, even appliances, piping, old metal ladders, car parts and even old tools can all be recycled.

There is a trailer by the shed where you can place your items. If you have any questions, please talk to Jake Myer or Jeff Benner.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

### LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023

November 3 – Friday Fun Night returns



November 5 – Church Council Meeting

November 25 – Kettle Cook

December 1 - Family Gingerbread Night

December 6 – Women's Christmas Gathering

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](http://www.bvcob.com).



**The Lamplighter**

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

Return Service Requested

***The Lamplighter***

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46 Brethren Church Road  
Mifflinburg PA 17844  
[www.bvcob.com](http://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](mailto:churchoffice@bvcob.com)

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