



Proposed Change to Worship & Sunday School Schedule

Introduction: The Ministries Coordinating Team is recommending a change in our Sunday morning schedule. We would like our church family to review the proposed change to a one service model and provide your comments and questions. **No decisions have been made at this time.** We would like to have a final decision made at our November 5th Church Council meeting and if we decide to make the change, we would like to begin the new schedule on December 3rd. Please review the proposed changes and give any comments to any member of the Ministries Coordinating Team or the pastoral team. We want your input as we discern the direction God is leading us.

Reason for Change: We feel there would be a great benefit in having our church community worship together instead of being divided into two services. We can easily fit into the main gathering area for one service, with some room for additional growth. This change will allow our church family to know one another better as we are all present at the same time. It will also provide a clearer impression of who we are as a church family for new attenders and visitors. Moving to one worship service will reduce the volunteers required for children's and hospitality ministries and reduce the overall commitment of time required for the worship team and sound/computer technicians to be serving during the Sunday morning program.

Proposed Schedule: After considering several scenarios, we sense this schedule to have the least negative impact and bring the best changes to help our congregation engage on a Sunday morning.

8:15: Refreshments, including breakfast pastries, would be available in the Main Entry as people volunteer to bring items from home to share.

8:30 – 9:20: Sunday School for adults, youth and children of all ages with a fully staffed nursery.

9:45 – 10:45: Worship with dismissal for Preschool and Junior Worship prior to the sermon. We would offer a fully staffed nursery throughout the service as well as staffing for preschoolers to remain in the preschool ministry area (if that is the desire of parents) during the transition time between Sunday School and the beginning of Preschool Worship. Twenty-five minutes between the end of Sunday school and the start of the service would give people adequate time for the important fellowship time between services.

11:00: We could offer an adult Bible study class or a family Sunday school class for children and parents if desired. We would not have a nursery or children's Sunday school at this time.

Conclusion: We know that change can be difficult, and this is a big change. We want to hear from all of you who have positive or negative feelings about making this change. Everyone's viewpoint is important to us. Please provide any comments you have to the Ministries Coordinating Team members and/or the pastoral team.

God Bless,
Ministries Coordinating Team



God sometimes puts us in the dark to
show us He is the Light.

John Blanchard



"Acts 2:42 Day"

In Acts chapter 2, verse 42 we read this about the early church: *"⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

On **Sunday, November 5th** we are having an "Acts 2:42" day. The Sunday morning service will involve a baptism or two, a sermon on the importance of church community, communion, prayer time, and a testimony or two if we have volunteers. Also, during this service, we will remind ourselves of our church membership covenant. At the conclusion of our second service, we will have a potluck lunch together which precedes our Fall Church Council meeting. It seems like we have all the elements of how the early church functioned in Acts 2:42...except we will have a heated building!

If you would like to be baptized and/or become a new church member, please let me (Pastor Eric) know. If you'd like to share a testimony that day, please let me know as well. We hope that this will be a very meaningful time of worship and community for all of us.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



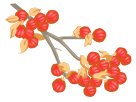
Operation Christmas Child

We are in on our final month 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!

Young Adult Activities:



Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

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

October 21st, Saturday evening we will join a Contra/Square Dance at Megan Wetzel's Barn. Contact Megan for more information.

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

A Note from Jennifer Lake

We received the following note from Jennifer regarding BVCOB's support of **Dwell Orphan Care**.

It is a real joy to receive notes like this when our church community is so generous: "Thank you again for being a leader in this work for caring for the vulnerable. Your leadership and advocacy for the foster and adoptive community is inspiring and I'm grateful to do this work with you. The recent donation from your church of \$1,393.38 blew me away. It takes a large community of support to make this happen and I'm so thankful to have you guys as true champions."

Jenn



Buffalo Gals

Since our fall brunch falls right at the end of October, there is no event for the month of November.

Our **annual Christmas gathering** is **December 6th**, a Wednesday evening. Along with a cookie exchange and light refreshments, we will be focusing on serving the staff and residents of Rolling Hills. I will get a list together and email and post it in the month of November, asking us to gather small lotions, socks, soaps, shampoos, and we will make small gift bags for each resident, as well as making cards for each staff member. I hope this will shine the love of Jesus to each person our gifts and cards touch! So come with a full heart, ready to pour kindness into our community!

Connections ministry has begun, our third gathering will be in November, please reach out if you have questions or would like to know more about this.

Thankful for so many wonderful women in our church, let's keep passionately pursuing Jesus and allowing Him to transform us.

Sheri Reimer for Women's Ministry



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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Wars and Rumors of Wars....

Most of you are familiar with these words of Jesus from Matthew 24: *"³Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'"*

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows."

When war and conflict break out as we see right now in Palestine these verses may come to mind. Those of us in the United States are not familiar with the ravages of war in our own land, dealing with the destruction and death to our neighborhoods. There are places in the world like Palestine that have been struggling with war for generations. What do we make of these words of Jesus?

First, we know that no one knows the hour or day of the return of Jesus. We can be confident in the return of Jesus to reign on the earth but there is no way that we can know when, nor would it even be reasonable for us to know when. It doesn't do any good to think that one war or conflict means that the return of Jesus is coming. There may be an escalation of wars and conflict prior to the return of Jesus but we don't know what that would look like. Obviously many thought that World War II was a fulfillment of the words of Jesus and that turned out to be false.

Second, I encourage you to pray for peace and for the proclamation of the gospel. None of us knows exactly how to pray, but it is right to pray for peace and reconciliation. I think it is also always right to pray for the gospel of Jesus Christ to impact lives and change hearts which can happen in the midst of suffering.

Third, be ready for the return of Jesus! There won't be a second chance. When the last trumpet sounds Jesus returns as a conquering King, not a

suffering savior. Hebrews 9:28 tells us: *"so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation"* This is just one example of the glorious promise of Christ's return. Are you ready? The reality is that none of us is promised tomorrow so today is the day of salvation.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

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



The Color of Hope

(From "Liturgies From Below", a poetic prayer in pain)

(Pain is always with us - whether it is personal loss, overwhelming news cycles, anxiety, etc. Here is a reflection of responding to unthinkable loss).

*Painting toenails in the place
Of death
At least twenty bottles
Of nail polish on the floor*

*She sits with her friend
Even as her mother
Shows me where the bullets
Came through her broken wall*

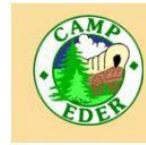
*Hope in the place of death
Color where color has drained away
Painting beauty where there has
Been so much ugliness*

*God help us always to
Walk with the
Hope of this
Toenail painting
Resurrection.*

This prayer is a response to a tragic event. I imagine a group of friends painting the nails of one who has lost a loved one to gun violence, or the beloved one who has passed on herself. It may seem pointless to paint nails in such a time, but that simple act is so much more - it is being together, it is expressing hope in something yet to come, it is rejoicing in the life and mourning the death of a loved one.

There is a time to patch the walls and address the violence to prevent further death, but maybe first we need to recognize the loss and pain and remember there is something bigger, like resurrection, in the future. Resurrection does not dismiss the pain or allow us to let injustice run rampant, but gives us strength and hope for the journey.

Peace, Pastor K



Camp Eder Corner

Thank you again to those who donated to our theme baskets to support Camp Eder's Fall Festival. Special thanks to Jes White for using her creativity to wrap up both crates filled with our donations and topped with awesome "fall bows". If you'd like to see how neat they turned out, check out Camp Eder's Facebook page or let me know. (I took some photos). Also, many thanks to the Galers for delivering them to Camp.

Continue to pray and support our special Church Camp during these coming months. We are mostly involved in their summer camps, however, they have quite a few winter activities and are already working on preparations for the 2024 summer camps. Check out their website **campeder.org** for more details.

Fay Richard, Camp Eder Rep for BVCOB



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



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in November!

November 5 - No Youth

CHURCH COUNCIL

November 12 - Youth 3 - 5 PM

(Activity and Lesson)

November 19 - Roller Skating (1 - 4 PM)

\$9 for admission and regular skates

November 25 - No Youth

Thanksgiving Weekend!

Looking ahead to November...

A huge thanks to all who helped us with our first apple pie fundraiser! At the time of writing this article the fundraiser isn't over yet so I can't update you with a full report. I will try to do that in the December Lamplighter.

For November we will be having a more "normal" month of youth. Our outing this month will be **roller skating** at the Sunset Skating Rink on **Sunday, November 19** from 1-4 pm. Parents feel free to come and bring the whole family if you want. Admission and regular skate rental is \$9. If someone needs a ride let the team know but as we no longer have the church van we will be in need of families to car pool or drive their kids to some events! Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have!

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader

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.



Sermon Topics for November

We will primarily focus on Matthew again in November but there are two weeks where we will focus on something else. Here is our schedule:

November 5th: Acts 2:42 day

...focus on the church community

November 12th: Matthew 7:13-20

November 19th: Ashley Wetzel will share

November 26th: Matthew 7:21-29 (Pastor K.)

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Did you buy your gift cards?



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023

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.

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service