



Change in the New Year

It's hard to believe a new year is upon us. Seems like the years roll by with ever greater speed. There are some changes at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren that came with the new year.

As I hope all of us know by now Pastor K will be transitioning to a new job for UPMC in Williamsport in February. The Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) has developed a task team that will work at addressing how we will continue the youth and young adult ministries without his presence. He and his family plan on staying in our faith community and exploring how they can continue to be involved here.

This will be a good time for us to review our goals for our pastoral ministries. The Executive Team and Finance Ministry Team will be working on a framework for these discussions. We are also having a goal setting retreat February 17th and 18th. We covet your prayers for our leadership teams as we seek to hear God's call for our faith community.

If you have any questions, concerns or positive comments my door is always open.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



Work for the Lord

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Paul, the Apostle

Can You Give Three Hours for Prayer?

In April 2021 we began to have a monthly prayer meeting on the third Wednesday night of each month. I believe God led me to start these meetings. We take one hour and pray for various things and for God to move in various ways. The participation has been very sparse, most nights we have less than 10 people who attend. I think I've written about this before, but this is one of the greatest frustrations for me as a pastor. Why won't people come out to pray...especially when it seems that God's people are called to pray so often in His word?

I don't think that having lots of people pray compels God to answer our requests in the way we want (See my pastoral letter in this edition of the Lamplighter). However, I can't help but believe that if we would gather to pray, we would open ourselves up to more meaningful spiritual activity. Can we at least give it a try?

Could you set aside three hours in the year to attend the prayer meeting...three Wednesdays throughout the course of the next 12 months? If just half of those who call Buffalo Valley their church home would do that we would fill part of the SonRoom each time we gather. Let's do it. We meet **every third Wednesday** from **7 - 8 p.m.** in the Son Room.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

There is no joy in the world like the joy of bringing one soul to Christ.

William Barclay



BVCOB Annual Church Auction

Our highly successful and entertaining BVCOB Annual Church Auction is scheduled for **March 4th** 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. Please feel free to send pictures if you would like as people enjoy seeing all the items being collected.

Because of the large volume of items and space constraints we are asking that you not provide any furniture or items that are more appropriate for a yard sale. Otherwise, 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. We do reserve the right to recycle, donate or trash 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 4th**, 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.

Back due to popular demand, we will again have a silent auction table geared toward children and there will be a few minutes of kids only bidding (with Parents on hand to pay).

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.

Thanks for your support and watch for more news.

Steve Richard, Sbrichard1960@gmail.com



Buffalo Gals

Ladies! We have scheduled a retreat for February 24 - 25th at the Hunsberger home (second story). Please sign up at the Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Building community happens as individuals meet, and with our busy schedules it is difficult to find time to purposely just relax and fellowship. We trust that this opportunity affords that. We will have focused time in the Word to help encourage us on our journeys, meals together, and other activities. There is space for 12 to overnight there, some of us may choose to sleep at home and return for breakfast on Saturday morning. Look for specific meal info and times in an email as the dates draw near. Thank you!

Other upcoming dates/events:

April 22 – Brunch

August Garden Party (date still uncertain)

September 10 - 13 (tentative) - Beach Retreat

October 28 – Brunch

December 6 - Christmas Party

Sheri Reimer for Women's Ministry



Couples Banquet



The 2023 **Couples Banquet** will be held on Saturday, **February 11th** from **6:00 - 8:00 pm** in the Son room.

The cost to cover the meal will be \$30 per couple. It will be a fun night with great food, games, and time to connect with your other half! Sign-up in the main entry.

Zach Showers for Adult Ministry Team



Look What is Happening!

Happy New Year from the Mission Ministry Team! We have plans in place for 2023 and wanted to share them with you, our church family. We so appreciate all the ways that you have helped us reach our goals and look forward to how we can reach "Outside Our Walls" this year!

Westernport Mission Trip – July 8 to 14 and applications will be available in February. Please consider being a part of the team to share with the children of Westernport.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) – We are excited to kick off a brand-new year of collecting and sharing gifts. We will have more information for you in February.

Fill Miss Tracie's Tent – The month of March we will be collecting for Children's Aid Society. We do not yet know what items are needed, so we will keep you posted.

Dwell – Foster Care Awareness month is in May and we will be collecting items to support this outreach who helps foster and adoptive families.

Expectations – In June we will be doing our annual Baby Bottle Drive.

A huge Thank you to all who contributed to the **Christmas Eve offering**, Global Food Initiative, we raised almost **\$7,000!!** What a giving church family we have!

Also, please continue to **Feed the Bin** with clothing and shoes. This money we receive goes toward shipping costs for OCC.

The **Metal Recycling** has been going very well and we are grateful! This money also goes toward shipping costs.

If you have any questions about any of the above or anything that we can help you with, please contact any member of the team: Jeff Benner, Tracie Diehl, Kornelius Reimer, Janice Shively, Alicia Showers, Kelsey Zimmerman, Pastor Eric, or myself.

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team Leader



Join us on Sundays for **Sunday school** and **Junior worship**.

Friday Fun Night have been going strong and the children have been having lots of fun. Crafts, open gym playtime, Bible time and snack.

Join us **Fridays** from **6 - 8:30 pm** and invite a friend!

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team

Christmas Eve Offering Thank You!

Our Christmas Eve offering this year went to Global Food Initiative. This is a Church of the Brethren ministry which provides agricultural and animal resources to developing countries through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The focus is on sustainable projects which are long lasting, and which point people to Jesus Christ. This year's offering was \$6,984.94! That is a fantastic amount. I received the following words from the director of the Global Food Initiative:

"Wow! That is amazing!! I continue to be amazed by your congregation.... please know that from where I sit, I see you and your church as a city on a hill reflecting Christ's light into a dark world and doing amazing things for God's kingdom and His glory both near and far. Blessings to you and send my words of thanks to all at Buffalo Valley." Jeffrey S Boshart

Pastor Eric

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

Pastor



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

Transitions:

"Jonathan made a covenant with David, for he loved him as much as he did his own life. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with the rest of his gear, including his sword, his bow, and even his belt." (NIV, 1 Samuel 18:3-4)

Youth Sunday school is studying the life of David in detail for clues to what it means to be "after God's heart," and how to pursue such a life. Other characters quickly emerge as a part of that relationship, like Jonathan. Jonathan was the king's son, he was a leader (in 1 Samuel 14, he led a crazy foray into the enemy camp, rescuing Israel). He was raised to be king. He was also the best friend everybody wishes they had.

First off, though he had some privileges as the Prince of Israel, he didn't seem to lord that over anybody. He used his position to speak for others. Even before he met David, he led his own military victory - climbing a cliff with one other soldier and attacking a Philistine Garrison. He also called out his dad's foolish decree to not eat anything before a battle (1 Samuel 14). Then David came into the picture. Instead of being jealous of the attention David was getting, he adopts him as his new best friend. Jonathan equips David and shares clothing that helps David fit into the palace. Later, as their friendship deepened, Jonathan risks his life to argue with his dad about the merits of David. In short, Jonathan put his friend's interest before his own.

We can begin wishing we had a friend like Jonathan who looks out for us, and sacrifices their time and put's our interest above their own. Or we might even be thankful we have a friend like that. Have we considered if we ARE a friend like that?

Peace, Pastor K



Giving to Help a Life

The **American Red Cross Blood Drive** will take place on Tuesday, **January 24th** from **1 - 6 p.m.** at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.

You can sign up by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or you can call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment. Blood donations are always needed so please consider participating to make a difference in someone's life.

Holly Lehman



Kettle Cook Success

On November 26th, the BVCOB Men's Ministry held another successful Kettle Cook. It was a beautiful day with great fellowship and excellent soup!

From the profit of the last two kettle cooks, we were able to pay off medical bills for 7 individuals/families in our local community totaling over \$3,300! These situations ranged from young families with children to elderly individuals with many difficult conditions.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kettle Cook. Special thanks to Jake and Scott Myer for all their help in organizing the making of the soup.

Zach Showers for Men's Ministry

From Your Lead Pastor,



Does the Amount of People Praying Influence God's Answer?

Something recently happened in our culture around prayer that raises some important questions. A player for the Buffalo Bills suffered a hit on the field and went into cardiac arrest. Injuries happen every game but the sight of this man falling down and then having CPR administered and driven off in an ambulance is rare. Players from both teams gathered to pray and calls for prayer rang out through social media, reaching tens if not hundreds of millions of people worldwide. As I write this, over a week has transpired since the player's collapse and hospitalization, and it does appear that he will recover.

Once the player began to improve there were many cries of "Prayer is powerful" and "Prayer works" from social media posts. The power of prayer and the encouragement to pray were being mentioned in ways that are very unusual in the broader context of society. It was only in 2022 where a public high school football coach had to take his desire to pray after football games all the way to the Supreme Court.

Closer to home I have been exhorting all of us at Buffalo Valley to pray more. I've asked for people to commit to pray each day for people in the church directory. We've held monthly prayer meetings (see other article in this newsletter) where we rarely get more than 10 people to participate. Does it really matter how many people gather to pray? I think that the answer to this question is "no" and "yes".

First, the answer is "no" if we think that the volume of prayer bends God to our direction or will. There is no heavenly "prayer meter" that trips God into action when a threshold of prayers is reached. God isn't likely to answer the prayer of 1 million over the prayer of 1. At least there is no scripture text that points us in that direction.

Second, the answer is "yes". There is a benefit to gathered prayer and many people praying. In an April 2022 post by Pam Morrison she lists five benefits to many people praying:

1. People praying together experience unity.
2. People praying together experience power.
3. People praying together glorify God.
4. People praying together touch non-believers.
5. People praying together are changed.

I do believe there are advantages to praying together. I don't think we change the mind of God based on numbers, but I do think numbers can change us. Is it not likely that simply by obeying God to pray we would see His blessing? Would you consider gathering together on the third Wednesday of each month to pray? I don't know exactly what difference it will make but I'm very confident that it will make a difference and those praying will be different.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Serving in the Dominican

Please remember to read the blog posts from **Jason and Nicole Hoover** to follow their ministry and their family as they serve in the Dominican Republic.

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team

“God’s Story:
Sermon Series on the Old Testament”

On January 8th we began a sermon series looking at 12 major themes throughout the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi. These themes are not just important “back then” but are also very important today. God’s story hasn’t really changed since the beginning. Here is our upcoming schedule through February:

- January 15: Fall and Flood
- January 22: People of Israel
- January 29: Exodus
- February 5: Promised Land
- February 12: Judges
- February 19: Kings (Part 1)
- February 26: Kings (Part 2)

I hope you will be with us on Sunday mornings and also join the Facebook sermon group to interact with one another and the text throughout the week.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Wednesdays

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm
Buffet-Style Meal
\$4/person \$12/family

Sign up at the bulletin board in the main entry.



The truly wise man is he who always believes the Bible against the opinion of any man.

R.A. Torrey



Serving in Malaysia

Ashley Wetzel is serving with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). She is working with the Discipleship training School (DTS) as a staff member. Her duties are to lead work duties, intercession time and hospitality for the guest speakers. Please pray for her in this job, increased attendance for the DTS, and that she continues to adjust to the new culture. Your prayers and any financial support that you feel led to give are always greatly appreciated.

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team

Camp Eder History (Part 9)

About the same time Schwarzenau was dedicated, the various sections of the campgrounds were also given names. Unit #1 honored Alexander Mack, the first minister and founder of the Church of the Brethren. "Unit #2 recalled the role of Sarah Major..., an early woman preacher of the denomination who ministered to churches without Brotherhood approval. Unit #3 celebrated John Kline..., an early statesman-pastor who was a pacifist during the Civil War Era. Unit #4 celebrates the name of Dan West..., another layman of the church who inaugurated the Heifer Project in the interests of a practical Christianity and the promotion of peace.Unit #5 honors M. Robert Ziglar..., who worked as a tireless advocate of the peace beyond the bounds of the denomination. In the denomination, he was frequently designated as "Mister Brethren". Unit #6 recalls the work of Anna Beahm Mow..., who worked as a missionary, teacher, and author on behalf of the church and who was a great advocate for the cause of youth. Anna was a frequent visitor to camp and had the distinction of being one of the early women of the of the denomination."

Camp Eder had support of churches, Men's Work Group, Women's Work Group and the financial support of the Children's Aid Society of the Southern District. In June, 1977, nineteen people met to consider proposals for Camp Eder. Joel Knepper reported "The program of the camp is still growing and being developed. It is not a static program but is continually being reformed to meet the needs of the campers whether the campers are nine or ninety!"

A new organization was created with 25 charter members who were known as "Friends". One of their first projects was the start of Fall Festival, which continues to be held each year in October. "Friends" grew to 150 members in 1980, and 200 in 1981.

Camp was growing with numbers and excitement!

Next month, we will look at the many ways Camp Eder helped campers of all ages grow in their faith.

Reminder; much of this information has been found in [Our Home In The Hills...A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years 1958-2008](#) written as A Ministry of the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren.

Fay Richard, Camp Rep

January Youth & Young Adult Activities:

Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

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.

On Saturday, January 28th, 6 pm, we will be meeting at Buffalo WildWings in Selinsgrove, and then going to Best Bowl for friendly competition.

Youth (6th -12th grade)

Winter Activity Schedule:

- January 29 - "Regular" PIT Youth, 3 – 5 pm, in the PIT (Woodcarving 101 - Discipleship)
- February 5 - YaYA Planning Meeting (No Youth)
- February 12 - PIT Youth, 3 – 5 pm
- February 19 - PIT Youth, 3 – 5 pm
- Friday, February 24th
Winter Jam at Bryce Jordan Center
- February 26 - No Youth

Pastor K

Church Email Lists

news@bvcob.com
church news, church events

prayer@bvcob.com
prayer requests

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



Collection Discontinued

We have contacted Matthew 25 Ministries, where we have been preparing and mailing empty pill containers, and have found out that they aren't having the impact we thought they were having. In fact, they have a surplus. They recommended sending them to a local recycling center, and so it has been decided to stop collecting them.

If you personally do not recycle, please talk to a neighbor or someone else who does; they would likely be willing to add it to their recycling. We understand that not all recycling centers take them, but it's always good to ask.

Thank you for your past contributions and your understanding.

Sheri Reimer, for Women's Ministry Team

Watch Sunday Morning Service

We do still stream our Sunday morning services, which it appears many of you are aware, as there were 40 views of our service Sunday Morning on Christmas!

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas service; it was a unique experience and a lot of fun! I was surprised at new insights into the Christmas story, as I played the part of the Star in the 2nd service! Follow this link: <https://youtu.be/pFyIMwdLU90> to view the Christmas service.

If you are interested in viewing our current service - or past ones - you can look us up on YouTube: "Buffalo Valley COB".

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Peace,
Pastor K



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023



March 4 – Church Auction

March 5 – Brethren Brunch

April 1 – Easter Egg Fair

April 6 – Love Feast

April 22 – Women's Brunch

April 28 – Secret Church

May 7 – Church Council Meeting

June 10 – Strawberry Festival

July 8 – 14 – Westernport Mission Trip

August 6 – Church Picnic

September 10 - 13 (tentative) - Beach Retreat

October 1 – Love Feast

October 28 – Women's Brunch

November 5 – Church Council Meeting

November 25 – Kettle Cook

December 6 – Women's Christmas Party

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

The Lamplighter

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