

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

March 2023  
Volume 39 No. 2

## "God's Story: Sermon Series on the Old Testament"



Through the month of March we will continue with our series titled, "God's Story". The themes we cover are just as important for us today as they were for people in the time of the Old Testament. Here is our schedule to finish out the series:

February 19:	Kings (Part 1)
February 26:	Kings (Part 2)
March 5:	Wisdom Literature
March 12:	Prophets
March 19:	Exile/Captivity
March 26:	Return

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



## Men's Retreat 2023

We are excited for another Men's Retreat coming up from **March 17 - 19**. The location will be the same as last year, Mountain Dale Farm in McClure. The retreat will run from dinner time on Friday night until roughly 11 am on Sunday.

The weekend is very laid back. It's a great time of fellowship, eating, and diving into the Word together. We will be studying the Sermon on the Mount together throughout the weekend.

The cost for the weekend, which includes lodging and meals is \$75.

Please sign-up by Sunday, March 5 on the Men's Ministry Board.

Any questions? Contact Zach Showers at [zshowers@yahoo.com](mailto:zshowers@yahoo.com) or 570-765-2011.



## Learning & Sharing Together

Spring Quarter Adult Sunday School classes (March – May) will begin on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Manbeck and Steve White will be leading a class on **Themes of the Bible**. They will be using Bible Project videos to explore various familiar themes in a new light, which will be sure to deepen your understanding of scripture.

Mark Hofmann will be facilitating a class on the practical teaching and doctrinal elements of **Philippians** with a focus on how they can be applied to our lives and the church today.

**The Blessed Life** with Heather Buttorff will help you learn how you can live a financially and spiritually blessed life when you allow God change your heart.

Pastor Eric will facilitate a class focused on Peter's **Famous Last Words** in 2 Peter. This will be a participant-driven class where you will be encouraged to share what **you** discover as you read and study each week.

Finally, Stacy Reitenbach will lead a class on **Extracting Hope From the News**, which will feature discussions on current news stories analyzed within a biblical context in an effort to help us persevere in our daily walk even in the face of disconcerting current events.

Many of these classes come from YOUR requests from the surveys at the end of each quarter. Keep them coming!

Stacy Reitenbach,  
Adult Sunday School Coordinator



## Golden Oldies

March 2

11:30 am – lunch at Larry's

1:00 pm – meeting & games at the church  
in the Son Room

## BVCOB Annual Church Auction

Our **highly successful and entertaining** BVCOB Annual Church Auction is scheduled for **March 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>**, 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**  
(Women's Ministry)

### Important correction!!!

\*\*\*The Women's Ministry Team would like to make a correction on the **Beach Retreat dates** in September. To help defray extra costs, the dates will be **September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>**. We hope that those who enjoy this retreat can mark those dates on your calendars!

Our next event is a **brunch** in the Son Room on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **9 - 11 am**, there will be a sign up on the bulletin board late March.

**August Garden Tea** is tentatively scheduled at Keith and Meg Phelps' garden. It is a lovely time of year to relax and visit with each other.

**September 17 - 20, Beach Retreat**

**October 28<sup>th</sup>, Brunch in the Son Room**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, \*Christmas Party**

\*if anyone would like to help organize and plan this, please reach out, the more ideas the better! Thank you!

Lastly, I am seeking Ministry (outreach) ideas. I love that the Kettle Cook gives to our community both in providing inexpensive nourishment and then helping pay medical bills. If you have a specific need that you see, that we could possibly begin an outreach in...would you email, call or talk to me? Thank you!

Sheri Reimer for the Women's Ministry Team

*The cross of Christ bridges the gap we could never cross on our own.*



### Can You Give Three Hours for Prayer?



Last month I asked you to consider giving three hours this year to prayer with your church family. Some of you gave an hour in February for our church prayer meeting. We had 16 people attend as we prayed for one another, those we love and for God's activity in our midst.

I pray that many more of you will come out on **March 15<sup>th</sup>** from **7 - 8 pm**.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

### Easter Egg Fair



April 1<sup>st</sup> 10 - 12 Noon

**Resurrection Eggs:** will be given to each family at the fair to enjoy in their homes.

**Donations:** We will be accepting candy donations or a monetary donation. Families are preferring less candy, we thought it would be better to use the monetary donations for items to offer for the ticket tables.

**Volunteers:** sign up at the bulletin board. We need help with set up, game stands, ticket booths, bounce houses, kitchen help and then clean up.

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth." Job 19:25

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team



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 next Griefshare **begins March 7** at 6:30 pm in the Sonroom and runs for thirteen weeks.

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



Join us Friday's for:

Friday Fun Nights 6 pm - 8:30 pm

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> (ends the season)

Bring some friends!

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team



## Helping Outside Our Walls!

**Westernport Mission Trip – July 8 to 14** and applications are available NOW. 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. Please see the Mission table in the Main Entry for more information. Any questions, please check with Kelsey Zimmerman.

**Fill Miss Tracie's Tent** – The month of March we will be collecting for Children's Aid Society. In your mailbox was a list of the needed items. Please place your contributions in Miss Tracie's Tent.

**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.

Also, please continue to **Feed the Bin** with gently used 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 OCC 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



Ashley Wetzel is serving in Malaysia, with Youth With A Mission (YWAM).

Please keep her in your prayers as she trusts the Lord to guide and protect her.

## Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYA)

As we send Pastor K off on his new journey the YaYA team has identified specific needs so that the Youth and Young Adult Ministry will continue to run smoothly. We need individuals willing to help to fill these needs. Here are some specific needs at this time:

**Substitute Sunday School Teachers for Youth** – we want to generate a list of people willing to fill in on short notice if our current Sunday school teacher has an emergency and can't make it. We would provide you with the lesson and a helper who is familiar with the youth. Please let us know if you can be a on our list for substitute Sunday school teachers for the Spring Quarter (March through May).

**Youth Leaders** - specifically someone who is willing to lead either the lesson or the games or both during a youth meeting on a Sunday afternoon between 3 and 5 PM. We are looking for individuals who would be willing to do this one time a month or even one time a quarter. There would be support from the YaYA Team with you at the event and we would provide the lesson to you ahead of time. **For the Spring Quarter we need someone to lead the lesson and/or lead the games on Sunday, April 23.**

**Young Adult Representative** - we are looking for someone who is willing to help our other young adult representative to plan events for young adults every month or two.

**YaYA Team Members** - we are always looking for new people to join our team. We meet monthly to plan events for youth and young adults, as well as help throughout the month with events. We would like to add an additional two people to our team.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or interest in helping to fill these needs.

Stacy Mast, YaYA Team Leader  
kyesmommy04@yahoo.com or 570-412-7198



## Camp Eder Corner

First call for summer camps! Remember our church pays a large portion of tuition for our campers! Camp Eder camps are for Elementary children through and including High School youth.

Register online at [campeder.org](http://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 for our church camp, near Gettysburg. Please let me know (and Stacy Mast-for youth), if you are going!

### Week 1 June 18 - 23

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)  
Junior High (Grades 7 - 8)  
Rock Climbing (Grades 7 - 12)  
Shining Stars (Ages 15+)

### Week 2 June 25 - June 30

Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12)  
Junior Camp 1 (Grades 4 - 6)  
Outback Camp (Grades 4 - 6)  
Film Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

### Week 3 July 9 - 14

Kids Camp 1 (Grades 1 - 3)  
Little Gardeners (Grades 1 - 3)  
Camp All Out (Grades 1 - 3)  
Barefoot (July 12 - 14 for Kindergarten)

### Week 4 July 16 - 21

Junior Camp II (Grades 4 - 6)  
Dream It, Build It (Grades 4 - 6)  
AT Trekkers (Grades 7 - 12)

### Week 5 July 24 - 29

Kids Camp II (Grades 1 - 3)  
Mad Science Camp (Grades 4 - 6)  
Puddle Jumpers (Grades 4 - 6)

Hope you check out the summer adventures being planned for your child's Christian camping experience at [campeder.org](http://campeder.org). Last summer, we had a great group of campers from BVCOB! Hope to repeat that this year!

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

From Your Lead Pastor,



## Enjoying the Lord

I've been very excited about enjoying the presence of the Lord these days. It's easy for me to get off track, or rather it is easy for me to get on the track of comparing myself with others or comparing the church's ministry with other churches. But this past week has been important to me.

I've been watching and paying attention to what is going on at Asbury University and how that is now spreading to other Christian campuses. I was listening tonight to the student body president of Asbury and she reiterated that no one planned what is happening there. It just happened. I've been thinking a lot about that lately.

I'm going to take a season of life without putting any pressure on myself. I'm going to press into God's word, being around God's people and sharing the truth about Jesus to as many people as I can, and I've decided that I'm not going to care too much about how others respond. I'm going to enjoy Jesus and what He means to me.

I'm sure I'll get off track at times but I'm looking forward to a season of..... (I don't really know or care what the season will be) ☺

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.



BAPTISM!



We praise the Lord for the following people who became members of our congregation. **Jeremy Waite** and **Roxanne Waite** were baptized during the early service on Sunday February 19. **Kornelius Reimer** and **Sheri Reimer** became members through reaffirmation of faith.

Please encourage them as they continue their faith walk as part of our congregation.

Walk each day in the simplicity  
of trusting God's love  
and the wonder of watching Him  
work in marvelous ways.

Roy Lessin

## Serving Now & In the Future

We are continuing to move forward with changes brought about by Pastor K's new employment. At our council meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the congregation approved a recommendation from the Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) to enable Pastor K to stay in the parsonage without paying rent until the regularly scheduled May Council meeting. This was recommended as an appreciation for his faithful service as well as creating some time for all parties to assess Pastor K's future involvement.

We have a lot of experience and education invested in Pastor K and there may be an opportunity to create a ministry plan that will allow him to continue ministering on a part time basis. This window between now and May will allow Pastor K to assess his availability and Buffalo Valley COB to explore how we might utilize his gifts moving forward. The MCT will bring a recommendation at the May Council meeting proposing how we want to proceed.

I would also encourage all of you to look for additional opportunities to serve. Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YYAMT), Worship & Music Ministry Team (WMMT), Finance Ministry Team (FMT) and Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team (HCMT) are all looking for help. Unlike the business world where experience and education is often the qualifier for a job, God has a history of calling those who seem least prepared so they can experience Him at a deeper level as He uses them to do His work.

Please keep all these things in your prayers.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



## Youth News

### Youth in the Month of March!

**March 5** - YaYA Planning Meeting (No Youth)

**March 11** - Race Day - 8 am - 3 pm (offsite)  
– sign up for a spot through sign up genius

**March 19** - No Youth

**March 26** - Service Project  
3 - 5 pm at the church

### Additional Reminders:

**Camp Eder summer camp is approaching!** Please remember if you are planning to attend Camp Eder you need to contact Stacy Mast (kyesmommy04@yahoo.com or 570-412-7198) so you can be added to our list of attendees. We do pay for a portion of camp for active youth from our congregation.

**Westernport applications are available and due mid-March!** You can ask Vicki Bastian for an application or contact Stacy Mast and she will make sure you receive one. We love to have youth join this week of crazy fun which will be STELLAR. Please consider if you would be willing to join us this summer! If you have questions and are unsure Stacy would love to answer questions for you!

Stacy Mast, YaYA Team Leader

## 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.

## Camp Eder History (Part 10)

Camp, a place to hike, to gather around the campfire, to sing and to make new friends. But Camp Eder is more than that, it is a place to grow in your faith.

In the Book, Our Home in the Hills...A History of Camp Eder's First Fifty Years 1958 -2008, "For many of our members, Camp Eder is becoming a vital part of their lives, not just as a place to camp, but more importantly, a place for spiritual growth."

Sharing our faith became an important camp goal. Carl and Kris Synan, known for their activity with National Audubon, reminded the district about how "the majority of the weekly programs take place in the small, decentralized setting'. Interactions with the unit friends include Bible Study, nature, arts, crafts and music. "Relationship and responsibility play important roles in the life of the camper...it is always the hope and prayer that Camp Eder can do its part in preparing people to live responsible Christian lives both now and in the future."

In the early 1980s, discussions led to adding winter facilities and the possibility of having retreats year-round. Camp Eder became one with the Outdoor Ministry Commission. "The Camp Eder Mission" (1982), highlighted these purposes for Camp Eder: "strengthening one's relationship to God; strengthening one's relationships both inside and outside the Christian community; strengthening one's relationship to the self; strengthening one's relationship to all of God's creation."

A building for showers was completed; campers and volunteers increased in numbers. In the fall, Camp Eder offered temporary housing for an overflow of refugees (from various countries) who were arriving at the New Windsor, MD Center. Volunteers, including those from BVCOB, brought food and gained trust from those newcomers staying at Camp Eder.

Camp Eder "our home in the hills" was, and continues to be, a blessing for many!

Fay Richard, Camp Rep



Our choices never surprise God!!

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023



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 17 - 20 – Women's 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](http://www.bvcob.com).



Serving others is an essential component of being a good church.



**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