



Your Input Is Needed!

Please join us on **May 7** for the **Church Council Meeting**. There will be a **potluck lunch** beginning at **12 p.m.** and the **meeting** will begin at **1:00 p.m.**

Along with other items, we will be discussing recommendations made by the Ministries Coordinating Team in regards to offering Pastor Eric Kauffman **part-time employment** and establishing a **Dominican Agricultural Fund**. An official agenda will be distributed in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you,
Steve Buttorff, Moderator



Secret Church May 5th

We **changed the date for Secret Church** to May 5th. We will gather in the PIT on Friday, May 5th at about 6:30 - 6:45 pm. The simulcast begins at 7:00 pm and lasts until 1:00 am on Saturday, May 6th. This is an interesting and very focused time of Bible study. There is also time devoted to prayer and a focus on an unreached people group around the world. The focus of the study is the **book of Jonah**. Each participant will receive a study guide on Jonah to follow along with during the program.

The cost is \$20 to cover the simulcast fee. If you'd like to attend or have any questions, please see Pastor Eric.



Pastor Eric

Dwell Orphan Care

May is Foster Care awareness month. We will be partnering with Dwell Orphan Care to collect items for their Hope Chest Foster Closet. The Foster Closet supports foster families by providing a care package for any new foster children they take in. We will be collecting New Bubbles and Sidewalk chalk. Please place these items in the bin labeled Dwell in the Main Entry on ANY Sunday in May!



WE'RE COLLECTING

New Bubbles &
Sidewalk chalk

FOR DWELL'S HOPE
CHEST FOSTER CLOSET

in honor of
Foster Care Awareness
Month this May!

Learn more about Dwell at
WWW.DWELLORPHANCARE.ORG or
contact Emily@dwellophanicare.org.



Alicia Showers for Mission Ministry Team



It Doesn't Get Better Than This!

The Gospel is the Good News. But good news is most impactful in the face of bad news. Never was there a clearer example of good news cancelling out bad news than in the story of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is risen indeed!



Sermon Series in Matthew

On April 23rd we will begin a new series of sermons on the gospel of Matthew. The plan is to go through the **gospel of Matthew verse by verse**. This will take at least two years as we investigate all of the different parables, teaching, miracles, and other stuff in this gospel. At the end we will have walked through the entire life of Jesus, from birth to resurrection.

I think this will be an exciting time and it will give you a chance to really dive deeply into the life of Jesus to apply it to your life. If you are on Facebook, I encourage you to join the sermon group so that you can follow and contribute to the discussion there as well.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

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

Fireside Friday



May 19th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

at the Keister Farm



If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.

C.T. Studd

Women's Ministry Introducing



We plan to tweak our prayer partner ministry slightly, and renaming it "Connections". It is difficult over a short period of time to get to know someone well enough to trust them with prayer requests sometimes. You want to trust that person, to meet with them personally and know them. This is happening with our prayer partners (yay!) but I feel it could be deepened as well as broadened, by opening it up for longer periods of time.

The secret sister ministry had an annual change, why not make the Connections ministry into an annual event/change?

We will be keeping our current prayer partners for the summer, and in October, at the brunch we already have scheduled, we will begin as Connections. This summer you will again see a jar on the Women's Ministry Table in the Main Entrance, for you to join if you're not already involved.

As always, if your season of life makes it difficult to continue...just jot me an email and I will remove your name and contact info. This is a ministry, voluntary, and a small but important way to connect to one other lady in our church, for the purpose of deepening bonds and trust and bearing each other's burdens.

I appreciate your terrific response and involvement in this, I've heard from several women that it has been beneficial. If you have any ideas/suggestions/critiques regarding Women's Ministry, email or text me! I'd very much love to get to know each of you better and if you'd like to be more involved...if you'd like to host a brunch or activity, if your heart aches for friendship or mentoring...reach out. Building Community (friendship!) begins sometimes with an email or text! ♥

Sheri Reimer for the Women's Ministry Team
reimer.ks@yahoo.com
570-939-0448

Meet the Finance Ministry Team!

Diane Reigle recently accepted the position of Church Treasurer after following God's lead through a Bible verse. She is in her 4th year of being Union County Treasurer. She has 4 kids and 8 grandkids, which are the love of her life!

Elaina Richard feels passionately about financial stewardship and helping others gain financial security. Her passion for saving money began when her parents allowed her to get a dog with her allowance. She is a Software Developer for Prominent (based in Bismarck, ND).

Jonathan Bastian also has interests in stewardship and biblical financial management. He is the Chief of Emergency Medical Services for Evangelical Community Hospital, and he and his wife own and operate a cut flower farm, Hickory View Farms.

Heather Buttorff has 14 years in the financial industry. She's passionate about hearing others' financial journeys and being creative in coming up with improvement plans. Heather is guided by Matthew 6:21 - "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Eric Kauffman recently served as the pastoral member on the team. He learned to budget while working on his parent's farm using the envelope system (One envelope for charity, one envelope for savings, one envelope for clothing, etc...).

The Finance Ministry Team is responsible for implementing the annual budget, reporting and oversight to keep leadership apprised of any spending or budget concerns, and challenging any spending that doesn't support the church vision and mission.

We are looking for 2 new team members to join us. We ask that you have a passion for supporting the mission of the church. You do not need to be specifically skilled or have professional experience in the area of finances. If you think you might be interested, reach out to any member of the team!

If you would like guidance or advice, or have any questions about personal finances, you can reach out to Diane Reigle, Elaina Richard, Jonathan Bastian, Heather Buttorff, Steve Richard, or Andrew Richard.

Elaina Richard, for the Finance Ministry Team

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYA)



Upcoming Events for Youth in May!

May 7 - NO YOUTH (Church Council Meeting)
May 14 - NO YOUTH (Happy Mother's Day)
May 21 - Mini Golf at Hooplas - look for more details on our Facebook page & via email!
May 28 - NO YOUTH (Memorial Day Weekend)

Camp Eder - there is still time for youth to sign up! Please remember if you are planning to attend 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. Several kids are signing up for Week 5 so there will definitely be familiar faces that week!

Looking ahead to ... GRADUATION! June will bring us an opportunity to celebrate our graduates. An email was sent through the church newslines asking for graduate information. Please fill out the information as soon as possible. The deadline will be May 15th! We want to make sure that we don't miss anyone. If you are not on the church newslines please email me (kyesmommy04@yahoo.com) and I will gladly forward the information to you!

Attention Students Finishing Fifth Grade - you can start to join youth events in June. We look forward to meeting all incoming youth and having them become part of our group!

Stacy Mast

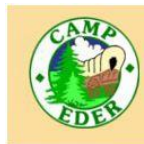
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader



Hey, Parents of K thru 5

We have challenged children to collect enough items for **10 OCC shoeboxes**. This fall, we will have the children, as a group, pack their shoeboxes. OCC is a great opportunity to help our children participate in and understand the important role mission plays in spreading the gospel! So, parents ask your kids what they are collecting for their part of the mission!

Kelsey Zimmerman, OCC Coordinator



Camp Eder Corner

Third 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. 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!

We are hoping more children/youth will register. If you have any questions on how to include your children in this awesome summer experience, please let me know. I'd be happy to help you get them registered!

Week 1 June 18 - 23

Senior High, Junior High, Rock Climbing & Shining Stars

Week 2 June 25 - June 30

Wet and Wild, Junior Camp 1, Outback Camp & Film Camp

Week 3 July 9 - 14

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

Week 4 July 16 - 21

Junior Camp II, Dream It, Build It & AT Trekkers

Week 5 July 24 - 29

Kids Camp II, Mad Science Camp & Puddle Jumpers

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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Natural? Supernatural? Both?

Something has been on my mind the past couple of days. I've been thinking about the intertwining of the natural and supernatural in the life of Jesus and His disciples. From the birth of Jesus through the resurrection of Jesus we see supernatural events. We read about visits from angels, healing of disease, casting out demons, raising people from the dead, etc... We see this both in the life of Jesus and in the lives of His disciples after Jesus has ascended into heaven.

The life of Jesus and His disciples isn't just supernatural, it's also natural. When Jesus and His disciples needed to go somewhere they walked. They didn't teleport. They got hungry and tired just like everyone else did. From the outside point of view their lives likely looked like most everyone else's life.

When Jesus sends out the disciples in Luke chapter 9 He gives them four major commands: Cure disease, cast out demons, preach the kingdom and heal the sick. I wonder if those commands are still valid for Jesus's disciples in 2023? If they are, I know that I am falling woefully short. I can't say that the specifics should be the same for us as they were for Peter and John but should our lives at least contain some mix of the natural and supernatural? Should we see more supernatural evidence of the power and presence of God in our church community than we currently see? Do we really expect supernatural things to happen?

I'm doing much soul-searching these days, considering these questions. I'd appreciate any input or comments you have. I want all that God desires for me and I think you want all that God desires for you. Let's work together to see that happen!



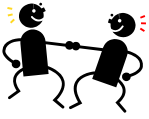
God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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.

Please also consider supporting her financially which can be done by making a check out to BVCOB and putting Malaysia Mission Fund on the memo line.



Helping Outside Our Walls!

Westernport Mission Trip – Our trip is **July 8 to 14** and we now have a team of 25!! We will be providing a Day Camp to the children there. Please keep the team in your prayers

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) – We are excited to see that a number of items are coming in. This is a great way to share the message of Jesus Christ to children all over the world! Please see the Mission table in the Main Entry for more information and a visual of what is needed. We appreciate your help! Any questions, please check with Kelsey Zimmerman.



Expectations – In June we will be doing our annual Baby Bottle Drive. We are doing this at a different time this year and hope that you will again help us as we collect funds for this outreach.

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



We are not finished with the need of forgiveness when we become Christians.

G. B. Duncan

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023



- June 10 – Strawberry Festival
- June 14 – Summer Day Camp begins
- June 23 - Fireside Friday
- 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.

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.

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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

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