



Interested in Baptism?

We are planning to have a **baptism service** in the pond during our church picnic on **Sunday, August 6th**. If you are interested in being baptized or have some questions you'd like to have answered, please contact one of the pastors. We would welcome the chance to speak with you about this very important step of obedience to Christ.

Baptism is a perfect symbol of our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a wonderful thing when children and adults take the step of obedience in baptism.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

Men's Backyard Bash & Quoit Pitch

Sunday, **July 30th: 4 - 8 PM**

Steve and Fay Richard's House
7765 Buffalo Rd. Mifflinburg

Join us for backyard games and the famous
quoit pitch tournament!



Burgers and drinks will be provided. Please
bring a side dish to share.

Zach Showers for Men's Ministry

We Are Soon On Our Way, And.. This is Why We Go!

On July 7th four of us will be heading to Westernport to get ready for the rest of the team to arrive the next day. On Saturday, July 8, the work begins! We will set up and make the church areas look like outer space since our theme this year for Day Camp is Stellar. We have gathered many items, from Bible story props for Pastor Eric, Imagination station, Crafts, to decorating props and of course, there is the food! A lot of time and planning goes into this week in Westernport, but we are so blessed through this ministry.

Here is the team of 25: Stacy Reitenbach, Darcy Reitenbach, Mason Reitenbach, Eric Reamer, Jeff Bastian, Stacy Mast, Ben Reimer, Sheri Reimer, Joan Hofmann, Mark Hofmann, Athena Berkheiser, Clayton Frank, Linda Miller, Heather Reid, Amanda Reid, Megan Reid, Karen Beiler, Kathy Kuhns, Shellie Hurst, Janice Shively, Sarah Davis, Karen Davis, Brenda Eberhart, Deb Whistler and myself.

But...here is why we go..

A mom dropped off her child's form at the church. She said she wanted to mail it back, but her son was at Day Camp last year and did not trust the mail. He wanted to make sure that we got his form for camp. She said it is all he has talked about and is so excited to come back this year!

Please pray for our team, our ministry and that we will be the hands and feet of Jesus to these children.



Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



Take a Big Step

The Apostle, Paul took a faith-based risk and was blessed. If you see an open door, risk your comfort and walk through it!

It is not enough to stare up the steps; we must step up the stairs.

Vance Havner

New Mission Opportunity for BVCOB!



The Church of the Brethren is expanding its ministry in Africa. There are new churches being planted and a pastoral training school has been established called "Great Lakes Bible School". A nursery school has been established in Rwanda through the Gisenyi Church of the Brethren which serves 3, 4 and 5 year old children.

A new nursery school is opening in the city of Bujumbura in Burundi through a local church in that city. In June, Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren began supporting the monthly operating cost of this nursery school with a donation of \$500/month. The Mission Ministry Team redesignated the missionary support money that was being given to the Hoover family to the nursery school. The Hoovers no longer need the support as they are moving back to the area.

We will provide additional updates on the progress of this school. Your giving is a blessing to approximately 25 children and their families.

Eric Reamer for the Mission Ministry Team

Young Adult Input Needed

We continue to look for ways to serve the young adults in our congregation. We would like to offer a young adult event on at least a quarterly basis but we definitely need a few interested young adults to help with generating ideas and planning. We are considering a night at a Crosscutter's Game in Williamsport in the month of July or August.

We would love to have input from a few young adults! Please contact me if you are willing to help brainstorm events that could serve the young adults within our congregation!

Stacy Mast,

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader
570-412-7198, kyesmommy04@yahoo.com



Sermon Series in Matthew

These sermon updates are going to be rather repetitive as we continue our series in Matthew. Here is a schedule of texts that we will be looking at. As I mentioned previously, I encourage you to join our sermon group on Facebook for further interaction. We all benefit from your comments and thoughts.

- June 25th: Matthew 4:12-25
- July 2nd: Matthew 5:1-6
- July 9th: Matthew 5:7-12 (Pastor K.)
- July 16th: Chris Elliott guest preacher
- July 23rd: Matthew 5:13-16
- July 30th: Matthew 5:17-20 (Pastor Donita)

Please read along in the gospel of Matthew.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” ~Colossians 3:16

Summer Day Camp Continues

Dates: June 28th
July 12th, 19th & 26th
(Wednesdays)

Time: Pre-K 9 – 9:30 am to 12 Noon
K - 5th grade 9 – 9:30 am to 4 pm

Angela Zimmerman for Children’s Ministry Team



Buffalo Gals

Summer is here! Two events are slated for you to be part of, and I hope you’ll consider being a part of them. We are looking into different types of events for the future...if you have suggestions please text Sheri at 570-939-0448.

Garden Evening at Keith and Meg Phelps’s on **August 15th** from **6 – 8 pm**. Light refreshments and drinks will be shared. 🌸

Beach Retreat September 17th - 20th at Bethany Beach, Delaware. Carol Pursel has done a great job organizing this getaway, and I’m looking forward to it! ☀️🏖️

October 28th is the final **brunch** of 2023, and we will be incorporating the Building Connections prayer ministry that month, and anticipate jump-starting new prayer partners for 2024 at that brunch. 🌻

Keep the evening of **December 6th** open, we are soon planning the **Christmas Gathering**. Stay tuned for details! 🎄

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” John 13:14-17

Sheri Reimer for Women’s Ministry



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.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYA)



Youth News

Upcoming Events for Youth in July!

July 2 - YaYA Planning Meeting is Cancelled

July 9 - No Youth (Westernport Mission Trip)

July 16 - Tentatively Drive in Movie
(Depending on weather, what is playing at the drive in, etc. we will provide more details closer to the date and may consider switching activities on July 16 and July 23)

July 23 - Tentatively Youth at the Pond
from 3 - 5 pm

July 30 - No Youth (YaYA Planning Meeting)

AND looking ahead to August we plan to have an end of summer picnic at the Marina on August 13 from 1 – 4 pm. Look for more details to come but mark your calendars now!

Drive By Blessings - In June we were able to take a Sunday and do another round of Drive by Blessings. We decided to bless some incoming youth and some additional children from our congregation (our future youth) with a summer bag with outdoor activities and treats. Thanks to the youth families that donated items and to the youth (and adults) who helped deliver the bags.

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



Thanks for Your Support

The Finance Ministry Team (FMT) would like to thank everyone for their offerings. So far this year, we are in great financial standing. We have been able to support numerous ministries, keep up with necessary maintenance, pay our hard-working salaried members, and make great progress in paying off our building debt.

At our current rate of debt repayment, we expect to be able to pay off our building sometime in 2025! Keep up the great work of being financial stewards so that we can continue to support our church, each other, our community, and beyond.

If you would like to contribute an offering, there are black boxes inside each sanctuary door on the wall where you can place money or checks made out to BVCOB. There is also an option to give online through our church website.

Elaina Richard, for Finance Ministry Team



Fireside Friday's

This event is outdoor at the Keister pond.
Everyone is welcome.

Bring your favorite ingredients to share in the fun of mountain pie making. There will be hotdogs, smorgasbord for mountain pie making, smores to roast on the fire along with refreshments and snacks. Activities will include yard games, bounce house, fishing. We hope to see you there.

Dates: **July 28th & August 25th**

Time: **6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



Can't Be Locked Out of a Prayer Meeting!

Buffalo Valley is part of the Southern PA District of churches in the Church of the Brethren denomination. We have started meeting once a quarter for an hour-long prayer meeting at the Carlisle Church of the Brethren. On June 11th I got into the car and made the drive to find out when I arrived that the church building door was locked. I didn't have a number to call to find out why the door was locked. There were other people who arrived but no one from Carlisle. Thankfully the door to an outer porch area was open so we could meet in there. Also, the weather was beautiful with cool temperatures and a gentle breeze.

I think there were eight of us who showed up and I would say that it was one of the best hours of prayer I've ever had the privilege to be a part of. The hour went by very quickly as we prayed for various people and our various churches and as we gave praise to God for Who He is.

We have a monthly hour-long prayer meeting at Buffalo Valley on the **third Wednesday** night of the month from **7 - 8 p.m.** I encourage you to come out and pray with those who are gathered. It is a very meaningful time, and we desperately need to see God's activity in our congregation. Also, if you show up I can promise that you won't be locked out of the building. But even so, you can't be locked out of a prayer meeting!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



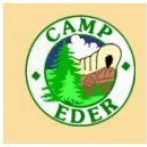
If you feel undervalued today, prayer will help. Ask God to give you a heart of friendship for someone else and to show you who it is. He will lead you to someone to befriend and it's in helping others that we ourselves find help

David Jeremiah



If we do not understand and trust God's faithfulness, we will not trust the rest of His character either.

Chip Ingram



Camp Eder Corner

Summer camps have started! We now have over a dozen campers registered. There is still time to register! So far, week 5 is when most of our BVCOB campers are going. Camps that week include Mad Science, Puddle Jumpers and Kid Camps. And just in.....we have one camper looking to go week 3 to Little Gardeners!

Remember our church pays a large portion of tuition for "our BVCOB" 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 through our church camp, near Gettysburg. Please let me know (and Stacy Mast-for youth), if you are going!

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 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



The Collection Continues

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in the Operation Christmas Child Collection! As a congregation, you have already completed five items from our list. For the months of June and July, our focus will be on hygiene items such as:

Combs

Hairbrushes

Kid's toothbrushes

Adult toothbrushes

Washcloths

Bar Soap

For most of us, these are items that we use daily. However, some of the children who will receive these shoeboxes may have never had such simple items. So as you are out shopping for your next vacation or restocking your supplies at home, please pick up an extra item or two to add to our collection.

Just a reminder that any item on the list can be purchased at any time.

A new poster has been placed in the Main Entry displaying the items being collected in case you are unsure of sizing.

If you choose to participate in this mission, please place your items in the bin near the Mission table in the Main Entry. If you have any questions or would like to pack a box of your own, contact Kelsey Zimmerman.

Thank you for helping us and children around the world!!

Kelsey Zimmerman



There are many ways that we can bring others to Jesus. We can bring Jesus by visiting, delivering meals, sending cards, making phone calls and lifting them in prayer.

Who can you serve this month?

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:



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

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.

Clay Frank is trying to schedule an evening to go to a Crosscutters Game in Williamsport. We'll let you know the date!

Standing in the Gap:

"I mean, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding anyone's faults against them, but entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were urging you through us, and in the name of Christ we appeal to you to be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made the sinless one a victim for sin, so that in him we might become the uprightness of God." - 2 Corinthians 5:19-21

I get to meet with many people in my job as Chaplain at UPMC in Williamsport. A few request to see a chaplain to have someone to talk to during a difficult time or pray for them, some get referred by staff who think a chaplain can help calm a patient down or lift their spirits. But most visits happen as I walk down the hall and stick my head in a room and say, "Hi, I'm Chaplain Eric..." We have volunteer chaplain assistants (VCAs) who help with this last task, and we get many different responses.

Most appreciate this extra caring presence in a hospital stay that is often lonely and full of mandatory interruptions, but we get a plethora of "other" receptions as well. I was meeting with some of our VCAs to talk about how to handle some of these other receptions, and we discussed how we can "Stand in the Gap" between the patients and God - "be ambassadors for Christ," if you will. Here are a few examples:

- When a patient invites us in to visit, but then answers questions with one word and just doesn't seem open to talking - we stand in the gap by just being the presence of Christ, a caring person who doesn't need conversation, or answers, or anything, but can just sit and be with the person.
- When a patient vehemently declares they don't believe in God, and lists all the reasons they have - we "stand in the gap," by empathetic listening, and showing care for the hurt the person has experienced, hopefully giving them a different story to add to their interactions with people who follow Jesus.
- When a person seems to just want to complain about all the wrong that has been done to them, and what is wrong with different politics or other systems, without really offering anything better - we "stand in the gap" by listening. Maybe nobody has shown this person the dignity of listening, and they feel invisible to people, let alone God. We stand in the gap as Jesus' eyes and ears, by seeing and listening: "God does see you, God does care."
- When somebody receives a devastating diagnosis, and no words or clichés will comfort - we "stand in the gap" by mourning with them - acknowledging the very real pain and fear they face. They are not weak to stumble when confronted with obstacles, and neither are they alone.

By "Standing in the Gap" - we are Christ's ambassadors. When God feels distant, doubtful or inaccessible, we bridge that time with our presence.

You may not run into these extreme of instances as frequently, but there are people facing similar crisis all around us. Every interaction we have with someone gives us the opportunity to "stand in the gap" with a smile, kind word, helpful gesture, listening ear, or even longer friendship. Stand in the Gap - be a link to help reconcile people to God.

Peace,
Pastor K

God's plans for you are better than any plans you have for yourself.



Greg Laurie

Great News from Community Aid



We have been encouraging everyone to “Feed the Bin” and now we have been rewarded with an **increase in what we receive for our donations!** The amount of money that we receive has gone from 4 cents a pound to 11 cents a pound! This is a huge increase and will benefit us very well. They accept gently used clothing, shoes and accessories in the bin.

The other good news is that if you have **other items** like household goods, toys and working electronics, they **can be taken directly to the store** and when you give our bin number of 30003, we will also receive credit. Do you have leftover items perhaps from a yard sale that fit into these categories? Please deliver them directly to the store for our credit.

Any questions, please let me know.

Vicki Bastian, for Mission Ministry Team

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.



Did you buy your gift cards?

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023

August 6 – Church Picnic/Baptism



August 15 – Women’s Garden Evening

August 16 – Prayer Meeting

August 25 – Fireside Friday

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 Gathering

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services



Recycling Continues!



Are your soda cans piling up? Have you been cleaning out and find that you have metal items that no longer work or are of no use? Well...The Mission Ministry Team has a solution for you!

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.

Help support Operation Christmas Child by bringing in these items. The money from the recycling helps pay for shipping the shoeboxes.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

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

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(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