

The amplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

August 2023
Volume 39 No. 7



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



Early Calendar Reminder

It will soon be time to **turn in your 2024 calendar dates**. Ministry Team Leaders, please add 2024 calendar planning to your upcoming meetings.

A church calendar addition form and multi-event form can be found on the church website or in the church office. There is also a google form that can be used to submit calendar dates. If you would like to use the google form, contact the church office for the link.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ilgen, BVCOB Ministry Assistant



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



You're job today is to be a witness!

Warren Wiersbe



Westernport Blessings Part I

"Do you get paid to be here?"

That was the question one of the girls in my group asked me on Thursday of our week-long Day Camp in Westernport, Maryland. I laughed and simply said, "no!" Thankfully, Joan Hofmann was right behind me with a much better answer. She said, "we get paid in blessings!"

Team members shared some of these blessings during our Thursday evening devotional time when I asked them to write down one good thing that happened that day:

- It was good to have the kids say they enjoy the Bible lesson
- A lot of the kids decided to open up and share
- Kids hugging Sarah in the Imagination Station
- How all of the kids interacted with the Shepherds in the pool
- Kids having fun arm-wrestling Darcy
- It was good to hear the children singing the songs they are learning throughout the day!
- The kids wanting a group hug
- Kids are excited about the next time we come.
- Having a child hold my hand and then pretty soon I'm holding several hands at once

Some shared things they heard the children say:

- "This is the funnest summer camp ever!"
- "Are you coming back next year?"
- "I wish Day Camp could be all summer long!"

One team member summarized it best: "Seeing the smiles and the engagement of the children all throughout the day...I'm always so blessed by their love and appreciation."

I think I speak for everyone when I say serving in Westernport is not always easy, but the blessings we receive far outweigh the struggles we might experience.

Stacy Reitenbach,
Westernport Mission Team Member



Sermon Series in Matthew

I hope that you have been following along with our series on Matthew. I have been impacted by my study as I've seen a few new things but have also been reminded to apply old truths that need to continue to bear fruit in my life.

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.

July 23rd: Matthew 5:13-16
 July 30th: Matthew 5:17-20 (Pastor Donita)
 August 6th: Matthew 5:21-26
 August 13th: Matthew 5:27-32
 August 20th: Matthew 5:33-37
 August 27th: Matthew 5:38-42

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

Last Day of Summer Day Camp

Date: July 26th
 (Wednesday)

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

Dear Ladies of BVCOB!

"What is Connections?"

It came to our attention that in order to pray effectively for someone, it certainly helps to lay a foundation of TRUST.

Trust is built intentionally, by being available, by listening, by reaching out and sacrificing some time in order to learn about someone else, to understand their background, their world, their people, their work, their family, etc. By simply being a safe person to talk to...someone that will respect our privacy and be discreet. Don't we all want that kind of person in our lives?

We want Connections to be a growing and changing ministry within our church. Will you join me? Will you join us, as we push past our fear of each other...opening the door or even a window of our comfort zone...to be slowly transparent with one or two other women?

Wouldn't it be amazing to meet someone you've "known" for years and start asking questions, to begin some conversations that lead to genuine sharing? I feel like that happens in moments...maybe after or before a service, in the lobby, at an event, but mostly this happens as we meet face to face outside the walls of the church building.

Drop your slip in the container at the Women's Ministry table or email Sheri Reimer at reimer.ks@yahoo.com. We will be in contact with everyone who is interested at a later date.

We are starting fresh. If you sense a need in your life for a real friend...if you want to be that friend...if you want to learn how to pray for someone and be prayed for specifically...if you want to encourage or need encouragement...write your name, just a first name if you like, and write your number if you want to text, or write your email if that is how you want to start on a journey like this.

We will still have events. We will have a variety of events, new ones and the old favorite ones. We want God to do this! We want to love as He loves! I hope you will consider dropping your name into the "pot". You may be surprised at what grows.

Sheri, Cheryl, Donita, Holly, Elaina & Carol
 The Women's Ministry Team

Church Picnic & Baptisms



August 6 ~ 12 - 4 pm
at the Keister Farm

Bring a covered dish & dessert to share.
Roasted pig, beverages, ice cream & paper
products provided.



Baptisms @ 2:00 pm

Sign up in the Main Entry.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYA)



Youth News

Upcoming Events for Youth in August!

August 6 - No Youth

(All Church Picnic at the Keister Farm)

August 13 - Family Picnic

at the Marina in Norry from 1 - 4 PM

August 20 - Youth from 3 - 5 PM

August 27 - No Youth

(YaYA Planning meeting at 3 PM)

On **August 13** we are having a family picnic at the Marina in Norry. There will be opportunities to eat, go tubing, play yard games, and just relax. We would love to have youth and their families participate in this event. Additional details and sign-ups will be sent via email and through the Youth Facebook Messenger. Hope to see you there!

Stacy Mast

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader



It is usually strange answers to prayer
that hide the deepest, best and most
beautiful purposes.

Joni Eareckson Tada



Continuing to Serve

The Westernport Team returned Friday evening quite tired, but feeling so good that we once again had served and ministered to the children who come to Day Camp at the Westernport Church of the Brethren.

We are a group of people who come, some for the first time and some who have come from the beginning. Some are very comfortable, some are anxious about what the week will hold and what they will need to do, but I believe that we all leave changed for the better. Serving God is an amazing thing. We all can see the movement of the Holy Spirit and how He enables us to do the job we are given. We are a team that works together for a common goal, to show these children love, caring and pointing them to Jesus.

The other day, one shepherd group came into the fellowship hall near the kitchen where we were preparing lunch. They sang quite loudly, "We love Jesus, yes we do, we love Jesus, how about You?" That is exactly what it is all about!

Will you consider coming along next year? You can ask anyone who has gone and they will tell you that you will not regret it. The dates are **July 13 - 19, 2024**.

Think about it, pray about it and consider serving our Lord in this way.

Serving Him,

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



If you are facing hardships or trials today, remember that Jesus Christ is alive in you. The life you live today is through faith in the One who lives for you.

David Jeremiah

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Danger of Being a “Knoebels” Christian

Knoebels Grove is a great theme park in our area. I would think that everyone reading this has been to Knoebels at least once. Knoebels is different from most amusement parks in that you don't have to pay admission to enter the park. The vast majority of theme parks charge a rather hefty admission fee to enter. At Knoebels you can enter free of charge and walk around to see the sights and watch others ride the rides.

Here is the danger. Attending Knoebels doesn't cost anything. There is no sacrifice you have to make. You can watch others ride the rides. There is some level of benefit to those who watch but the real fun and joy of experiencing the park comes in riding the rides. In order to ride the rides, you have to pay the price for the tickets. If you don't sacrifice to buy the tickets, you can't ride the rides. If you don't ride the rides, you don't fully experience Knoebels.

I think you can already see the analogy. A local church community needs people who are willing to pay the price to “ride the rides”, to serve in the ministries and activities of the church. Yes, this costs time and money and emotional energy but it also brings greater joy than simply watching others “ride the rides”. There is nothing wrong with watching from time to time but simply watching robs one of the joy of truly experiencing life in the church.

One final thought. If very few people made the sacrifice to buy the tickets and ride the rides, if most people simply watched, what would happen to Knoebel's Grove? It would close. You see those who are watching are not paying the price to keep the park open. In a church, those who are watching are not paying the price to keep the church actively serving one another, the community and the world. Far too often those who have simply watched have watched their church community close.

I exhort you to get involved. If you are not sure how or where, talk to one of our team leaders or our pastors and see where you can get on a ride. It could be the ride of your life!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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.

Women's Garden Party

August 15
6:00 - 8:00 pm

at Keith & Meg Phelps' home

Bring a light refreshment
to share.

Sign up at the Women's
Ministry board.



Operation Christmas Child

We are in full swing with gathering items for the **400 shoeboxes** to send to children around the world. Please be sure to check the chart in the main entry so that you can help us gather the items that are still needed. Many of the children who receive these shoeboxes have never received a gift! What a joy it would be to see their faces when they open their box!!



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

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults: Pastor



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!

We also have a Messenger chat group to help communicate and share news - message me if you want to be added!

Visions and Dreams:

"(3:1) After all of this I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your elderly will have revelatory dreams; your young men will see prophetic visions. Even on male and female servants I will pour out my Spirit in those days." - Amos 2:28, 29

"But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: 'And in the last days it will be,' God says, 'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'" - Acts 2:16-18

Megan Wetzel is creatively walking us through the Bible in Youth Sunday School class. We have re-enacted Creation and Fall - wondering why fruit would be so tempting from a talking snake... we walked 2 miles while considering the Israelites wandering in the desert. And we marched around the playground to see if it would fall down. It takes on a new perspective - trying to get teenagers to silently march in an orderly fashion around a small fence - not to climb the fence or run way ahead, or throw rocks at the fence, etc.; but we did it - march silently a few times. THEN there was great joy when we could shout and be loud - kind of a release of pent up energy! (The children coming out to play on the playground at that moment may have experienced a little fear - waiting for the swings to crumple...)

But it made us wonder in a real way, what would it have been like to actually face a multi-story wall, where people were probably jeering and throwing rocks or other projectiles at you? How many times did Joshua and parents have to try to answer the question - "why are we doing this?" Sometimes, "because God said so" falls short.

If you have not experienced God making water pour out of a rock when you are on the verge of dying or saving you from a snake bite, or seen the ground swallow up leaders who wouldn't listen, it is hard to trust somebody else's experience and step of faith.

This is why I keep coming back to yearning above all else for our people - especially teenagers to experience God themselves. Maybe it is why I love these passages from Joel and Acts - "I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy...". It can sometimes be hard to recognize God in the everyday, mundane tasks of life - the sun rising and setting, as it does every day, the smile of a stranger, the friendly wave and word from an acquaintance. Fortunately at BVCOB, our youth have some wonderful, crazy examples to follow, and adventurous, older, wiser people to support them! But sometimes God pours out a "fresh spirit"- especially in dark times.

In Joel's prophecy, God's spirit showed up in desperate times, and in Acts God's spirit was disturbing as it was fresh. And today, the Church is changing; many see it as dark and disturbing.

We've celebrated the creative line from "The Chosen," when they show Jesus saying, "Get used to different": Can we? Will we? Are we willing to open our hearts to God, suspend some judgment that arises in our minds and travel with tax-collectors and sinners (along with Jesus) to see what God will do?

I believe so. I know this is our church's desire - both old and young. I'm excited to see the life it will bring, as well as a little anxious for the tension that often comes with it. The rest of Joel, and Acts includes some of it, talks about the sun being darkened and the moon turning to blood, "but everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Let it be, Lord, let it be.



Peace,
Pastor K

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.

We recently received a check for **\$566.00!** Thank you for donating items to the bin!

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?

Don't Forget the Next Golden Oldies

Golden Oldies next date is **August 3rd**.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023



September 17 - 20 – Women's Beach Retreat

September 20 – Prayer Meeting

October 1 – Love Feast

October 4 – Family Connections Return

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

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

Return Service Requested

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46 Brethren Church Road
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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