

Celebrate Baptism



On Sunday afternoon, August 6th we received 6 new members through baptism at the Keister pond.

Please show your support with a warm welcome to these new members of our congregation.



Operation Christmas Child

We are closing in on our final months of collecting items for the shoebox mission! For September, our focus will be on:

- Adult Coloring Books
- Kids Coloring Books
- Sticker Packs
- Chapstick (no liquid)
- Water paint sets

Items can be placed in the box in the Main Entry! Thank you for all your support!

Kelsey Zimmerman, OCC Coordinator



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

Joni Eareckson Tada

Thank You for Eleven Wonderful Years!

The Reamer family moved to this area (for me it was a moving back to this area) eleven years ago in mid-August. I have truly enjoyed every opportunity that I have had to serve as a pastor here at Buffalo Valley. (I realize that those words sound like I'm about to type that I'm leaving...I'm not about to type those words ☺).

It has been a privilege to serve here. We've had different seasons of ministry, seasons of growth and seasons of decline, at least in numbers of people. Through all this I think we have grown in community and love for one another. I grieve the loss of those who have left our community and I rejoice at those of you who have joined our community in the recent past and those of you who have been a part of this community for decades, some for all of your life!

I think that we are poised for some very exciting times. Our leadership team is united around common mind and purpose. We have many younger people who are participating and are poised to continue to participate in our church leadership. We are anticipating paying off the building debt sooner than later. (You'll be hearing more about some of these plans later). Seeing so many children in our services each week is such a blessing.

There are some challenges on the horizon, but I believe we are positioned very well to face these challenges and prosper through them. Let's pray for each other and let's ask God to show us His will and to empower us to accomplish it. Again, thanks for allowing me to serve as a pastor here for 11 years. Can wait for year number 12!

God Bless, Pastor Eric

Don't Miss Out on Learning Together



Fall Adult Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 10th and go through November 26th. I am very excited about the lineup of classes we are able to offer this quarter!

Tammi Gwinn and Vince Loss will lead a class around the book ***The Bait of Satan***. Participants will consider the ways that Satan uses the traps of suspicion, distrust, and offense and how you can be set free of these snares to experience peace, joy, and renewed passion for life.

We will continue our New Testament book studies with **Colossians and Philemon**. This verse-by-verse study led by Brian Keister will help participants to rediscover what it means to be in Christ.

Connecting Your Work to God's Work is based on the book *Every Good Endeavor* by Tim Keller. Steve Buttorff will lead this class that will focus on God's plan for work, our problems with work, and the Gospel as it relates to work.

Steve Richard will facilitate the class **Navigating Life With Adult Children**, which will be based on a video series by Chip Ingram and Jim Burns, as well as the book *Doing Life with Your Adult Children: Keep Your Mouth Shut and Your Welcome Mat Out*.

I will be leading a class that continues examining **Themes of the Bible** using Bible Project videos to explore various familiar themes in a new light. This quarter we will be looking at themes that originated in Exodus and Leviticus including The Law, The Royal Priesthood, and Holiness.

Personally, I would find it hard to decide which class to join; please let me know if there are two classes you are deciding between; maybe we can offer them again in the near future!

Stacy Reitenbach,
Adult Sunday School Coordinator



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 September 5 at 6:30 pm** in the Sonroom and runs for thirteen weeks finishing on November 28.

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



Last Fireside Friday

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

Dates: **August 25th**

Time: **6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Angela Zimmerman for Children's Ministry Team



Sermon Series in Matthew

You are probably going to get sick of reading this first paragraph as we continue with our series on Matthew. So feel free to skip right down to the list of topics each week 😊.

I know this also sounds like a broken record, if that phrase even makes sense in a world without records, but I encourage you all to join the Facebook group. We all benefit from your comments and thoughts.

- August 27th: Matthew 5:38-42
- September 3rd: Matthew 5:43-48
- September 10th: Matthew 6:1-4
- September 17th: Guest Speaker (Jennifer Lake from Dwell Orphan Care)
- September 24th: Matthew 6:5-15 (Pastor K.)

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Help Make It Happen

We are planning in the near future to again make gift cards available every Sunday morning after first service and Sunday school. We are hopeful the convenience will increase participation and help us get our building debt paid off sooner.

I am asking if you would consider volunteering to staff the card sales on a Sunday morning. We are hopeful that it would be at least a 5 - 6 week rotation and maybe less frequently. If you are interested let me know and we will arrange to provide you proper training prior to beginning.

Thanks for considering serving Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren in this way. Please contact me.



Steve Richard



IT IS NOW TIME!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2024 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team has **events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. We also need to make sure that heating/cooling is set for the area(s) you want to use. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar. Please continue to do so as new dates arise or as changes are made throughout the year.)

A **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** needs to be completed for **every church activity** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times, and rooms to be used. You can also use a **calendar Google form** to submit dates. If you are interested in submitting your dates in this way, **contact the church office for the link**. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again, don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facility Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**. The forms can be located by going to "Resources" then "Forms".

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2024 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2023. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2024 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2023.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ilgen, BVCOB Ministry Assistant



News From Your Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT)

We had a full agenda for our August meeting. We did not meet in July.

We had some discussion about after hours contact with Cheryl our ministry assistant. She is very faithful and helpful, and we just wanted to remind everyone of her available times. She is usually in the office Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. There are some issues that come up outside that window. Email correspondence is probably the best way to address those times realizing there may not be a response until she is back in the office. You can also leave a message on the church answering machine at 570-966-1183.

We confirmed with our newsline 5-member monitoring team that we will not use BVCOB Newsline for sending newsletters and correspondence from other organizations.

In addition, we decided specifically to not support information from On Earth Peace or other organizations that our monitoring team deems to be inconsistent with the mission of BVCOB. Any concerns about the monitoring of Newsline can be addressed directly at an MCT meeting. All members are welcome all the time to attend and share what's on your mind with the MCT. We meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. For the purpose of establishing the agenda we ask you share your concern with any member of the Executive Team prior to the MCT meeting. The current Executive Team is Steve Buttorff, Zach Showers, Eric Reamer, and Brian Keister.

We had some discussions regarding the direction of the denomination toward LBGTQ+ issues. The Executive Team was tasked with developing a process for Buffalo Valley to address these issues.

We discussed adjusting our Sunday morning schedule to allow for a later first service start. No action was taken but feel free to engage any MCT member with your thoughts.

Pastor Eric shared that he and Janet recently helped his son Micah purchase a home in Florida. Angela is also living there, and Janet and Eric will live there whenever they are in Florida.

Please continue to pray for our leadership teams and for the ministry of Buffalo Valley.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



Buffalo Ladies!

A big thank you to Keith and Meg Phelps for opening their home and gardens for our Garden Party! Despite the rain that came through, it turned out to be a lovely evening.

This month is our Annual Beach Retreat, 16 women are planning to go. The Bible study for this year is entitled "The Cost of Control" and it is available on Right Now Media for anyone who would like to check it out.

The Connections ministry/group will begin in September also, please pray that God will meet us and that He will deepen our friendships, as we grow trust in the give and take of walking through life together.

As always, if you have ideas for future events or would like to help plan an event....text Sheri at (570) 939-0448. Thank you!

Sheri Reimer, for Women's Ministry



Did you buy your gift cards?



Westernport Blessings Part II

In the last Lamplighter, I shared some of the blessings the Westernport Mission Team experienced in working with the children.

In this issue, I'd like to highlight some of the blessings we experienced from working as part of a *team*. Each of these statements is a direct quote from a team member shared anonymously during our devotional time.

Team members were blessed by:

- The laughter!
- Fellowship
- The trip as a whole, being with everyone, and being with the kids. This trip is always a joy.
- Creative snacks
- Laughter
- A fantastic team
- The hardworking kitchen ladies
- Seeing several team members step up and help throughout the week
- Lots of laughs
- A great team
- How well we all worked together!

In case you didn't notice, laughter is a common theme. 😊

One team member summed it up best when he or she said:

"I thought the whole week was awesome. I loved everything and I am thankful to be a part of it!"

If you have considered volunteering to go to Westernport but you are hesitant because of not knowing the team members or not being sure you have the skills to serve there or you're worried about fitting in, PLEASE talk to a team member!

Stacy Reitenbach,
Westernport Mission Team Member



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in September!

September 3 - NO YOUTH LABOR DAY

September 10 - Trails & Treats Bike Ride
from 1 - 5 pm

September 17 - No Youth

September 24 - Youth 3 - 5 pm (Movie Lesson)

On September 10th the youth will be taking an afternoon ride. We will start at the Mifflinburg Park and bike to The Purple Cow and then return to the Mifflinburg Park. Families are welcome and anyone else who just enjoys a good bike ride (and/or a treat)!

Looking ahead to October...

Under the guidance of Pastor K and Megan Wetzel the youth are going to be doing a new fundraiser this fall! We are going to branch out and try an apple pie fundraiser (there may have been a tree pun in there). As always all money raised will be used to help develop our youth through mission or learning opportunities such as Westernport and our trip to Sight and Sound last year.

So how can you as a congregation help us? Here are some ways (PLEASE NOTE - signups will be sent via email by mid-September on how to volunteer to help and how to order your delicious pie).

September 10 - try an apple pie sample so you can see how delightful they will be and then order from us

October 9 - volunteer during the day to help mix up pie crusts

October 20 - volunteer in the afternoon/evening to help roll out pie crusts (2 to 6 pm)

October 21 - volunteer during the day to help prepare the apple pie filling and get the pies ready for pick up (8 am to 4 pm)

*Pies would then be available for pick up on October 21st between 3 and 5 pm.

So as you prepare for fall, consider helping us in this fundraiser by marking these dates on your calendar!

Stacy Mast
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader

From Your Lead Pastor,



There Will Be a Day!

As I write this letter I am sitting at the worship computer during praise team practice listening to the song "Hymn of Heaven". This is one of my new favorite songs. The chorus of this song is this: "There will be a day when all will bow before Him. There will be a day when death will be no more. Standing face to face, with He who died and rose again, Holy, Holy is the Lord".

As I listen to the song I am struck by the phrase, "There will be a day". I am so glad that there will be a day when all will bow before Him and when death will be no more. This reality, this truth, the wonderful promise of the return of Jesus Christ to make all things new, is a glorious truth. There will be a day when everything in this world will fade away and what a day that will be.

How does this truth impact our lives? Here is how I would put it: The fact that there will be "a day" helps me get through "today". The reality is that not all of our todays are very great days. The reality is for some in our world, their today is not a day they would ever have signed up for. For others, today is a day of incredible tragedy and sorrow.

I was thinking about the devastating fires in Hawaii. The day before those fires hit no one on the island had any idea that tomorrow would be a day that today turned out to be. I'm not sure that last sentence makes any sense but I'm sticking with it. But the today of the fire turned into an unimaginable terror for some.

Most of us have never had a today like that but we've had some pretty difficult todays. The reality of the return of Jesus doesn't take away the trouble of today but it sure does highlight the joy of a day, a day when all will be made right because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

I pray you live today in the glorious truth that there will be a day. If you struggle with that let's talk. I want all of you to live each day with the sure knowledge that THERE WILL BE A DAY!!!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

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.



Your job today is to be a witness!!

Warren Wiersbe

***If you'd like to support Camp Eder's fundraising efforts at their Fall Festival, please consider donating to our collective theme basket or a separate theme basket. Collecting items for an auction "care basket" (soaps, body wash, bandaids, any things along those lines). I'm looking for someone to head that up and put it together. I will see that it gets down to Camp.

Camp Eder 45th Annual Fall Fest

Saturday, October 21st
10 AM to 4 PM

Are You Using the Correct Email List?

Members, friends and attendees of the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are invited to participate in email lists to communicate with the church family. Listed below are the email addresses to be used when sending an email.

Prayer List (prayer@bvcob.com) is used to share **prayer concerns and updates**.

News List (news@bvcob.com) is for **BVCOB church-related news and announcements** only. Emails to this list are normally generated from ministry team leaders and those who are planning events and activities.

Share-Ads List (share-ads@bvcob.com) is used to provide a forum for sharing **news-worthy info** not directly associated with the church that might benefit our church family. Examples: giveaways, used appliances, vegetables from your garden, yard sales, for sale items, etc.

Email List Etiquette

1. Avoid using backgrounds and graphics in your messages to the email lists.
2. Stay on topic. Lists have a specific purpose and should be used accordingly.
3. Include a subject. Messages without a subject line will be rejected as spam.
4. Do not send attachments, solicitations or advertisements, except as permitted.
5. Do not forward chain letters, email petitions or virus warnings.
6. Replies to a message will go directly to the sender of the message. **Please do not reply all.**
7. To contact the church office, email churchoffice@bvcob.com.

(If you would like to join one of these lists or be removed from one of these lists, please contact the church office.)



Thank You, Thank You!



Thank you to all those who have been bringing metal for recycling!! A huge Thank You to Jake Myer for transporting the metal to the recycling center! Due to your contributions and his faithfulness in transporting the donations, we have been blessed with some very nice checks that go toward our Operation Christmas Child Ministry.

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.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023

October 1 – Love Feast



October 4 – Family Connections return

October 28 – Women's Brunch

November 3 – Friday Fun Night returns

November 5 – Church Council Meeting

November 25 – Kettle Cook

December 6 – Women's Christmas Gathering

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

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