

Celebrate Baptism



On Sunday morning, October 20th we celebrated baptism during the Sunday morning worship service.

Baptized was Karlee Daubert.

Please show your support with a warm welcome to her as she expressed her faith in Jesus Christ.

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 3



11:00 am - Potluck Brunch
12:00 pm - Church Council Meeting

Expanded Ministry Proposals for Missions

The Mission Ministry Team is proposing several additional groups to receive financial support or increased financial support for our 2025 budget. We wanted to give you a heads up as to what is coming so you can be praying about it and research some of these groups if you like. This article breaks the groups into international ministries and then ministries in our local area.

New international ministries which are being recommended:

1. Dominican Mission Trip at \$30,000/yr. This trip will be to Los Toros and will fund needed construction projects for a preaching point and provide concrete floors for several families.

2. Crete Collective at \$5,000/yr. The Crete Collective sponsors new church plants in ethnically black and brown urban areas.

3. Ethnos 360 Missionaries (the Barr Family) at \$3,600/year. T.C., Kelly, and their three children are in Mexico training to go to a group in Mexico that has no written language and no Bible in their

language. The Barrs will share the gospel with this group as they learn the language.

4. Radical at \$1,200/yr. Radical is a ministry that focuses on sharing the gospel in countries where missionaries may not be allowed or places where it is difficult to do normal missions work.

5. TEAM (the Hofman family) at \$1,200/yr. The Hofmans serve in Prague as missionaries/church planters and are cousins to Laura Daubert.

In addition to these new ministries we are recommending an increase in support for the Cultivo ministry from \$6,000/ to \$10,000/yr.

New local ministries that are being added:

1. SUN Area Work and Witness at \$5,000/yr. We are planning to be a second (home base) location for this group which does many necessary repairs for people in our community. This ministry has expanded into our area and would like to have a second location for meals and meetings for groups working in Union County.

2. Family Life Network at \$700/yr. This radio network is being added to our existing support of WGRC and WPGM.

The following **existing ministries** are being increased in funding:

1. Local Emergency Assistance Fund goes from \$2,000 to \$12,000/yr.

2. Camp Eder goes from \$1,300 to \$5,000/yr.

3. DWELL Orphan Care goes from \$1,200 to \$2,400/yr.

4. Expectations Women's Center goes from \$1,200 to \$2,400/yr.

If you have any questions about what the Mission Ministry Team is proposing, please ask the team leader, Vicki Bastian, or Pastor Eric.

Thanks, Pastor Eric



One reason the church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

Charles Spurgeon



Buffalo Gals Updates

As the year starts to wind down, there are still a few women's events to look forward to. We are still having **Connections meetings** on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday of each month (See Women's Ministry board for details). There will also be a **Winter party** sometime around the holidays. That hasn't been planned yet, but stay tuned!

If you're participating in Prayer Partners, don't forget to check in and continue to pray!

The hiking events we had this year seemed to be a hit! If you have a particular interest or hobby that you'd like to share in with others or try for the first time (flower shows, movies, going on the Rail Trail, kayaking, crocheting, baking, concerts, car shows, etc...), don't hesitate to either reach out to me, send out an invite through the news email group, or post a flyer on the Women's Ministry board and make sure it gets announced. It takes all of us to build a close-knit community!

Contact Elaina Richard with any questions or comments - (elaina.miller008@gmail.com, 717-979-6732)



Apple Pies - THANK YOU

Thank you so much for continuing to support our youth through our second apple pie sale. We greatly appreciate knowing that our church family supports our youth and wants to help them grow in their faith.

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leader

Update on Pastor Eric's Family

In August 2022 my wife, Janet moved to Florida to live with our daughter, Angela to help her to "restart" life in a place where Angela desired to live. Janet rented a house with Angela and our oldest son, Micah. Our original idea was for this to be a 6–12-month time period. As we approached the one-year mark it was obvious to both Janet and I that she needed to be present in Florida to continue to help Angela. Janet also realized that she greatly enjoyed being with our oldest son and being a "mothering" figure to a couple of other young adults in the network of friends. In addition, it appeared that the warmer climate had significantly reduced the symptoms of a neuromuscular disease that had gotten progressively worse here in PA, to the point where Janet could no longer work, and she had significant trouble with her balance. This reduction in the symptoms has greatly improved Janet's quality of life.

During the first year in Florida, I visited four times for 7-10 days each time and Janet made one or two trips back to PA. In the summer of 2023 Janet and I made the decision to purchase a home in Florida with my son. Angela, Janet, and Micah moved into that home in July 2023. We were still not sure how this purchase would impact Janet moving back to PA, but it became increasingly likely that she would spend significant portions of the year in Florida. In 2023 Angela and a friend relocated to a rental property near our home in Florida. There have still been some significant issues where Angela has struggled and Janet's presence in Florida has been incredibly helpful to Angela, and the health benefits have continued.

Right now, we do not plan to have Janet move back to PA. The benefits of her being in Florida both relationally and physically are significant. I continue to make trips to Florida (January, May, August and November of 2024) and now that I can inexpensively fly to Florida these trips are much easier to do. The relationship that Janet and I have is very strong. We look at it in the vein of a military or missionary deployment, where at times one spouse needs to be away. We talk regularly on the phone and within the past couple of weeks, we've seen God begin to work in Angela's life. Right now, Angela and I spend 30 minutes or more early in the morning talking about God's word and how God is working in Angela's life. This kind of thing has never happened before. Janet and I see it as a blessing from the decision we made.

Being apart isn't easy for Janet and me. If Janet had her wish, I would move to Florida as soon as possible. It's become increasingly clear to both of us that when I retire from ministry I will move to Florida. This is complicated by the fact that I take care of my dad in my home and also that I am very involved in my daughter Brianna's life (she is disabled) so we don't know exactly the timetable for retirement/relocating. We are placing that in God's hands and trying to discern what to do. Foremost in my mind is that I don't feel God calling me to leave. I believe there is much work to do here, and I believe the ministry here at Buffalo Valley is going well. Attempting to discern God's will is the primary focus for me.

We both appreciate Buffalo Valley's willingness to accommodate a rather unusual situation. As I have always said, I am willing to answer any questions or talk about my situation with anyone who asks. I have also previously told the leadership of Buffalo Valley that if our arrangement becomes a negative impact on the ministry here, that we need to talk about that, and if need be, find a replacement for me.

On a separate track, we have begun to work on a staffing plan to help guide Buffalo Valley for decades to come as I have more years of ministry in the rearview mirror than on the road ahead. You will hear more on this as some ideas/plans are more clearly defined. Both Janet and I appreciate your prayers as we walk this journey together and with you.

Pastor Eric

WE ARE COLLECTING
CHRISTMAS GIFTS
FOR DWELL'S HOPE CHEST FOSTER CLOSET
IN HONOR OF
Adoption Awareness Month
SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW DWELL'S WISHLIST

ADDITIONAL NEEDS:
FREE & CLEAR LAUNDRY DETERGENT
BOOKS OF STAMPS
FAST FOOD SMALL DENOMINATION
GIFT CARDS

LEARN MORE
VISIT DWELLORPHANCARE.ORG
OR EMAIL EMILY@DWELLORPHANCARE.ORG

SCAN ME

Alicia Showers

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Kind of Prayer that Gets Answered “Yes”

The Tuesday morning men’s bible study began a study of 1 Samuel. Chapters 1 and 2 of this book of the Old Testament center around a snippet of the life of a woman named Hannah. Hannah is not able to bear children which was a particularly difficult stigma for a woman to bear in that day. She is distraught by this fact and by the fact that her husband’s other wife has borne her husband children.

In chapter 1 we see Hannah near the tabernacle and in anguish praying the following prayer: *“O Lord, of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”*

I won’t go into all the details of this story but I encourage you to read it in chapters 1 and 2. God does answer this prayer, opening Hannah’s womb so that she can bear a son. Hannah keeps her end of the promise by taking her son, Samuel, to the tabernacle after he is weaned (probably at age 2 or 3) and leaving him there. She sees Samuel once/year as she makes a trip to the tabernacle.

Each time I read this story I am struck by the selflessness of Hannah’s prayer. She doesn’t pray only for something that she wants. In addition she promises to lend what God gives her to someone else...in this case, God. Samuel grows up to be one of the godliest prophets mentioned in the Old Testament.

When we pray do we pray like this? Yes, I’m sure it was heart wrenching for Hannah to give Samuel back to the Lord. However, it was also a blessing to know that she was used by the Lord in a special way. When we pray, we can ask for things...we are told to ask for things in the model prayer that Jesus gives us...but are we willing to ask for things that we will hold with an open hand? Are we willing to ask for things that will not necessarily benefit us in the way we normally think of benefit? Can we trust the Lord to use us as conduits of His love and blessing, allowing those things to flow through us and not stop with us?

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Our frail, mortal bodies will one day be instantly changed by His power into new, immortal bodies like that of Christ. We will have redeemed souls and redeemed bodies, living in a new Heaven and a new Earth. Praise God!!

Franklin Graham

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

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



"Rejoice in This"

"Rejoice only that your name is written in heaven!" - Luke 10:20

Pride and shame are often opposite sides of the same coin that keep us from fully realizing and enjoying God's extreme love. In Luke 10, Jesus' disciples are excitedly (and maybe proudly) sharing about the amazing things they did in the name of Jesus. And Jesus reminds them of the much healthier and truer reason to rejoice: "your name is written in heaven (book of Life- KJV)." This theology is as difficult to accept as it is lovely to consider.

The past few weeks have been a time of fresh reflection and mourning for my mother, Janet Slagell-Kauffman. No grief is the same, but those who have walked through losing someone close, the numbness, tiredness, mood swings, confusion, occasional blankness, anger, sadness, and many other swirling emotions are familiar. It also comes with refocused memories; here is one of mine: Growing up I spent many hours milking cows with my mother; during this time we listened to Christian radio and talked long about the Bible and theology. Janet cared deeply about the spiritual health of her children and shared some of her own struggles which helped us learn and grow. I learned just recently that her mother had done the same for her.

Mom (though I always called her "Mommy") shared that her church was very focused on "doing the right things" to please God, and that this weighed heavily upon her father, and consequently upon her. Her mother had left school after 8th grade, but loved to read the Bible where she found and taught a God who loved us before we loved Him, and took drastic action to demonstrate the extent of His love, in the form of His son, Jesus. My mom was exposed to this love, but also experienced the shame and legalism of her father who passed it along to her in the form of constant judgment and criticism. She often shared about her struggle to feel like she never measured up - often as I shared similar contentions. But by admitting this inner battle, she helped me identify false sources of pride and shame and address them earlier.

As I continue to grieve the loss of my mother, I realize humility and grace are lessons she is still teaching me. When things are going well, it is easy to rejoice in "how God has blessed me," which can be a complexly veiled way of priding myself in how good I am. The pain comes when the coin flips and the smallest criticism threatens my security.

"Rejoice only that your name is written in heaven!" Richard Rohr reflects: "If we could fully trust this, it would change our whole life agenda... Our core anxiety - that we are not good enough — is resolved from the beginning, and we can stop all our climbing, contending, criticizing, and competing... Find God, the primary source, and the spring-water will forever keep flowing naturally (Ez. 47:1-12; John 7:38)."

"Rejoice only that your name is written in heaven!" My mother is fully realizing that truth now, along with both her father and mother; her son is learning to relax into this full and beautiful love.

Young Adult November Activities

Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

Megan Wetzel gathers with young adults on Sunday evenings to join Cornerstone Christian Fellowship for Bible Study at 6 pm.

Pastor K meets with a Young Adult group at various area Restaurants, testing food and discussing life & faith - a "Pub Theology" type of gathering. We meet one Wednesday each month.

The next two are October 30th @ Marzoni's, and November 13th. Contact Pastor K for details (570-369-0533).

Pastor K

"The people of God ought to be the happiest people in all the wide world. People should be coming to us constantly and asking us the source of our joy and delight".

A.W. Tozer





Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events

- October 27 - Youth from 3 - 5 PM
(This is an addition so we hope to see you!)
- November 3 – Church Council - No Youth
- November 10 - Youth - Bonfire 5 - 7 PM
- November 17 - Youth 3 - 5 PM (Movie)
- November 24 – No Youth
- December 1 – Thanksgiving Weekend - No Youth
- December 8 – Planning
- December 15 – Youth
- December 22 - Youth - Christmas Party
- December 27 - Youth Lock In

With the craziness of the holidays quickly approaching I have also included December events so you can start planning. In addition, please mark your calendars for **February 21-23, 2025** for a **Weekend Youth Retreat!**

Please let Stacy Mast or Pastor K know if you have any questions!

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leader



Wednesdays
October 2 – November 20

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm
Buffet-Style Meal
\$5/person \$15/family



Sermon Topics

We will continue with our series on Matthew until the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We will pick up the Matthew series on January 12th, 2025 after a Christmas series and a sermon by Ashley Wetzel. Remember to join the sermon group on Facebook if you have not already done so. Below is the schedule through the end of November:

- October 27th: Matthew 19:16-30
- November 3rd: Matthew 20:1-16
- November 10th: Matthew 20:20-28
(Pastor Donita)
- November 17th: Matthew 20:29-34
- November 24th: Thanksgiving Sermon

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



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
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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

8:30 AM - Sunday school
9:45 AM - Worship Service