



The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

February 2024
Volume 40 No. 1

2023 Christmas Eve Offering

Thank you for contributing **over \$5,200** to the **Crete Collective** for our Christmas Eve offering this year. Pastor Thabiti Anyabwile shared these words with me via email: "What a wonderful blessing to the work of The Crete Collective! This is a generous gift that will help us immensely in the work of planting churches in some of the most neglected neighborhoods in America. Please thank all our brothers and sisters for their generosity prompted by faith, hope and love. Thanksgiving will go up to God for their grace in giving (2 Cor. 9:13-15)."

You continued our wonderful tradition of using Christmas Eve as an opportunity to bless organizations outside our walls. If you have any suggestions on ideas for our 2024 Christmas Eve offering please pass them on to me or Vicki Bastian, the Mission Ministry Team leader.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Valentine's Banquet

February 10

6:00 - 8:00 pm

in the Son Room

Menu and
sign-up sheet
coming soon!



Urgently Helping Others in Need

Haven Ministry located in Sunbury is the only true homeless shelter in the tri county area. Sadly, some people are not fortunate enough to have homes, food and jobs. Haven, who receives six to seven calls a day, tries to give as many as possible a roof over their head, a warm bed and food. They also help them get birth certificates, photo ID's, renew driver's licenses, and other personal documents that they need to get back on their feet.

How can you help??

Haven is in desperate need of **full or twin sheet sets, pillows and blankets**. I spoke with the director and they can be **new or gently used**.

There is a bin for the collection in the main entry by the Mission table. Your prayers would also be appreciated for this ministry.

Please help us meet this need for Haven Ministry!

Reaching Outside Our Walls,

Vicki Bastian for the Mission Ministry Team



Ponder how valuable your soul must be for Satan to tirelessly pursue it and the King to lay down His own life for it.

Hallelujah what a Savior!!!



Annual Church Auction 2024

SPOILER ALERT: Our church building is almost paid off!

Come and join the fun. With a successful auction we anticipate being able to pay off the remaining debt on our church building. The sale is **March 2nd** and we are busy collecting items for the sale. Please let Steve Richard know as soon as you have an item for the sale so we can begin to advertise the hundreds of items or services that we will have to sell. Please feel free to send pictures if you would like as people enjoy seeing all the items being collected.

Because of the large volume of items and space constraints we are asking that you not provide any furniture or junk items that are difficult to sell. Otherwise, we will accept most anything of value (new or used) to be sold at our silent auction tables or at the live auction. We do reserve the right to recycle, donate or trash items that are not appropriate for the sale.

We are encouraging families or groups to donate a theme bag/basket as they are always great sellers and a lot of fun. We are even happy to provide you a basket if you wish.

Items can be dropped off in the Main Entry, but please let me know they are being dropped off so we can appropriately store them out of the way. All items must be on site by 8 am the day of the sale.

The day of the sale **March 2nd**, starting at 3 pm food will be available, silent auction tables will open and you can look through the order of sale and review the hundreds of items that are donated. The **live bidding starts at 4 pm** with Auctioneer Jeremy Waite. We will again have a silent auction table geared toward children and there will be a period of kids only bidding (with Parents on hand to pay). Children are also invited to put together their own theme baskets.

In addition to donating, and/or bidding if you would like to help with the sale in some way, please let me know. We encourage you to share the date with your friends and encourage them to come and enjoy the fun. We will have a Facebook post making the rounds that we encourage you to share with all your friends. Thanks for your support and watch for more news. Please email me with your donations.

Steve Richard, Sbrichard1960@gmail.com



Camp Eder Corner

First 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 this church camp, near Gettysburg. Please let me know if you are going!

Week 1 June 16 - 21

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)
Junior High (Grades 7 - 8)
Rock Climbing (Grades 7 - 12)
Shining Stars (Ages 15 + special needs)

Week 2 June 23 - 28

Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12)
Junior Camp 1 (Grades 4 - 6)
Outback Camp (Grades 4 - 6)
Film Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

Week 3 July 7-12

Kids Camp 1 (Grades 1 - 3)
Little Gardeners (Grades 1 - 3)
Camp All Out (Grades 1 - 3)
Barefoot (July 10 - 12 for Kindergarten & First)

Week 4 July 14 - 19

Junior Camp II (Grades 4 - 6)
Dream It, Build It (Grades 4 - 6)
AT Trekkers (Grades 7 - 12)

Week 5 July 24 - 29

Kids Camp II (Grades 1 - 3)
Culinary Camp (Grades 4 - 6)
Puddle Jumpers (Grades 4 - 6)

Hope you check out the summer adventures being planned for your child's Christian camping experience at campeder.org. Last summer, we had a great group of campers from BVCOB! Hope to repeat that this year!

Any questions, contact **Fay Richard**,
BVCOB Camp Rep at 570-716-2442

Pastor Eric's Florida Update

I continue to appreciate your willingness to allow me to work part time from Florida several times each year. What we approved was that I would spend about one week in Florida every other month and I would count half of that time as vacation and the other half as work as I am able to work remotely there. When I am in Florida please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email. I am almost always available.

My trips to Florida have usually been at the end of the month when I don't have any church meeting responsibilities, though this changes from time to time. I will be in Florida from January 25 - February 1st. I won't be gone at the end of March as that is Easter. I may end up not going to Florida until late April or earlier in April if it works out.

If you have any questions about anything around this please don't hesitate to ask.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Operation Christmas Child

A **big thank you** goes out to all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child collection in 2023. With your help, Buffalo Valley COB was able to send 419 shoeboxes around the world!

We were able to track two of the boxes that we sent last year; one went to Ghana and another went to "a hard-to-reach area". These boxes along with the rest we sent, were able to touch the lives of children around the world!

Again in 2024, we have set the goal at 400 shoeboxes. Keep an eye out in the upcoming weeks for the new list of needed items for this year!

Kelsey Zimmerman

From Your Lead Pastor,



Thanking God Today

I want to publicly thank God for the things in my life right now. If you've asked me lately how I've been feeling I might have used the word "fantastic". Things in my life are going well and I want to thank God for His activity in my life and the lives of those I know. I am overwhelmed by the goodness of God and His grace. This week I ran across a video on YouTube from this year's Passion Conference in New Orleans. The video I saw was of tens of thousands of people, mostly under 30 years of age, spontaneously breaking out in an almost 20 minute version of "Agnus Dei". It brought me to tears as I saw this many people worshipping God.

Of course, things could always be better. There are always many things I wish were going differently, people making different decisions, suffering that others are facing that I wish was not happening. This isn't heaven yet. Yet, in the midst of this I feel God's presence in a special way. I'm wondering, as I near 59, if my decade in the 60s will be my best ever??

I am so thankful for all of you and the opportunity I have to help lead this local church in efforts to serve a great God, Jesus Christ. "Worthy is the Lamb" truly applies to Jesus!

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.

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

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



New years often bring renewed passion to pursue a hard task in our life. I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like I am just grateful to survive another year. AND along with that looking forward to very possible beauties and joys that will come this year. This imaginative prayer captured my internal struggle and helped make sense of it:

Desire to Grow- "For Stretching your Heart:"

(From "The Lives We Actually Have,"
by Kate Bowler, pg 18)

God, my life has too many things.
Awful. Lovely. Full. Shockingly incomplete.

Will you help me learn to live with a greater capacity for this?

Living in the tension between a life that has worked out...

And one that has gone to hell in every handbasket.

Let today be a divine exercise of *yes ... and...*

Yes, I have so much to be thankful for,
And this hasn't turned out like I thought it would.
Yes, I feel moments of joy,
And I have lost more than I could I could live without.

Yes, I want to make the most of today,
And my body keeps breaking.
Yes, I am hopeful, *and* this is daunting.
Yes, I am trying to be brave, *and* I feel so afraid.

So bless me,
Trying to live in between those two words:
Yes... and.

May I understand this is where
The real work of life is found.
Where it takes courage to live.
Where grief can strip me to the studs
And love can remake me once again.
Where my heart can be both broken
And keep on beating.
Never sorry to have broken at all.

Yes ... and.

Make me capable of great joy,
Great love,
Great risk,
Even fear,

As you expand my heart
With this *yes ... and* today."

May you know God in new and creative ways this year that bring peace, growth, and so much more!

Peace, Pastor K



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in February!

February 4 - Planning Meeting
February 11 - Youth from 3 - 5 PM
February 18 - Youth from 3 - 5 PM
February 25 - NO YOUTH

Don't forget each Sunday at 8:30 am
Sunday school is offered in the PIT for
students grades 7 - 12!

Looking ahead even further....

RACING - We are working on another trip to do indoor racing for **Young Adults and Senior High Youth** (9 - 12 graders) - tentatively planned for Saturday, **March 9**.

WHITE WATER RAFTING - We are also working on plans for Saturday, **June 8** for white water rafting. Look for more details in the coming months but mark your calendars now!

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader

Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

We continue to check in on an individual basis, to listen and share our journeys. I look forward to more in 2024!

We have a Messenger chat group (BVCOB Young Adults) to help communicate and share news - message me if you want to be added!

Pastor K



Sermon Topics

We continue with our time in the gospel of Matthew. I hope that you are reading through the gospel on your own and thinking about the text as we go through it together.

As I've mentioned before, the gospels give us many different facets or ways to appreciate and learn from the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Here is our upcoming schedule:

January 21st: Matthew 8:28-34
 January 28th: Matthew 9:1-8 (Pastor Donita)
 February 4th: Matthew 9:9-13
 February 11th: Matthew 9:14-17 (Pastor K.)
 February 18th: Matthew 9:18-34
 February 25th: Matthew 9:35-38

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9: 12 - 13

Yes, It's That Time!!!

To Serve Others in Westernport!



Plans are underway for the **Summer Mission Trip to Westernport, MD**. We will be serving the children and their families the week of **July 13th to 19th**. Do you want to be part of a team that works together to feed these children both physically and spiritually and make a difference in their lives? Consider being part of the Westernport team this year and experience being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Please contact me for more information or an application.

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



Wednesdays

January through April

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Buffet-Style Meal

\$4/person \$12/family

Sign up at the bulletin board in the main entry.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

March 2 – Church Auction

March 23 – Easter Egg Fair

March 28 – Love Feast

April 13 – Women's Brunch

May 5 – Church Council Meeting

June 8 – Strawberry Festival

June 12 – Day Camp Beginnings

June 22 – Women's Brunch

July 13 – 19 – Westernport Mission Trip

August 4 – Church Picnic

September 27 – Children's Fall Festival

October 6 – Love Feast

November 3 – Church Council Meeting

November 23 – Kettle Cook



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.

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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
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