

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

March 2024  
Volume 40 No. 2



## Do This in Remembrance of Me

For those of you new to Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, we are having our semi-annual **Love Feast** on **Thursday, March 28** at **7 pm**. This is a time of gathering together as a church family to partake in singing, feet washing, communion and a small meal (similar to Jesus and His disciples and the Last Supper). If you are uncomfortable with feet washing, you are welcome to observe.

We will provide childcare and a light meal/snack will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Entrance, please also note how many children will be needing childcare.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact one of the pastors or a deacon.

We hope you will plan to join us as we celebrate in a humble way the love of our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,  
Linda Buttorff  
on behalf of the Spiritual Life Ministry Team

*Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*



Paul, the Apostle



Join us for a relaxing weekend of  
Faith, Fellowship, and Food!

March 15-17

Arrive: 5:00-6:00 pm Friday ~ Leave: 11:30 am Sunday

Mountain Dale Farm - McClure  
Cost - \$75

Covers Lodging for both nights and Main Food for Meals  
Friday Dinner - Sunday Breakfast

Contact Zach Showers with any questions.  
570-765-2011 or [zshowers@yahoo.com](mailto:zshowers@yahoo.com)  
Sign-Up by March 3



## Operation Christmas Child

We have started the collection for 2024 shoeboxes. Help us to reach the goal of 400 boxes this year. Remember, each box is an opportunity to **share the wonderful Word of God!** Check out the poster in the Main Entry to see where we are in our collection. Since spring is just around the corner, now would be a great time to keep an eye out for items such as jump ropes, balls, and sidewalk chalk.

Thank you for your generosity towards this mission!

Kelsey Zimmerman



## Will You Consider Serving?

When: Saturday, **July 13** to Friday, **July 19**

Where: Westernport Church of the Brethren  
Westernport, Maryland

Travel: We travel together in 3 vans

Accommodations: Hotel or Church, your  
choice

Experience sharing the love of Jesus with  
children who are excited to hear!!!

The food is delicious, the company is  
wonderful, the children are eager and you will  
be so blessed!!

Please see me for an application or more  
information. Deadline is March 31.

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader

## A Big "Thank You!" from Finance Team

March marks the month that the church will become **debt free!** Thanks to your generous giving over the years and participation in the gift card program, we were able to pay off the building debt quickly, saving the church a lot of money in the long-run. We want to encourage you to continue giving and using the gift card program as you have been as that money can now go to other missions and ministries that are important to the church both inside and outside our walls. With how quickly we paid off our building debt, imagine the impact we could have over the coming years if we continue to provide that same amount of funding, but for other missions!

We'd also like to thank Tom Eberhart and Roxanne Waite for agreeing to join the Finance Ministry Team. They both have strong financial backgrounds and are great additions to the team.

Elaina Richard for Finance Ministry Team

## Spring Is A Good Time to Grow

Spring Quarter Adult Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. I feel as though the winter quarter has flown by!

Laura Zimmerman is leading a class that will provide a deep exploration of the parable of the prodigal son through a discussion of Tim Keller's book ***The Prodigal God***.

A class on **I & II Timothy** led by Mark Hofmann will focus on discipleship and Paul's letters to young leaders that are packed with instructions, guidelines, principles, and encouragement that are still applicable today.

Pastor Eric will lead a **Prayer** class. This class will have a different focus each week. Participants in the class will pray for each other and for requests from the church body, out loud or silently.

Dan Manbeck and Steve White are leading a class on **The Minor Prophets** where the focus will be on the backstory, context, and message of each minor prophet and how each one points to Jesus.

Finally, Steve F. Buttorff will be facilitating a discussion-filled class around **Cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit** that we can't grow, learn, or produce on our own.

A flyer with more in depth descriptions was placed in your mailbox and sign-ups are posted in the Main Entry. Please consider joining one of these classes. All are welcome even if you don't sign up!

Stacy Reitenbach,  
Adult Sunday School Coordinator

### Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

Megan Wetzel is starting a **Bible Study** two Sunday nights a month, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. The first 2 meetings are **March 10 & 24**.

Pastor K is also doing a **Tuesday meeting** on **March 19**, at Bull Run Tap House.

Peace, Pastor K



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 March 5 at 6:30 pm** in the Sonroom and runs for thirteen weeks finishing on May 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

### Upcoming Youth Events in March!

- March 3 - Planning
- March 9 - Race Day
  - Young Adults & Senior High only
- March 17 - Youth - Easter Egg Prep
- March 23 - Easter Egg Fair – Youth Can Help!
- March 24 - NO YOUTH
- March 31 - EASTER - NO YOUTH

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader



## Annual Church Auction 2024

Come and join the fun. The sale is **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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

## Praying and Visiting

There are many parts of the job of pastor that I enjoy. I pretty much enjoy all aspects of it except the conflict part...I never enjoy that but I appreciate how necessary it can be. Praying for and visiting with people are parts of my job that I enjoy the most.

As most of you know I pray for each person in the community of Buffalo Valley each week. I have a prayer list that I follow each morning and for most of you, I don't have any particular requests about which to pray. You can always pass to me any requests that you would like me to pray about and I will petition our great God on your behalf each week. I'll take as many requests as you have. This is different than our daily congregational prayer list that comes out each morning. The requests you share with me stay with me...I don't publicize those.

Second, I really enjoy visiting with people. My schedule allows me to do this during the day and a lot of evenings, especially after the first two weeks of each month. If you'd like me to visit with you about spiritual growth or just to talk about anything at all, please let me know. I'm not only available but I really enjoy this aspect of being a pastor.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Camp Eder Corner

Second 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](http://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 the camp itself, 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)

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



## Women, Love to Hear from You!

There are some great things going on within Women's Ministry here at the church. We have prayer partners. The **Connections** group has been meeting twice a month, forming connections, and finding small ways to serve others both inside and outside of our church. There are **brunches** about every other month (The next one is April 13<sup>th</sup>) along with a few special events throughout the year like the **Garden Party** and **Beach Retreat**. We hope to have at least one hiking/walking event this year as well once the weather starts to warm up.

We strive to have events that appeal to a range of interests, recognizing everyone is different, but we'd love to hear some fresh ideas from anyone that has them! We'd also love to hear from you if you think you'd like to attend an event or start building relationships with other women at church, but have reservations for any reason. Let's talk about it! Contact Elaina Richard (717-979-6732), ([elaina.miller008@gmail.com](mailto:elaina.miller008@gmail.com)).

Elaina Richard for Women's Ministry

## 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.

## A Reason To Celebrate

- **Jesus**-

What a *wonderful* name...

What a perfect *Saviour*...

What a reason to *celebrate!*



*From Your Lead Pastor,*



Lessons from Planet Fitness...

In December I joined Planet Fitness in Lewisburg. I've always enjoyed "the gym" and in some way being around all those people in the gym scratches an itch for my extrovert brain. I have even encountered a few people from Buffalo Valley there. I have a funny story that involves Jon Arneson that I won't put in this letter but I'd be glad to share it with you if you ask me!

One of the rules of the gym is that after you use a piece of equipment you are asked to spray a paper towel with disinfectant and wipe down the weight bar, seat, etc...that you use. I don't know if this practice was started at the time of COVID or if it's always been a part of Planet Fitness gym protocol. There are at least six of these stations where you can get the paper towels and the disinfectant spray. They are very prominently placed in the gym space.

This reminds me of the need to confess my sin. Not my sin of forgetting to wipe down my bench from time to time though I do forget at times...but how important confession is in the life of the Jesus follower. Wiping down the bench is designed to remove any germs that you've left from your time using the equipment. This helps the next person using the equipment not to catch what you may have left behind...also, if you are a person who sweats a lot, you don't want to leave that perspiration for the next person.

Confession is like this. When I confess my sins I am "cleaning up" the equipment of my life. Like that disinfectant spray, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from sin. In 1 John 1:9 we read: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*. This cleansing of sin is necessary for my life but it's also important for those who are using the equipment of life with me. When we confess, we are less likely to continue in that same sin which may damage those who come after us and I also think that confession and the associated forgiveness that we receive can often reduce the harm that others receive as they interact with us.

Confession is good for the soul...the soul of the one who confesses and the souls of those who share life with us.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



## **BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:**

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

Pastor



### **"Paths or Trees"**

*"How blessed is the one who does not  
follow the advice of the wicked,  
Or stand in the pathway with sinners,  
Or sit in the assembly of scoffers!  
Instead this person finds pleasure in  
obeying the LORD's commands;*

*This person meditates on his commands  
day and night.*

*This person is like a tree planted by flowing  
streams;*

*It yields its fruit at the proper time,  
And its leaves never fall off. " - Psalm 1:1-3*

"Blessed" - happy, fortunate, living a "good  
life."

People who want this good life do not  
pursue schemes

Nor pause to contemplate the choices of  
connivers,

Nor get comfortable with those who simply  
scoff.

Those who want the good life settle in for a  
steady life of obedience.

They contemplate wisdom constantly

And put down roots where life flows.

They benefit those around them,

They are trustworthy.

Do we pursue paths looking for our own  
advantage? To even pause and consider  
ourselves over another may lead us closer to  
getting comfortable just criticizing those who  
continue to pursue the good life.

Or do we establish our lives like trees,  
carefully considering where we put down  
roots? How much time do we spend each day  
contemplating what is wise? Not only learning  
in our head, but practicing? How bad do we  
want the good life?

Peace, Pastor K



## **Youth News**

Don't forget each Sunday at 8:30 am  
**Sunday school** is offered in the PIT for  
students grades 6 - 12!

Looking ahead I wanted to highlight some  
things to be thinking about:

**Saturday, March 9 - Race Day** for Senior  
High and Young Adults. I don't have all the  
details but in the past it has been 8 am – 2 pm  
and cost around \$20. Again, I will get more  
details and a sign up out to you as soon as we  
have all the details.

**Camp Eder** - let me know if you are  
planning to go. The church does pay \$280  
towards our youth who want to go. At this  
point I believe Myles Mast and Zayden Keefer  
are going June 23 for Wet and Wild. Check it  
out and let me know if you plan to register for  
any of the summer camps so I can make sure  
that we pay our portion.

**Westernport Mission Trip** - youth and  
young adults are such a great help at  
Westernport! See Vicki Bastian if you want an  
application. Let us know if we can answer any  
questions! We love to have youth (and their  
parents) attend. Application deadline is March  
31. We will pay for our youth and adults who  
help to go!

**Saturday, June 8, White Water Rafting** -  
more details to come but save the date!

**Wednesday, August 7, Sight and Sound**  
to see Daniel - we are planning to take 30  
people in two vans. Cost would be \$30 and  
would include the ticket, lunch, and the vans  
(we are using money raised through fund  
raisers to offset the cost of this Youth  
Development Trip). We want to encourage  
youth and their families to go and will soon be  
sending out a sign-up sheet for commitments.  
If we don't fill the spots with youth and their  
families we will open it up to the rest of the  
church.

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

**Stacy Mast**, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader



## Sermon Topics

As we move into chapter 10 of Matthew we see a shift in focus. Chapters 8-9 contain many miracles of Jesus. We will see more miracles as we continue in Matthew but starting in chapter 10 the focus changes. The emphasis increases on the teaching and parables of Jesus. Here is our upcoming schedule:

February 25<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 9:35-38

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Matthew 10:1-15

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 10:16-31

March 17<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 10:32-39

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 10:40-42  
(also emphasis on Palm Sunday)

March 31<sup>st</sup>: Easter Celebration

April 7<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 11:1-11

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Easter Egg Fair

March 23

Come & go between

10:30 am & 12:00 pm

Games, Egg Hunt, Crafts,  
Prizes and an Inflatable Amusement

Free Hot Dog Lunch

All children thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade and their families are invited.



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

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](http://www.bvcob.com).



**The Lamplighter**

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

Return Service Requested

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8:00 AM - Worship Service  
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time  
9:20 AM - Sunday school  
10:30 AM - Worship Service