

The Offer Still Stands!

I didn't get any response on this letter last month so I'm asking it to be run again just in case you didn't think I was serious...☺

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



The love that Jesus requires is love that Jesus enables.

Pastor Eric



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

A Reason To Celebrate

- Jesus -

What a wonderful name...

What a perfect Saviour...

What a reason to celebrate!



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



The primary focus of Jesus' teaching is a call to submit one's life completely to Jesus.

PastorEric



Camp Eder Corner

****Only a few months until summer camps will start!**** We now have over ten campers registered. So far, we have BVCOB campers going three different weeks! Remember our church pays a large portion of tuition for “our BVCOB” campers! 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 through the church camp, which is near Gettysburg. Please let me know (and Stacy Mast-for youth), if you are going!

If you have any questions on how to include your children in this awesome summer experience, please let me know. I'd be happy to help you get them registered!

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)

Register soon for the summer adventures being planned for your child's Christian camping experience at campeder.org.

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

There Is Still Time to Join



Spring Quarter Adult Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, March 3rd. 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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Reflections from Yahtzee

My dad and I have started playing Yahtzee a couple of times each week. As a child living in a double house on Chestnut St. in Mifflinburg I can remember my dad and Ed Brennan playing Yahtzee till well into the early hours of the morning. The Brennans lived on the other side of the double house. Me and Ed's son, Danny, were allowed to play until it got just a little past our bedtime. I remember those nights and how much fun it was to play.

Over the last couple of months I decided that Yahtzee was a game that my dad could still play. We've even Facetimed my sister, Heidi, in on some games. We can't see her dice when she rolls them but we trust that she isn't cheating! She hasn't won a single game so if she is cheating, she isn't doing it very well!

I think many of you have played Yahtzee. One of the interesting things about the game is that you never know what you are going to roll and at times, you make a decision that proves to be a poor decision. Recently, I took a "0" in my Yahtzee column because I didn't get something else I was attempting and on my next turn I rolled a Yahtzee (five dice of the same number). A Yahtzee is worth 50 points, the highest score possible in one move, however, I wasn't able to take 50 points because I had just zeroed it. If I had known I was going to roll a Yahtzee, I would not have zeroed it previously. But of course, I didn't know.

There are many decisions like that in our lives. At times we have to make difficult decisions and choices and we don't really know what tomorrow or next year will bring. Perhaps we take a job thinking it will be good and then we find out that our old job was going to offer to us a promotion that we would have wanted. The examples are almost endless.

In the game of Yahtzee you just never know what your next turn will yield. The same is often true of life. A big difference is that in life, we have prayer, God's word and the community of believers in our circle of friends that we can consult when we face a big decision. I'm not suggesting that God always reveals something special to us...life and its choices still have a lot of uncertainty, however, God's word often will guide us in a direction or even make the choice for us if we allow it. Prayer will often point us in a direction as we sense the

leading of the Holy Spirit. Godly friends are invaluable in helping each of us know how to proceed with the decisions of life.

Yahtzee isn't important enough to pray about or ask your friends about. And God's word won't tell you whether you should try for the large straight on the next roll. Life is important enough to ask your friends about. Life is too important not to pray, and not to see what God's word has to say. Our life is not purely chance. The roll of the dice is random. Life isn't random when we seek the direction and guidance of a great God.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

Rejoice always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in April!

April 7 - Planning following the service
April 14 - Youth from 3 - 5 pm
April 21 - Youth 3 - 5 pm (Spring Clean Up)
April 28 - Planning following the service

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

Looking Ahead:

Camp Eder - It isn't too late to sign up. Please let Stacy Mast know if you are attending as we will pay a portion for our youth to attend.

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** - We are planning to take 30 people in two vans to see Daniel. 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

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 13th) 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).

Elaina Richard for Women's Ministry

Young Adult Bible Study

Megan Wetzel is having a young adult Bible study at the church from 5:30 - 7:30 pm on the following Sundays: March 24, April 7, April 21, May 5 and May 19.

They will be watching and discussing season 1 of The Chosen and enjoying food.

Contact Megan if you have questions!

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader



Sermon Topics

We will continue our series on Matthew, moving into chapters 11-12. I don't have any specific texts outlined yet but I know it will be in Matthew ☺. I hope you are enjoying this series as much as I am.

Please join the Facebook sermon group if you have not already done so.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Operation Christmas Child

We are off to a great start with our collection of items for OCC Shoebox Mission!

As we move into April, please consider donating items such as **washcloths, bar soap, kid's toothbrushes, combs, and hairbrushes**. These items are things that we use every day, however some of the children that the shoeboxes will be delivered to may have never had these items of their own!

Don't forget to check out the poster in the Main Entry to see what items are still needed.

Kelsey Zimmerman

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

May 5 – Church Council Meeting

May 31 – Fireside Friday

June 8 – Strawberry Festival

June 12 – Day Camp Beginnings

June 22 – Women's Brunch

June 28 – Fireside Friday

July 13 – 19 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 26 – Fireside Friday

August 4 – Church Picnic

August 10 – Women's Brunch

August 30 – Fireside Friday

September 8 – 11 – Women's Beach Retreat

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.

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.

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



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.