

What Are You Waiting For?



Spring Quarter Adult Sunday School classes began 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 is focusing 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 is leading 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 is 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 Adult Bible Study

Young adults are welcome to join a Bible study every other Sunday through May.

Megan Wetzel is having a young adult Bible study at the church from 5:30 - 7:30 pm on the following Sundays: 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

Well...you already know what book of the Bible will be our focus. It is still Matthew. As we move into the middle section of the gospel, we enter into a section of extended teaching by Jesus.

Below is the schedule. If you've not already joined the Facebook sermon group, I encourage you to do so.

April 28 th	Matthew 12:1-14	Pastor K
May 5 th	Matthew 12:15-21	
May 12 th	Matthew 12:22-32	
May 19 th	Matthew 12:33-45	
May 26 th	Matthew 13:1-23	

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Gift Cards and Budgeting

A way to plan ahead:

Do you often go to the grocery store hungry? Are you an impulse shopper or do you stick to the list? Gift cards are a unique way to keep your shopping on a budget. If your budget for groceries each week is \$100 or \$150 or more... pick up your gift cards and shop to stay within budget each week. If you don't like to be constrained to a set dollar amount, order enough in gift cards that you will typically spend on your normal shopping excursions and earn money for the church.

You can participate 2 ways!

1. BVCOB Gift Card On Hand Inventory

Stop by the gift card center on Sunday morning to see what cards we have in stock. If there are gift cards that you would like to see available, please let us know!

In stock gift cards in varying amounts from \$10-100 denominations (as of 2/29/2024): Weis, Wenger's, Walmart, Sheetz, Davy's, CVS, Bath and Body, Amazon, Olive Garden, Burger King, Dairy Queen, Dunkin, McDonalds, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Starbucks, Subway

2. Raise Right Online Gift Card Ordering:

The online monthly scrip card order processed through Raise Right occurs the first Tuesday of each month and is available for pick up the following Sunday.

That service provides availability to gift cards from hundreds of vendors. The online link is: <https://raiseright.com>

If you have not signed up to use Raise Right, you simply set up a family account using the link above and then under "Sign Up" use **Enrollment Code: 6916BB3729429** to add the church so that BVCOB gets the contribution. Feel free to share this information with friends and family. Then follow the prompts to create your account.

If you need help setting up an account, please reach out to Lori Hunsberger or Carol Manbeck, they would be happy to assist you.

Thank you to our Gift Card Committee Team Members: Lori Hunsberger, Carol Manbeck, and Steve Richard.

Heather Buttorff for Finance Ministry Team



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in May!

May 5 - Church Council Meeting NO YOUTH
May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY NO YOUTH
May 19 – Short Hike – RB Winter State Park.
May 26 - Planning

Don't forget each Sunday at 8:30 am **Sunday school** is offered in the PIT for students grades 6 - 12! We will be **collecting an offering** during Sunday school each week to help **support a child** through Compassion International.

Sunday, May 19, Hike - Brent and Doug will lead a short hike at RB Winter State Park. Meet at the church at 2:30 pm and return will be at 5:30 pm.

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.

Saturday, **June 8, White Water Rafting** - details have been sent out. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly!

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 fundraisers to offset the cost of this Youth Development Trip).

We are encouraging youth and their families to go and a sign up has already been sent out.

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

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader





Camp Eder Corner

**Summer camps start in June! We have over 10 campers registered. ** Remember our church pays a large portion of tuition for "our BVCOB" 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 our church camp, near Gettysburg. Please let me know (and Stacy Mast-for youth), if you are going!

We are hoping more children/youth will register. If you have any questions on how to include your children in this awesome summer experience, please let me know.

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.

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



WE'RE COLLECTING

New, Crib and
Twin-Sized sheets
for children

FOR DWELL'S HOPE
CHEST FOSTER CLOSET

in honor of
Foster Care Awareness
Month this May!

Learn more about Dwell at
WWW.DWELLORPHANCARE.ORG or
contact Emily@dwellophanicare.org.

Please place them in the bin in the Main Entry any Sunday in May.

Thank you,

Alicia Showers



Don't Forget!!



Spring is the time of year that we clean out our closets and go through clothes that no longer fit or that we no longer like and get rid of them.

The Community Aid Bin is the perfect place to put your unwanted clothing, shoes and belts.

The money we receive helps us with the sending costs of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes each year.

Help us serve others by "Feeding the Bin!"

Vicki Bastian
Mission Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Bible Tells It Like It Is

Right now I'm reading a book by Jonathan Haidt titled, "The Righteous Mind". The subtitle of the book is "Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion". It has been an interesting read as Haidt, a moral psychologist, attempts to explain some aspects of human behavior.

What is very interesting to me about the book is that Haidt describes human behavior pretty much exactly as God's word describes human behavior. To make things more interesting, Haidt is an atheist. He postulates that human moral psychology has evolved over millions of years. I think he is pretty far off base. Of course I believe that God created human beings...we did not evolve over millions of years.

I have found myself reading passages of the book and several times thinking, "But the Bible tells me that". I don't need psychological studies and experiments to reveal most things about the human condition...the Bible already does that. Now, I'm not against scientific study but it's interesting to read how an atheist approaches these topics, removing God from the picture altogether.

Recently I was listening to a podcast that featured Jonathan Haidt being interviewed by Russell Moore, the editor of Christianity Today. In the podcast Haidt indicated that he was more open today to the possibility of God than at any other point in his life.

I hope that Jonathan Haidt does come to believe in God and I hope he receives Jesus as his Savior and Lord. It might mean the death of his career as a moral psychologist but it would mean new life. Perhaps God could use Jonathan Haidt as a testimony of His power and grace.

Anyway, I find it fascinating how the study of the human mind leads us right back to the pages of the Bible. There is nothing new under the sun.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Church Council Meeting



May 5

Brunch – 11:00 am

Meeting – 12:00 pm

The Offer Still Stands!

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 Lord's goodness surrounds us at every moment.

R.W. Barbour



Women's Beach Retreat

September 8 – 11
at Bethany Beach, Delaware

Cost \$250

\$100 non-refundable deposit due by **June 30**
Balance (\$150) due **August 25**

Sign up at the Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Questions: contact Carol Pursel or the church office

expectations
WOMEN'S CENTER

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Fill a baby bottle with loose change for Expectations Women's Center in Lewisburg.

Bottles are located at the Mission table in the main entry.

Be sure to sign out your bottle on the sign out sheet.

Bottles are due **May 26th**.

Recycle, Recycle, Recycle

Please remember to bring all your metal recycling to the church and place in the trailer by the shed. We are so grateful for everyone who supports mission "Outside Our Walls" by helping us recycle all kinds of metal! If you have any questions, please talk to Jake Myer or Jeff Benner.

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team

What News Do You Have?

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.)

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

- 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

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