

DR Mission Trip Volunteers Needed

From 2014-2019 Buffalo Valley sponsored a mission trip to the **Dominican Republic**. We are going back on **February 11-20, 2025**. We will be staying at Los Toros, in a church facility that we had stayed in a previous year...cots for beds and buckets for showers. We will be working in an economically poor area, helping to construct an outreach facility at La Mayita and also hopefully providing some concrete floors in some of the small houses in that area. We will be working with a long established church in Los Toros. If you are familiar with previous trips, Los Toros is where Kurt Ilgen and Ben Reimer were lost for about three hours! We are hoping not to repeat that.

We are looking for a group of about 12 people. We are putting together the financial information on the cost of the trip and more details will be released soon. I just wanted you to be aware of the dates so you could be thinking and praying about joining the group. Also, if you want to go but don't have a passport, I encourage you to get that process started soon. If you have any questions please contact me.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Christian Service

Strive to serve like Jesus: with meekness,
humility and love.

In Christian service, the branches that bear
the most fruit hang the lowest.

Anonymous



Buffalo Gals

June has many opportunities to connect with other women from church. There will be two **Connections** gatherings, our yearly **Garden Party**, and more! Check out the Women's Ministry board to see details for all of our upcoming events. We will also be holding a collection of nail polish and craft supplies for Rolling Hills during the month of June.

If you ever want to host an event for other women from our church - even if it's as simple as gathering for a few hours during an afternoon - don't hesitate to reach out, or just 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!

Don't forget to sign up for the **Beach Retreat** by June 30th.

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

Elaina Richard for Women's Ministry



Thank You

Thank you **Fay Richard** for your work behind the scenes. Throughout the year she submits all the person and family of the month articles. **Fay** is diligent in tracking people down to get their information. She has faithfully been doing this for many years.

Jeff Bastian

Expanded Ministry Financial Proposal

We are in an exciting time of ministry! You have been very faithful in giving to support the ministries of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. Since the building debt has been paid and the staff salaries are significantly less, we have approximately \$150,000/yr in resources to further the ministry here at Buffalo Valley. At the May Church Council meeting a document was presented which outlined four areas where we think we can expand our ministry and take care of some important needs. The four areas were building upgrades, mission support, community support and staffing. A document was also sent via email.

We would like to hear your ideas where you think God is leading us to expand our ministry. We want to hear how you think we can improve in how we serve each other, our community and our world. We would like to have these responses from you by the end of July, 2024. This gives us time to consolidate things and put recommendations in place for our 2025 budget.

Recommendations can be turned in written form via mail or the black offering boxes. Emails can be sent to the church office or to any of the Ministries Coordinating Team members. Personal visits are also an option if you'd like to discuss some of your ideas in more detail. You can submit things anonymously or with your name. We would prefer to have your name so we can follow up with you.

Thanks,
Pastor Eric



The After Party

Adult Summer Sunday School

If I had to put a label on my relationship status with politics, it would be "it's complicated." I could give you a long explanation for this in person, but here I will just say that my overlapping identities as a Christian, an educator, and a student of history make the prospect of another election season fraught with tension and animosity nearly too distressing to think about.

This is why I was so excited when Pastor Eric found *The After Party* for summer Sunday school. This study, developed by Curtis Chang, David French, and Russell Moore, will challenge us to move beyond political parties, platforms, candidates, and ideologies and equip us to pursue a biblically faithful approach to politics.

The curriculum can be broken down into three components:

How Versus What - Jesus teaches about the "how" of political engagement more clearly than the "what" of specific parties, policies, or politicians. The Jesus "how" is summarized in Micah 6:8: act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

The True Us Versus Them - The us versus them mentality created by our current political landscape opposes the mind of Christ and camouflages our true spiritual enemy: the dark powers and principalities that seek to divide humanity.

The After Party - Our deepest fears and hopes will never be answered by the victory of any political party or politician but rather only by the wedding feast of the Lamb, the return of our King Jesus (redeemingbabel.org).

We hope that you will join us this summer as we explore a spiritually grounded perspective on engaging with politics through thought-provoking discussions and reflections.

Stacy Reitenbach, for Adult Sunday School



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in June!

June 2nd – Westernport Team Meeting
June 8th - Saturday White Water Rafting
June 16th – Father's Day NO YOUTH
June 23 - Youth at the Pond 3 - 5 pm
June 30 - Youth at the Pond 3 - 5 pm

Sunday school: We will be collecting an offering during Sunday School each week to help support a child through **Compassion International**.

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

Sight and Sound - On Wednesday, **August 7th**, a group will be going to see Daniel. All tickets have been claimed but you can contact Stacy if you would like to be put on a cancellation list.

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

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader

Young Adult June Activities

Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

Megan Wetzel is starting a Bible Study, 2 Sunday nights a month, 3 – 5 pm.

Pastor K is also doing a Tuesday meeting on June 11, at Bull Run Tap House.

Pastor K



Worshipping God in the storm doesn't mean we know the outcome, it means we trust the Captain!

Chris Tomlin

From Your Lead Pastor,



You Can Trust God's Promises

I'm in a season of reading the Old Testament in my daily Bible reading. Recently I read a very familiar story with a very important message. After delivering His people from slavery in Egypt, God led the people to the brink of the Promised Land. God had told His people that He would deliver the Promised Land into their hands. Remember that there were other people living in the Promised Land. In Numbers 13:1-2 we read this: *"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."*

12 spies enter the Promised Land and when they return, 10 of the 12 say something like this: "The land is great but there are giants in that land and the cities are well defended. We are not able to go against the people for they are stronger than we". We know that two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, advocate obeying God and entering the land, but their advice is rejected.

One of the things that I learn from this is that fear can often get in the way of receiving God's promise. God had promised the land to His people. I don't think God sent the spies into the land to determine IF they could take the land. Rather, I think the spies were sent in to give them a glimpse of the bounty that God was going to provide.

The 10 spies focused on the ability of the people to drive out the inhabitants of the land but that was never the issue. God repeatedly said that He would drive out the inhabitants of the land. Let's not rule out the activity of God because we can't do it ourselves. Isn't that the point? God wanted to receive the glory by giving the people the land. God never intended for the people to earn the land.

We are prone to make this mistake in many spiritual areas. Some think it is up to them to earn their salvation instead of receiving salvation as a gracious gift from God. Others continue to strive to earn God's approval instead of receiving the approval that has been given through Jesus.

I always enjoy reading through the Old Testament as it reminds us of what God has done in the past and it provides a reminder also of how God is working today. Trust the promises of God.

They don't depend on your ability. They depend on God's ability, and I assure that He is able!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Do You Feel Stirred?

We plan to set up our portable baptistery for baptisms on **Sunday, June 9th**. If you would like to be baptized please contact one of our pastors and we will set up a time to talk to you about baptism.

Thanks,
Pastor Eric

P.S. "Sometimes you just gotta stir the waters!"

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

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



"Burden"

(A hiking self-reflection, influenced by Jesus' words in Matthew 11:29-30, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.")

I was recently invited into the identity of an Appalachian Trail Section hiker - having completed most of PA and with a plan to finish NJ this year. Part of this identity is adopting or accepting a "trail name." After running into another section hiker with the moniker, "Overpack," my companions laughed and suggested something similar for me.

Always one to overthink, I examined why I do, in fact, carry more than is needed. I discovered two underlying themes: worry and care. Some of my overpacking is due to worrying about what might happen: cold weather, rain, getting lost, hurricane winds, etc. Some of this worry is from good intentions (care): many of my expeditions have been leading less experienced young people, who will forget things or complain about missed comforts (expected food, warmth, ease), and I like to provide surprising comforts or treats (like fresh ground and brewed coffee), which can boost morale. But much of my overpacking is because I have not done my due work. I stubbornly use old, heavy equipment instead of researching and making use of newer lightweight, and better quality, materials (tent, cooking gear - 10 lbs).

Plus there is the common mistake of confusing needs with wants, and not knowing the people I hike with. Hence, I woke up early to hand grind and brew fresh coffee... which I ended up drinking all myself because no one else wanted coffee - which made me pouty and almost ruined my day (coffee pot and other unneeded equipment - 5 lbs).

This self-reflection revealed that while I have a caring desire to bear burdens for others, sometimes they are burdens I shouldn't bear. This results in me expending precious energy to carry things not needed, wearing me down so that when there is a need, I am less able to help - mentally, emotionally, and physically. I also need to communicate more and be willing to rely on those I walk with, rather than trying to bear all the burden myself; Jesus himself invited us to SHARE his burden, not take it entirely. I have therefore accepted caring criticism

of my backpacking and my next hike will see me 20 lbs lighter.

It is easier to cut measurable burdens, but these principles carry over to emotional and spiritual burdens as well. There is a reason Jesus challenged us to not worry about tomorrow. And we need to allow and expect those around us to carry what they need. When those enormous tragic loads come about we need to share them as a group, not expect to heroically save the day by ourselves.

My trail name will still allude to the tendency and desire to bear more than is needed, but also toward my growing ability to bear burdens - better preparation allows me to hold space for people to share their burdens with me - everyday interactions, but also those occasional weekends on the trail.

May we each examine the burdens we bear, unloading unneeded weight, so that we can turn and join Jesus in offering to walk alongside others and help them with their loads.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For it those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads."
- Galatians 6:2-5

Peace, Pastor K



Camp Eder Corner

Summer camps start in June! It's not too late to register! 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).

Check out the summer adventures being planned. If your child is already registered, encourage others to go too. Contact campeder.org before it's too late!

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



Sermon Topics

We continue with our series on Matthew, getting close to 50% of the way there! Remember to join the sermon group on Facebook if you have not already done so. Below is the schedule through the end of June:

May 26 th :	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
June 2 nd :	Matthew 13:10-17
June 9 th :	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
June 16 th :	Matthew 13:31-34, 41-46
June 23 rd :	Matthew 13:54-58
June 30 th :	Matthew 14:1-12

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Help us serve others by supporting Operation Christmas Child. See the board in the Main Entry. Any questions, please check with Kelsey Zimmerman.

Vicki Bastian

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

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

Thank You & Please Keep Them Coming!



The response has been wonderful in "Feeding the Bin"! Please bring your gently used clothing, shoes and any linens without fillers (no pillows or comforters, please) and place them in the **Community Aid bin**.

Just a reminder that currently the bin is only emptied once a week, so if the bin is full, kindly hold your donation for another time. Remember that your contributions help us pay for the shipping costs of the **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!**

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team

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
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Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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Lead Pastor – Rev. Eric S. Reamer
(570) 837-9393

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for Children & Pastoral Care

Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
for Youth & Young Adults

Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
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8:30 AM - Sunday school
9:45 AM - Worship Service