

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.

We are looking for a group of about 12 people. Flyers with more information are available at the document center in the main entry. We are now accepting people for the trip. We estimate that the cost per person will be \$400. 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



Congratulations Graduates

The following people have graduated this spring. Join us in congratulating them!!

Tyler Berkheiser, Cailynn Blannard, Nathaniel Chambers, Jacob Davis, Lilee Dorman, Kooper Haines, Keely Mast, Benjamin Reimer, Darcy Reitenbach, Hannah Pursel, and Amanda Reid.

Please pray for each one of our graduates.

Men's Backyard Bash & Quoit Pitch

Sunday, July 21st: 4 - 8 pm

Steve & Fay Richard's House
7765 Buffalo Rd. Mifflinburg

Join us for backyard games and the famous quoit pitch tournament!



Burgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

Zach Showers for Men's Ministry



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for all the items that have been donated so far! Remember to check the stores for great deals on summer toys and school supplies. Don't forget there is also an Amazon shopping list available for quick online shopping!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/39GBA3ZETVJJB?ref_=wl_share

Kelsey Zimmerman

Jesus is the door that leads to Himself; that leads to knowing Him more and loving Him better, to getting all the blessings of eternal life, all that makes us holy and happy in Him.

Hugh Macmillan



Outside Our Walls Mission Tidbits

Community Aid Bin – Thank you to everyone who “Feeds the Bin”! You have been doing an awesome job. For the first quarter of the year, we received over \$550! Please keep up the good work and remember to feed that bin with your gently used clothing and shoes.

Metal Recycling - has also been going very well and we are thankful for your contributions there as well. Metal recycling also helps keep our environment cleaned up as well!

Expectations – Thank you to everyone who took a Baby Bottle to fill or supported this outreach otherwise. We are grateful for your help.

Operation Christmas Child – We appreciate your ongoing support of this mission project. Please check Kelsey’s updated board and her email updates for the latest on what is needed.

As we strive to support a variety of areas, please help us reach Outside Our Walls.

If you have any questions at all about anything related to the Mission Ministry Team, please speak with any of the members: Janice Shively, Jeff Benner, Kornelius Reimer, Kelsey Zimmerman, Alicia Showers, Pastor Eric or myself.

Vicki Bastian for Mission Ministry Team



We Will Soon Be On Our Way!

On July 12, four of us will be heading to Westernport, MD to get ready for the rest of the team to arrive the next day. On Saturday, July 13 the work begins! Our theme this year is Scuba and we have some exciting things planned for the children who will be attending our **week-long Day Camp**. We have gathered many items, from Bible story props for Pastor Eric, Imagination Station, crafts to decorating props and of course, there is the food! A lot of time and planning goes into this week in Westernport, but we are so blessed through this ministry.

This year we have a team of 29 going to serve the children who will join us: Athena Berkheiser, Deb Whistler, Stacy Reitenbach, Linda Miller, Kurt Ilgen, Mark Hofmann, Mason Reitenbach, Ethan Hoover, Pastor Eric, Ben Reimer, Clayton Frank, Darcy Reitenbach, Jeff Bastian, Megan Wetzel, Justin Kuhns, Heather Reid, Stacy Mast, Kathy Kuhns, Amanda Reid, Sheri Reimer, Sarah Davis, Atticus Kauffman, Janice Shively, Shellie Hurst, Karen Davis, Brenda Eberhart, Jenny Delong, Pastor K and myself.

Please pray for our team, our ministry, and that we will be the hands and feet of Jesus to these children.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25: 35 & 40

Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian.

Andrew Murray

Exploring the Possibilities

Today I spoke with the director of the Union County Housing Authority. She is going to meet with her staff and then discuss with me and others ways in which Buffalo Valley COB can help families avoid eviction.

Last year I met a man named T.C. Barr who, with his wife and three children, are planning to give more than ten years of their lives in a remote area of Mexico translating the Bible into that area's native language, and also providing the first written language for those people.

These are just two of the possibilities we are exploring to spend the extra financial resources we have due to no longer having to pay off our building debt and a reduction in our pastoral salary expenses. Because of your faithfulness in giving, we have approximately \$150,000/year in resources to further the ministry here at Buffalo Valley. At the May Church Council Meeting we approved expanding our ministry in the areas of building upgrades, mission support, community support and staffing.

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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Many Facets of Love

The word “love” has many facets. We use it to describe many levels of appreciation/affection for all kinds of things. We say “I love my child” and we say “I love sushi”...same word...very different meanings (unless you’ve named your child “Sushi”...and you wouldn’t want to do that)

Sometimes love is expressed in positive affirmation and agreement. “I love what you’ve done with your life” or “I love everything about you” (ok, that last one might not be true very often but this article isn’t about lying). Sometimes love is expressed in negative expression and disagreement. Both of these are love, are they not? You can’t have one without the other. Parents could not raise children in a healthy way without both agreement and disagreement. To say that I love someone does not mean that I agree with them all the time or agree with their behavior. To say I do not agree with their behavior is not to say that I don’t love them.

When we read the words of Jesus in the New Testament we see many examples of negative expression and disagreement. Here is an example I read today. These words come after Jesus called the Pharisees “hypocrites”. *“¹² Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ¹³ But He answered and said, “Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”*

Are these words “loving”? Of course they are. I doubt anyone would argue that Jesus is capable of saying anything unloving. Yet these words are very, very harsh. At times, loving words are harsh. Disagreement and a call to another way of living can be important expressions of love. Can disagreement and judgment be done unlovingly? Of course they can. We’ve all done it and the Church has done it also. However, let’s not pretend for a moment that disagreement, at its core, cannot be loving. We all know that it can be and to intimate otherwise is just not helpful.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Anyone can devise a plan by which good people go to heaven. Only God can devise a plan whereby sinners, which are His enemies, can go to heaven.

Lewis Sperry Chafer

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

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



Young Adult Activities

Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

Megan Wetzel is leading a Bible Study, two Sunday nights a month, 3 – 5 pm.

I am meeting with a Young Adult group at various area restaurants, testing food and discussing faith. We meet one Tuesday evening, 6 pm, a month. In June we meet on June 25 at Maddie's. July we will try July 11, location TBA. Contact Pastor K for more information.

“Don't Just Ignore it, Be Still”

A Liturgy for Those Flooded by Too Much
Information / Psalm 46
(Liturgy from "Every Moment Holy")

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change:

"In a world so wired and interconnected, our anxious hearts are pummeled by an endless barrage of troubling news. We are daily aware of more grief, O Lord, than we can rightly consider, of more suffering and scandal than we can respond to, of more hostility, hatred, horror, and injustice than we can engage with compassion.

... though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble...

But you, O Jesus, are not disquieted by such news of cruelty and terror and war. You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed. You carried the full weight of the suffering of a broken world when you hung upon the cross, and you carry it still.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved. God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter...

When the cacophony of universal distress unsettles us, remind us that we are but small and finite creatures, never designed to carry the vast

abstractions of great burdens, for our arms are too short and our strength is too small.

Justice and mercy, healing and redemption - are Your great labors.

Come, behold the works of the LORD... he makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow ("gun"), and shatters the spear ("bomb"); he burns the shields with fire ("neutralizes nukes").

And yes, it is your good pleasure to accomplish such works through your people, but you have never asked any one of us to undertake more than your grace will enable us to fulfill.

Be still and know that I am God.

Guard us then from shutting down our empathy or walling off our hearts because of the glut of unactionable misery that floods our awareness. You have many children in many places around this globe. Move each of our hearts to compassionately respond to those needs that intersect our actual lives, that in all places your body might be actively addressing the pain and brokenness of this world, each of us liberated and empowered by your Spirit to fulfill the small part of your redemptive work assigned to us.

Be still and know.

Give us discernment
in the face of troubling news reports.
Give us discernment
to know when to pray, when to speak out,
when to act, and when to simply shut off
our screens and our devices,
and to sit quietly
in your presence,

Be still

Casting the burdens of this world upon the strong shoulders of the one who alone is able to bear them up.

Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us. God is our refuge.

Amen.

Peace, Pastor K



Camp Eder Corner

****Summer camps have started. It's not too late to register for a July camp! **** 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. Remember to join the sermon group on Facebook if you have not already done so. Below is the schedule through the end of July:

June 23 rd :	Matthew 13:54-58
June 30 th :	Matthew 14:1-12 Pastor K
July 7 th :	Matthew 14:13-21
July 14 th :	Matthew 14:22-33 Pastor Donita
July 21 st :	Matthew 15:1-20
July 28 th :	Matthew 15:21-31

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Are You Ready??

Precisely because we cannot predict the moment, we must be ready at all moments.

C.S. Lewis



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

- August 4 – Church Picnic & Baptisms
- 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 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.



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.

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

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