

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

August 2024
Volume 40 No. 7

Church Picnic & Baptisms



August 4 ~ 12 - 4 pm
at the Keister Farm

Bring a covered dish & dessert to share. Roasted pig, beverages, ice cream & paper products provided. Please bring a covered dish & dessert to share. Feel free to bring your bathing suits, fishing gear & lawn chairs. Please sign up at the bulletin board in the Main Entry



Baptisms @ 2:00 pm



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.

You are also able to place a check or monetary donation in an envelope marked "OCC" in the black offering box if you'd like us to do the shopping for you!

Don't forget there is also an amazon shopping list available for quick online shopping at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/39GBA3ZETVJJB?ref_=wl_share .

Kelsey Zimmerman

Looking for DR Volunteers



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



An umbrella cannot stop the rain, but it allows us to stand in the rain.

Faith in God may not remove our trials, but it gives us strength to overcome them.

3 AM Thoughts



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, very well and we are thankful for your contributions there as well. Metal recycling also helps keep our environment cleaned up as well!

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.

Malaysia Mission – Please remember to keep Ashley Wetzels in prayer as she serves. She is currently in Perth, Australia. She would love to hear from you as well. Her email is in the church directory.

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

Exploring the Possibilities

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



A Blessing Filled Week!!

Another week serving in Westernport has been completed and we did experience many blessings and saw God moving every day and in many ways! God met our needs abundantly and each day we saw Him working in us, through us and around us and in the lives of approximately 58 to 64 children that we touched.

The children were so happy to see us there and loved the interaction with us. The kids ate a lot of food this year too, some coming back for their third or fourth helping of food. Two boys are being cared for by their 77-year-old grandfather who is also caring for his bedridden wife. Many of the children have difficult living situations. There are many other stories of sad situations, but we are able to show God's love to them while we are there.

Everyone on the team did their part in making this week something special for these children to remember. They loved the songs, hearing the Word thru Bible story time, having the story reinforced through the Imagination Station and Sticky Scripture, crafts, games and through two hot meals and snacks. Our team was blessed too and we shared reflections, devotions and singing. What a great way to end the day! Oh, of course, we really end with dessert!

A huge thank you to all who served on the Westernport 2024 team for making this year a blessing!

I encourage you to be a part of the **Westernport 2025 team**. I guarantee you will be blessed beyond measure and you will bless the children of Westernport. The dates will be **July 12 – 18, 2025**.

Serving Him,
Vicki Bastian, Team Leader

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

I Peter 4: 10

From Your Lead Pastor,



The Foolishness of Idolatry

Right now I'm reading through the book of Isaiah. This is a wonderful book of the Old Testament that touches on many themes. One of the themes is the foolishness of idolatry. Chapter 44 contains a well-reasoned argument about the foolishness of taking one part of a block of wood and using it to cook and another part of the same block of wood to carve and then bow down to. Here is how Isaiah puts it in verse 19: *"And no one considers in his heart, nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, 'I have burned half of it in the fire. Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; and shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"* The entire section is found in verses 9-20. I recommend reading it.

I always appreciate sarcasm when I find it in the Bible. The foolishness of idolatry is evident in the fact that one part of the block of wood is burned and the other half is bowed down to. There is obviously nothing special about the block of wood so why bow down to it? Idolatry is incredibly foolish.

I know that none of you who read this bow down to worship a block of wood. However, we can be very susceptible to idolatry. Tim Keller often makes the point in his sermon that if we want God to do something and we get angry or disappointed when He doesn't do it, that the thing we wanted God to do is really our "god". God becomes the end to the means instead of the means. Do you see how this works? If you are angry at God because you didn't get the job you wanted then isn't it at least likely that the job is more important to you than God...the job is actually an idol?

However no thing or no person is more valuable than God and our attitudes and actions should reflect that if God is our Lord. Are there any idols in your life? It is likely that we all have some and they may compete for our attention in an unhealthy way. Let's make sure we are on guard for idols.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



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 August:

June 28th: Matthew 15:21-31
August 4th: Matthew 16:1-12
August 11th: Matthew 16:13-23
August 18th: Matthew 16:24-28 (Brian Keister)
August 25th: Matthew 17:1-13

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

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



"Giving In"

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it." - Romans 7:15, 18 NRSV

"Radical powerlessness is radical freedom, liberating you from the need to control the ocean of life and freeing you to learn how best to navigate it." — Rabbi Rami Shapiro

We cannot save ourselves. The more we try, the deeper we dig our hole. Like when our emotions rise and someone tells us to "just calm down..." I AM CALM!...Oh, yeah... Why can't adults get time-outs?

I was a shepherd this past week on the Westernport mission trip. One child in particular discovered the benefit of time-outs. By the end of the week, he was asking for time-outs himself (aka - go for a walk, aka - play soccer with Pastor K). But at the beginning, he resented being pulled out of the activity or group and would resort to grunting and kicking walls, and ripping decorations.

At first I was exasperated at his shut-downs in communication. But with some time-outs of my own (self-reflection), I realized how often I copied his behavior, just in less obvious ways (passive-aggressive patterns I'm too embarrassed to share). I find myself trapped in frustration, avoiding what could change in myself, and only focused on what everybody else, including God, "should" change.

This is when Jesus' words, "whoever would follow me, must die to himself daily (give-up, surrender, admit powerlessness), take up his cross, and follow me." Another Rabbi puts it a little more kindly (above): admitting we are powerless brings freedom - like admitting we are powerless to control the ocean, leaves us with the freedom and energy to navigate it. May we navigate more and try and control less. This was my closing prayer for my Westernport week:

How long must I 'kick against the goad,'
as that precious child kicks against the wall?

O God, remind me to save my toe and my time
and allow the tension of my disappointments to

open my ears and eyes to how you want to transform me into the precious creation only you can see as of yet." Amen.

Peace, Pastor K



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events in August!

August 4 - CHURCH PICNIC so NO YOUTH

August 7 - Sight and Sound

(for those who have signed up)

August 11 - Youth Pond 3 - 5 pm

August 18 - Youth Family Picnic at Noon

August 25 - ????? Picnic rain date - or possibly divide boys and girls to do something!

On **August 18** youth will be having a **family picnic** at noon at the Keister pond. We want to take this time to welcome our incoming 6th graders and reconnect with our current youth families. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and table settings will be provided. We will be asking families to bring other food items to share (be on the lookout for a sign up genius). We hope that our families can join us as we kick off another school year and continue to grow as a youth group!

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader



August Young Adult Activities

Young Adults (18-30 yrs)

The Sunday night Bible Study has paused for the summer, but the YA group at Westernport Mission Trip was brainstorming about what to do in September to start up again - stay posted.

Pastor K meets with a Young Adult group at various area Restaurants, testing food and discussing faith - a "Pub Theology" type of gathering. We meet one evening a month (now Wednesday). August Date and location: **August 21st**, @ Rusty Rail, 6 pm. Contact Pastor K.

Peace, Pastor K



Camp Eder Corner

Our BVCOB campers have attended camps ranging from “Barefoot” to “Jr/Sr High” camps. Our church pays a large portion for our children and youth to attend short camps for beginners and adventure camps for those older campers.

Evan Ulrich recently returned from his week at “Dream It, Build It” camp. He says, “First, I want to say thank you to the church for sponsoring me so I could go to Camp Eder. We built a house with a car and outdoor driveway; a ping pong paddle out of Legos, boats out of nature, and a bridge out of Popsicle sticks. We learned about how God saved us. My favorite things were Gaga ball and FOB (Flat on Bunks which is an hour of rest or time to write in our notebooks.)”

Lena Zimmerman also thanks BVCOB for helping to pay for her Camp Eder experience at “Camp All Out”. “My favorite parts were the rock wall, creek stumping, and gaga ball. I learned a lot about God and stories in the Bible when the counselors did skits. We also had devotions (Echo time) and sang lots of songs.”

Layanna Sommers was brief with her comments. “I loved swimming!”

Week 2 at Camp Eder made an impact on Myles Mast and Zayden Keefer. Myles shares, “This is my 4th year going to camp. I went to the 7th-12th grade ‘Wet and Wild’ camp and we did white water rafting. It was the best camp I have been to yet. I really enjoyed the Pastor that was there that week. He had a great way of sharing the story of Elijah and Elisha and really made it easier to focus. I am really thankful to the church for sending me to camp every year. I am thinking about doing this same camp again next year!”

Zayden also loved white water rafting. He also loved the food. “I liked learning about Jesus and growing in my faith. Camp counselors were so much fun. I enjoyed making new friends.” A highlight for Zayden this year was that he passed the swim test and could swim in the deep end of the pool. (They get a band if they can pass the swim test).

We pray that relationships with God and new friends continue to be strengthened because of the exciting opportunities found at “summer camp”!

Stay tuned! I am hoping you will hear from our other six campers in next month’s newsletter. As

you can tell, there’s a lot of excitement at Camp Eder! Check out more details at campeder.org or in a future Lamplighter.

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

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024



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.



Jesus leaving the 99 to find one seems crazy until you are that one!

The Message

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