

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

May 2025  
Volume 41 No. 4

## Church Council Meeting



May 4

Potluck – 11:00 am

Meeting – 12:00 pm



## Sermon Topics

In May we will continue our study of Matthew. We are entering the final three chapters of this amazing gospel. Here is the schedule:

April 27 <sup>th</sup> :	Matthew 26:14-31
May 4 <sup>th</sup> :	Matthew 26:26-30
May 11 <sup>th</sup> :	Matthew 26:36-46
May 18 <sup>th</sup> :	Matthew 26:47-56
May 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Matthew 26:57-67

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

## Westernport



We have a team of 30 to serve the children of Westernport from **July 12 to 18!** We serve them in a variety of ways. Time in the Bible, Imagination Station, Crafts, Games and of course, good food several times in a day.

Your prayers for all of us are greatly appreciated.

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



July 16 – 19

Applications for Assistance **AND** Participant Applications are available at the Welcome Center.

You can register online at  
[sunareaww.com](http://sunareaww.com).

Application deadline for both forms is **May 4<sup>th</sup>**.

## Bedding & Bath Items Collection

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. As we have done for the last few years, we will be collecting items for **DWELL** Orphan Care to support their Hope Chest Foster Closet. We will be collecting (new only):

- Twin Sheets (boys only)
- Satin Pillow Cases
- Loofahs
- Bath Toys
- Bars of Soap
- Scent Free Face Wash

SCAN ME



Please place all items in the bin in the main entry any Sunday in May. Any questions, please see me!

Alicia Showers for the Mission Ministry Team



**Friday Fun:** ends April 25<sup>th</sup>.

We had a wonderful year! Children were memorizing Bible verses, engaging & building relationships with other children in their community, and learning about God. Our team loves that we can offer such a great program to everyone in the community.

**Steppingstones** classes for ages K-5<sup>th</sup> grade are starting soon. These classes are for children who want to commit their lives to Christ and be baptized. Please reach out to Donita Keister for a schedule.

## Summer Daycamp

June 18<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Preschool 9 am - noon

K-5<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 4 pm

Sign up @ [BVCOB.com](http://BVCOB.com). Ministries>Church Ministries>Children's> the bottom of the page is the sign up for Summer Daycamp.

Angela Zimmerman, Children's Ministry Team



## Camp Eder Corner

**Summer camps start in June!** 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](http://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, which is near Gettysburg. Please let me know (and Stacy Mast-for youth), if you are going! See me or the “Camp Eder 2025” messenger group if you’d like to carpool.

We are hoping a few more children/youth will register. Stay tuned as we may have a visit in May from the new camp director.

If you have any questions on how to include your children in this awesome summer experience, please let me know.

### Week 1 June 15 - 20

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)

Junior High (Grades 7 - 8)

Rock Climbing (Grades 7 - 12)

\*New Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12)

Shining Stars (Ages 15+special needs)

### Week 2 June 22 - June 27

Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12)

Junior Camp 1 (Grades 4 - 6)

Outback Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

Horse Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

### Week 3 July 6 - 11

Kids Camp 1 (Grades 1 - 3)

Camp All Out (Grades 1 - 3)

Barefoot (July 9 - 11 for Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup>)

Junior Camp 2 (Grades 4 - 6)

### Week 4 July 13 - 18

Dream It, Build It (Grades 4 - 6)

Culinary Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

Puddle Jumpers (Grades 4 - 6)

Kids Camp 2 (Grades 1 - 3)

### Week 5 July 20 - 25

AT Trekkers (Grades 7-12)

C&O Biking Trip\* (Grades 7 - 12)

(\*note this camp is physically challenging)

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

## Your Participation Is Needed!

At the April monthly meeting of the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) we established the agenda for the **May Church Council Meeting**. Council will be held at **12 pm on May 4<sup>th</sup>** following a brunch at 11 am. You are welcome to come to either event, but we hope to see all of you at both. The following items will be open for discussion at Council:

- Approval of the previous council minutes
- Our current financial position will be shared and any questions you may have addressed.
- We previously distributed changes to our Polity. MCT is recommending approval of all the changes.
- There will be oral reports from all our pastors.
- Steve Richard will be sharing about the church auction and how we will be determining where we would like the proceeds to go in the future.
- MCT is recommending a proposal from the Building and Grounds Ministry Team to pave the parking lot for a total cost of \$83,675. The funding would consist of \$50,000 already allocated for improvements in the 2025 budget plus \$33,375 pulled from the general fund. We will then conduct a 3-month capital fund campaign to reimburse the general fund.
- At our February MCT retreat we outlined a course of action regarding denominational affiliation. MCT will be making a paper available outlining the concerns with the denomination and asking if we want to task the MCT with forming a committee to investigate the issue.

MCT has also authorized the Adult Ministry Team to close or greatly reduce our current library. Based on its limited usage we feel the room could be much better utilized for an Adult Sunday School classroom.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson

# Volunteer Center

Easter Egg Fair 130 children attended.

46 people came and served.

Areas served were:

7 Set up crew on April 11.

2 Blow up balloons early.

4 Kitchen crew

4 Flower/ craft

12 Games

2 Bounce monitoring

2 Welcome Center

5 Egg Hunt

3 Clean-up Crew (signed up)

Many people stayed and helped clean up.

## Areas in need of service:

\*Lawn Helpers

\*Soundboard & Media crew

\*Clean-up crew

\*Set up crew

\*Quarterly Cleaning

\*Food Team

## Upcoming events service needs:

Fireside Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>

\*Set up & clean-up crew

Strawberry Festival June 7<sup>th</sup>

\*Set up & Clean-up crew

Daycamp Beginning June 18<sup>th</sup>

\*Shepherds/ kitchen help/ clean up crew/ registration, welcome center

Without you these, events are not possible. I pray for you each day. That new people would take the step to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

"I leave the gift of peace with you - my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts - instead, be courageous!" John 14:27 TPT

Angela Zimmerman



It's hard to throw stones when you're busy washing feet. Love like Jesus.



Youth News

## Upcoming Youth Events

May 4 - Church Council (No Youth)

May 11 - Mother's Day Weekend (No Youth)

May 18 - Planning after service

May 25 - Memorial Day Weekend (No Youth)

May is a busy month and we actually won't have a "normal" youth group. But don't worry we have lots of upcoming fun events in the works for summer! And Sunday school is always happening each Sunday in the PIT.

**KNOEBELS** - Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, **June 24** - Knoebels trip for youth! All the details are in the sign up genius. Make sure you sign up if you are planning to go.

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER** - We are in the process of planning a spaghetti supper fundraiser for Sunday, **June 29**. More details will be coming but mark your calendar. There will be options to dine it or take it out. When we fundraise, we use the funds to help cover youth attending Westernport each year and for spiritual trips such as visiting Sight and Sound. With the youth group once again growing we find that we need more funds so please consider supporting us!

**SIGHT AND SOUND** - Wednesday, **July 30** is Sight and Sound. All the details are in the sign up genius. Make sure you sign up if you are planning to attend.

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

**GRADUATION** - if you are graduating this spring/summer or already graduated in the fall/winter **please fill out the google form** so we can recognize you in the annual graduation information packet. **Parents** feel free to encourage your graduate to fill out this form that was sent via email.

Stacy Mast, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leader

## From Your Lead Pastor,



When You Know You are On the Right Path...

I have been lost in the woods one time in my life. I was leading a group of teenagers on a hike in the Adirondack Mountains. There were 14 - 16 teenagers and three adults. On the way back down the mountain the adults were talking in the back of the pack, and the teens were leading the way. I wasn't paying as much attention as I ought. The trail hugged a stream for a long distance and then the trail veered away from the stream but the youth in the front stayed on what appeared to be a trail along the stream. At one point, I realized that we were no longer on the trail. We all stopped and realized that we were lost. We had a couple of hours of daylight and I remembered that east of the trail there was a logging road. We headed east through the brush until we came to the road. Once we were on the logging road, I knew that road would lead us to a paved road and we could flag someone down to get to the trailhead. It turned out that we were not far from the trailhead when we arrived on the paved road and we all got home safely.

I don't mind saying that I was pretty afraid when we were walking through the brush, before we found the logging road. But once we were on the logging road, I knew we would be OK. I knew we were on a path that would lead us home. I didn't know how long it would take, but I knew what the outcome would be.

As I've been reading the accounts of the arrest of Jesus I came across a familiar passage from John Chapter 13: <sup>2</sup>*And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,* <sup>3</sup>*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,* <sup>4</sup>*rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself."* Jesus was able to face His imminent arrest, torture and death because He "knew that He had come from God and was going to God. Jesus knew He was on the right path. It was going to be a rocky path, a path of great suffering, but Jesus walked that path knowing He was on the right path.

There have been other times in my life when I was very uncertain of the outcome of a path that I was on, but I knew, based on the truth of God's

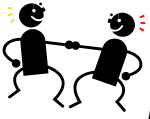
word, that I was on the right path. The peace that comes from that knowledge passes understanding.

I exhort you to seek the right path. It is a terrible feeling to know that you are lost. The reality is that much of the time we don't know where the twists and turns of the path will be but if we know we are on the right path, we know we will be OK. When I got on the logging road, I knew we would eventually be safe. Please get on the path of following Jesus. If I can help, please let me know.



God Bless, Pastor Eric





## Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we want to highlight our District meat canning effort. Each year the Southern PA District participates in a project at Christian Aid Ministries in Ephrata that cans thousands of pounds of chicken, bones and all, which is sent to places around the world and in the United States.

This year we have five people volunteering to help. It's a rather interesting several hours as we cut and weigh the chicken to a precise weight and place the chicken in a can. The cans are then heated to a high temperature and labels are applied. We participate in all parts of the process. Buffalo Valley also makes a financial contribution of several hundred dollars to this effort each year.

Pastor Eric for the Mission Ministry Team

## Recycling

Recycling is a great way to not only help the environment, but also help us to support Operation Christmas Child. Please bring all types of metals and place them in the trailer where they are sorted and taken to the recycling center.

## Baby Bottle Drive

Our Baby Bottle Drive to benefit Expectations Women's Center started in April and will end on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please take a bottle and fill it with coins, a check or cash. This is a great way to support Expectations.

Serving others is serving Him!

Vicki Bastian, Mission Ministry Team Leader



Sleep in peace. God is awake.

Victor Hugo



## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2025

June 7 – Strawberry Festival

June 18 – Day Camp Beginnings

July 2 – 6 – COB Annual Conference

July 12 – 18 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 16 – 19 – Sun Area Work & Witness

August 3 – Church Picnic

September 7 – 10 – Women's Beach Retreat

September 19 – 20 – COB District Conference

October 5 – Love Feast

November 2 – Church Council Meeting

November 29 – Kettle Cook

December 16 – Women's Christmas Party



## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:churchoffice@bvcob.com)

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