

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Brethren Fellowship

October 2026
Volume 42 No. 9



We invite you to join us for **Love Feast**, a meaningful time of worship and fellowship rooted in the Brethren tradition.

Love Feast is a special service in which we remember **Jesus' Last Supper** by washing one another's feet, sharing a meal together, and taking Communion. It reminds us of Christ's call to **humility, service, unity, and love**.

Whether Love Feast has been part of your faith journey for many years or you have never experienced it before, we warmly invite you to participate. Come as we gather around the table, serve one another, remember Christ's sacrifice, and celebrate the unity we share in Him.

Sunday, October 4

6:00 P.M.

We hope you'll mark your calendar and join us for this special gathering. We look forward to sharing **food, fellowship, worship, and community** with you!

Blessings,

Nicole Hoover,
for the Spiritual Life Ministry Team



What are you doing that is more important than what God is calling you to do?



Dominican Republic Mission Trip

We are planning to head back to Los Toros and LaMayita to serve with the Los Toros Church of the Brethren's efforts to serve a poor church planting/school effort in LaMayita.

We will leave on Saturday, **January 23rd** and return on Saturday, January 30th. The cost for each participant is \$500 which covers the room and board and other expenses while we are there. The recommendation again this year will be for \$30,000 as part of our mission budget. I can vouch personally that this is money well spent and that we are making a difference by our continued support of the Los Toros Church of the Brethren.

The group is starting to come together, but we still have room for you! If you are interested in being a part of this group, please see Pastor Eric or contact Kurt Ilgen, our Mission Ministry Team leader.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



NEW CHURCH EMAIL

bvbfoffice@gmail.com



Think about this:

If you can trust a puzzle company to make sure every piece is in the box to complete the puzzle, why can't you trust God that every piece of your life is there for a reason!

Leadership at Work

We continue making progress on our move to calling ourselves the Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship. Our tax-exempt status and EIN have been secured and we are in the process of converting our financial software to the new entity. Many thanks to Diane Reigle, our treasurer, for overseeing our financial transition and her dedication to making sure everything is fully operational.

At our special Church Council meeting we agreed to not move forward with determining the future of the parsonage without 80% approval from Council. The recommendation from the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) achieved 69% approval so we will be revisiting this issue most likely at our regular scheduled Council meeting in November. In the meantime, we are taking the following steps in response to concerns raised:

- Post a site map of our property in the main entry showing our current site and what would be divided off if we sell the parsonage.
- Ask the congregation if there is any interest in developing a ministry using the parsonage. An email went out this week to that effect. We are not looking for a complete plan by November, but if you are interested in establishing such a ministry now is the time to start getting organized and present your idea to the Mission Ministry Team. You can contact Kurt Ilgen who leads that team.
- Schedule another walk-through of the parsonage. The last one got rained out.
- Contact an auctioneer for the costs of selling the parsonage at auction as well as the what the parsonage may bring.
- Obtain an itemized estimate to remodel the parsonage.
- Contact a surveyor for the costs to subdivide.

We are currently working on the budget for 2027 and will approve the proposed budget at our next meeting.

A special thank you to all our team leaders and ministry team members. It takes a lot of effort to keep things moving forward here and their commitment makes it all possible.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



Outside Our Walls



I'm writing this article on September 11, 2026 and am in a somber mood recalling the events of 25 years ago. How the world has changed in those years and how I've changed is an interesting case study. I can recall as a young man that I wasn't sold out on missions and all that it entails to share the gospel. I certainly didn't see a need to go to another country to share God's love as I often pushed back on those ideas with the trite response of, "there's plenty of work to be done, right here!" To say that I've matured in many outlooks would be a gross understatement. There's plenty of "work" to do EVERYWHERE! Every day we have opportunities to share Christ with others!

One person that helped me to grasp a better missional viewpoint is Ashley Wetzel. I have served on numerous mission trips with this young lady and her heart for missions has always refreshed me. I would ask that you continue to lift her up in prayer as her YWAM



(Youth With A Mission) commitment in Malaysia is coming to an end in December. She is trying to discern God's desire for where to serve next. Thank you for your continued support for her!

Ashley was integral in starting mission trips with Samaritan's Purse. She actually started out on similar disaster response trips with Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM), but I recall one time where the leaders at BDM were telling her that it wasn't our duty to share the gospel with our constituents...needless to say this wasn't what Ashley wanted to hear. Hence, her push to participate in the evangelistic ministry of Samaritan's Purse!



Too bad Ashley is overseas as there hasn't been a Samaritan's Purse trip since 2022!! If anyone is interested in going and would like additional information, please go to www.samaritanspurse.org or reach out to me or Pastor Eric who can give you more info. Another tie in with our community is Operation Christmas Child which is run by

Samaritan's Purse! Please consider donating to this worthwhile effort.

Thanks again for supporting what we do through missions. May each one of us strive to do more and to give God the glory.

Kurt Illgen, Mission Ministry Team Leader



Operation Christmas Child

We are now in our **final month** of the 2026 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collection! As a reminder, please check out the board to see which items are still needed to fulfill our needs.

With your help, we will be able to send 400 shoeboxes around the world! That's 400 Gospel opportunities! Final day for this year's collection will be Sunday, October 25th.

Kelsey Zimmerman

Celebrate Together

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and we have two special ways to celebrate our leaders:

- **Daily Prayer Calendar:** A calendar featuring a specific prayer request for each day will be placed in your mailbox and sent out via email so we can pray together.
- **Sunday Celebration:** We will show our appreciation in person on **Sunday, October 11th** between Sunday school and the Church service with some sweet and healthy treats.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Holly Lehman



Buffalo Gals

Bible Studies are ongoing. Donita Keister's Bible study is continuing on the 2nd and 4th **Mondays** from 11 am - noon. If you have any questions or you want to join, just contact Donita.

Emily Ruhl and Stacy Mast have a Bible Study the first and third **Tuesday** of each month from 7 - 8 pm in room 8 (former library) October thru April (but they will not meet in December). They are planning to use Max Lucado's "Life Lessons on 1, 2, 3 John and Jude: Living and Loving by Truth". If you are planning to attend, please contact Stacy Mast at kyesmommy04@yahoo.com or 570-412-7198.

On **November 14** there is a **Women's Fellowship Breakfast**. Instead of at the church, it will be held at Donita's because they will be having Dairy Princess training at the church on that day.

Watch for information about the **Women's Christmas Gathering** on **December 15** at 6:00 pm.

At the end of February is the **Women's Winter Retreat**. Stay tuned for more information.

Amanda Stahl
Women's Ministry Coordinator



You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

Matthew 5:43 - 44



Hospitality Housekeeping

We are noticing the baskets in the ladies' restrooms being handled by children, things being taken or opened...which is rather discouraging for those who try to keep those baskets neat, tidy and useful for women who need those items. We are at a point of deciding whether to refresh the baskets, hide them, or remove them.

One thing everyone can do, is have a conversation with your children or grandchildren, reminding them that those things are for older girls and women.

We find the baskets to be useful and a blessing when items are needed. We hope you find them useful also. Please contact anyone on the Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team if you have suggestions, so that we can make things better for everyone.

Thank you!

Sheri Reimer

Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.

Randy Alcorn



Firm Foundation Sermon Series

We are continuing in our sermon series titled, "Firm Foundations". I am using a workbook that I studied through many years ago by the same title. This material is used by Ethnos 360 missionaries as they begin to teach the Bible to people who have never heard about Jesus.

The sermon series will last approximately one year and will go from Genesis through the ascension of Jesus. If you engage with this material through the sermons, email sermon group or Facebook sermon group you will have a comprehensive grasp on important aspects of the Christian faith.

This series is designed to encourage and build up new Christians and more mature people as well. Here are the topics for the next few weeks.

September 27 th	Jesus as King
October 4 th	John the Baptist
October 11 th	Guest Preacher Chris Elliott
October 18 th	Pastor Donita
October 25 th	Jesus' First Recorded Sermon

Don't forget to engage with the sermon group on Facebook or via email to get more out of the time we are spending together on Sunday mornings.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

November 1 – Church Council Meeting
November 14 - Women's Fellowship Breakfast
November 28 – Kettle Cook
December 15 - Women's Christmas Gathering



Youth News

Upcoming Events for Youth

We have several exciting things coming up for our youth!

September 27 — Youth, 5 – 7 PM

October 4 — TBD

October 11 — Taco & Talent Night, 2 – 7 PM
Meal served from 4 – 6 PM

October 18 — Planning Meeting

October 25 — Youth, 5 – 7 PM
Shopping for Operation Christmas Child boxes

Uprise Fest

Some of our youth recently had the opportunity to attend Uprise Fest in Shippensburg. Everyone had a great time, even if there wasn't quite as much sleep as they would have liked!

A huge thank you to Jason and Nicole Hoover and Steve White for their willingness to serve and take our youth to Uprise Fest. We are so thankful for those who are willing to invest their time and energy into our youth!

Save the Date – Taco & Talent Night!
Saturday, October 11 from 4 – 6 PM

The youth will be hosting a **Taco & Talent Night**, and we would love for you to join us! Come enjoy a taco meal and take some time to see and celebrate the many talents our youth have to share.

Proceeds from the taco meal will go toward future youth events and missions. We hope you will join us for a great evening of food, fellowship, and fun while supporting our youth!

Brent Ulrich
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader

From Your Lead Pastor,



Well, I Didn't Want to Hear That...

I'm sure that most of us have had an experience that I had tonight. I received a phone call with news that I wasn't expecting nor desiring. The details of the news isn't what this letter is about. Rather, this letter is about how we respond when we get a similar phone call or hear news we didn't want to hear. Again, this has happened to all of us. What do we do? How do we respond?

As I was listening to the other person on the phone, I could feel the Holy Spirit restraining my words. I asked for time to process what I had heard. I didn't really say much in response at the time. Of course, what I heard consumed most of the rest of my evening. As I reflected on this, Proverbs 3:5-6 came to mind. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."* It was also interesting to me that earlier today I was meeting with someone who is going through a difficult season of life and I encouraged him to truly consider the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5-6. I didn't realize at the time that a few hours later I would hear the news I heard.

What does it mean to "trust in the Lord with all your heart"? I think it means to trust that the Lord is sovereign over the situation you find yourself in and that He will work things out for our good and His glory. The "all your heart" phrase seems to point us to a full commitment in the Lord. We are to trust Him no matter what...being fully committed to His word and His way. This type of full commitment helps to keep us in the game when the game isn't going our way. It is easy for us to lean on our own understanding, to try to come up with a quick fix or have a quick reaction. God's Word seems to move us away from quick reactions and quick evaluations of the possibilities and the consequences.

In many of these types of situations we are not in control. Others have decisions to make that will impact us and they may make...or probably will make...a decision that we think is misguided. There's nothing we can really do about that. What we can do is trust in the Lord and trust that if we acknowledge God, He will direct our paths.

I'm going to take God's word at face value. I'm going to trust in Him and see what happens. If you are in a similar situation, I exhort you to do the

same. If I can help you in any way, please let me know. If we share our struggles we can pray for one another and often having someone to trust the Lord with is helpful.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

P.S. I forgot last night to send this letter to be published and now, this morning, I know why. While on my walk this morning I was listening to a podcast on persecuted Christians in Sudan and heard a verse that I was not familiar with: *"In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul."* Psalm 94:19. I think I'm supposed to share that in this letter. Now I can send it!

Still Time to Join



It is hard to believe that August is over, and fall is here! That means we need to think about **Fall Sunday School**.

Please consider what you would like to study this fall. Here are the current offerings:

- Young Adult Class
– taught by Eric Reamer
- Survey of World Religions from a Christian Perspective
– taught by Donita Keister
- Women in the Bible
– taught by Chloe Gemberling
- A Worship Study based on the book *The People in the Presence*
– taught by Dani Sommers & Jon Arneson
- Esther – taught by Tammi Gwinn
- Romans – taught by Michelle Herman

There are more detailed descriptions of the class topics and sign-up sheets in the Main Entry. (Please try to sign up as it makes planning class locations easier.) The fall Sunday School quarter began on September 6.

Michelle Herman & Jamie Manbeck,
Adult Sunday School Coordinators



Remember the New Name

Remember we are now **Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship**. Please write all checks to Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship or BVBF.

Continuing Our Relationships

The Mission Ministry Team invites everyone who feels any connection to Westernport COB to their **Harvest Party**. This Fall event is for ALL AGES and will be held at their church on Saturday, **October 24th** from **5 - 7 pm** “at the top of the cow path”...event includes: movie screening of ***It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.*** Games-Snacks-Treats and family photos. Everyone is encouraged to wear your costume!

Understandably to drive 3 hours to Westernport for a program that lasts 2 hours and then drive home the additional 3 hours could be considered crazy? But sometimes God can be found working glorious things in moments such as these, I hope you will consider this relationship building opportunity worthwhile.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try and answer them.

Kurt Illgen, Mission Ministry Team Leader



Wednesdays
October 7 – November 18

Meal served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm
Buffet-Style Meal
\$6/person \$20/family



CHURCH CALENDAR

For the complete view of the current official calendar including facility in use items visit the church website, www.bvcob.com.



Camp Eder Corner

48th Annual Fall Fest

October 17th

10 AM - 4 PM

Fall Festival is a celebration designed for the whole family. Fun and fundraising for Camp Eder's programs include a silent auction, food, local craft vendors, and children's games. Pit-Roasted Pork or Turkey highlights the food offerings with eat in or take out available. Sandwiches, soup, and wonderful baked goods are also available. Apple butter crafted from the camp's apple orchard is a special treat.

Kids Games & Activities

Live Music

Annual Auction

Live Craft & Skill Demos All Day!

We will also have a vendor market!

Any questions,

contact Fay Richard, at 570-716-2442
BVBF Church Camp Rep



The **Buggytown Work Camp** taking place **July 18 - 24, 2027** is accepting applications for free home repair for anyone who is elderly, a veteran, low income or disabled.

Information letters and applications are available at the welcome center.



Don't Forget!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2027 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team has **events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. We also need to make sure that heating/cooling is set for the area(s) you want to use. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar. Please continue to do so as new dates arise or as changes are made throughout the year.)

You will need to complete a **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** for a **single church activity** or a **MULTI-EVENT Form** for **multiple activities** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times for each activity, and rooms to be used. You can also use a **calendar Google form** to submit dates. If you are interested in submitting your dates in this way, **contact the church office for the link**. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again, don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facility Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**. The forms can be located by going to "Resources" then "Forms".

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2027 must be submitted from the ministry teams by **October 1, 2026**. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2027 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2026.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ilgen, BVBF Ministry Assistant

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship
46 Brethren Church Rd
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship
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

Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183
bvbfoffice@gmail.com

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

**Transition to Buffalo Valley
Brethren Fellowship**

We are in the middle of getting things changed. We now have a new EIN. A new Sales Tax Exemption. We are in the process of notifying our vendors to update their files.

This all takes time but we are getting things accomplished.

Please keep us in your prayers as we work through this.

Diane Reigle, Treasurer