

What Does Our Future Hold?

The Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) held its annual retreat at the church on February 6 and 7. We spent Friday night discerning the results of our church naming process. After much discussion and reflection, we agreed on recommending “**Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship**” as our new name. This recommendation will only be brought to Church Council if we decide to end our affiliation with the Church of the Brethren. Information supporting this name should have already appeared in your email and is available as a handout in the main entry.

Saturday was spent working on a job description for **Family Pastor** position. We will continue that work at our next MCT meeting.

I want to encourage all of you to attend our **March 15th Special Church Council Meeting**. We will be considering possibly three issues:

1. A vote by the members present will be conducted by representatives from the Southern PA District regarding ending our **affiliation** with the Church of the Brethren.
2. If we agree to end our affiliation, we will then take a vote to change our **name** to Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship.
3. We then will vote to make changes to our **polity** that reflect the changes previously made.

If you have any questions my door is always open. Let us band together to surround this meeting with prayer.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



Are You Growing in Your Faith?

We shall have Spring again! And we have some great Sunday School classes lined up for the spring quarter:

- Exploring the Torah Part 2 – taught by Jamie Manbeck, Alicia Showers, and Danielle Sommers
- Parenting our Kids as they grow up in the “Anxious Generation” taught by Pastor Donita Keister
- Slaves, Women & Homosexuals – taught by Pastor Eric Reamer
- Anabaptist Values – taught by Steve Richard
- 1 Corinthians – taught by Zach Showers

Watch for announcements with more detailed descriptions of the class topics and sign-up sheets in the Main Entry over the coming weeks. Please try to sign up as it helps us in planning class locations. The Spring Sunday School quarter **begins on March 8**.

Sunday school is a great way to find rich and deep connection in our **church community**. We invite you to join our classes every Sunday morning at 8:30 am before the church service.

Michelle Herman & Jamie Manbeck,
Adult Sunday School Coordinators



The Weatherman says a storm is coming. Everybody panics and gets prepared. The Preacher says Jesus is coming and nobody moves. Let that sink in for a minute.



It Is Coming Quickly

Come and join the fun on **March 7th** at the **2026 BVCOB Annual Church Auction**. With a successful auction we will be able to support the mission work of the **Mustard Seed School**, help pay off the **paved parking lot** and support the **Family In Need Fund** within the congregation.

It's not too late to donate. Please let Steve Richard know as soon as you have an item for the sale so we can advertise the hundreds of items and services that we will have to sell. All items must be at the church by 8:30 am the day of the sale unless specific arrangements are made for things like frozen foods or baked goods.

The day of the sale March 7th, **starting at 3:00 pm** food will be available, silent auction tables will open and you can look through the order of sale and view the hundreds of items that are donated. The **live bidding starts at 4:00 pm** with Auctioneer Jeremy Waite. We will again have a silent auction table geared toward children and there will be a period of kids only bidding (with Parents on hand to pay). Children are also invited to put together their own theme baskets.

In addition to donating, and/or bidding if you would like to help with the sale in some way, please let me know.

We encourage you to share the date with your friends and encourage them to come and enjoy the fun. There is a Facebook post making the rounds that we encourage you to share with all your friends. Thanks for your support and watch for more news. Please email me with your donations.

Steve Richard,
Sbrichard1960@gmail.com



Satan can't destroy the Gospel. He only lies about it by adding, subtracting and substituting.



ChMeetings Emails

I would like to use this article to try and explain the current email situation. Emails that were being sent to news, prayer and share-ads with the @bvcob.com address were mostly going to spam. To try and remedy this issue and to give everyone more accessibility to the church calendar and directory, we (myself, the pastors and the volunteer coordinator) chose ChMeetings as a new church management software.

ChMeetings only allows administrators and group leaders (for us that is team leaders) to send mass emails. This is meant to be a protection to the congregation so that mass emails only go out from a small number of people. In a sense, it is how we can moderate the emails.

Since most of you are in ChMeetings as members, you will not be able to send a mass email from ChMeetings. So, what should you do if you want to do so? You can do one of two things, you can send your email to news@bvcob.com, prayer@bvcob.com or share-ads@bvcob.com and either myself or one of the pastors will copy that email and send it through ChMeetings so that the email does not go to spam. The other option is to send the email that you want to go to the congregation to the church office – churchoffice@bvcob.com and I will send it for you with your contact information. There may be a slight delay in your email going out, but we will send it as soon as possible.

If you are sending an email, make sure the “sender” at the bottom is **you** and not Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. You can change it to you by using the drop-down menu and selecting your name. If you do not change the sender to you, the email replies will come to the church office.

If you have any questions about ChMeetings, please feel free to contact me at churchoffice@bvcob.com or at 570-966-1183. The church’s ChMeeting account in the directory is Buffalo Valley.

Cheryl Ilgen, Ministry Assistant



Youth News Upcoming Youth Events

February 20 - 22 – Winter Retreat Weekend
at Bucknell Center - \$20 fee per kid

March 1 - Youth

March 8 - Youth Leaders Planning

March 14 - Race Day- Noon - 6 pm

March 22 - Youth - Easter Egg Fair Prep

March 28 - Winter Jam for YAYA,

Sign up by 3/7. Doors open @ 4 pm.

More info closer to time.

If you are reading before Wednesday 2/18

Youth Retreat Info - The youth will be having a retreat at the FD Brown Conference Center (384 Dieffenderfer Road, Mifflinburg). Youth can be dropped off after school on Friday, February 20 and picked up on Sunday, the 22nd between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. There will be some organized, faith-growing activities intermixed with free time. More detailed information is available from the youth in paper format but will also be emailed out to parents. If your child isn’t able to attend the entire event, they are always welcome for a portion of the time. There will be a sign-up genius coming via email so youth can sign up for the weekend.

Looking ahead to March we are planning for our annual Race Day on Saturday, March 14! We will be meeting at the church at Noon and should be back sometime around 6 pm. Please keep an eye out for further details.

We also plan to attend Winter Jam. Please keep an eye out for further details in regards to cost. Leaving the church at 3:30 pm 😊. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet.

Please let Brent Ulrich, Megan Wetzel, or Pastor K know if you have any questions!

What did Jonah’s family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh? “Hmm, sounds fishy.” - Evan Ulrich

Brent Ulrich, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader



Camp Eder Corner

Second call for summer camps. **Do not delay!** Some camps fill up fast. If you are new to our church family and have an interest in summer camping for your child(ren), let's talk!

Register online at **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, near Gettysburg. Please let me know if you are going!

We currently have seven campers registered, excited to renew friendships and grow closer to God!

Week 1 June 14 - 19

Senior High (Grades 9 - 12)
Junior High (Grades 7 - 8)
Shining Stars (Ages 15+special needs)

Week 2 June 21 - June 26

Wet and Wild (Grades 7 - 12)
Junior Camp 1 (Grades 4 - 6)
Outback Camp (Grades 4 - 6)
Culinary Camp (Grades 4 - 6)

Week 3 July 5 - 10

Kids Camp 1 (Grades 1 - 3)
Farm Camp (Grades 1 - 3)
Barefoot (July 8 - 10 for Kindergarten and First)
Junior Camp 2 (Grades 4 - 6)

Week 4 July 12 - 17

Dream It, Build It (Grades 4 - 6)
Horse 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); note this camp is physically challenging!

Hope you check out the summer adventures being planned for your child's Christian camping experience at **campeder.org!**

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

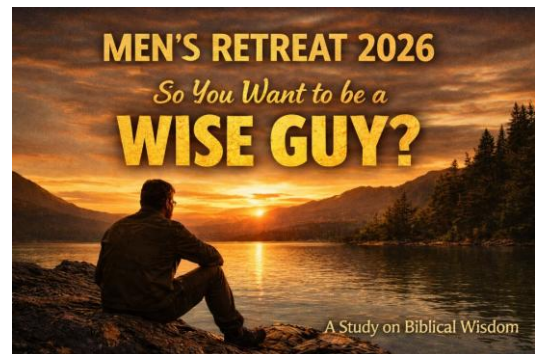


Buffalo Gals

Something exciting is coming! It's called **Women's Breakfast Fellowship**. Our women's ministry is taking on a new look with our traditional brunch, changing it into a shorter and earlier gathering to reach more women across all ages.

This gathering is for a time of devotions and fellowship from **8:30 am - 9:30 am**. The main dish will be provided, but if you have a dish to share, feel free to bring it along. If you don't have the time, energy, or supplies to bring something, no sweat. There is always more than enough for everyone. The main thing is to bring yourself, enjoy the devotions, and share a meal with other Christian women who all believe in our loving and great God.

Amanda Stahl, Women's Ministry Coordinator



Join us for a relaxing weekend of Faith, Fellowship, and Food!

March 20 - 22

Arrive: 5:00 - 6:00 pm Friday
~ Leave: 11:30 am Sunday

Mountain Dale Farm - McClure

Cost - \$85

Covers Lodging for both nights & food for Meals: Friday Dinner - Sunday Breakfast

Contact Zach Showers with any questions.
570-765-2011 or zshowers@yahoo.com

Sign-Up by March 8

BVCOB Youth & Young Adults:

BVCOB Youth: "Lent"



PIT - Purposeful Influential Team

Observing Lent is not mandatory. We do not earn more of God's attention, grace, or love if we do it. But it can be a beautiful invitation to examine ourselves and deepen our relationship with God!

If you are not familiar, "Lent marks the 40 days leading up to Jesus' murder and surprising return to life 3 days later. The practice began in the 4th Century as a way to prepare Christians for the holiest, hardest days of our story."¹

Some start Lent with a visible symbol of an ash cross rubbed on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday (February 18th, this year) - "from dust we were made, to dust we shall return." Lent is traditionally a season of grief, kind of purposefully walking with Jesus toward the cross.

"Of course, the cross is not the end of the story. But this season is carved out to acknowledge the reality of Jesus' sacrifice. Our savior knew pain and grief and despair, and so do we. Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us."²

Would you like to participate?

There are many ways to practice Lent. Some give something up - alcohol, meat, chocolate, social media. Some take up something new - a new prayer practice, daily moment with God, or devotional practice. Note- it's not supposed to be easy, but meant to stretch you and even in "failing" you find a growing edge and God's grace.

Lent culminates in "Holy Week"- the week we more purposefully consider Jesus' walk toward suffering and death, and then surprising resurrection. It can be hard to believe - in fact I think it should be hard to believe, unless you have seen more people come back from death after being buried than I have. But as Christians, it is where we get our belief of life and death - we don't simply die. We are forgiven and loved and gathered up to be with God and each other forever.

When I have participated seriously in Lent, I have experienced Holy Week and God's sustaining

love more deeply. It's not too late to begin; I'm still deciding on my practice this year. But I'd love to hear and share this experience if you decide to partake in this adventure!

March Young Adult Activities

Young Adults (ages 18 - 30) meet with Pastor K on the **third Wednesday of the month**, 6:30 pm, to test food, listen to each other's lives, and ask challenging faith questions. In March, we will be meeting at "Matty's Sporthouse Grill" in Lewisburg at 6:30 pm. Check out our BVCOB Young Adults Messenger chat group, or contact Pastor K for details.

Peace, Pastor K



Working Hard

The Building & Grounds Ministry Team had recently updated the Narthex Restrooms by repairing damage drywall and installing new grab bars, a sink & faucet, new towel dispensers, new fans with lights, and new heating. The wall and ceiling paint will be done asap.

The Team asks that the **heater thermostats** would not be adjusted and kept where the mark indicates. Several times after the Sunday School and the Morning Worship Service the heaters have been found to be adjusted too high creating a Sauna effect and wasting energy or too low which after many hours could result in damaged piping.

The Team will notify everyone when a date in April 2026 has been made for the **exterior grounds** to be cleaned up and prepared for Spring/Summer. We will need help in raking stones, mulching, etc. Remember "more hands make the work load lighter."

Ministry Team leaders and members, please remember to check several weeks ahead of an event for the **supplies** you need. If you are in need of supplies, please notify Cherly Ilgen (Church Secretary) or Doug Diehl (Team Member) what you need, the amount, and the date of the event so that items can be purchased.

Thank you,

Jamie Martin,

Building & Grounds Ministry Team Leader

¹ Kate Bowler. "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!". Convergent, NY, 2024. Pg. 96.

² Bowler, pg. 96

SAWW

Snyder, Union, Northumberland County
Work & Witness

Our Church is participating in the SAWW outreach as a Partner Church. This is the second year we will be joining 5 other Churches for serving needs in our area.

We are excited for you to join this life-giving and life-changing ministry that we believe will make a difference in the lives of others in our local community. It is because of individuals like you and our sponsors that we are able to "spread kindness" and reflect the love of God.

If you are at least 10 years old as of July 16, 2026, you are eligible to participate in Sun Area Work & Witness. Individuals between 10 years old and 14 years old as of July 16, 2026, must have a parent/guardian attend as well.

Applications for assistance will be collected between **February 22 – March 29**.

Volunteer sign up is open between **April 12 – May 17**.

Workdays are **Wednesday July 15th to Saturday July 18th**. Individuals are free to volunteer for as many, or as few, days as they desire. For days that you volunteer, we ask that you participate for the full day. Each day breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided along with faith enrichment activities.

On **Sunday, July 12th** there is a "**Work & Witness Kick-Off**" meeting held for all participants. All participants are asked to attend this meeting. You will receive your 2026 W&W trip shirt, first day work site assignments, and other information that will help you the days you volunteer. The orientation will be held at Freeburg Community Center, 11 E. Church Street, Freeburg, PA 17827 from 6 – 8 pm.

On **Sunday Evening, July 19th** there will be a large **closing celebration**. You and your family members are invited to this event.

There is a registration fee of \$15 for each participant or \$50 maximum per family. Each participant receives one W&W trip shirt as part of your registration. You can purchase additional shirts for \$10 each. If the fee is a hardship, assistance is available—please let us know. Additional donations are also welcome.

Clearances

Child clearances are required. If you have already submitted your clearances to Buffalo Valley, you are all set. Otherwise, please turn them in to the church office.

Areas to volunteer in are:

- **Site Crew** – complete homeowner and community work projects
- **Supply Crew** – organize, purchase, and deliver supplies
- **Kitchen Crew** – help prepare, serve, and clean up meals
- **Listener** – visit with homeowner during project/ provide faith enrichment opportunities for work group
- **Media Crew** – capture moments through photography/videography

The web site:

<https://scnpa.churchcenter.com/pages/sun-area-work-and-witness>

Dale Lehman



Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we spotlight the trip to the Dominican Republic on February 21 – 28. Four people from Buffalo Valley (Jeff Bastian, Chris Graham, Eric Reamer, Aaron Reitenbach) are joining two others on this trip. The focus of the trip will be providing resources for construction of a ministry center in a very poor village called La Mayita and ministry to the Christian school operated in Los Toros.

The Mission Ministry Team budget for this trip is \$30,000 and each team member contributes \$500 also. This is our largest financial expenditure in the mission budget and provides much needed materials and labor for an important project. Our hosts in the Dominican, the Reyes family, began this outreach to La Mayita several years ago and our contributions last year and this year will enable them to complete most of the physical work on the facility at La Mayita and will provide a place to share the gospel of Jesus in both word and deed.

Please pray for our group as they leave and pray for the Reyes family as they continue their ministry in the Los Toros area.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

From Your Lead Pastor,



Practicing What I Preach... by the Grace of God

Yesterday I had an opportunity to put into practice the principle of putting someone else's interests above my interests. I wanted to share the story with you and encourage you to do likewise. With God's grace we can truly bless those around us

I had an appointment at Bucknell with an InterVarsity missionary named Liz. Visitor parking at Bucknell is difficult. I momentarily pulled into a "staff only" parking space and found a student to ask where visitor parking was. Before I could get back to my car a campus safety officer pulled into the lot and was beginning the process of ticketing my car. When I talked to him, he told me I could leave my car there since my appointment was only 30 minutes long. As I shared this story with Liz, she mentioned that she had parked in that lot as well and hoped she would not get a ticket. Liz is 33 weeks pregnant and this was her last visit to Bucknell before going on maternity leave.

As I walked to my car after my appointment, I was pretty sure she would have received a ticket. I felt led by God to pay for her ticket. I found a minivan with two car seats in it with a \$60 ticket. I must admit that my initial reaction was "Well, I was going to pay the ticket but \$60 is a bit much". I started to walk back to my car but then I realized that I was supposed to pay the ticket regardless. I took a picture of the minivan and confirmed with Liz that it was her car. She was concerned that she had a ticket until I told her that I would take care of it. She thanked me and I went back to my car. The best part of the story is still to come...

I called the number on the ticket and was told that I had to go to the Bursar's office and pay it...I could not pay it online. I went to the office and told the woman behind the counter that I wanted to pay a ticket. When she understood I was paying a ticket for someone else and was not a student or staff, she sent me to the woman next to her. She told me I had to pay the ticket in cash. I don't carry \$60 with me and I said, "I have to go get the money". She then said, "Tell me more about this story". As I told it to her (especially the part about Liz being 33 weeks pregnant) she said, "Let me make a phone call and see if we can get this ticket taken care of". She wasn't able to reach the person but she told me that she was pretty sure that she

could get the ticket rescinded and she thanked me for my kindness. I thanked her and walked back to my car...hoping that I had not parked in the wrong place and received a ticket. I did not.

I don't share this to toot my own horn in any way. After all, I almost didn't listen to what God was telling me. I share this to encourage you to follow those still, small voices which occasionally encourage each of us to look out for the interests of someone else. We never know what God has in mind. In this case, I received a blessing, Liz saved \$60 and I'm pretty sure Bucknell will be OK also.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

You don't have to acknowledge the existence of the enemy if you don't want to. That makes the devil's job easier if you don't acknowledge him. But I assure you that what you can't see CAN and WILL hurt you. So, pay attention to the armor that is offered to you and put it on.

Pastor Eric



Outside Our Walls

شکریہ

Can you guess what the above text says? Obviously, it is a language that isn't familiar to us. I'll give you a hint...."shkaria" is what it looks like in the translated English language. Another clue? The language is Urdu, that is commonly spoken in Pakistan and what it is saying is Thank You!

The Mission Ministry Team wants to say **THANK YOU** for supporting all of the ministries under the umbrella of Missions. Did you know that your contributions to Ethnos 360 are helping to bring the word of God to unreached people around the globe?

Thank You for contributing to the church budget that provides for these mission outreach opportunities. For your information Ethnos 360 was once called New Tribes Missions and we have been faithfully supporting this vital ministry for many years. Thank You for helping us to share the gospel!



Kurt Ilgen, Mission Ministry Team Leader



Belonging isn't about where we are, it's about how we show up for one another.



Upcoming Sermon Series

We will continue in our series on Paul's letter to the Philippians titled, "**Church Life**". We are taking three to four weeks on each chapter. Here are the upcoming texts:

- March 1st: Philippians 3:1-11
- March 8th: Philippians 3:12-16
- March 15th: Philippians 3;17-4:1
- March 22nd: Philippians 4:1-7
- March 29th: Philippians 4:8-9

Don't forget to engage with the sermon group on Facebook to get more out of the time we are spending together in Philippians.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

- April 2 – Love Feast
- May 3 – Church Council Meeting
- June 6 – Strawberry Festival
- June 17 – Day Camp Beginnings
- July 11 – 17 – Westernport Mission Trip
- July 26 – Church Picnic
- September 6 – 9 – Women's Beach Retreat
- October 4 – Love Feast
- November 1 – Church Council Meeting
- November 28 – Kettle Cook



CHURCH CALENDAR

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

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