

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION



Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

**EASTER!** – He has risen!  
He Has Risen Indeed!



Are You Growing in Your Faith?

It is Spring again! And we currently have some great Sunday School classes 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

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

Now That We are No Longer a Part  
of the Church of the Brethren...

How would you complete this sentence? The congregation voted on March 15<sup>th</sup> to withdraw from our denomination and for now, to be an independent congregation. What changes should you expect to see?

There will be very few visible changes to our ministry. The most visible is that we have a new name: **Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship**. Our name reminds us of our Brethren heritage which is unchanged. We will continue to practice Love Feast and our method of baptism remains the same. Our Anabaptist principles that guide us in worship and service have not changed. We won't participate in Church of the Brethren activities such as Annual and District Conference, but we will continue our support and participating in Brethren ministries such as Camp Eder and Children's Aid Society.

Now that we are no longer a part of the Church of the Brethren, we will still do what we've always done. We will strive to follow Jesus as a community. We will serve our local community and people around the world. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and discernment through the past several months of the process of withdrawal. Our best days of ministry are still ahead of us.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



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

Billy Sunday



## Who Me? Yes You!

The spring Sunday school quarter is in full swing, and we are looking ahead to summer. In a recent questionnaire, it became clear that many among us prefer smaller groups to a larger unified summer quarter. However, there were few responders who indicated they would be willing to teach. **Summer** is also a time of travel and vacations, so it is difficult to find teachers who can cover the full 13 weeks of the quarter. Herein lies the challenge: we are **in need of teachers**.

We would like to try a new approach this summer: a unified quarter with groups of smaller classes. We will study the same topic (to be determined), but we will plan for three smaller classes that are consistent through the summer. To share the teaching load, we would like to find three teachers for each smaller group, and each teacher would take responsibility for four weeks. To do this, we need a total of nine teachers for the summer.

Would you be willing to teach four Sundays this summer? If so, please reach out to Jamie or Michelle.

The Summer Sunday School quarter begins on June 7 and finishes August 30.

Adult Sunday School Coordinators

Michelle Herman,

[chelle0207@gmail.com](mailto:chelle0207@gmail.com), (570) 713-8240

Jamie Manbeck,

[jamie.manbeck@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.manbeck@gmail.com), (570) 954-0029

The more time we spend in *God's Word*, the more we come to know, love and cherish God Himself.

David Jeremiah



## ChMeetings "My Profile"

In ChMeetings, everyone has a profile. You will find your profile under the "My Profile" tab. Your profile has information about you such as your address, phone number, email, birthday, etc. (People who have admin accounts will have to switch from admin view to member view to get to their profile.)

You can edit your profile if there is information that needs updated. You also can add a picture to your profile. We would like everyone to add a picture to their profile. Parents have access to their children's profile and can update and add pictures to their profile as well.

To edit your profile on mobile phone, go to "My Profile" then click on the 3 dots in the top right corner. Select edit. Edit whatever information needs edited and then click save in the upper right-hand corner. On a computer there is an edit profile tab. Always remember to save.

To add a picture, you click edit and then click on the pencil on the picture area of your profile (it looks like a blank person in a circle). It will ask you if you want to choose something from your photos or take a picture. Choose the picture you want to use and then click save. On mobile phone, save is in the upper right-hand corner.

If you have any questions about ChMeetings, please feel free to stop in the office or contact me at 570-966-1183 or at [churchoffice@bvcob.com](mailto:churchoffice@bvcob.com). The church's ChMeeting account in the directory is Buffalo Valley.

Cheryl Ilgen, Ministry Assistant



## Let's Celebrate!

We had another successful church auction on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Not only did we raise **\$14,700** to support the Mustard Seed school ministry and local ministry, but the fellowship preparing for and during the event was heart-warming.

I am always amazed with the congregation's generosity of time and money.

We always welcome suggestions to improve or causes to support, and encourage you throughout the year to think about how you can be involved.

Steve Richard



## Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we highlight **Sun Area Work and Witness (SAWW)**. Buffalo Valley is a partnering church along with three other churches in our area. As a partnering church we commit \$5,000 in financial support and we have two men, Dale Lehman and Jim Libby, who serve on the leadership group of SAWW. They are both active now evaluating applications that have been submitted by people who desire work to be done on their homes.

**Volunteer signup begins April 12<sup>th</sup>** and runs through May 17<sup>th</sup>. The work is being done **July 15 - 18**. You can work one or all four days. You don't need any particular experience though if you have experience you can note that on the volunteer application. The work experiences are meaningful and fun and very helpful. Watch out for more information through email and other announcements. If you have any questions, contact the church office or talk with Jim and Dale.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Camp Eder Corner

Just a few months away until summer camping starts! If you are new to our church family and have an interest in summer camping for your child(ren), there are some Camp Eder summer brochures on the children/youth table. Feel free to take one and/or talk with other families about the opportunities to go. I would also be happy to answer any questions.

Register online at [campeder.org](http://campeder.org). If you are a regular attender here at Buffalo Valley, \$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 the camp, (which is near Gettysburg). Please let me know if you are going!

### 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 these summer adventures being planned for your child's Christian camping experience at [campeder.org](http://campeder.org)!

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



## Youth News Upcoming Youth Events

March 28 - Easter Egg Fair;  
Winter Jam YAYA  
March 29 - No Youth  
April 5 - Easter  
April 12 - YaYA Planning  
April 19 - Planning - Spaghetti Dinner  
(4 - 6 pm; volunteers: 2 - 5 pm; 4 - 7 pm)  
April 26 - Youth 3 - 5 pm

### Race Day A Success!

On March 14 we had our annual race day. This was my first time and boy were they fast! I do know one thing....I have no idea how the Frank's (Clay and Mason) do it, but they are pros when it comes to the race track. Fun was had by all. We had pizza at the track as well, but of course we still had to stop for Chik-Fil-A! It was a quiet ride home with lots of sleepy kiddos. Can't wait for next year!

### Easter Egg Fair / Winter Jam

On **March 28<sup>th</sup>**, Youth are encouraged to help with the **Easter Egg Fair** and then leave from there to attend **Winter Jam**. Plan is to have pizza after Easter Egg Fair and we will make/pack sandwiches for the ride up to Winter Jam. If you'd like to help with the Easter Egg Fair, please sign up at the volunteer station on the small pieces of paper.

If you can't help at the fair but would like to attend Winter Jam please arrive by 3:15 pm at the Church.

### Spaghetti Dinner

Please make sure you don't eat all day on **April 19** so you can come eat spaghetti! More details will be coming out soon. Be looking for a flyer/sign up on the board near the entrance. It will be buffet style with Dine in or Take out from 4 - 6 pm.

As always, if you have any questions, you may reach out to any of the youth advisors.

**Brent Ulrich**, Youth & Young Adult Team Leader

## BV Youth & Young Adults:

### BV Youth: "Beware the Road"

#### PIT - Purposeful Influential Team

*"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to." - Bilbo Baggins, J.R.R. Tolkien, "The Fellowship of the Ring"*

*"The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps." - Proverbs 16:9*

Proverbs 16:9 was my favorite verse in high school, though I understood this verse differently 30 years ago. Looking back, I realize I was comforted knowing that someone much bigger was involved with my life, life - like a road, can sweep you off to who knows where.

I did not have plans but was tenaciously taking steps. Some steps seemed clearly laid by God - I found an exciting job and wise mentors at the end of college, I met and married Sarah, other jobs continued to lead me into deeper experience with God and a variety of people. Other steps were just fun: I got to ride across the country on a bicycle; I rock climbed, canoed, and mentored youth in all types of settings - from inner city to wilderness. Some steps I still doubt - I was betrayed, laid off and faced overwhelming stress and hardship. But God was with me through it all.

I was swept off on a path - and I learned Proverbs 16:9 intimately. And this path has taken yet another turn. It led me alongside this church for 10 ½ years. It yielded valuable relationships, exposure to seminary and chaplaincy, and I am grateful for our time together. But the road goes ever on, and for my family, it seems to be leading into the heart of Williamsport. We have been able to buy a house and will be moving in early April. I will continue as a hospital Chaplain at UPMC, and Sarah will continue as Director of the Writing Center at Lycoming College. Atticus and Finn are excited to meet new friends and experience a bigger school in Williamsport. And we will see where the road takes us from there.

It is dangerous to step out of your comfort zone and follow a path that you don't know where it ends. It led Frodo and Bilbo into unimaginable adventures and changed their lives - not to mention Middle-Earth! But for those who step out with eyes on God - you are never alone! May you have



courage to step out and experience God in new ways. If your road intersects with ours again - please say hi! I will miss you. Thank you so much for the time we've spent together on this part of the road.

Peace, Pastor K



## Buffalo Gals

We are going to be holding a Luncheon for moms and daughters on **May 9** at noon so stay tuned for this to come up. Please join us for the fun activity.

Amanda Stahl, Women's Ministry Coordinator



## Getting In Shape

The Narthex Restrooms have had the walls and ceiling painted. Thank you to Dave Tota for painting.

The Building & Grounds Ministry Team has picked **April 11** at **8 am** to be "the **cleanup and repair day.**" There will be exterior grounds to be cleaned up and prepared for Spring/Summer, stone raking, mulching, driveway cut repair, gutters to be cleaned, gutter guard installed, exterior door seals installed, parking lot light sensor replaced, HVAC filter replacements, and whatever else is needed. Remember "**more hands make the work load lighter.**" If there is another day required due to uncompleted items, then we will let you know.

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 Illgen (Ministry Assistant) or Doug Diehl (Team Member) what you need, the amount, and the date of the event so that items can be purchased.

Jamie Martin,

Building & Grounds Ministry Team Leader

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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 12<sup>th</sup>** 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 19<sup>th</sup>** 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

## 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 April, we will be meeting at "Matty's Sporthouse Grill" in Lewisburg at 6:30 pm. Check out our Young Adults Messenger chat group, or contact Pastor K for details.

Peace, Pastor K

## Westernport Mission Taking Shape!



We are beginning to get ready to start planning our week serving in Westernport. If you have not turned in your application, please do so soon. Then we begin to plan all that will take place that week, which is **July 11 to 17**. There are so many ways that we share the love of Jesus that week, including music, Bible stories, crafts, Scripture, Games and of course, Food!

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



### Thoughts from the Dominican Republic Trip

I'll use my letter space in the Lamplighter to share some thoughts about the value of the trip to the Dominican Republic. This year we stayed in Los Toros and served in the school there and on a construction site in the village of La Mayita. There were five of us this year who took part in the trip. Here are some observations:

1. We are truly making a difference in a difference making ministry. The ministry of Los Toros Church of the Brethren under the leadership of Pastor David Reyes and his wife Jewel is thriving. The ministry includes the church and the school for preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The project in La Mayita is seeking to help very poor children in a small village. Ministry is already taking place with the children and adults of La Mayita and the new facility which we are helping to construct will expand that ministry immensely. It is great to see our money (we set aside \$30,000 in 2026) making such a huge difference.

2. Our presence makes a difference. The opportunity to interact with the school children and the adults at the construction site makes a difference. We might not be able to see it all the time but the folks in the church and school genuinely appreciate our presence and our willingness to come and serve in their home. The impact we make is more powerful by visiting than just by sending money.

3. The mission trip makes a difference in us. There is something special that the Holy Spirit can do in one's life when a person steps into a cross-cultural experience, even for one week. Our group studied through Paul's letter to the Colossians most mornings and evenings and we had lively conversation about God's Word and how it applies to our lives. We also are impacted by the hospitality and the interaction with people. Spending time on this trip allows the Spirit of God to work on each of us in a meaningful way.

Plans are beginning now to go again in 2027. My inclination now is to continue to partner with the church in Los Toros to see the project in La Mayita come to fruition, but we should remain open to what God has in store. There are other opportunities as well to work with other churches. Please join me in prayer to discern what God would have us do.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



### Christmas In April?

We are off to a great start for 2026 for **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**! Thank you to everyone who has already donated items! As we move into April, be sure to look for those Easter and spring sales. Items such as jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, sunglasses, foldable frisbees, balls, and stuffed animals!

Any items brought in can be placed in the bin at the Mission Table! Also, remember to check out the Amazon Wishlist for bulk items!

Thank you for supporting this great mission!

Kelsey Zimmerman



## Upcoming Sermon Series

We will finish our series on Paul's letter to the Philippians on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> we will begin a new 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 and our 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 month of April:

- April 5<sup>th</sup>: Easter, Philippians 4:10-23
- April 12<sup>th</sup>: The Bible is God's Message to All People
- April 19<sup>th</sup>: What is God Like?
- April 26<sup>th</sup>: God created the angels, heavens and earth.

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

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## 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



Wednesdays  
January – April 29

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

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

- May 3 – Church Council Meeting
- May 9 – Mother/Daughter Luncheon
- June 6 – Strawberry Festival
- June 17 – Day Camp Beginnings
- July 11 – 17 – Westernport Mission Trip
- July 15 – 18 – SUN Area Work & Witness
- 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](http://www.bvcob.com).

**The Lamplighter**

Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship  
46 Brethren Church Rd  
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

***The Lamplighter***

Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship  
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Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor  
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Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor  
for Youth & Young Adults

Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian  
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8:30 AM - Sunday school  
9:45 AM - Worship Service