

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Brethren Fellowship

May 2026
Volume 42 No. 4

Church Council Meeting



May 3

Potluck – 11:00 am

Meeting – 12:00 pm

Family Pastor Search Has Begun!

We are in the beginning stages of searching for a new Family Pastor. Pastor K. has officially resigned from his position with Youth and Young Adults and Pastor Donita is looking to step away from her pastoral duties in Children's Ministry (though she will continue to be an important part of our church family).

The following eight people have agreed to serve on the Family Pastor Search Team: Emily Ruhl, Dale Lehman, Ben Reimer, Megan Wetzel, Angela Zimmerman, Brent Ulrich, Pastor Eric and Zach Showers. The people are involved in children and youth ministry leadership for the most part. The first meeting together will take place in late April.

Please keep this team in prayer as they discern who to call for our new family pastor.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Outside Our Walls



Happiest of Springtime blessings to everyone, on behalf of the Mission Ministry Team, I'd like to encourage you to **grab a baby bottle and fill** with change, cash and/or checks. You are supporting an organization that will do all it can to reach mothers and protect the unborn in our community. Your support can help save lives!

The **Expectations Women's Center** (EWC) is building a culture where every life has value and hope is restored! There are also flyers posted that have a QR code on them where you can give online through a secure website.

"Expectations Women's Center educates and empowers individuals to make healthy choices that positively impact their lives and their community emotionally, physically and spiritually." They have offices in both Lewisburg and Williamsport. Please note: **ALL BOTTLES ARE DUE BY JUNE 7th**. You can drop them off at the Welcome Center where they will be locked in a secure cabinet. Thanking you in advance for your continued support of this worthwhile ministry.

Another way to support EWC would be by participating in their **WALK FOR HOPE + 5k run** on Saturday **May 30th** @ Christ Wesleyan Church in Milton. More info can be found at expectationswc.org.

Kurt Illgen,
Mission Ministry Team Leader



Westernport Mission 2026

The team is coming together and now the planning begins. We have 31 people who have committed to be part of sharing and serving. Please pray for us as we prepare and plan for our week of serving the children and their families in Westernport.

Vicki Bastian, Team Leader



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, (570) 713-8240

Jamie Manbeck,

jamie.manbeck@gmail.com, (570) 954-0029



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

- 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 13 – 16 – 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.



Changes Moving Forward

Much has been happening as the Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) continues our transition to the **Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship (BVBF)**. We continue to work with legal counsel to get all the Federal and State paperwork processed.

We are also moving forward with the **Pastoral Search Team (PST)**. We have developed a scope of work for the team as well as a list of qualifications we would like this person to possess.

We also have an upcoming regularly scheduled **Church Council meeting on May 3rd**. We are planning on a pot luck after worship followed by the meeting. Included in the agenda are the following items:

- An update on our name change and deed transfers.
- A motion for the BVBF to hold the ordinations of Eric and Donita since they are no longer held by the Church of the Brethren.
- A motion to pay from our general fund a double fair share to the District totaling \$39,817.84 plus all fees associated with our disaffiliation.
- An update on the PST
- Update on the parsonage. We do need to begin the discussion on what we plan to do with the property. The Building & Grounds Ministry Team will be doing an assessment on what repair or upgrades it may need.
- Updates from our pastors
- Treasurers report

Thank you to all who contributed to the sending out of Pastor K as they move to Williamsport and enter the school system there. You may still see Pastor K here from time to time, but his official time of ministry here has ended. We are very appreciative for over 10 years of touching lives in our faith community.

As always if you have questions or concerns you can reach out to any MCT member. My door is always open. Keep surrounding these things in prayer.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



Camp Eder Corner

****Summer camps start in June**.** Remember our church pays a large portion of tuition for “our” campers! Camp Eder camps are for Elementary children through and including High School youth.

Register online at campeder.org. If you are a regular attender here, \$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 if you are going! See me or the “Camp Eder” messenger group if you’d like to carpool.

We are hoping a few more children/youth will register.

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!

If you have any questions on how to include your children in this awesome summer experience, please let me know; **Fay Richard 570-716-2442**.



Youth News

On March 28th, several youth and leaders attended WinterJam in State College. It was a first-time trip for everyone and highlights of the night were performances by Matthew West and Chris Tomlin in addition to a stop at Chilly Willy's.

The youth hosted their Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, April 19th to raise money for mission costs for Westernport and other activities.

As the youth enter May, they look forward to the end of a busy school year and the summer events we have planned.

Upcoming Youth Events

April 26th - Youth 3 – 5 pm
May 17th - Planning Meeting 11 am
May 31st - Youth 3 – 5 pm
June 7th - Planning Meeting 11 am
June 14th - Kayaking, time and location TBD
June 28th - Youth 3 – 5 pm

God Bless,

Megan Wetzel, Cell: 570-765-9509
for Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team



Buffalo Gals

We are going to be holding a **Mother's/Daughters/Friends Tea Luncheon** on **May 9 at 11 am to 1 pm**. There will be food and tea and games for everyone. So please join us for this fun event. There will be a sign-up sheet for this event so please sign up so we roughly get an idea on how many will come.

Other events coming up will be the Garden event and Women's Beach retreat so stay tuned for this to come up. Please sign-up for the beach retreat as soon as possible at Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Please join us for the fun activities.

Amanda Stahl, Women's Ministry Coordinator



Our Church is participating in the Snyder, Union, Northumberland County Work & Witness (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.

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

Applications for Assistance AND Participant Applications are available at the Welcome Center. You can register online at **sunareaww.com**.

Dale Lehman



Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we highlight **Expectations Women’s Center** in Lewisburg. During the **month of May**, we will have our **annual baby bottle drive**. We also support Expectations with \$2,400/year in financial support.

Expectations serves women in all stages of pregnancy and provides parental support as well. Our local Lewisburg office is staffed by several women in our area who truly seek to follow Jesus as they minister to women during difficult times and times of change and large, lifelong decisions. Please pray for Expectations Women’s Center.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

From Your Lead Pastor,



Thank You!

I would like to take this space to say “Thank You” for the opportunity and privilege to serve as a pastor here at Buffalo Valley. It is such a joy to come to work here in the office and to go and visit with all of you at home or in the hospital. I even enjoy the meetings. The other day my Dad said to me, “You sure do have a lot of meetings”. I really don’t think I have that many meetings, but I enjoy the meetings because I spend the time with you and I feel like we are accomplishing very useful things for the kingdom of God.

We have navigated through some important decisions in the past year and have another important decision coming up as we search for a family pastor. I’m confident that, by God’s grace, Buffalo Valley will continue to navigate these important decisions.

I also want to say thank you for your continued support of my trips to Florida throughout the year. My situation is unusual and you have worked with me to allow me to serve here and spend significant time in Florida with Janet. Please know that I do not take this privilege for granted.

As we continue to build our lives on the foundation of God’s word, I hope that we will experience more and more of God’s activity in our lives, both individually and in community with one another. As always, if you would like to visit with me about anything, I’m available.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



None of us can help everyone.
But all of us can help someone.
And when we help them, we serve Jesus!!
Max Lucado



Mature faith does not live by answers to prayer, but by prayer. Think about that!

R.E.O. White



Firm Foundation Sermon Series

We have just begun a new 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:

- April 19th: Eternal God
- April 26th: God created the angels, heavens and earth.
- May 3rd: Days 1-6 of Creation
- May 10th: Creation of Man
- May 17th: God placed Adam in Eden

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



God made us with a need for fellowship with Himself and others. Our word fellowship is a translation of the New Testament Greek word, *koinonia*, which meant "something held in common, a shared state, being partners in a relationship".



ChMeetings – Events

In the member view of ChMeetings, you are able to see upcoming events for the next 60 days. You will have to click on "View All" to see all 60 days of events.

If you want to see further out than 60 days, there is a calendar that you can view. In the mobile version, you click on "more" to see the menu where the calendar is located. On a computer, you will see "Calendar" on the home screen.

Different types of events have a different color. Church-wide events are blue. Meetings are yellow. Children's events are green. Youth events are purple. Facility use is red. If you click on an event, you will see more details about the event.

You can check in to certain events to let us know you were here. We have check in open for the worship service and for Sunday school. You can check yourself and your family members in by clicking on the circle with the arrow inside it to the right of the event. Select each person that is in attendance and then click "Check In".

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. If you have not set up an account, I can help you get set up.

Cheryl Ilgen, Ministry Assistant



There is no perfect church, no perfect family and no perfect people, but we do have a perfect God.

Unknown

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Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship
46 Brethren Church Rd
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

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Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship
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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
churchoffice@bvcob.com

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