



In Transition

We took several actions at the May Church Council meeting. The Council approved a recommendation from the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) to hold the ordinations of Eric Reamer and Donita Keister. Since we are no longer affiliated with the Church of the Brethren (COB), we wanted to maintain their ordinations. We will need to develop a process for ordination of other individuals in the future. The Council also approved taking the disaffiliation payment from the general fund. This is a payment of \$39,817.64, which is double the normal payment, plus associated legal fees. In return for this payment the Southern District of the COB will release any claim they have on our property and buildings.

The Council also received a report on the Pastoral Search Team. The chairman will be Dale Lehman. The team has met and a survey, which is available now, will be distributed to the faith community. Please take a few moments to complete it. It is available online and in the main entry.

The Council also discussed some ideas for the parsonage. Since the meeting, the Building & Grounds Ministry Team (BGMT) has gone through the house. The team came to our May MCT meeting and we discussed 5 options:

1. Leaving the parsonage vacant and untouched until further instructions are given sometime in the future
2. Removal of all structures and fill in the basement, leveling the lot somewhat and seeding
3. Clean and repair only necessary items, and prepare for intermittent occupancy for families in need of temporary housing (basically a rental whether or not funds are exchanged)
4. Repair and remodel for the new pastor's permanent residence
5. Subdivide the parsonage off of the church lot, obtain a variance to allow the required 2-acre lot as per zoning regs to be reduced to

a 1.5-acre lot, then sell "as is condition" the lot containing the parsonage.

MCT asked BGMT to do more research into options 2 & 5. MCT will discuss all 5 options again at our June meeting. We intend to bring a recommendation to a Council meeting.

MCT also discussed the old wall at the front parking lot. We will also discuss this again and bring a recommendation to Council.

We continue working toward our transition to the Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship. BGMT has contacted a sign company, and we hope to have our sign changed in the near future. We also have obtained an EIN number and are working to get all necessary paperwork in line.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson



Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we highlight the Crete Collective. The Crete Collective supports new church plants in urban areas, mostly in ethnically black and brown places. The vast majority of the church planting resources in America are used to plant churches in the suburbs, not the inner city where the needs are great.

Crete Collective seeks to change that situation by helping churches to get planted in the neglected areas of the country. Crete Collective supports the church planters financially, spiritually and emotionally. You can find out more about this ministry at www.thecretecollective.org. We support the Crete Collective with \$5,000/year in support.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



God Sees the Little Things You Do

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

Max Lucado



Summer Sunday School

It's hard to believe we only have two weeks remaining in the spring quarter. It's time to think about joining a class for the summer.

Yes, we have heard your requests for smaller classes over the summer—so instead of one large unified class, we are aiming to have three smaller classes. While the topic will be the same, we hope that smaller classes will help to encourage discussion and foster deeper relationships. Teachers will rotate, with each offering to lead one or more weeks throughout the summer. The goal is to keep the participants in each class the same from week to week. Each class will be studying the same topic, but the exact content will vary depending upon the teacher and the participants in the class.

We have decided to focus on prayer. We will be using a book by Paul Miller entitled ***A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World***. We'll consider what makes prayer so hard, and why we get so distracted and feel so guilty about it. We will also learn some tools to use to help our prayer to be more focused and consistent. We realize prayer can be an intimidating topic, but is also vital to our relationship with Christ and each other. We hope you will join us this summer!

Jamie Manbeck & Michelle Herman
Adult Sunday School Coordinators



Celebrate New Members

On Sunday morning, April 19 we received 3 new members. **Brittany Aikey** and **Ethan Keister** were baptized during the Sunday morning worship service. **Preston Aikey** was received into membership through a statement of faith.

Please show your support with a warm welcome to these new members of our congregation.



Search for Family Pastor

The Family Pastor Search Team work has begun! The following eight people are serving on the search team: Emily Ruhl, Dale Lehmn, 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.

We had our first meeting in April and the congregation received a survey on May 17th to help the team gather some important information about what the congregation thinks is important in this pastoral position.

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

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Outside Our Walls



As we enter the summer months, we have a tendency to get super busy. I am thankful that in the midst of lots of activity we always have our Savior by our side.

Please remember to feed the bins! That's the Community Aid bin for soft items like linens, clothing, shoes, handbags, etc. A special thanks to Dreisbach UCC for their recent donation of almost a ton of goods from their annual rummage sale! Also, a special THANKS to Linda and Steve Buttorff for keeping all of the bags dry by use of their trailer! The money generated from this bin helps defray costs for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) mailing.

Furthermore, all money collected from recycling of metals also helps with OCC mailing! Although the recycling trailer and blue barrels are not technically bins, their collection is still important. We accept all types of metal donations. When dropping off your cans, please leave them bagged as I sort out all cat tins/aluminum foils separately. And if you have precious metals (copper, brass, etc.) place them next to the trailer against the shed as these metals garner more revenue. A special shout out to Doug Rishel for faithfully jockeying the trailer with his pickup to Ridgeside Recycling! We typically have just over a ton (2,000 lbs.) every time we go there.

Thank you all for keeping this ministry going.

Kurt Illgen,
Mission Ministry Team Leader



When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles.

Corrie Ten Boom



Camp Eder Corner

Summer camps start soon! There is still time to register for most camps!

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, please let me know.

Fay Richard, 570-716-2442



Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events

May 24 - Memorial Day Weekend - No Youth
May 31 - Youth
June 7 - Planning
June 14 - Kayaking - Will decide what creek & entry/exit points.
June 21 - Father's Day - No Youth
June 27 - To Be Determined

The Youth would like to thank everyone that came out to the spaghetti dinner. It was a success and we are very thankful for the donations towards future events/missions.

Other than the spaghetti dinner, we held our regular 3 - 5 pm youth events for the rest of April.

Looking ahead:

Please be on the lookout for a **kayaking event June 14th** (Weather Permitting). We will get the notice out on entry and exit points. Bonus points if you have your own kayak/Canoe and life jackets.

With school winding down and summer beginning, the Youth are looking forward to all the fun, outside activities we have planned. For any questions relating to youth or youth events, feel free to reach out to one of the leaders. (**Megan Wetzel, Jes White, Brent Ulrich, Clayton Frank, Jenny Delong, Ben Reimer, Terry Ruhl**)

Brent Ulrich

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader



If you knew you would see Christ face to face later today, how would your life change? Live today as if the next person you see will be Jesus Himself.

From Your Lead Pastor,



Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones?

I wanted to expand a bit on something that I explored in a recent sermon. You might wonder why God would put the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden and then tell Adam and Eve not to eat of it. After all, if they were not supposed to eat it, why put it there in the first place? That's a reasonable question and I'd like to help you think about a possible answer...at least a partial answer.

God does not tempt us for our destruction. That is something that the devil does. The devil is like a roaring lion, seeking to devour/destroy anyone he can. God is not like that. Yet, God allows temptation to come into our lives. Why? Again, I would not claim to know the entire answer but I do think that the title to this article is a key.

Many would see a temptation as a stumbling block, an obstacle put into the way of someone to trip them up, literally or figuratively. That would be how one could describe the devil's purpose for temptation. The devil wants you to trip and fall, falling as far as possible.

But that's not God's purpose. God wants you to see temptation as a stepping stone. A stepping stone helps you to cross from one place to another. God's design for temptation is to provide a way for us to draw closer to Him, a way to mature in our faith. This is God's design for temptation.

We might think that life would be better if we had no temptation. Heaven will be an existence without temptation. However, in heaven, there is no longer a need for us to mature...we will be made complete. While we are in the kingdom of God here on earth, we are called to grow. We are called to mature into the image of Jesus Christ. Please view each temptation that comes your way as a stepping stone, a vehicle to help you draw closer to God and to know Him more intimately. Stepping stones help us get to know more about ourselves and our God.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Westernport Mission 2026

The team is coming together and now the planning begins. We have 29 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



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:

May 24 th	Creation of Eve
May 31 st	First Sin
June 7 th	God Confronts Adam/Eve
June 14 th	Cain and Abel

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



The weatherman says a storm is coming. Everyone panics and gets prepared. The pastor says Jesus is coming and nobody moves. Let that sink in for a minute.

Position Summary for Family Pastor

The Family Pastor provides vision, leadership, and oversight for ministries serving children (nursery–elementary) and students (middle–high school), partnering with parents and caregivers to disciple the next generation.

This role develops and implements a cohesive, gospel-centered strategy that establishes and maintains a unified vision for spiritual growth from kindergarten through grade 12, equips families, mobilizes volunteers, and integrates children and youth into the life of the church.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

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.



The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.

F.B. Meyer

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship
46 Brethren Church Rd
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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