

Moving Forward

It seems like the months are passing more quickly. Here we are halfway through 2026. The Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) continues to work on the transition from the Church of the Brethren. The plan for new wording and logos for our sign has been approved. We are working on our tax-exempt status. The disassociation agreement has been approved by the state attorney general, and our \$39,817.64 payment has been sent to the Southern PA District of the Church of the Brethren.

We have put a plan in place to make a decision regarding the parsonage. The MCT will take a walk through at its next meeting. An option analysis paper will be available for everyone sometime in July. This will be followed by a **listening session on August 9th** where you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts. Following the listening session MCT will bring a recommendation regarding the future of the parsonage to Church Council at a **Special Church Council meeting on August 30th**.

Please continue to be in prayer for our **parsonage decision** as well as our **pastoral search process**. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Brian Keister,
MCT Chairperson



God is everywhere
So, pray anywhere!!



Still Time to Join

Still time to join summer Sunday School. 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

Life with Christ is an endless hope,
without Him, a hopeless end.

Bill Bright



Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we highlight **Camp Eder**. Though we are no longer part of the Church of the Brethren denomination we continue to send children and youth to Camp Eder which is operated by the Southern PA District of the Church of the Brethren.

Camp Eder is a place where many people at Buffalo Valley have spent at least one year learning about Jesus, making friendships and having fun. Buffalo Valley will pay a large portion of the cost of the camp for those who are part of our community. Please see the youth or children's ministry team members or Fay Richard if you have questions about Camp Eder.

Don't wait to register. Some camp weeks are already full and the specific specialty camps have maximum numbers of children who can attend.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Church Picnic & Baptisms

July 26
12:00 – 4:00 pm

at the Keister Farm
1335 Brethren Church Rd., Mifflinburg

Bring a covered dish & dessert to share.
Roasted pig, beverages, ice cream
& paper products provided.

Bring a lawn chair to sit on for the baptisms.

Baptisms @ 2:00 pm



Search for Family Pastor Continues

The following eight people are serving 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.

We have completed our review of the congregational survey responses...thank you to all those participated...and are using those responses to help shape our path forward. We are now gathering the information for our congregational demographics and beginning to look at how and when to put out the job posting.

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

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Outside Our Walls



We covet your prayers as we serve the little ones in **Westernport Maryland** the week of July 11th thru the 17th. This annual event has been happening for over a decade (with a small break during Covid affected years) with 29 people participating this year.

Our team: Pastor Eric Reamer, Jeff Bastian, Heather Reid, Mandy Reid, Stacy Reitenbach, Darcy Reitenbach, Lilee Dorman, Linda Miller, Steph Murray, Kurt Ilgen, Mark Hofmann, Athena Berkheiser, Deb Whistler, Clay Frank, Jenny DeLong, Stacy Mast, Atticus Kauffman, Megan Wetzel, Ethan Hoover, Miriam Hoover, Abigail White, Ben Reimer,, Kathy Kuhns, Sarah Davis, Maddie Frank, Janice Shively, day camp coordinator, Brenda Eberhart, Shellie Hurst and team leader/facilitator, Vicki Bastian.

Prayers for patience, endurance and strength would be greatly appreciated and for family left back in PA! This year's theme is Rainforest Falls...exploring the true nature of God! "Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all His kingdom."

~Psalm 103:22

Thanking you in advance for all of your support!



Kurt Ilgen,
Mission Ministry Team Leader



Camp Eder Corner

Summer camps have started! Check your family's schedule, there is still time to register for some 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.

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

June 14th - Youth 3 – 5 pm @ Keister Pond

June 21st - Father's Day

June 28th – Youth

July 4th - 4th of July bash
@ Jenny's Aunt's House

July 11th – Westernport Mission Trip

Summer Fun!

As school has come to a close, the youth has shifted their planning to more outdoor events. Recently the youth enjoyed pickleball and ice cream. Fun was had by all! Kayaking had been cancelled due to low water levels and had been shifted to an event at the Keister pond from 3 pm – 5 pm on June 14th. As we move through June and into July, the youth are excited for a **4th of July bash, Westernport Mission Trip**, and a **Knoebels trip!** (Details to come on the Knoebels)

Also, if you happen to see two of our advisors, Clay Frank and Jenny Delong, be sure to take a close look at Jenny's left hand. Congrats you two!

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

Brent Ulrich

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader

LOVE GOD
LOVE OTHERS
LOVE WELL

From Your Lead Pastor,



Passing the Drumstick

From the title you might think I'm exhorting you to share a portion of your Thanksgiving Day turkey or something from your KFC order. That's one use of the word "drumstick". I am thinking about a wooden drumstick that is used to play drums.

My favorite rock band is Rush. I have been a fan since high school. Until this past Saturday, Rush had not played a concert since 2015. Their legendary drummer, Neil Peart, passed away in 2020 and many assumed they would never play in a live concert again.

Sunday, they played a concert in Los Angeles. The band still has two of the original three members, Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson, and they have added a drummer, Anika Nilles. At their first concert they spent a lot of time talking about their former band member, Neil, as well as introducing the new drummer, Anika. It all seemed to go so well and the music was amazing...if you like Rush music that is.

I began to think about the process of passing the drumstick...or the baton. We are all part of this kind of process at some point in our lives. Perhaps you've had the baton passed to you or you've passed that baton to someone else. We see this process in the Bible. Moses passes the baton to Joshua. Elijah passes the baton to Elisha. Jesus passes the baton to His disciples. There is no "one-way fits all" description for how to do it yet I think the Rush example is helpful in two areas.

First, don't be in a rush. (see what I did there???) After Neil Peart died, requests from drummers came in immediately seeking to take his place. Rush had played together for 50 years and it was not the right time to change drummers and jump back in. The other members needed time to grieve their loss and to make sure they had the passion to continue to play.

Second, look outside the box for the next person. Anika was a relatively unknown drummer, though very accomplished in her own right. She seems to have fit right in with the band, at least as evidenced by the first concert.

When we need to pass the drumstick, it is good to take our time and to look outside the box. Here at Buffalo Valley, we are going to pass the drumstick of children's and youth ministry to another person in the next year. I hope we will take our time and that we will consider all types of candidates. Perhaps you are in a season where the drumstick needs to be passed. Don't panic in the interim and be open to all kinds of possibilities.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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:

June 14 th	Cain and Abel
June 21 st	Flood
June 28 th	Flood and Tower of Babel
July 5 th	Abraham
July 12 th	Isaac
July 19 th	Esau/Jacob
July 26 th	Joseph

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



Two donkeys were walking in Jerusalem when one said to the other, "Just yesterday I was here carrying Jesus and the people were singing and shouting and throwing their clothes down for me to walk on, and today they don't even recognize me." The other donkey replied, "That's how it is, my Friend, without Jesus you're nothing!"



OCC Collection Focus

jump ropes	cars
sidewalk chalk	foldable frisbees
card games	playing cards
musical instruments	glow sticks
stuffed animals	craft kits
magnet doodle boards	fidget toys
balls (tennis, beach, stress)	plastic animals

(no liquid paint or glue)

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

June 24 – July 15 - Day Camp Continues

July 11 – 17 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 15 – 18 – SUN Area Work & Witness

July 26 – Church Picnic & Baptisms

August 9 – Listening Session

August 28 – Fireside Friday

August 30 – Special Church Council Meeting

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