



## 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 pm**



## Dates for Parsonage Decision

### Timeline:

- **Church family walk thru** of the parsonage – Sunday, **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 11am – 12:30 pm. Maps will be available onsite showing the current property lines along with several leaders being available to answer questions regarding house conditions.
- **Listening Session** – Sunday, **August 9<sup>th</sup>** at 11 am
- **MCT meeting** – Monday, **August 10<sup>th</sup>**
- **Special Council meeting** – Sunday, **August 30<sup>th</sup>** at 11 am

## Men's Backyard Bash & Quoit Pitch

Sunday, August 9 from 4 - 8 pm

Steve and Fay Richard's House  
7785 Buffalo Rd. Mifflinburg

Join us for food, fellowship, and the famous  
quoit pitch tournament!



Burgers and drinks will be provided. Please  
bring a side dish to share.

Zach Showers for Men's Ministry



## Work for the Lord

Be steadfast, immovable, always  
abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing  
that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Paul, the Apostle



## Mission Ministry Spotlight

This month we highlight **FAR Reach Ministry** in Africa. We support this ministry with \$500/month to enable a Christian preschool to take place in Burundi. Our money pays for the facility rent and some of the teacher salaries.

We have an opportunity to expand this support through further financial support for the Great Lakes Bible School which teaches and trains African pastors. We are seeking to discern if God would desire us to help out further.

This work is overseen by Chris Elliott from Knobsville, PA. Chris spends several months in Africa each year and we know that the money we contribute is used wisely. Please pray for this mission and for Chris as he continues to seek to expand the ministry there in Burundi. Jeff Bastian is our mission team representative who stays in contact with Chris.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Remember the New Name

Remember we are now **Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship**. Please write all checks to Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship or BVBF.



## Outside Our Walls



I always remember thinking that summer was half over when the Fourth of July festivities were finished. August always meant, back to school..."it's the most wonderful time of the yeaarrrrrr!" sing it with me!

I'd also like to sing praises to God for the faithfulness of our church community and your dedication to missions! Thank you for your generous outpouring of funds for the **Expectations Women's Center**. I just received word from them that all of your change and other offerings came to over \$2,500 – WOW, what a wonderful gift! Giving many babies in the area opportunities to know a little bit about God's love and mercy is awesome.



We also received a Thank You card from **Dwell**, thanking us for the items they received, specifically they write, "Thank you so much for collecting donations for our Hope Chest. We have been so blessed by your giving to local foster and adoptive families!" ~Dwell

May the rest of your summer find you praising God for the many blessings he bestows on us every day. May you also be on the lookout for mission opportunities for Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship to be involved in and share them with our team.

Pastor Eric is already planning another trip to the **Dominican Republic**. Maybe you've never stepped out in faith to go and be the church? This would be a great opportunity for you to experience God's divine presence. Think about it-pray about it, and talk with Pastor Eric, as February will be here before you know it.

Kurt Illgen,  
Mission Ministry Team Leader



## Buffalo Gals

We have 12 women who are going to the **Beach Retreat** which is being held from **September 13 - 16**. Our condos are booked however because the condos sleep 8 and we only have six in them there would be **room for a couple more** women to make a last-minute decision to go. **If you would like to join in** with the Beach Retreat, please **check with Donita Keister** to see if a last-minute space is still available.

There will be **Breakfast Fellowship** on **September 26 at 8:30 a.m.** For the women, there will be a sign-up sheet just to give us an idea how many will attend.

When you sign up for the Breakfast Fellowship there will be dishes you may sign up to bring as well. However, we are not looking for everyone to bring a dish but rather to have a few people bring enough for everyone.

Amanda Stahl  
Women's Ministry Coordinator

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026

September 1 – GriefShare begins

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](http://www.bvcob.com).



## Camp Eder Corner

This summer, our Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship campers attended camps ranging from “Kids” to “Wet and Wild”. Although our number of campers was down this year, those who went had great experiences.

Thank you to our church family for the support of our seven campers.

Stay tuned for some personal comments of how God worked at Camp Eder in the past few months.

We pray that relationships with God and new friendships continue to be strengthened because of the exciting opportunities from “summer camp”!

Check out more details at [campeder.org](http://campeder.org) or in a future Lamplighter.

### Any questions,

contact Fay Richard, at 570-716-2442  
BVBF Church Camp Rep



## Fireside Friday

**August 28**

**6:00-8:00 pm**

**a time of fun, fellowship & campfire foods**

**at the Keister Farm**  
1335 Brethren Church Rd  
Mifflinburg



## Youth News

### Upcoming Youth Events

July 26<sup>th</sup> - Church Picnic

August 2<sup>nd</sup> - No Youth

August 9<sup>th</sup> – Planning

August 16<sup>th</sup> - Swimming @ Jenny's aunt

### Summer Fun! (Part 2)

Most of the youth spent their time serving at Westernport the week of July 13. Thank you for taking the time to Serve!

As we are heading into the 2nd half of summer the youth just returned from Knoebels and no one flew out of the phoenix!

Then as we get into the middle of August, we will be having a **pool party** @ Jenny's aunt's house. Please keep an eye out in the band app for further details.

Getting towards the end of summer also means our end of **summer picnic** at the Marina. Details to be added soon in the band app.

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



*From Your Lead Pastor,*



## Heaven and Suffering

Our last day camp lesson this summer and the last lesson at Westernport was focused on the vision of heaven that God gave to the apostle John while John was exiled on the island of Patmos. John was sent to the island because he was a Jesus follower. We don't have many details on his time on the island but I'm sure that it wasn't easy.

It appears to me that God gave John the vision of heaven precisely because John was on that island. John was suffering because of his obedience to Jesus and God wanted to encourage John with this vision of heaven, some of which is recorded for us in the book of Revelation.

A similar situation occurs in 1 Peter chapter 1. There Peter writes about the inheritance that is incorruptible and undeserved and reserved in heaven for those who were being kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

At Westernport I was trying to get the children to see the connection between heaven and suffering. I believe that in John's case, and I'm quite sure about this in Peter's case, that the vision and idea of heaven was given so that the reader would be better able to endure the suffering of this life. Here is how I tried to help the kids see it.

I asked them to consider how sad they would feel if a trip to the park on Friday had been rained out. I then asked them how their feelings would change if they knew that the next day, Saturday, they would be starting a two-week vacation in Hawaii. The children all agreed that they wouldn't feel nearly as bad about the rain on Friday if they knew they were going to Hawaii on Saturday. I really believe this is how God often uses the reality of heaven.

God doesn't reveal heaven to us so that we can sit back and wait until we die and get to experience it. Yes, that will happen but that is not the focus. I think that the focus of how heaven is used mostly in the New Testament is as a motivational tool to live life on this earth. To change a familiar phrase: "To be heavenly minded is to be earthly good". When we realize the amazing joy and possibility of heaven in the future, we are best equipped to endure the hardship we might face in the present.

Let's use heaven in this manner. When suffering arises...when your time at the park is cancelled because of rain...remember that you are promised an extended time of sun and joy. That knowledge won't eliminate the rain, but it will help to manage it in a way that will enrich your walk with Jesus.

God Bless, Pastor Eric

## Continuing to Serve in Westernport

Our team of 29 returned from another great week serving together in Westernport. It is great to see almost half our team are youth or young adults. We are also not all that young with some in their 70's. Several people commented that we are like a well-oiled machine! We had 81 children signed up, but most days were in the 70's range.

The morning begins with a cooked breakfast, followed by an opening with songs and skit. Then the shepherds lead their groups to several stations. Athena Berkheiser and Kurt Ilgen lead the youth who after the opening do their own lessons. Lunch is another hot meal with snacks as well.

Jeff Bastian, Steph Murray, Kathy Kuhns, Mark Hofmann, Deb Whistler, Abby White, Mandy Reid, Miriam Hoover, Heather Reid, Atticus Kauffman, Lilee Dorman and Megan Wetzel were the shepherds. Stacy Mast led the craft station with able assistants, Darcy Reitenbach and Jenny Delong. Bible time was led by Pastor Eric and helped sometimes by Ethan Hoover. Sticky scripture was led by Stacy Reitenbach. Imagination station was led by Linda Miller with help from Sarah Davis. Games were led by Clay Frank, Ben Reimer and Ethan Hoover. The kitchen crew was led by Janice Shively along with Shellie Hurst, Maddie Frank and myself.

All but two of the team members were returning people and some of them have been there since we started in 2014.

If you have a desire to share in spreading the Good News to the children of Westernport and surrounding communities, please consider being a part of the team for 2027! Remember young and old alike can serve. Do you get tired? Yes! It is worth it? Absolutely!

Praise God for being able to serve Him in this way!

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:

- |                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 26 <sup>th</sup>   | Joseph                               |
| August 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | "Early Moses"                        |
| August 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Plagues on Egypt                     |
| August 16 <sup>th</sup> | God delivers and provides for Israel |
| August 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Ten Commandments Part 1              |
| August 30 <sup>th</sup> | Ten Commandments Part 2              |

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



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

I Peter 4: 10

**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  
Mifflinburg PA 17844  
[www.bvcob.com](http://www.bvcob.com)

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](mailto:churchoffice@bvcob.com)

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