

What Should We Do?

A special thank you to all who stayed to share their views and concerns regarding what we should do with the parsonage. We have also received over 40 responses from the online survey. The results of that survey so far indicate we do not have consensus yet on what to do with the parsonage. Selling the parsonage had the most responses, but razing it and keeping the land and holding the property till we have a family pastor were also well represented.

After much discussion at the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) meeting, we are bringing two recommendations to a Special Council Meeting.

- A recommendation that any decisions regarding the parsonage will require a supermajority of 80% to pass.
- A recommendation to sell the parsonage at public auction. This vote will be conducted by paper ballot.

The **Special Council Meeting** will be held on **August 30th** after worship. The meeting will address issues that were raised at the listening session including:

- The relationship between the costs of providing housing through parsonage vs providing housing reimbursement.
- Concerns over a right of way for the neighbor.
- Restrictions on the deed.
- Uses of the proceeds from the sale.
- Authority to approve the sale price.
- Establishment of a reserve price
- Plans moving forward should we not reach consensus on what to do with the property.

Brian Keister, MCT Chairperson

Growing Together



It is hard to believe that August is more than half way over, and fall is just around the corner! That means we need to start thinking about **Fall Sunday School**.

As you are wrapping up your summer class, please consider what you would like to study this fall. Here are the upcoming offerings:

- Young Adult Class
– taught by Eric Reamer
- Survey of World Religions from a Christian Perspective
– taught by Donita Keister
- Women in the Bible
– taught by Chloe Gemberling
- A Worship Study based on the book *The People in the Presence*
– taught by Dani Sommers & Jon Arneson
- Esther – taught by Tammi Gwinn
- Romans – taught by Michelle Herman

Watch for announcements with more detailed descriptions of the class topics and sign-up sheets in the Main Entry over the coming weeks. (Please try to sign up as it makes planning class locations easier.) The fall Sunday School quarter begins on September 6.

Michelle Herman & Jamie Manbeck,
Adult Sunday School Coordinators



You may never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have!



Dominican Republic Mission Trip

We are planning to head back to Los Toros and LaMayita to serve with the Los Toros Church of the Brethren's efforts to serve a poor church planting/school effort in LaMayita.

We will leave on Saturday, **January 23rd** and return on Saturday, January 30th. The cost for each participant is \$500 which covers the room and board and other expenses while we are there. The recommendation again this year will be for \$30,000 as part of our mission budget. I can vouch personally that this is money well spent and that we are making a difference by our continued support of the Los Toros Church of the Brethren.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please see Pastor Eric or contact Kurt Ilgen, our Mission Ministry Team Leader.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Celebrate Baptism



On Sunday afternoon, July 26 we celebrated baptism at the Keister pond.

Baptized were **Clayton Frank, Ella Giannantonio, Jay Everitt, Jonathan Manbeck, James Gorham and Micah Gorham.**

Please encourage and support them on their faith journey.



Outside Our Walls



Thank you, thank you, thank you for your continued “feeding of the bins!” Both the **Community Aid bin** and **recycling of metals** are helping us with the mission’s ministry. We recently unloaded another trailer of junk metal at Ridgeside Recycling between Middleburg and Penns Creek. Roughly 6 tons of metal have been dropped off there since the beginning of the year. A special Thanks to Doug & Brenda Rishel for their support, as Doug does the heavy lifting and Brenda provides amazing moral support!



Along with the other precious metals, like the aluminum cans, which is processed at Pheasant Valley Recycling we have almost topped \$3,000 for the year!

These monies are appreciated and help us to provide lots of mission opportunities, like financing the Operation Christmas Child shoebox mailings.

By the time this Lamplighter article is in your hands, school will be back in session and that means the budget for 2027 will be on its way for approval by church council in the Fall.

I am super-thankful for a congregation that is all-in for missions! The robust budget for 2027 includes our recently announced trip to the Dominican Republic. Initially restarted in 2015, as there was a team who went to this small island in the Caribbean in the late 1990’s. There have been many folks who have spread their wings and ministered in the DR. Just over a decade ago the Hoovers made the decision to step out in faith and serve as missionaries there. Jason still plies his farming techniques there through Cultivo Ministries.

We’re looking for up to a dozen people to serve in Los Toros/La Mayita from Saturday, **January 23rd - 30th, 2027**. If you’re interested in this opportunity to GO and be the hands and feet of Jesus, please see Pastor Eric. If you have any questions, there are information sheets available in the main entry.

We appreciate your support of Missions! Thank you for your prayers....



As you consider whether or not to serve overseas. We understand that not everyone has the luxury or desire to travel (or a current passport). Thank you for continuing to support those who can go. Your prayers and financial backing are very much appreciated. David and Jewel Reyes are looking forward to seeing whomever decides to visit and serve!

Kurt Illgen,
Mission Ministry Team Leader



Hospitality Housekeeping

We are noticing the baskets in the ladies’ restrooms being handled by children, things being taken or opened...which is rather discouraging for those who try to keep those baskets neat, tidy and useful for women who need those items. We are at a point of deciding whether to refresh the baskets, hide them, or remove them.

One thing everyone can do, is have a conversation with your children or grandchildren, reminding them that those things are for older girls and women.

We find the baskets to be useful and a blessing when items are needed. We hope you find them useful also. Please contact anyone on the Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team if you have suggestions, so that we can make things better for everyone.

Thank you!
Sheri Reimer
Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team



Buffalo Gals

A **Women's Breakfast Gathering** is planned for **September 26** from **8:30 to 9:30 am**. There will be a sign-up sheet just to give us an idea how many will attend. When you sign up for the Breakfast Gathering, there will also 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. Please remember though, ladies, you do not have to feel you have to bring a covered dish, just come out to spend time with God.

Looking for a Bible Study? Donita Keister's Bible study is continuing on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 11 am - noon. If you have any questions or you want to join, just contact Donita.

Emily Ruhl and Stacy Mast have a Bible Study the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7 - 8 pm in room 8 (former library) in October thru April (but they will not meet in December). They are planning to use Max Lucado's "Life Lessons on 1, 2, 3 John and Jude: Living and Loving by Truth". If you are planning to attend please contact Stacy Mast at kyesmommy04@yahoo.com or 570-412-7198.

Watch for information about the **Women's Christmas Gathering** on **December 15** at 6:00 pm.

Amanda Stahl
Women's Ministry Coordinator

Buildings & Grounds Projects

A huge thank you to the individuals of Sun Area Work & Witness (S.A.W.) for painting the old library, cleaning up the playground, for removing weeds & vines, etc. from the parsonage.

Various projects have been completed or are planned. The **parking lot striping** will be done this month for the front east and rear east parking areas. Maintenance & filter replacement for the **HVAC units** had been completed in July. There are a few **parking lot light sensors** that will be replaced this month. The **gutters** will be cleaned and guards installed at the narthex entrance. **Wall damage repairs** will be made where door handles were pushed thru into walls.

If anyone should see anything they believe to be broken or not maintained please feel free to leave a note addressing it in Jamie Martin's church mailbox.

Also, 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 Ilgen (Ministry Assistant) with what you need, the amount, and the date of the event so that items can be purchased.

Thank you,
Jamie Martin
Building & Grounds Ministry Team Leader



Remember the New Name

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



Camp Eder Corner

Highlights from Summer 2026

Miriam Hoover and Abby White went to “Wet and Wild” camp again this year. Miriam is thankful for being able to go. “I had fun making new friends and going white water rafting.” Abby shared, “I really enjoyed going to Camp Eder. I loved hanging out with my new friends and going white-water rafting.”

Jonathan Manbeck attended Jr. Camp. His favorite memories included being at camp with his cousins! He also liked the slip-n-slide and kickball. “My Lighthouse” was his favorite song and he said “the food was really good”.

Clara Manbeck, Trey Showers and Nathaniel White went to Kids’ Camp. Clara shares “I loved being with my friends I met last summer and I enjoyed playing games and sliding on the slip-n-slide.” She also liked the hikes although “they were tiring”. Trey says, “My favorite thing was the ‘Moose’ tree and the slip-n-slide. I’m sad the pool wasn’t working but I’m excited to go back next year to swim in it! Thank you for allowing me to go.” Nathaniel says that he liked doing crafts and playing Four Square. He adds a thank you (to the church family) for supporting him and the others who go to Camp Eder.

Lena Zimmerman went to “Outback Camp”. “I enjoyed the creek stomping, “Music with Monte’ and most of the food.” (Perhaps you’ll want to ask her about those comments?) “Thank you for helping to send me to another year at camp.”

All the campers and their families are thankful for the generous financial support from our Buffalo Valley Brethren Fellowship church family. “Camp Eder seeks to offer a place where people can learn to know Jesus Christ through Bible based ministry in an outdoor environment.”

Check out details for **Camp Eder’s 48th Annual Fall Fest** to be held on **Saturday, October 17** from 10 am to 4 pm. Go to **Campeder.org** or watch for more information in the next Lamplighter.

Any questions,

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



Youth News

Upcoming Events for Youth

August 23 – Youth Picnic @ Halfway Dam 12:30 PM – ?

Church is the back up in case of inclement weather. We’ll be gathering at Halfway Dam for our annual youth picnic. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Youth are asked to bring a side dish or drink to share. A post with more information has been made in the Band App.

August 30 – Youth | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

September 6 – Labor Day Weekend - No Youth September 11 – 12 – Uprise Fest

We are looking at attending one (or both) of these days. Details are in the Band App. Any questions, please ask one of the youth leaders or Nicole Hoover.

September 13 – No Youth

September 20 – Planning

September 27 – Youth | 3:00–5:00 PM

End of Summer (Bummer!)

As we wind down summer and head back into the school year (which I’m sure the kids are so excited about!), our fall planning will begin to take shape in the Youth Ministry.

Our annual youth picnic is today at Halfway Dam. It is a great opportunity to welcome our incoming youth, and we are excited to have them become part of our youth group! We look forward to getting to know them and sharing the year ahead with them.

As we head into September, be on the lookout in the Band App for more information about **Uprise Fest** and other upcoming opportunities for our youth.

September will be a little slower when it comes to special events, giving us some time to get organized and prepare for our **annual Pumpkin Roll Fundraiser**, which will be here before we know it!

We’re looking forward to a great fall with our youth and all that God has in store for us. **Enjoy the rest of summer, and we’ll see you soon!**

Brent Ulrich

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team Leader

From Your Lead Pastor,



How to React to a Decision You Don't Favor

I'm writing this letter after the Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) spent almost two hours discussing a recommendation on what to do with the parsonage and property. Many hours have gone into coming up with this recommendation. We had our listening session on August 9th and a congregational survey. I think that the recommendation is going to be outlined in another article in the Lamplighter so I won't spell out the details here. What I would like to discuss is how to react when a decision is made that you or I are not in favor of.

In deciding what to do with our parsonage and property it's clear that we have no clear biblical direction. There is no verse that says "Thou shalt sell" or "Thou shalt keep". The reality is that there are a few options that reasonable people, attempting to be led by the Holy Spirit, could arrive at. MCT is going to recommend something to our church council on August 30th and then there will be a vote. MCT wants there to be a "supermajority" of people who agree with the recommended motion in order for it to pass. Our history with major decisions is to attempt to reach as close to a unanimous consensus among the church body as we can. We really do believe that the Holy Spirit can guide us as we meet and discuss things together. Again, more of those details will be later.

What should our reaction be if the decision is not the option that we individually support? In our political world the "my way or the highway" approach seems to be preferred. This leads to broken relationships and ineffective decision making. God's word doesn't prescribe "my way or the highway". Rather, God's word points us to be willing to look out for the interests of others above our own and even to prefer the interests of others ahead of our own.

Can we trust that the decision that the gathered body arrives at is the best decision that the church can make at the time? Yes, we can trust that.

The parsonage decision is very important, but it is not a decision that will change or shape the future direction of our church community. It should be put in proper perspective. Also, what I have learned over the years is that there are times when my preferred outcome is not the best outcome. The collective wisdom of the gathered church body

is what I hope each of us desires, even if that is not our preferred outcome. The "my way or the highway" approach is not the way toward effective ministry. We can be satisfied that God's will is done when we have participated in a deliberate and well thought out process. We can trust our fellow community members to hear our words and opinions, take those into account, and arrive at the best decision.

When we don't agree we remain agreeable with our community. Let's pray that we are able to discern God's will and if that is not our personal will, may we gladly submit our opinion to the opinion and decision of the gathered body.

God Bless, Pastor Eric



Operation Christmas Child

We are down to our **final two months** of the collection for this year! Please take a look at the board in the Main Entry to see what is still needed. At this time, many stores have items such as socks, school supplies, and summer toys on clearance so now is a great time to pick up a few items while you are shopping!

Kelsey Zimmerman



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.

August 23 rd	Ten Commandments Part 1
August 30 th	Ten Commandments Part 2
September 6 th	The Tabernacle
September 13 th	The Promised Land
September 20 th	The Prophets
September 27 th	To Be Determined

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



IT IS NOW TIME!

It is now time to turn in your calendar dates for the **2027 Church Calendar**. If you or your group or team has **events, activities, meetings, meals, etc.** that you wish to hold **either here at the church or offsite**, please provide the information to the appropriate ministry team leader. The calendar helps prevent events from competing for our time. Use of the church also needs to be scheduled to prevent conflicts for space and for the best use of our facility. We also need to make sure that heating/cooling is set for the area(s) you want to use. (Ministry team leaders please turn in your dates to the church office for the proposed calendar. Please continue to do so as new dates arise or as changes are made throughout the year.)

You will need to complete a **Church Calendar ADDITION Form** for a **single church activity** or a **MULTI-EVENT Form** for **multiple activities** so that none are missed. Be sure to include the start & end times, preparation start & end times for each activity, and rooms to be used. You can also use a **calendar Google form** to submit dates. If you are interested in submitting your dates in this way, **contact the church office for the link**. Just because your event or meeting was on the calendar in the past, please do not assume anything. Again, don't forget to submit offsite activities.

A **Facility Use Agreement** needs to be completed for private use of the church facility. This and other forms can be found in the church office or by going to **www.bvcob.com**. The forms can be located by going to "Resources" then "Forms".

Thank you for keeping your church family informed of the where and when of church life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Note: In order to give priority to church functions and ministries, calendar dates for 2027 must be submitted from the ministry teams by October 1, 2026. No outside groups will be permitted to schedule any events for 2027 (with the exceptions of weddings) until after November 1, 2026.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ilgen, BVBF Ministry Assistant

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

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