Mountville Church of the Brethren

The New Vision

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All are invited to participate in our Adult and Children's Sunday School Classes at 9:00 a.m. and Coffee Hour at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service begins at 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available for younger children.

Our Staff:
Becky Fuchs – Pastor
Naomi Kraenbring – Student Pastor
John Hess – Director of Music
Gloria Hess – Organist
Amy Sensenig – Puppet Ministry
Jackie Sands – Secretary
George Schwert – Custodian

Mountville Church of the Brethren is located at the corner of College, Hoover, & Clay Streets in Mountville, PA. If you have further questions regarding the Mountville Church, please feel free to call the church office at 717-285-5122 or 717-285-7424.

These Forty Days

Lent begins on March 1 with the observance of Ash Wednesday. In the early church the forty days of Lent were a period of instruction for new believers and a time that included repentance, prayer and fasting. Today Christians observe Lent by recognizing our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness in order to prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Lent is a time during which we can grow closer to Christ, feel God's grace more keenly, and become more devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

To help you grow spiritually during this period of Lent, our congregation provides Lenten devotional booklets published by Brethren Press. Medicine of Mercy was written by Theresa Eshbach and is available on the table in our Narthex.

The first Sunday of Lent is March 5. In worship we will hear the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. We'll consider how we might avoid the temptations in our world that draw us away from God's desires for us. We will offer communion by intinction.

On the remaining Sundays in Lent our worship services will focus on several of the people who encountered Jesus and whose lives were transformed by him. We will hear the story of Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man who was blind from birth, and the story of the raising of Lazarus. Our Chancel choir will enrich our worship with their music.

On Palm Sunday we have our traditional palm procession. We will tell the Passion story as it is found in the gospel of Matthew,

Love Feast will take place at 7:00 p.m. on April 13.

All of this preparation will lead to our joyous celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 16.

You are invited to take part in these Lenten opportunities to deepen your relationship with God.

Bits 'n Pieces

We extend our sympathy to the family of Betty Mowrer who died on January 23.

In response to an article on facebook about how mainline Christianity has failed, Walt Vanderheijden wrote the following:

> *This might be true in many, and maybe most, mainline Christian churches and denominations, but there are individual congregations and small denominations which practice the love and generosity at the core of Christ's message. They are inclusive, democratic, and "out reaching" in their ministry and mission. They proclaim the Christian message by example and action. One such small, but big impact congregation that does this with joy and genuineness is the Mountville Church of the Brethren. I would invite you to visit some time and see what an alternative to cynicism and mean-spiritedness looks and feels like.*

March Adult Sunday School Features Walter Brueggeman

Our Lenten Sunday School series, beginning Sunday March 5, is called "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture." This video series, taught by the famed Biblical scholar and preacher Walter Brueggeman, explores the relevance that the Old Testament Prophets have for us today. Please join us in the Seekers room for this enlightening and enjoyable tour through the Prophets of the Old Testament.

Health Ministry Corner

Do you know how many teaspoons of sugar are in a 12 oz. can of regular soda?

That is TEN teaspoons of sugar!! The American Heart Association recommends cutting back on added sugars. Sugar has dense calories, and in some cases sugar can increase triglycerides in the blood, which is a risk factor for heart disease. It is easy to consume lots of sugar without realizing it and extra calories contribute to excess weight. The problem with eating sugar is that it often replaces more healthy foods when we choose to eat sugary foods first. Sugar is also a major cause of tooth decay. So next time you get a craving for something sweet, try drinking sparkling water with a splash of 100% fruit juice added in place of a soda! Or reach for a piece of naturally sweet fruit instead of a candy bar.

Congregational Forum . . .

March 26 immediately following a luncheon provided by our youth. Proceeds from lunch will be used to fund the youth workcamp in Lybrook, NM.

A Sweet Thank You!

Delectable breads, pies, candies and cakes--and the inter-generational chefs who prepared them-- blessed the Youth Group's 5th Annual Dessert Auction with huge success once again! Our generous congregation baked and bid its way to generating $1,800 for the Jr. High-Sr. High youth service and learning trip to a Navajo Reservation in Lybrook, New Mexico. Many thanks to all who partnered with the youth to make this their sweetest fundraiser ever!

Everybody Won!

On a damp and cloudy day in February the sun shone brightly in our fellowship hall as almost 40 people from age 2 through 80 gathered for some fun and games. Shouts of "Bingo," "Blitz," and "Uno;" the bouncing of balls; the creaking of brains as they contemplated moves on tic-tac-toe boards and checkers games; and laughter and conversation filled the room with a joyous noise. Old games like Twister were popular as well as new games like Things and Bounce. Relationships were strengthened and new friends made as folks moved from one game to another. We ended our fun and games with a delicious meal prepared by Nancy and Steve Hess and Cindy Heisey. Thanks to everyone who won that afternoon by embracing the a chance for fun, food, and fellowship on February 12.

What Are You Doing For Others?

by Marian Bollinger, for the Outreach Team

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'* At Mountville Church of the Brethren we carefully plan ways that we reach out to others. Each month the emphasis is different, but for March we will assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service. These kits are distributed around the world wherever they are needed and requested. Recently we received communication from CWS stating that their supply of kits is low because the needs are greater than ever.

With your help, we will assemble 300 hygiene kits on April 2, 2017 immediately after worship. The items placed in each kit are: tooth brush, comb, nail clippers, bar of soap, wash cloth, hand towel and band-aids. Since we purchase these supplies in bulk and at great discount, we are able to assemble one kit for about $2.50. We need your help to cover the expense of these kits. Simply place your contribution in a brown envelope in the pew. Be sure to mark it "FOR KITS" and place it in the offering plate any Sunday during the month of March. Then, on Sunday, April 2, we invite you to stay for a few minutes after worship to assemble the kits. It's a great opportunity for all ages to work together to serve "the least of these."

Inside Outreach

Outreach Team is planning projects early in 2017:

February 26th we will take an **offering for CWS Tools**. February 19th there was a bulletin insert describing this opportunity. If you are reading this, and it is after February 26th, be assured that you may still give in March. Write your check to our church and indicate that it is for CWS Tools. Thank you for considering this giving opportunity.

Sunday, April 2 we will be **packing hygiene kits for Church World Service.** Please see the article, in this newsletter, about this familiar project and how you can help by donating funds and/or staying after church April 2 to help pack them.

Have you noticed the new signs on our church lawn? So you may be wondering why they are there and how we got them. You may have seen an article in the Lancaster newspaper about the Immanuel Mennonite church in Harrisonburg Virginia when the Rev. Matthew Bucher became bothered by pre-election calls to ban Muslims and build a wall. He placed a sign on his lawn that read: "No matter where you are from, we're glad you are our neighbor." The sign was in three languages, Spanish, English, and Arabic. As the political rhetoric heated up, people began to ask where they could get one. Signs were printed for other Mennonite churches and sold out quickly at $10 apiece, $5 to cover costs, and $5 as a donation for Church World Service.

Cancellation Policy in Winter Weather

In the event that bad weather necessitates a cancellation of activities or worship services, these are the ways you will be notified:

- A phone call from a Deacon or other member of our congregation.
- Mountville Church of the Brethren website.
- Facebook notice.

Cancellation notices will be posted no later than 8:00 a.m. If you are unable to access any of these methods, please call Becky Fuchs, Jerry Bushong, Tom Musser, or Larry Booz.

Decisions to cancel are made jointly by the Chair of Stewards, Jerry Bushong; the Moderator, Forrest Collier; the Leadership Team Chair, Larry Booz; and the Pastor. The decision is made after carefully considering the weather forecast and the condition of the roads in Mountville and our parking lot.

March Birthday Blessings & Anniversary Wishes

Birthday Blessings to:

1 Austin Mutzabaugh
William Wolford
2 Mary Finkbiner
3 Janet Schwert
4 Angela Stinebaugh
5 Michael Field
Sarah Repkoe
6 Joel Musser
Laura Wagner
6 Cece O'Day
8 Dan Bare
9 Ali Barclay
10 Andrew Weitzel
14 Jim Musser
18 Jackie Hart
20 Heidi Keller
26 Carol Ritchie

Happy Anniversary to:

9 Chuck & Terry Few
11 George & Janet Schwert
14 Dean & Carolyn Berrier
20 Lester & Dianna Zimmerman

Please contact the church office if your birthday or anniversary was missed. Thank you.

Mountville COB January	2017 Offerings
For General Fund	$ 22,991.19
Continuing Our Vision	$ 13,071.00
Designated	$ 5,010.37

The Health Ministry Team is providing this list of Members and Friends who are unable to attend church regularly.

Merlin & Flora Jean Beam
6655 Red House Rd.
Phenix, VA 23959
434-239-0089
Birthdays: Merlin 2/6
Flora Jean 8/7
Anniversary: 10/9

Janet Booz
3001 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17606 581-4059

Gretchen Brock
Manorcare Health Services
320 S. Market St.
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Birthday: 5/5

Ruth H. Bushong
3001 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17606 560-4929
Birthday: 10/10

Harold & Jo Ann Enders
3203 Horizon Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17601 285-5238
Birthdays: Harold 6/7
Jo Ann 8/8
Anniversary: 2/11

Ray & Anna Ruth Enders
375 Primrose Lane
Mountville, PA 17554 285-4289
Birthdays: Ray 12/4
Anna Ruth 11/10
Anniversary: 12/23

Ethel Good
3604 Horizon Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17601 285-3920
Birthday: 9/26

Olive Kline
203 Greenbriar Circle
Lancaster, PA 17603 397-5386

Kathy Lenox
Meadow View Rehab & Nursing
9209 Ridge Pike
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Miriam Sampsel
2401 McKee II
551 Free Mason Dr.
Elizabethtown PA 17022
361-5601 *Birthday: 10/19*

Gene & Barbara Swords
3001 Lititz Pike,
Lancaster, PA 17606 560-0345
Birthdays: Gene 10/25
Barbara 1/31
Anniversary: 8/26

Margaret Trimble
Gaudenzia First
1306 Spring Garden St., 6th Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19123

★ *Please remember these persons in your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits.*

MARCH SERVERS

Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolytes
Daron Ritchie	5 - Naomi Kraenbring	5 - Darron McAllister
Devin Ritchie	12 - Steve Hess	12 - Darron McAllister
Love Simegn	19 - John Graham	19 - McKenna Wolford
A J Taylor	26 - Love Simegn	26 - Claudia Ebersole

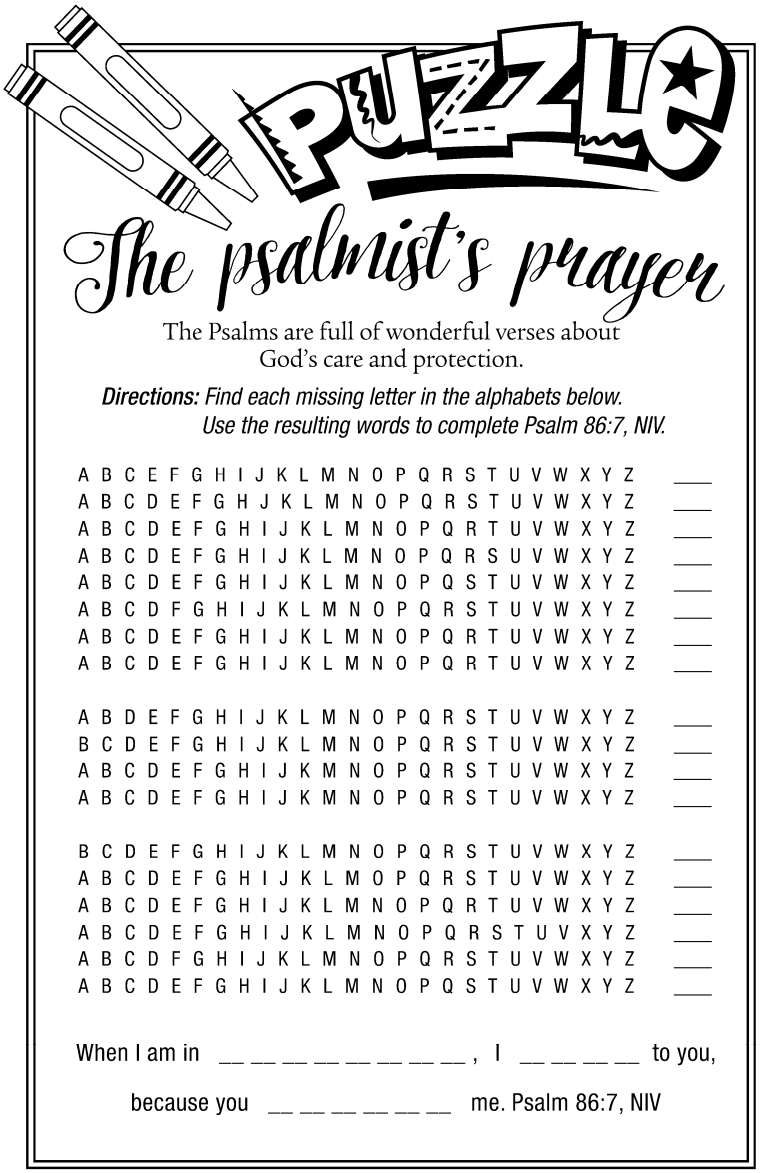
Children's Ministry

5 - Joyce Kerns, A J Taylor, Joan Boshnaugle, Alexa Taylor

12 - Kitty Collier, Beth Hess, Carey Taylor, A J Taylor

19 - Sarah Repkoe, Sue Beiler, Amy Sensenig, Love Simegn

26 - Margie Musser, Lisa Boshnaugle, Lisa Boshnaugle, Amanda Ritchie



Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.

What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 5 - First Sunday in Lent, Communion

Sunday, March 26 - Youth Fundraiser Luncheon
- Congregational Forum

Sunday, April 9 - Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 13 - Love Feast, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 16 - Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.
- Easter Service, 10:15 a.m.

Deadline *for the April 2017 New Vision articles is* ***Sunday, March 12****, 2017.*

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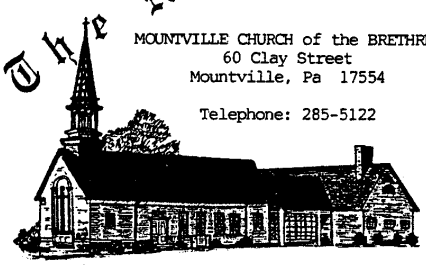

"Your young . . . shall see Visions -
your old . . . shall dream Dreams."
- Acts 2:17-21

Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed