



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Mountville Church of the Brethren

December 20, 2020

Worship 10:15 a.m.

60 Clay St., Mountville, PA 17554

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## MOUNTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



*Fostering growth in faith,  
growth in community, and growth in service.*

December 20, 2020

10:15 a.m.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### GATHERING

*In response to God's call to us we gather for worship feeling accepted and loved. We invoke God's presence, knowing that God is already here.*

#### GATHERING MUSIC

#### CHIMES

#### WELCOME

*We welcome you this fourth Sunday of Advent. As we come to worship this day, come waiting with eager expectation for God to move in our midst. May we be receptive to God's leading in our worship and in our daily living.*

#### PRELUDE

*Born is he the divine Christ Child* arr. Harris

#### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>^</sup>

*We are a people who have walked in deep darkness. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we come, seeking to be the people who have seen a great light. With this light, we reflect the love of God. We thank God for the example of love for all persons which came with the life of Jesus-Immanuel, God with us. With this light we shine in unthinkable places, with unlikely people. We thank God for the joy that God has given us in the good news to share with others. Yes, God! A story yet unfinished!*

#### INVOCATION<sup>^^</sup>

*O God, we come before you this day, remembering the wonder of your arrival in the form of a tiny baby born in Bethlehem. We too, welcome you into our hearts, our lives, and our church. With all creation, we rejoice at your coming in Jesus, and celebrate with glad thanksgiving! In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE – JOY^^^

*Today, we light the fourth Advent candle. We light this candle as a sign of joy. We are joyful because God directed Joseph to accept Mary's unusual pregnancy as a sign of the Spirit's miraculous activity. We are joyful because God raised Jesus from the dead, showing that this was no ordinary man, but God's own Son. This work of love for all humankind brings us hope, peace, love, and joy.*

## PRAYER

*O God, we are truly humbled by the Christmas story. Be with us this day, as we prepare to celebrate your coming in our midst. As Christmas draws near there is a sense of excitement mingled with a sad time of unhappiness in the air. In the midst of a devastating virus, may we find a glimmer of hope and joy that can bring comfort to our aching hearts. Help us all to be filled with joy so that we may share it with a joyless world. Amen.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Mary, Did You Know?*

Arr. Wiley

**COMMUNICATING WITH GOD**

*Through silence, music and the spoken word we engage in a conversation with God.*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

**DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD**

*We are called to respond in some concrete way to God's spoken Word. Stewardship includes the giving of not only our money but also ourselves.*

## INVITATION TO GIVE &amp; OFFERTORY PRAYER

## CHORAL MUSIC

*A Song, a Star, a Little Child*

Besig

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*God speaks to us through the Word and the interpretation of the Word.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:1-7 Philippians 2:5-8

-We are a God Invaded Planet\*

-God Identifies with Our Needs and Concerns

-The Future is in God's Hands

**SENDING INTO THE WORLD**

*We have come to worship. Now as newly created people, we go forth to serve. We respond to God.*

## HYMN

*Angels we Have Heard on High*

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## BENEDICTION

*As we conclude our "virtual" worship, today, may we continue to live out of a sense of purpose and direction in our daily lives. During the week to come, honor the name of the Christ Child by declaring in word as well as deed Christ's acts of mercy. May God honor our intentions and help us to be faithful. Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Krug

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^ & ^^Copied from worship bulletin, author unknown.

^^^Adapted from advent readings prepared by Janet Ober Lambert and Skip Miller.

\*phrase coined by J.B. Philips

**2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE**

The 2021 contribution envelopes are on the table inside the church parking lot doors. Please pick yours up when you come by. If you have friends, neighbors, or someone in your development that you will be seeing, please pick theirs up too. Any help getting everyone their envelopes is appreciated. Thank you.

**Mission Statement**

The Mountville Church of the Brethren invites all children, youth, and adults to connect with Jesus Christ through meaningful worship, engaging spiritual growth opportunities, caring fellowship, practical peace-making, and compassionate service to local and and global neighbors.

# Serving You Today

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Interim Pastor	Joe Detrick
Music Director	John Hess
Organist	Gloria Hess
Worship Leader	Larry Booz
Special Music	Chuck Few, Euphonium
	Ginny Hart, Bob Huber, Don Wagner, Dianna Zimmerman
Prayer Chain	Mary Finkbiner, 717-581-5767
	Linda Bushong, 717-898-3330
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The flowers in the worship center are given to the glory and honor of God.

## Prayer Ministry

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* (James 5:16b)

Marian Bollinger, Charlotte Bouscher, Lyn Brubaker, Ed Crafton, Bertha Finkbiner, Mary Finkbiner, Jay & Jane Darlene Fitze, Janelle Fitze, Brett & Sandee Hart, Kirsten Hart, Brenda Hutchins Yoh, Lynn Landis, Ruth Moses, Lew & Fay Powell, Miriam Sampsel, Karen Strine, and Linda Weber.

Lester and I would like to thank everyone who sent us cards throughout 2020. Thank you also for the flowers and offers of help we received during our times of illness and times of sorrow. We appreciate all of you and your many acts of Kindness. Thank you very much! – Lester & Dianna Zimmerman

## POINSETTIA PICK-UP

You may pick up your ordered poinsettias December 22 & 23 between 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you cannot pick up your poinsettias during this time, please call the church office or Sara Wagner to make other arrangements. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Plans are in the making for a wonderful Christmas Eve service. We will tape the service on Monday night, December 21, and then will be available on YouTube on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There will be no in-person service at the church on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The YouTube link will be sent to you on the 23rd.

## STATISTICS for December 15, 2020

Received for General Fund .....	\$ 5,535.00
DESIGNATED FUNDS	
Global Food Initiative .....	450.00
Food Bank.....	100.00
Misc. (Christmas Gifts for Phil Haven) .....	150.00
Hands Across the Street.....	400.00
Christmas Eve Offering .....	1,200.00

Zoom Adult Sunday School: 18

## THIS WEEK

Today: 12:30 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer

Thurs: 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service via youtube.com

## Next Sunday, December 27, 2020

### 9:00-9:50 a.m. Christian Education

You are invited to the online Seekers Sunday school session beginning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Forrest Collier will be leading the Adult Sunday School entitled “They Said His Name Was Jesus”. What does the Incarnation mean for us today? A New Testament look at what it means to be the Body of Christ. The link for Sunday school will be sent Saturday, December 26.

### 10:15 a.m. We gather to worship God

Jeff Bach is preaching. Forrest Collier is the worship leader and special music will be provided by Jim and Wendy Allshouse.

## OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed December 25 - January 1 while Pastor Joe and Jackie Sands enjoy some vacation time. Please call a deacon or Nancy Hess if you have a pastoral care need. Thank you.

## 2021 CHURCH DIRECTORY INFO NEEDED

Please take a moment to look over your 2020 church directory to see if your information is correct. If it isn't, please call or email the church office with your new information or anything you would like added, i.e. email address or cell phone number, by January 4, 2021. Thank you.

We wish to thank those persons who placed Christmas poinsettias in the Sanctuary today in memory of or in honor of loved ones or just to add to the beauty of this Season. They are helping enhance our Christmas Celebration with beauty, lovely memories, and happy thoughts.

Given by:

In Memory (M) or Honor (H) of:

Jim & Wendy Allshouse

M: Bill & Doris Allshouse  
M Jean Allen  
H: Bob Allen

Larry & Janice Booz

H: Mary Jane Winters

Glenn Bushong Family

M: Wyble & Bushong Parents  
H: Grandchildren: Kavita & Kyle

Forrest & Kitty Collier

M: Our Parents

Joe & Venona Detrick

M: Harold & Betty Bomberger  
M: Elizabeth & Ernest Detrick

Chuck & Terry Few

M: William A. Showalter  
M: Alfred Few, Mary Jane Few  
H: Rose Showalter

Bud & Ginny Hart

M: Our Parents  
H: Our Children

Beth Hess

H: Jean Hess

Bob & Heidi Keller

M: Daisy & Ephraim Shelly  
M: Harriet & Amos Keller

Lynn Landis

M: John B. Landis,  
M: Dale L. Beam  
H: Molly Mitchell

Children & Grandchildren

M: Floss & Allen Beiler  
H: Harry & Dottie Light

Holly Mele

M: Joe Mele

Given by:

Molly Mitchell

John K. Musser Family

Alan Over

Shirley Smith

Walt VanderHeijden

In Memory (M) or Honor (H) of:

M: Family Friends  
H: Family & Friends

M: Grandparents Musser & Glatfelter  
H: Our Grandchildren

M: Suzanne Over

M: Wayne Smith

M: Kathy VanderHeijden  
H: Maddy & Anna VanderHeijden  
H: Sophia & Lena VanderHeijden  
H: Nico Cristino

