

The New Vision

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www.office@mountvillecob.org

February 2022

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All are invited to participate in our adult and Children's Sunday School Classes at 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service is in house or live stream Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MountvilleCOB>

Nursery is available for younger children.

Our Staff:

Angela Finet – Pastor
John Hess – Director of Music
Gloria Hess – Organist
Jackie Sands – Office Administrator
Mary Rudy – 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 or email : Office@Mountvillecob.org

Love Notes from Pastor Angela

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

~~ 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

The monthly pastor’s newsletter article isn’t intended to be a place for “true confessions”. However, it seems reasonable that I share with you, in the February issue, that Valentine’s Day is *not* my favorite February holiday. It’s Groundhog’s Day.

Oh, I don’t actually believe in the holiday itself – that an oversized rat can predict the weather. What I really like about it is the 1993 movie by the same name. In the movie *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray plays a self-important TV weatherman who is forced to cover groundhog Punxsutawney Phil’s adventures, much to his dismay.

If you’ve never seen it, here’s a brief synopsis. A freak snow-storm causes the TV crew to be stranded in Punxsutawney where Murray’s character finds himself reliving February 2nd over and over again. It first, he is miserable – and behaves dreadfully! But over time, he finds himself transformed into a man who truly cares about the town and its people.

Maybe that’s why I love this movie – because transforming people is the business God is in! There have been plenty of times in my life where I have been stuck in my own “Groundhog Day”, making the same mistakes and selfish decisions over and over. But God doesn’t leave me that way! And God won’t leave you either!

We can rejoice that “He who has begun a good work in me WILL carry it on to completion.” (Phil 1:6) As Max Lucado says, “God loves me just the way I am, but loves me too much to leave me that way.”

Continued next page.

Love Notes from Pastor Angela continued

God wants us to reflect the image of Christ.....in all that we do....all that we say....all that we think.....all that we are. God's mercies are new every morning – meaning that, just like in the movie, we will have plenty of chances to try again to get it right.

I encourage you this month to specifically ask God to transform something in your life. Ask God to transform your sadness into joy, your fear into boldness, your anxiety into peace. And then, thank God for God's faithfulness!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

Worship Scriptures and Themes for February

6 - Acts 10:24-35: But God
13 - Acts 17:22-31: Preach it, Paul
20 - Acts 20:7-12: Trying to Stay Awake
27 - Guest Preacher David Radcliff



Health Ministry Corner:

Dementia and Brain Health

According to the National Institute on Aging, which is a division of the U.S. Institutes of Health, dementia is a condition that affects many people in older age and is an impairment of at least two brain functions such as memory loss, problem solving, and a decrease in thinking abilities, in addition to a group of conditions that interferes with daily functioning. Cognitive health is the ability to think clearly, learn and remember.

Dementia is caused by damage to brain cells which are then unable to communicate to each other. This can cause changes in behavior and thinking depending on the area of the brain that is damaged. There is not one test to determine dementia; diagnosis is based on physical exam, medical history, and lab tests.

Treatment of dementia depends on the cause, but in most cases there is no cure. However, there are medications that appear to be effective in slowing the progression of dementia.

Risk factors for dementia include age and genetics, and the National Institute on Aging, says that brain health can make a difference. Research suggests that healthy lifestyles may decrease the risk of cognitive decline. This would include a healthy diet, regular physical exercise, refraining from smoking, and cognitive stimulation. You can reduce your risk of dementia by taking good care of your body and brain!

Bits 'n Pieces Continued

Dear Mountville Church of the Brethren, Thank you for your generous and gracious support for the recent food drive! You let our students wait inside on that cold day, you allowed us to use your parking lot for the truck, and we used your sign. I love the teamwork! Love in Jesus, Donna Hurley, Dayspring Christian Academy National Honor Society & Student Government.

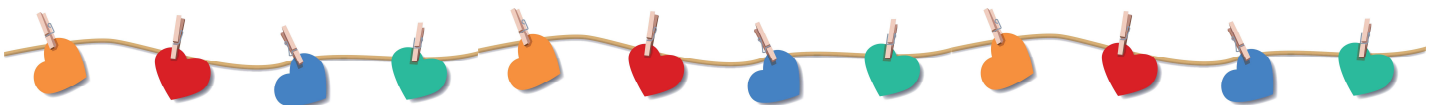
Thank you for your continued support to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry evidenced by your recent generous contribution of \$145. It is contributors like you who confirm the mission of the pantry—to serve those in our community who are struggling to feed their families.

- Diane Gerlach, Vice President/Pantry Coordinator

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$3,440. Your gift provides peace of mind for family members and Residents who are able to stay at Brethren Village even when they have exhausted their financial resources. - Renny Magill, CFRE, Vice President of Development

Thank you for supporting the ministries of On Earth Peace. Your gift of \$500 will ensure the message of justice and peace continues to spread. As always, thanks for all you do! You make “on earth peace, good will toward all” a reality. - On Earth Peace Staff: Darlene, Marie, Matt & Bill

Thank you for your kind donation of School Kits and Emergency Clean-up Buckets to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone. With deepest gratitude, Rick Santos, President and CEO, Church World Service.



Inside Outreach



February Focus on Outreach: Hands Across the Street Ministry, Columbia

During the month of February, the Outreach Team focus is on the Hands Across the Street ministry in Columbia. Hands Across the Street's mission is "to provide first level assistance to the people of Columbia and the surrounding area". Hands Across the Street provides regularly scheduled wholesome meals to those in need, a shelter for folks experiencing homelessness, a clothing bank, and a summer food service program. Hands Across the Street also has a Resource Center and Restart Day Center to help people achieve their goals of self sufficiency. Please make checks payable to MCOB and note "Hands Across the Street" in the memo line. Thank you!

Love at Christmas: Christmas Eve Offering Tops \$10,000!

Our congregation's Christmas Eve gifts to honor the Christ child totaled \$10,032.40 in 2021! Special donor designations resulted in the gifts being divided as follows: \$4,647.90 for the Church of the Brethren Haiti Medical Mission Latrine project, \$3,992.25 for the Un Nuevo Renacer National Youth Conference fund, and \$1,392.25 for the Healthy Steps Diaper Bank - which will be distributed to Lancaster County residents through the Community Action Partnership. Additional gifts made to the Haiti Medical Mission Latrine project earlier in the fall resulted in a total gift of \$7,614.15 being sent from MCOB, an amount that will fund the building of up to 25 latrines with matching gift monies. May God be glorified in these gifts of love, encouragement, and compassion. Thank you for your generosity!

ADULT Sunday School

On January 9, the Seekers finished a three week reflection on the Advent Devotional, "Be Not Afraid." We will continue to develop the issues, facts and faith to further understand and counter concerns related to the outsized perceptions of perils such as death, illness, crime, terrorism, relationship disappointments, and loneliness.

In this series, Adam Hamilton shows us how we can develop sustaining spiritual practices and embrace the recurring counsel of Jesus. The series is meant to offer informed and inspiring messages of hope and practical solutions. This series will extend through February 6.



Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

In the event that bad weather requires us to cancel church activities or worship services, these are the ways you will be notified:

1. Mountville Church of the Brethren website
2. Facebook notice.
3. Church email
4. A phone call **IF and only if** you have requested a personal call.

If you would like a call if worship is cancelled and have not yet contacted our church office, please do so today.

Cancellation notices will be posted no later than 8:00 a.m. If you are unable to access any of these methods, please call Angela Finet, Jerry Bushong, or Nancy Hess.

The decision is made after carefully considering the weather forecast and the condition of the roads in Mountville and our parking lot.

It is our hope that all persons will give priority to their health and safety when making a decision about traveling to church activities and worship services when the weather and road conditions are not optimal. Every attempt will be made to provide an online alternative.



*Deadline for the March 2022 New Vision articles is **Sunday, February 13, 2022.***



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