



The New Vision

Vol. 40, No. 9

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September 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

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ~ Romans 12:18 NIV

In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly designated September 21 as the International Day of Peace. In 2001, the General Assembly voted again – this time to designate International Day of Peace as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. Oh Lord, may it be so!

The Church of the Brethren, as one of the three historic peace churches, celebrates Peace Sunday on the Sunday closest to the 21st – this year it will be **Sunday, September 18**. And this year, as part of worship, we will explore what it means to be a *Shalom Church*.

On the United Nations website, they proclaim that “achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally.”

How can we as individuals join this effort? How can we as the body of Christ, the Prince of Peace, help bring about the peaceable kingdom?

Let's explore this together. I spent 2014-2015 working with our peacemaking agency On Earth Peace to delve into what it means to not only be an *historic* peace church but also a *living* peace church. I'm eager to share my discoveries, and I'm excited to learn from you, too. Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

In Christ's peace, Pastor Angela

September Sermon Themes

- 4 - Luke 14:25-33
- 11 - Sacred Music Sunday, Anna Alexander
- 18 - Peace Sunday, John 17:20-26 - The Shalom Church
- 25 - Guest preacher Rev. Dave Stauffer

Christian Education Resumes Sunday, September 11

Children's Sunday School

Starting September 11, children ages 4 through 6th grade will once again meet for Sunday School at 9 a.m. in room 123 of the children's wing of the church. We will be learning about 'Seeking God Together' which is the theme of the fall curriculum. Some of our first lessons will be about prayer, making time for God and making room for God. I am excited to get back into the routine of coming together Sunday mornings to learn and to worship with the children.

- Joyce Kerns

Seekers Class

Seekers, our faith formation class, will begin the 22/23 year on September 11. We are excited to begin the year with a four-part series based on the book, *Rejesus: A Wild Messiah For A Missional Church* by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch. This book and our classes based on it will examine the major questions for the Church of our times, but specifically: How can a rediscovery of Jesus renew our discipleship, the Christian community, and the ongoing mission of the church. Michael Frost said, "For the Christian Movement, the founder must be able to be seen in the lives of the found. This is the process of embodiment, which is so essential to movements." He also says, "The renewal of the Church in our time is dependent on the renewal of the gospel. And the renewal of the gospel requires the recovery of the centrality of Jesus for faith and thought. We must reJesus our theology as well as our churches." We are excited about this series and its "renewal and rediscovery" focus as we continue our journey of faith together.

Annual Conference Recap

From July 10-14, Omaha, NE hosted the Church of the Brethren for their 235th recorded Annual Conference. Pastor Angela served as our delegate and is eager to share the experience with you. On **Sunday, September 4 at 9:00 a.m.**, join Pastor Angela in the fellowship hall to learn about the business that was conducted, the fantastic worship services, the equipping sessions, and the outreach to our host city. This gathering will include an 18 minute video and time for conversation and questions. Hope to see you there!

Consecration of Christian Education Staff

On September 18 during the worship service at 10:15 am, Pastor Angela will include the consecration of Christian Education Staff including Sunday School teachers, Children's Worship staff and planning committee.



Sacred Music Worship on September 11 at 10:15 am

Come enjoy an hour of heartfelt worship in song with classical pianist and jazz vocalist, Anna Alexander. Anna has been leading and performing worship music for over 15 years, and she loves to use her musical gifts to bring glory to God. Anna will sing some encouraging songs and perform stunning pianistic renditions of timeless hymns, including "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old Rugged Cross." This music will encourage your spirit and help you to center your focus on worshipping God. Friends welcome! Sponsored by the Richard Ott Memorial Fund.

COBYS Bike and Hike is **Sunday September 11, 2022**, at Lititz Church of the Brethren. COBYS has been carrying out the mission for over 40 years of providing safe and loving homes for children through foster care and adoption. Also providing family life education programs and so much more. Anne Stokes who is the Director of Development writes: We are blessed by everyone at Mountville COB. Hope a group will join us again this year.

If you are interested in walking or sponsoring a walker please contact Cindy Heisey by email, text, or call 717-507-5616.

Day of Prayer

Join Pastor Angela for a time of prayer. We'll gather on **Saturday, September 17, at 9:00 a.m. in room 102** to pray over local, national, and world concerns. If you'd like to share a prayer request prior to gathering, please email Pastor Angela or leave it in her mailbox by Thursday, September 15.

Jesus says, in Matthew 18:20, that "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." So we gather in this set-apart time of corporate prayer to share our praises and petitions. If you've never prayed out loud, come anyway. Your presence is prayerful. But, perhaps in this place of safety and fellowship, you may find your voice. No pressure - share only as the Spirit leads. You will leave energized from time spent in conversation with our listening God and this loving body.

Brethren Beliefs Class

Would you like to know more about the Church of the Brethren globally, and Mountville Church of the Brethren specifically? Since 1708, Brethren have had a unique way of engaging with God and neighbor, and a rich history of service to each other, and to the world!

We'll be exploring our unique history in several ways this fall. In October, the Seekers Faith Formation class will be looking at how Scripture informed Brethren Beliefs on Biblical Authority, Anointing, and Church and State. Also in October, Pastor Angela will offer worship services around Scripture that was foundational to Brethren practices, including Love Feast and Faith vs. Works.

Pastor Angela will also lead a conversation around other historical topics, our church and denominational structure, and any other questions you may have on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 in the fellowship hall. This is a no pressure opportunity to expand your knowledge. Please RSVP to Angela RE Oct. 22 so she can prepare enough materials.



Update on our Afghan family

Since arriving on June 14th, the Afghan family Mountville Church supports has become more comfortable with their new life here. Thanks to the many members and friends of the congregation for their donations and to the Welcome Team for their efforts. Team members have given 315 hours of time and have driven almost 1,750 miles as the guest family needed to meet their new community through appointments and acquiring items for their daily needs.

Highlights from the family's journey with us include:

An important challenge was finding a car. Transportation is so necessary. The gift of a small minivan happened because of the generosity of donations to MCOB's Refugee Resettlement Fund. Now they are able to transport all 5 members of their family and they have a feeling of some independence as they settle in Lancaster.

Dad has started a new job with Packaging Corporation of America, about a 10 minute drive from their home. He has completed all the requirements for a driver's license, no small feat given the language challenge. He can now drive himself to work.

While the mom left behind a job as a professor, she has done seamstress work in the past and seamstress jobs here are being explored. A new sewing machine and sewing supplies were donated and those will help her find work.

The Welcome Team has taken family members on errands throughout the area, such as for groceries and to medical and dental appointments. Several Team members have provided some pre-K instruction to get the 5-year-old ready for kindergarten so that he can start school on August 22.

Mom and Dad are attending ESL classes online. Church World Service also meets with them to handle various cultural orientation questions, and to help with finances.

Our Afghan family is so very grateful for the welcome they have received from those who directly interact with them or who have given to support them without having met them in their new home. If you would like to share the joy of meeting and helping this family, please contact Tom Musser or Nancy Hess.

Save the Date!

The Atlantic Northeast District *Older Adult Committee* is hosting a Coffee House gathering on **October 27 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm** at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. You're invited to gather at the Water Hole for unique Biblical storytelling by Liz Bidgood Enders. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be provided. No registration is required.



Mountville COB July 2022 Tithes & Offerings

For General Fund	\$ 21,316.00
Designated	\$ 1,778.00

Thank you for your faithful gifts!

SEPTEMBER SERVERS

Worship Leaders

4 - Catherine Repkoe
11 - Nancy Hess
18 - Phyllis Kepner
25 - Cathy Funderwhite

Ushers

Greeters

4 - Carl & Louise Harnish
11 - Holly Mele, Alex Wolford
18 - Glenn & Ruthie Bushong
25 - Joel & Dawn Musser

Children's Worship

4 - Kitty Collier, Beth Hess
11 - Betsy Thomas, Connie Renn
18 - Margie Musser, Tess Wolford
25 - Kitty Collier, Becky Fuchs

Nursery

4 - Joan Boshnaugle
11 - Joan Boshnaugle
18 - Regina Schulz
25 - Betsy Thomas



Brethren Disaster Relief Auction September 23-24, 2022

Every 4th weekend of September, volunteers gather at the Lebanon County Fairgrounds near Lebanon, Pennsylvania, for a two-day event to raise money for victims of natural and man-made disasters. This event is supported by the Atlantic Northeast & Southern Pennsylvania Districts which represent more than 120 Church of the Brethren congregations. It has been unofficially stated that the Lebanon Disaster Relief Auction is the largest gathering of Brethren in the United States except for their Annual Conference, a national week long gathering of the membership for denominational business and worship. While most people gather in the main auditorium, vendors representing broad areas of interest setup their booths to display crafts, foods items, literature, and educational materials. Livestock and agricultural items are sold in outside sheds. To see the schedule of events to go <https://brethrenauction.org/schedule-of-events>.

Mental Health Resources

Crisis Text Line:	Text 'PA' to 741741
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:	1-800-273-8255
Preventing Suicide in PA:	preventsuicidepa.org
Coping with COVID-19 Stress:	bit.ly/covid-coping
PA's Support Helpline:	855-284-2494
Disaster Distress Helpline:	800-985-5990
Veterans in crisis:	veteranscrisisline.net
COVID-19 resources:	mhanational.org/covid19



LOOKING AHEAD

September 4: Annual Conference Report, 9:00 a.m.

September 11: Sacred Music Worship with Anna Alexander, 10:15 a.m.

Adult and Children's Sunday School resumes at 9:00 a.m.

September 17: Hour of Prayer

September 18: Consecration of Christian Education Staff; Peace Sunday

September 23-24: Brethren Disaster Relief Auction

October 2: Love Feast, 6 p.m.

October 7: District Conference, Elizabethtown PA

October 22: Brethren Beliefs Class, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

October 30: Congregational Forum, 11:30 a.m.



*Deadline for the October 2022 New Vision articles is **Sunday, September 11, 2022.***



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