

# The New Vision

Vol. 40, No. 11

[www.office@mountvillecob.org](http://www.office@mountvillecob.org)

November 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](mailto:Office@Mountvillecob.org)

## Love Notes from Pastor Angela

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.....Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Phil. 4:4,6*

A number of years ago, a friend encouraged me to purchase Ann Voskamp's book, *One Thousand Gifts*. She suggested that we not merely read it together, but that we use it during the month of November to daily chronicle our gratitude. In this discipline, we were mirroring the journey of the author as she attempted to note God's presence in her everyday life.

This is not a coffee-table book full of platitudes. It is the deeply personal story of the author's recovery from crisis and trauma through the practice of observation – and the discipline of thankfulness. It is beautiful.

In the introduction, she shares a story from another friend in crisis. This friend said her trauma therapist explained the reason she was finding the strength to live through her crisis was because, just like you can create a memory muscle, you can also create a gratitude muscle. Forming a memory muscle involves practicing a motion so often that the body 'remembers' the motion. It's automatic. In the same way, faithfully practicing giving thanks strengthens a gratitude muscle, so your soul remembers what to do in crisis. “Exercise your gratitude muscle – to grow strong in joy.”

Over the past two+ years, we've all faced challenges and hurts and losses that were magnified by the pandemic. As part of our healing, I encourage you this November to create a gratitude journal. Maybe you write one thing every day. Or, maybe you determine a number that's a bigger stretch – Ann's goal was to notice **one thousand “gifts”** for which to be grateful. To help you along the way, be encouraged to read this book. We have a copy in our library for you to check out. Or, the Lancaster Public Library has multiple copies for you to borrow. Or, perhaps you'll want to buy your own copy.

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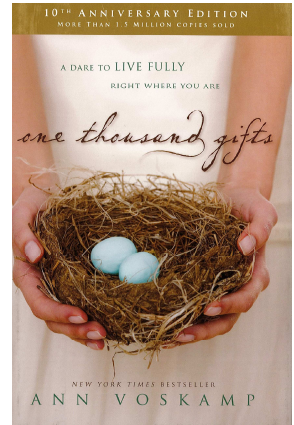
# Love Notes from Pastor Angela

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You're invited, as the author says, "to intentionally embrace a lifestyle of radical gratitude; and slow down and catch God in the moment." This practice leads to a deep and abiding joy.

With thanksgiving,

*Pastor Angela*



## Advent 2022 - Joy to the World!

Advent begins Sunday, November 27 - the weekend of Thanksgiving. In our "November challenge" of cultivating gratitude, we discovered a joy that stemmed, not from circumstances, but from being aware of God's everyday gifts in our life. So, it makes sense that, following a season of gratitude, we would want to celebrate joy!

Rather than "joy" being yet another word for "happiness," we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world, and a message the world still so desperately needs.

Make it a priority to be here for Advent - a time of waiting, a time of preparation, a time of joy! Pick up a copy of the Advent devotional in the narthex November 27.

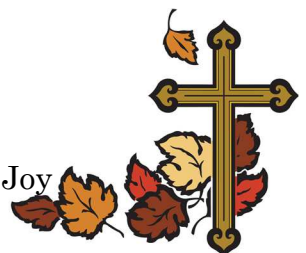
## Receiving New Members

During worship on Sunday, November 6, we will be receiving new members into the life of our congregation. Membership is not something we HAVE - it's something we DO. It's a covenant between us, as siblings in Christ, and also with God as our holy parent. It is a pledge to embrace one another wholeheartedly. Just as new members promise to support this congregation with their time, talents, prayers, and gifts, we in turn promise to surround, support, and uplift them.

This is an opportunity for us all to become more dependent on God and one another, knowing that we cannot do faith and life independent from the body of Christ, nor independent from our loving maker. Make it a priority to share in this time of commitment and celebration. A light reception of welcome will follow worship.

## November Sermon Themes

- 6 - Ephesians 2:11-22, New Member Sunday
- 13 - Matthew 6:19-21, Stewardship Sunday
- 20 - Psalm 65, Thanksgiving Sunday
- 27 - Isaiah 2:1-5 and Romans 13:11-14, Heaven and Nature Sing-Hopeful Joy



# A Beautiful Advent Tradition Comes to Our Narthex

By: Charlie Worrall

This Advent, beginning November 27, Mountville Church of the Brethren will fill its two Narthex display cases with Nativity sets borrowed from its congregation. Here is your invitation to participate in this creative way to reflect on Jesus' birth.

Some background. At the beginning of Advent each year, Christians everywhere prepare the Bethlehem scene of the days before Christmas Day by setting up Nativity sets in their homes and places people gather... like their churches. It's a beautiful faith tradition.

Nativity sets vary greatly in design and focus. Some are engaged solely with Mary and Joseph at the manger. Some sets are reminders of shepherds with their flocks watching from a distance. One set I remember from my youth includes the husband and wife inn keepers looking lovingly across the street at the manger sheltering the holy family and a few common folk wondering what is about to happen. And then there were sets which emphasized well-traveled folks from other lands-the Magi, foretelling the unfolding event which will impact the entire world. There was even a story I heard about of a Nativity set which had lost its Joseph so one of the family's young boys found a "substitute" for him with a Little People Batman. Wonderful, isn't it, how the nativity scene inspires so many different thoughtful depictions and perspectives. This makes each one special.

If you have a Nativity set you can "loan" to our church's Narthex display during the Advent season, here's how to participate:

- **Display delivery.** On or before Sunday, November 20.
- **Drop off/pick up location.** Church office.
- **Display pickup.** After Christmas day and hopefully through the Sunday after Epiphany, January 8.
- **Height limitation.** The height between shelves of the Narthex display cases accommodates Nativity sets with a **vertical height of 10 inches maximum**. This allows for comfortable placement, easier set rotation if needed, and better onlooker viewing. Sets with taller pieces probably cannot be displayed.
- **Identify your set.** Please clearly label with your name the box in which you bring your set to the church.
- **Identification when on display.** A small tented card with your family's name will be placed beside side your Nativity set in the cabinet.

**Security.** The Narthex display cabinets will be locked.



The Advent season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts for Christ's birth in and for the world as it is today.

Displaying all our family Nativity sets together will be a heartwarming gift to the Savior we love.

## New MCOB Online Giving Option: Tithe.ly.



In our increasingly cash-free, check-free society, MCOB's leadership has responded to requests for an online giving option: Tithe.ly. To give through Tithe.ly:

1. Please visit MCOB's website ([mountvillecob.org](http://mountvillecob.org)).
2. Select the Tithe.ly link. Look for the secure "padlock" symbol.
3. Create a free account.
4. Choose the fund(s) you want to support. Our main fund is called "General Fund". This supports our vital core ministries including staff, building stewardship, worship and Christian education, and the outreach budget. Giving to designated funds are an option as well.
5. You can give one-time gifts or set up recurring donations.
6. There is a fee of 2.9% + .30 per transaction. If you scroll down, you have the option of covering this fee above and beyond your gift, or you can let the fee be deducted from your donation. For example: If you give a gift of \$100, the fee will be \$3.20 (2.9%=\$2.90 + .30= \$3.20). If you cover the fee, you will pay \$103.20. If you choose not to cover the fee, your donation will be \$96.80 (\$100-\$3.20=\$96.80).
7. Your credit card or debit card statement will list the transaction as "MCOB Gift" and you will receive a confirmation of your gift via email.

If your current practice of writing a check, giving cash, or transferring stock to the church's brokerage account works well for you, please continue to do so fee-free. If you'd like to set up an automatic ACH from your bank to the church, please see Financial Secretary Linda Weber. Questions? Please contact Nanette Bushong or Nancy Hess. Thank you for your generous faithfulness!

## Health Ministry Corner: Get Your Flu Shot!

With all the focus on Covid-19, some people may have forgotten to get the annual flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 6 months and older should get the annual flu shot by the end of October.

Getting the annual flu shot can protect you and your loved ones from serious illness complications and hospitalization caused by influenza. Flu shots are available at many pharmacies and healthcare provider offices. If you have questions or need assistance getting your flu shot, contact Margie Musser.



## Mountville COB September 2022 Tithes & Offerings

For General Fund	\$ 27,264.00
Designated	\$ 1,913.00

*Thank you for your faithful gifts!*





## New Library Resources

With cold weather upon us, now is the time to check out some new reading material! We have recently added several new books to our library, which is located in the lower narthex. Be encouraged to make use of this convenient amenity.

### *Brethren Beliefs*

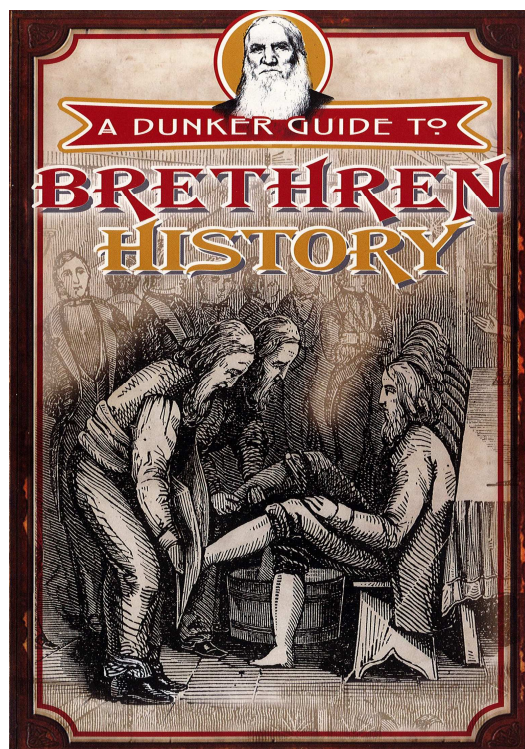
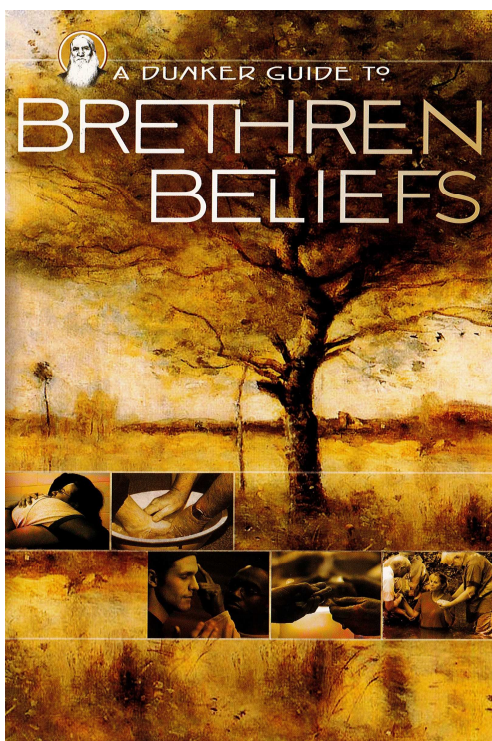
This book is a great read as we begin the process of examining our Core Values and mission as the Mountville Church of the Brethren. When the Lancaster CoB underwent a similar process in the 2010's, they learned that many in their congregation were not well-versed in Brethren history, traditions, and basic beliefs. This book is their attempt to rectify that.

With 20 concise essays by a variety of authors (including names quite familiar to some of us like Allen Hansell and Guy Wampler), this short book covers topics such as Peace & Justice, Service, Discipleship, Forgiveness, Simplicity, Baptism, Anointing, Love Feast, and more!

### *Brethren History*

2008 marked the 300th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren. As part of that year-long celebration, various authors contributed articles to *The Messenger* (our denomination's magazine) relating relational stories of our history rather than a series of facts. As you might imagine, we have been formed by a wonderful cast of characters - all of whom faithfully answered God's call in their own unique ways.

These articles include stories of Alexander Mack (our founder), Sarah Righter Major (the first known Brethren woman to preach publicly), M.R. Zigler (a driving force behind the formation of Church World Service and the World Council of Churches), and even a story called "Brethren and the Pandemic" (of 1918)!!! May their stories inspire us as we live into our own stories of faith.



# NOVEMBER SERVERS

## Worship Leaders

6 - Michael Graham  
13 - Cathy Funderwhite  
20 - Phyllis Kepner  
27 - Cindy Dale

## Ushers

Jerry Bushong  
Barry Lauver  
Harry Light  
Daryl Strine

## Greeters

6 - Daryl & Karen Strine  
13 - Cindy Heisey, Mark Yoh  
20 - Glenn Bushong, Holly Mele  
27 - Rick & Linda Weber

## Children's Worship

6 - Margie Musser, Beth Hess  
13 - Kitty Collier, Connie Renn  
20 - Joyce Kerns, Tess Wolford  
27 - Betsy Thomas, Forrest Collier

## Nursery

6 - Joan Boshnaugle  
13 - Joyce Kerns  
20 - Betsy Thomas  
27 - Regina Schulz



## War Amongst the People / From Swords to Plowshare

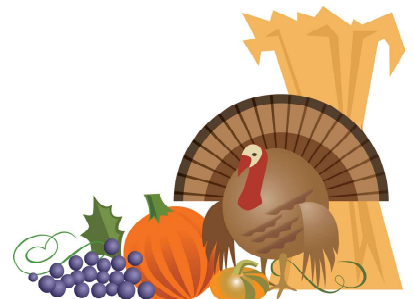
The J. Sherwood McGinnis, Jr. War, Peace, and Justice Project is presenting a two-part exhibition at the Cumberland County Historical Society, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 AM - 4 PM through November 10. Admission is FREE.

The first part examines the history of war making in America, including a timeline of American wars and interventions at home and abroad. The second part explores the costs of war through "ghost-like portraits" - faces of war - of Russian and Polish Jews killed during the Holocaust. The images on display are made from military uniforms and hospital scrubs, refugee clothing, and the dress of a Gold Star mother worn to the memorial service of her son who was killed in Iraq. This artwork offers a window into the experiences of veterans, military family members, and civilians impacted by the traumas of war. It makes visible not only the experiences of military duty, combat trauma, and loss, but also the struggles of reintegration to civilian society after military service.

G. B. Stuart History Workshop, 29 W. High St. Carlisle, PA

## Mental Health Resources

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



# LOOKING AHEAD

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

November 6: New Members & Reception

November 13: Congregational Meal, 11:30 a.m.

November 24: Thanksgiving Day

November 27: First Sunday of Advent

December 4: Bainbridge Band Christmas

Concert & Carol Sing, 2:30 pm



*Deadline for the December 2022 New Vision articles is **Sunday, November 13, 2022.***



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

**Address Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed**