



The New Vision

Vol. 41, No. 1

www.office@mountvillecob.org

January 2023

Inside This Issue

Regular Features

- 2 - Bits 'n Pieces
- 2 - November Tithes & Offerings
- 3 - Inside Outreach
- 3 - Health Ministry Corner
- 5 - January Sermon Themes
- 6 - Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 6 - Members & Friends
- 7 - January Calendar
- 9 - January Servers

Around the Church

- 4 - Children's Worship: 14 Years
- 5 - Leaving a Legacy
- 5 - Bread & Cup Communion
- 8 - 2023 Greeters
- 9 - Winter Weather Cancellation Policy



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

God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. ~ Hebrews 2:4

What's the deal with miracles? Do they still happen today? Or do we think about miracles simply as a tongue-in-cheek response to an unlikely event – “well, THAT would take a MIRACLE!”

The Gospel of John records seven miracles of Jesus, and says that they took place so that people would believe. In other Gospels, the act of believing – having faith – was needed PRIOR to a miracle.

Biblical miracles benefited the recipient – no doubt! – but also brought glory to God. Are there things we do today that meet that criteria – acts that benefit our neighbors **and** bring glory to God? Might those things be considered miracles? How do the miracles recorded in the Bible impact and influence the way we live our Christian lives two thousand+ years later?

These are the questions we will explore during worship as we begin a new year. From January 8 through February 5, we will celebrate various healings, the feeding of the 5000+ and the raising of Lazarus as recorded in the Gospels. Guided by the recent book by Amy-Jill Levine, *Signs and Wonders*, we will consider “what is ours to do” as we participate in God's modern miracles.

As part of this sermon series, you will get to hear from Jim Grossnickle-Batterton, pastor of the Lititz Church of the Brethren, on January 15 as we participate in a “pastor swap.” Start the new year inspired to be on the lookout for God's Spirit on the loose in the world!

In anticipation,
Pastor Angela



Inside Outreach

Did You Know that **Brethren Housing Association** (BHA) which we support was recently celebrated? Nominated by a long time Adopt An Apartment supporter, BHA was grateful and honored to be recognized as one of the cutting edge non profit organizations that raises awareness of homelessness and affordable housing issues and provides peace and justice services for those who all too often experience discrimination and inequality. For this reason, BHA is now purchasing properties for "Affordable Housing initiative" to offer graduates of their program an opportunity to rent to own at an affordable rate not exceeding more than 30% of a family's income. Owning a home is one of the most significant ways to transfer wealth. BHA is making a significant change in the lives of families by being a guiding light and offering loving support in breaking systemic and generational life patterns.

IF your dentist gives you a toothbrush each time you visit and you don't need it, just place it in my mailbox for use in our **hygiene kits**. Please know that we cannot send any toothbrushes that are not individually wrapped. This is very important. If you have questions, ask Marian.

IF you have a computer that you no longer use and you think it is not usable, please donate it to **Alpha & Omega Community Center** for their computers for refugees program. A & O has trained technicians that will repair the computer...laptop or desktop...and make it useable. There is a dire need for these computers. If you have a computer to donate, please talk to Norman Bollinger.

Health Ministry Corner

Holiday and Winter Gatherings



Medical experts remind us that the flu and COVID-19 are still around and can cause serious illness in children and vulnerable people. As we gather together during the winter months, there are measures we can take to stay healthy.

- ~Stay up to date on your flu and COVID vaccinations and boosters! According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this is still the best way to protect yourself and others.
- ~If you or those around you are at risk for severe illness, wear a mask.
- ~Wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds when arriving at and leaving any social gatherings. Keep antibacterial hand sanitizer with you in case you are not able to wash your hands with soap and water.
- ~If possible, gather outside, since COVID-19 and other germs spread more easily indoors, according to the CDC. If you must host an indoor gathering, open windows an inch or two to bring in fresh air, which can prevent germs from accumulating. Also, if you have a central heating/cooling system, setting the fan to the "on" position instead of "auto" will keep the fan running and can reduce the risk of virus transmission.
- ~If you have any symptoms (sore throat, cough, runny nose, fever, headache) of COVID-19, the flu, or upper respiratory illness, you should stay home until you feel better, and test to see if you have COVID. As always, contact your Health Care Provider with any concerns.

Children's Worship - 14 Years

When children enter the sanctuary every Sunday we try to be quiet, but we do hope that you notice us. There are sometimes two and sometimes seven or nine but each Sunday a leader and helper are ready to worship with the children in their special sacred space downstairs. Every week we bless and thank God for each child. We pray for the people “upstairs”. (We can sometimes hear them singing.) We pray for the children who are not there and end our pray by repeating The Lord’s Prayer.

The “sermon” is a well told Bible story using a story box holding figures and other items to make the story concrete. The story is followed by “wondering questions”. After worship the group spends time around the table sharing food and caring conversation.

Visitors are welcome. Follow us downstairs some Sunday and find a chair behind the circle. Observers are often moved and inspired by the children’s response to the story or by the sharing of prayer requests.

P.S. Interesting facts: 3 children are brought by their Great Grandmothers
3 children are brought by their Grandparents
6 children are brought by a parent

Submitted by Kitty Collier
Photos by Harold Ulmer



What do you want your legacy to be?

On Sunday, January 22, the finance committee is hosting a lunch and learn on Planned/Legacy Giving immediately following worship. Anyone interested can learn about making a legacy gift in your will or estate plan to Mountville Church of the Brethren to continue God's work in our community for years to come.

The program will be led by Bill Kepner and Larry Aubrey, Director of Development for UDSF. The program and lunch should last about 45 minutes depending upon Q&A. This is a learning session to generate and evaluate interest. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board near the mailboxes.

We hope you join us for information on how your legacy gifts can ensure the vital missional work needed by our community is in place for future generations.



Bread & Cup Communion

While Christ's mercies are new every morning, it's also good to start the new year with a fresh start. The deacons invite you to a time of reflection and communion as part of the January 8th worship service. We practice an open communion - meaning you do not have to be a member to partake. We hope you will make this a priority, and that you will be blessed through your participation.

*Because there is one bread, we, though many,
are also one body since we all share one bread.
1 Corinthians 10:17*



January Sermon Themes

January 8: Jesus Cures a Blind Man - Mark 8:22-26

January 15: Feeding the Five Thousand - Luke 9:10-17

(Pulpit Swap with Lititz CoB: Rev. Jim Grossnickle-Batterton)

January 22: Jesus Heals a Paralytic - Mark 2:1-12

January 29: A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed - Matthew 9:18-26



JANUARY SERVERS

Worship Leaders

1 - Walt VanderHeijden
8 - Forrest Collier
15 - Walt VanderHeijden
22 - Patrick Snyder
29 - Joe Buohl

Ushers

Dave Fuchs
Joel Musser
John Musser
Daryl Strine

Greeters

1 - Daryl & Karen Strine
8 - Carolyn Berrier, Beth Hess
15 - Dave & Becky Fuchs
22 - Cindy Heisey, Joel Musser
29 - Forrest Collier, Mark Yoh

Children's Worship

1 - Family Worship
8 - Joyce Kerns, Alexa Taylor
15 - Kitty Collier, Beth Hess
22 - Betsy Thomas, Sue Beiler
29 - Nanette Bushong, Connie Renn

Nursery

1 -
8 -
15 -
22 -
29 -

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 Pastor Angela Finet or Jerry Bushong. 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.



Mental Health Resources

Crisis Text Line:
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
Preventing Suicide in PA:
Coping with COVID-19 Stress:
PA's Support Helpline:
Disaster Distress Helpline:
Veterans in crisis:
COVID-19 resources:

Text 'PA' to 741741
1-800-273-8255
preventsuicidepa.org
bit.ly/covid-coping
855-284-2494
800-985-5990
veteranscrisisline.net
mhanational.org/covid19

LOOKING AHEAD

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day Worship: 10:15 a.m.

January 1: Worship: 10:15 .m.

January 8: Communion, 10:15 a.m.

January 15: Pulpit Swap with Lititz COB, 10:15 a.m.

January 22: Planned/Legacy Giving Q&A,
Fellowship Hall after Church

*Deadline for the February 2023 New Vision articles is **Sunday, January 8, 2023.***



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

**Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed**