



The New Vision

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www.office@mountvillecob.org

October 2023

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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.
Summer Children's Worship gathers in room 124 between 10:00-10:15 a.m.

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

In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others.

If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.

~~ Matt. 6:14-15, The Message

These words of Jesus come at the end of the Lord's prayer. There is no "amen" in this passage, so Jesus' teaching on how to pray flows right into this text, and repeats v. 12 (a part of the prayer we have memorized) "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Forgiveness. It's an important part of our prayer life, and an important part of our communal life. It's an important part of our preparation for ***Love Feast***, which takes place Sunday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Prior to Love Feast, we are to examine our relationships with our siblings in Christ. If there is any need for repair or restoration of any of these relationships, this reconciliation must be a priority.

Forgiveness is what keeps a vibrant congregation (or a vibrant relationship of any kind) healthy. Given the importance of forgiveness to our faith and communal well-being, we will spend three weeks during October exploring different aspects of forgiveness, including the need to forgive ourselves.

At the conclusion of worship on October 22, we will gather in the Garden of Release, where we will lay down our private resentments or items in need of forgiveness, and leave them at the feet of the One whose radical forgiveness makes us whole.

In anticipation,
Pastor Angela





Bits 'n Pieces

Dear Body of Christ, I want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. My house is slowly returning to normal. Please continue to keep me in your prayers.
- Ruth

I want to thank my church friends for all the mail, cards, notes, calls and for the wonderful desserts. – Isabelle

To my wonderful church family, You have showered me with love and prayers from the very beginning of this journey of ups and downs. Thank you so much for supporting me through two surgeries, and over a month in the hospital and rehab. Learning to walk again has been a challenge, to say the least, but with the help of my therapists, I'm getting stronger. God bless you all as you continue to support each other. Our God is an awesome God!! Dottie and family

Thank you for all the beautiful cards of sympathy and caring words on the passing of our mother / mother-in-law, Reba. As I was reading the cards they reminded me that Reba was a devoted card writer and sender also. Thank you again for all your thoughts and caring during this time.
- Ed and Jackie

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your donation of much needed and ever so appreciated 92 lbs. of food supplies to the Columbia Food Bank. Sincerely, Danielle J. Peters, Director

Pinwheels for Peace

Since its inception, the Church of the Brethren has sought to be a living peace community. We seek to be Christians, called by God to give witness to the gospel of peace. In annual Conference statements from 1978, 1987, 1994, and 1999, members have been called to address the violent epidemic of gun violence. In seeking to stem this rushing tide of tragedy, we give action to our purpose statement, "to embody God's love with all our neighbors." We also actively pursue our mission to strengthen our community connections and strive to reflect God's light in the world. The Church has grown in its understanding of the complexity of peace, and now understands it as not merely the opposite of war.

September 21, 2023 is International Peace Day. Mountville Church of the Brethren is "planting" 216 children's pinwheels on the lawn of the church. Each pinwheel represents one of the 216 children who die of gun violence in the United States every month. **Pinwheels for Peace** seeks to raise awareness of the magnitude of this national tragedy, and to follow the biblical admonition in Proverbs 34:14, "...seek peace and pursue it."

On Thursday, September 21 an outdoor vigil will be held at 7:00 p.m. to remember the child victims of gun violence. The **Pinwheels for Peace** remembrance week begins during worship service on September 17, when members of the congregation will bring forward a child's pinwheel which will be "planted" on the church lawn after the service. After the Thursday vigil, participants are invited to take a pinwheel home and plant it in a place of prayer and meditation to pray for the children. As we pray for the children of this nation we can recall Proverbs 34: 15, "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and the ears are attentive to their cry."



Picture Yourself in Our New Church Directory



Our new church directory is coming soon and it will feature pictures and other great features, but we need your help!

You will be able to look up information such as names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. in several different ways. We'll have paper copies for everyone who wants one. And if you have a computer you will be able to see the information online. Finally, if you have an iPhone or other type of smart phone or tablet, you will be able to view the new directory with an app. Because the new directory will be Internet-based, we will be able to update changes whenever they happen.

Starting October 1st, Jackie Sands will be entering information and collecting pictures. The pictures are where we need your help. PLEASE PROVIDE A FAMILY PHOTO in one of these three ways:

- * Email the church office (office@mountvillecob.org) and send the picture as an attachment. Be sure to include the last name and first initial of everyone in the photo.
- * Give Jackie, our church secretary, an actual photo. She will scan it and return it to you.
- * Let Jackie know you'd like Harold Ulmer to take your photo.

More details will follow at a later time, we would like to begin collecting photos now so that we can build the directory.

Next Movie Night at Mountville COB - October 26!

In our successes and failures of life, we find just how attached our identity is to life's expectations to us. What does the world expect of us at the end of each day? Our next movie will help to answer these questions. Watch the church bulletin for more clues and information.



Following our theme of "Jesus in Our Neighborhood", the next movie viewing and discussion will take place Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in room 102. Please sign-up on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes, and plan to join us on the 26th. We will provide some snacks. If you wish to bring a snack to share, please feel free to do so. If there are any questions, please contact Dave and Beth Serfass or Harold and Janice Ulmer.

Congregational Forum will be held on November 5 following lunch.

We will be having a carry in meal. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. We can't cook the hot dish for you but we can keep it warm. Plan on staying for the Forum to hear about budget items for next year and updates on current church projects.



Thank you Pastor Angela!

Jeremiah 3:15 says: “And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”



We all agree that in Pastor Angela God holds true to this promise and continues to bless Mountville COB with shepherds who do just that: “... feed you [us] with knowledge and understanding.” There is more, however, to the story of “Angela Comes to Mountville.” In addition to her “knowledge and understanding,” she has graced us with a presence of love, compassion, energy, and vision. From brilliant and challenging sermons, to Scripture Chat, and Prayer Garden, from fresh views on worship, to affirming endorsements of our hospitality and ministries, we

value her leadership as a true shepherd in caring for us, leading us, and loving us, toward a joyful active discipleship of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 says: “And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders, who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love.”

As God has fulfilled his promise of a shepherd, he also asks and encourages us, “to honor those leaders, who work so hard for you...overwhelm them with appreciation and love.” As a congregation, it is widely thought that we have love and gratitude, and hospitality in our DNA. During October, **Pastor Appreciation Month**, let us add consideration and awareness of the life of a pastor, and let us see this as an opportunity to pause, and perhaps in a more focused way, return the embrace of love and gratitude that we all receive from her. Let us all, in our own way, find a way to say “thank you, Pastor Angela, for all you are, and for all you do among us at

Seekers Class

Our Seekers Adult Faith Formation will continue into October with our series on Peace and Pacifism: A Christian View. Our next series will begin on October 22 through November 12. We are fortunate to have Christina Bucher return to Mountville COB to present a 4 Sunday series based on her new book with Bob Neff on Luke and Acts. We are excited to have Christina back with us. She is a retired professor from Elizabethtown College where she taught New Testament for over 30 years. Her sessions are informative, challenging, and thought-provoking. We welcome her return to us and invite all of you to this four session series."

Seekers meets on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in room 102 or via Zoom.

ADULT
Sunday School





God is Doing a New Thing!

This portion of scripture from Isaiah 43:19 was the theme for the 16th NOAC (National Older Adult Conference) September 4-8, 2023. NOAC is held at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in the mountains of western North Carolina. This is a great location for a retreat - a beautiful lake with swans and geese, many trees and walking trails.

As one might expect at a church conference, there were early morning Bible studies, keynote addresses with talk back sessions and worship services with much stirring singing and preaching. But there were also bus trips available to local sites, for example, the museum of the Cherokee Indian and Village, or Carl Sandburg's home and farm. You could join a service project such as assembling hygiene kits (1375 were completed) or the fundraising walk around the lake (85 participants who raised \$4,532. There were workshops available with topics relating to Brethren Stories of work done around the world, seeing places in Europe which were important to the formation of the Brethren Movement, learning about the EYN Church in Nigeria, building bridges to embrace diversity and many more topics - we didn't have enough time to attend all of the ones we found interesting. And, of course, if you are at a church camp, there must be arts and crafts! Again, there were many choices - Pastor Angela led one on "Bound for Fun" (bookbinding), torn paper collage (ask my husband to see the one he made) and tie dyeing (a perpetual favorite). I made a tie dyed tee shirt which I will wear some Sunday.

Literally, there is something for everyone. As you can see, there are many activities, but there are also places to sit quietly along the lake or near the 25-foot tall illuminated cross at Inspiration Point.

So, why don't you plan on attending the next NOAC?! They are held every two years and the date for the next one is September 1-5, 2025. I think it would be great fun for a group from our church to go. The ANE district takes a bus or you can carpool.

Mark your calendars now!, Janice Ulmer

October Sermon Topics

October 1:	Luke 17:5-10	Sufficient Faith? - Guest preacher Del Keeney
October 8:	Matthew 18:21-35	Forgive Fully
October 15:	Genesis 45:1-15	Forgive and Free
October 22:	1 John 1:5-10	Forgive and Forget
October 29:	Mark 5:25-34	Extending Love



OCTOBER SERVERS

Worship Leaders

1 - Walt VanderHeijden
8 -
15 -
22 -
29 -

Ushers

Cindy Heisey
Dave Fuchs
Bob Keller
John Musser

Greeters

1 - Rick & Linda Weber
8 - Carolyn Berrier, Connie Renn
15 - Dave & Becky Fuchs
22 - Beth Hess, Charlie Worrall
29 - Glenn Bushong, Sara Wagner

Children's Worship

1 - Betsy Thomas, Regina Bautista
8 - Joyce Kerns, Sue Beiler
15 - Joyce Kerns, Connie Renn
22 - Margie Musser, Beth Hess
29 - Betsy Thomas, Tess Wolford

Nursery

1 - Joan Boshnaugle
8 - Carey Taylor
15 - Regina Schulz
22 - Becky Fuchs
29 - Connie Renn

Mountville COB August 2023 Tithes & Offerings

Thank
You

For General Fund
Designated

\$ 20,524.50
\$ 1,505.00

Thank you for your faithful gifts!



LOOKING AHEAD

September 24: New Member Reception following Church

October 8: Love Feast, 6:00 p.m.

November 5: Meal & Congregational Forum after Church

November 23: Thanksgiving Day

December 3: Christmas Concert & Carol Sing

December 10: All Church Christmas Caroling



*Deadline for the November 2023 New Vision articles is **Sunday, October 8, 2023.***



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

**Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed**