

# The New Vision

Vol. 41, No. 12

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

December 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](mailto:Office@Mountvillecob.org)

## Love Notes from Pastor Angela

*Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.” ~ Isaiah 40:11*

Advent is a time of waiting. As the days grow shorter, it can be a time of looking inward – a time of deep reflection. However, in modern society, it can also be a time filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gift. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... a different kind of *present*... the gift of *being present*.

Our spiritual ancestors were also worried — often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And God's response, captured over and over again in the scriptures, is “the Holy Living One is *with* you.” Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close.

During Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the gift of God's presence – Immanuel, *God with us* – we will contemplate the gift of being present. How can we be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, and for those who need it most? Each week, we will consider together what we have to offer – how we can be fully present with hope...with peace...with joy... with love...and with Light.

I hope you'll make it a priority to gather for worship – but not as one more item on your hectic December to-do list. Instead, allow this hour of mindful worship to surround you and fill you with the comfort and protection of the Shepherd's gentle presence.

See you there.

Pastor Angela



## Bits 'n Pieces

Thank you all so much for the birthday cards you sent for my 90th birthday. It was very much appreciated. How nice to receive some from the newest members that I do not even know. We have a wonderful group of people attending our church, and they are a very caring group of people. Thanks for caring. Even we cannot attend regularly, we watch it on u-tube.

Don

Ray thanks our church family for the bag filled with cards for his 91 birthday. They were greatly appreciated. – Ray & Mary

Thank you for all of your notes of encouragement, flowers, and generous expressions of love offered for Pastor Appreciation month. It is such a joy to serve this caring congregation. I look forward to many years of ministry together. In Christ's love, Pastor Angela

Thank you for your continued support to the **Hempfield Area Food Pantry** evidenced by your recent financial contribution of \$15. 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, Pantry Coordinator

### Let's Fill the Truck for the Columbia Food Bank!

Friday, December 8, 2023 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

MCOB Parking lot.

Sponsored by Mountville Lions Club and Dayspring  
Christian Academy's National Honor Society.

*(Snow date: December 15)*



## December Sermon Topics

Dec. 3: Psalm 80:1-2, 1 Corinthians 1:4-7, Mark 13:37

Dec. 10: Isaiah 40:1, 2 Peter 3:13-14a, Mark 1:2-3

Dec. 17: Isaiah 61:1-3a, Psalm 126:1-3, Luke 1:46-49

Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:8-9a, Psalm 89:1-4, Luke 1:26-31

Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2, Luke 2:8-12

Dec. 31 Guest Speaker Walt VanderHeijden

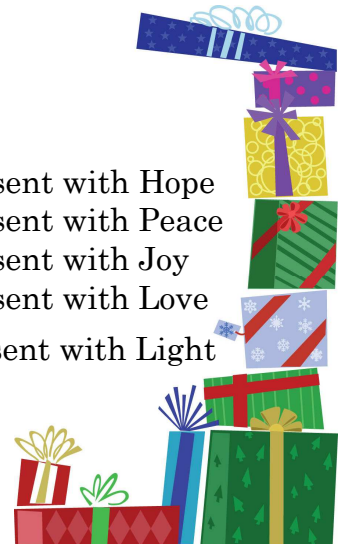
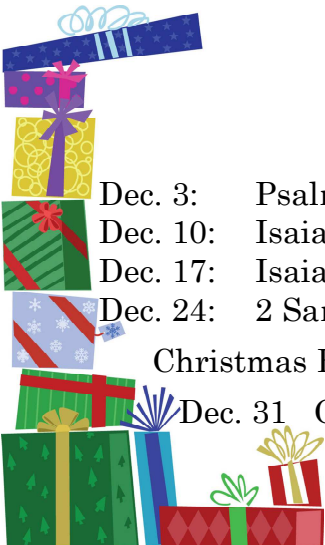
Being Present with Hope

Being Present with Peace

Being Present with Joy

Being Present with Love

Being present with Light



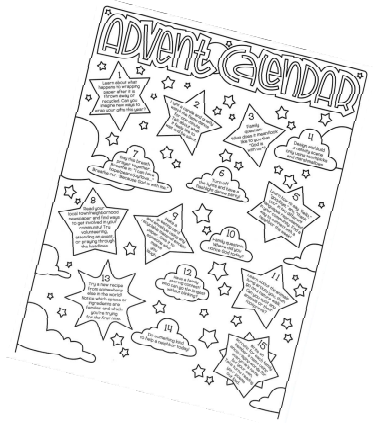
# ADULT Sunday School

For the next two weeks, and as a follow-up to our four session series on Luke and Acts with Christina Bucher, Seekers Class will explore Mike Slaughter's book, *Changing the World*. Pastor Mike Slaughter will challenge us to look at the future and identify the directions and choices we want to make that align with the mission of Jesus.

On December 3 we will begin an exciting Advent series, *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, a four-week Advent study by Susan Robb. We will explore the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this study, the reader will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel—and other angels—in the Old Testament. *The Angels of Christmas* uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now.

## Pick up an Advent Calendar!

Advent calendars are available on the table in the Narthex Sunday, November 26. These advent calendars invite families to participate in activities for each day during advent. Please pick up a calendar and mark those days and activities as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth. Everyone is welcome to participate!



# All Church Christmas Caroling

Singers of all ages and abilities (lip-syncing is acceptable!) are invited to go Christmas Caroling on **December 10**. We will meet at the church at **4:30 p.m.**, divide into small groups, and then head out in our cars to bring Christmas joy to members and friends of our congregation.

We'll end our evening in the church fellowship hall for some light snacks, cookies and hot chocolate. If you have questions, direct them to Becky Fuchs.





## Christmas Eve Offering Designations

Mountville Church of the Brethren has traditionally celebrated God's gift of Jesus to us through gifts to our neighbors both local and global. This year the Outreach Team considered the skyrocketing need for food locally and globally as our focus.

**The Local Half** of the offering will be divided 25% to the Columbia Area Food Bank and 25% to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry.

**The International Half** of the offering will go to Global Food Initiative.

Thank you for your generosity as we anticipate together  
the birth of the Christ Child.

## An Overview of Congregational Forum

After a delicious meal of Beef Pot Pie and many desserts,  
our Congregational meeting got started.

- A year to date financial report was made.
- We took a vote for Joe Buohl to be licensed in the ministry field. A unanimous vote was reported.
- We voted to disperse money from the Endowment Fund to help with Joe Buohl's seminary expenses.
- We heard reports about pre-planning for the pastor's sabbatical and a change in the dispersement of our Scholarship fund at Elizabethtown College.
- We approved the 2024 budget and calling of church leadership for 2024.
- A demonstration of the new church directory was completed. We have an online directory that members can use.
- A report about our Core Values as made. We accepted them and learned about next steps.





# A Short Explanation of Our Outreach Budget Recipients

*Page 1 of a series of 4.*

MCOB is a very giving and responsible church. As chairperson of the Outreach Team, I thought it would be helpful to give a short explanation of each of the recipients named in our budget, and what they are doing with the money you are contributing. I will be breaking my report down into a 4-page series since there are seventeen recipients on our budget page. I hope you find this report helpful. Sincerely, Dianna L. Zimmerman, Outreach Chairperson.

**Mission and Ministry Board (General Board)** - These funds are used to support our denominational needs and projects around the corner and around the world. The funds are sent to the Church of the Brethren headquarters in Elgin, IL. This is not a per member set amount.

**Bethany Seminary** - These funds are sent to the Institutional Advancement Department. Bethany Seminary located in Richmond, IN is the official seminary of the Church of the Brethren. We send funds in support of the educational needs of Brethren ministry.

**District Program @ \$60.00/member** - MCOB is in the Atlantic Northeast District. The district requests this amount for their budget based on how many congregations are in the district, size of each congregation and economics status, etc. It is a recommendation only. These funds are a significant means of financing the District's common vision and ministry. The District Staff and Board are working hard to encourage and develop faithful staff and lay leadership.

**Elizabethtown College** – The college was founded by the Church of the Brethren. The history of E-town College is tied to the historic COB values of peace, service, nonviolence, social justice, and human dignity which continue to be important tenets that inform the College's present and future. MCOB's funds are sent to the District General fund to be used for administration costs, etc. MCOB has a separate Scholarship Fund set up with Elizabethtown College.

Thank you for your faithful, and generous giving to  
Mountville Church of the Brethren Outreach.

## **Outreach Update: ALWAYS NEEDED**

1. If you receive a free toothbrush from your dentist and it's individually wrapped and you don't plan to use it, please put it in my mailbox, #11 and we will use it in our hygiene kits. Remember that it must be individually wrapped.
2. Old lap tops and even ones that do not work. Alpha & Omega CoB Community Center in refurbishes these and provides them for refugee families. Please give to Norman Bollinger and he will be glad to get them to A & O.



# DECEMBER SERVERS

## Worship Leaders

3 - Joel Musser  
10 - Lois Silver  
17 -  
24 -  
31 -

## Ushers

Beth Hess  
Cindy Heisey  
Bob Keller  
Holly Mele

## Greeters

3 - Cindy Heisey, Holly Mele  
10 - Glenn Bushong, Nanette Bushong  
17 - Connie Renn, Charlie Worrall  
24 - Carolyn Berrier, Walt VanderHeijden  
24 p.m. - Dave & Becku Fuchs  
- Harold & Janice Ulmer  
31 - Forrest Collier, Beth Hess

## Children's Worship

3 - Betsy Thomas, Beth Hess  
10 - Joyce Kerns, Sue Beiler  
17 - Nanette Bushong, Gina Bautista  
24 - Family Worship  
31 -

## Nursery

3 - Joan Boshnaugle  
10 - Becky Fuchs  
17 - Betsy Thomas  
24 - Regina Schulz  
31 - Kitty Collier

## Mountville COB October 2023 Tithes & Offerings



For General Fund	\$ 31,976.59
Designated	\$ 3,100.00

*Thank you for your faithful gifts!*

## Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

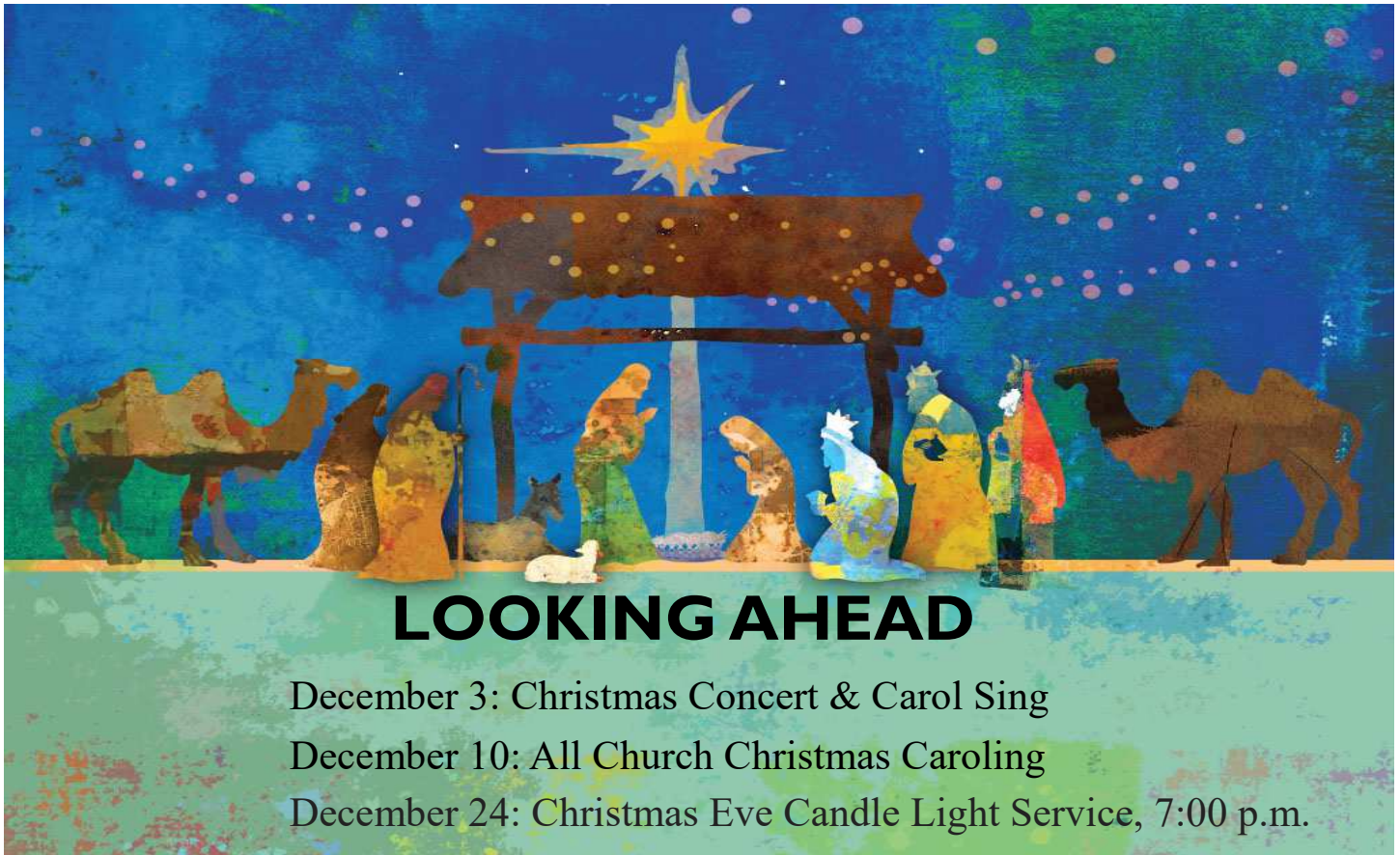
In the event that bad weather requires us to cancel church activities or worship services, these are the ways you will be notified:

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 Jerry Bushong or Barry Lauver. 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. If worship is cancelled, watch for an email about an online alternative at a later time.





## LOOKING AHEAD

December 3: Christmas Concert & Carol Sing

December 10: All Church Christmas Caroling

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

*Deadline for the January 2024 New Vision articles is **Sunday, December 10, 2023.***



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

**Address Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed**