

ADVENT CALENDARS are available on the table in the Narthex. 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!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The 2023 Advent devotionals "All Things News" by Kevin Kessler are now available on the narthex. There are also a few large print copies for those who need them.

CHRISTMAS CARD BAGS for the shut ins that are part of our church family are on the table outside the kitchen. You may bring in a card for each person on the list or just a few, whatever you feel led to do. Our shut ins really enjoy hearing from us each year. Remember to pick up a list of names on the table. Also, if you could sign up to deliver a bag or two, we'd appreciate it. The sign-up sheet is on the table. DEADLINE for bringing in cards is Sunday, December 17, 2023. If you have questions, please ask Marian Bollinger.

FRIDAYS ARE PASTOR ANGELA'S SABBATH

Friday's prayer concerns should be directed to deacons Cathy Funderwhite and Karen Strine. If you want to leave a non-urgent message for Pastor Angela on Fridays or any day after 9:00 p.m., please send an email rather than a text. She keeps her phone on 24/7 for emergencies. Make note of her new phone number.

[^]McFee, Dr. Marcia. *The Worship Design Studio*. www.worshipdesignstudio.com.

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^{^^}Duck, Ruth C. ed. *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*. (WIPF and Stock Publishers: Eugene, OR, 2023). Pg. 20. Adapted

^{^^^}Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN, 2016). Pg. 254.

Purpose Statement

In joyful community, we follow Jesus to embody God's love with all our neighbors.

Mountville Church of the Brethren



December 3, 2023

Worship 10:15 a.m.

60 Clay St., Mountville, PA 17554

717-285-5122

www.mountvillecob.org

email: office@MountvilleCOB.org

MOUNTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



Fostering growth in faith,
growth in community, and growth in service.

December 3, 2023 10:15 a.m.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the sound booth.
Large print bulletins and hymnals are available in the narthex.

*Congregation stands in body or spirit.

CELEBRATING OUR PRESENCE TOGETHER: GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Quem pastores* Walcha

*BECOMING PRESENT / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE^

What Can I Give Him? Solo

CANDLE LITANY

We unwrap a present on this first Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

We open our hearts as we open the gift!

The promise of Hope is the Divine Gift we receive.

And what will we do with it?

(candle is lit)

The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. Hope is not simply a wish.

Hope calls us into action based on a belief that things can be different.

We can work to bring about the better world that we hope for.

We light this Candle of Hope as a sign that we will be Present with Hope in the world.

What Can I Give Him? Congregation Insert

PRAYER OF PRESENCE^

*HYMN *What gift can we bring* 385

Children ages 4-6th grade are invited to worship downstairs.

THE WORD PRESENT AMONG US: RECEIVING

FIRST READING Psalm 80:1-3 OT 540
1 Corinthians 1:4-7 NT 166

CHORAL ANTHEM *Prepare the Way* Barrett

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

FULLY PRESENT IN THE MOMENT: RESPONDING

INVITATION TO GIVE^^

OFFERTORY *Gloria Peru* Porter

*DOXOLOGY^^ *Praise God from Whom* Overhead

*PRAYER OF BLESSING^^^

HYMN *O come, O come, Immanuel* 172

SOUNDING THE PRESENCE: PROCLAIMING

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37 NT 50

MESSAGE *Being Present with Hope* Rev. Angela Finet

PRESENT TO THE WORLD: PARTING

*HYMN *It came upon a midnight clear* 195

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Regent Square* arr. Johnson

Please Remember to Sign the Attendance Pads.

STATISTICS for November 26, 2023

Received for General Fund	\$ 1,954.00
Room Use Donation.....	75.00
DESIGNATED FUND	
Memorial Fund.....	200.00
Global Food Initiative	20.00
Seasonal Flowers: Poinsettias.....	157.50
Sunday Flowers.....	75.00
Church Music.....	100.00
Church Library.....	20.00

Worship: 94 Sunday School: 26

THIS WEEK

- Today: 11:00 a.m. – UNR Young Adult Bible Study, Rm. 100
- 2:30 p.m. – Bainbridge Band Community Concert and Carol Sing
- Mon: 6:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Sanctuary
- Tues: 6:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. – Scripture Chat, Rm. 102 & Zoom
- Wed: 9:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved: Schwert
- 1:00 p.m. – Stitch ‘n Sew ‘n Share, Rm. 106
- 7:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer Youth, Rm. 100
- 7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
- Thurs: 2:45 p.m. – Power Packs
- Fri: 8:00 a.m. – Fill the Truck food drive for Columbia Food Bank
- MCOB Parking Lot

Next Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:00-9:50 a.m. Christian Education for all ages.

- Birth through pre-K meet in the nursery, room 122.
- Elementary class for grades K-6 meet in room 123.
- Youth joins the Adult Seekers Class in room 102.

10:15 a.m. We gather to worship God.

Next Sunday Pastor Angela shares *Being Present with Peace* from Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8. Kathy Long is the worship leader and the Chancel Choir provides our special music.

In God’s Service Today

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Pastor	Rev. Angela Finet
Music Director	John Hess
Worship Leader	Joel Musser
Organ	Gloria Hess
Anthem	Chancel Choir
Acolyte	Sophia Harnes
Advent Candle	The Priest Family
Ushers	Beth Hess, Cindy Heisey, Bob Keller, Holly Mele
Children’s Ministry	Betsy Thomas, Beth Hess
Nursery	Joan Boshnaugle
Greeters	Bob & Heidi Keller, Cindy Heisey, Holly Mele
Prayer Chain	Cathy Funderwhite, Karen Strine
Security	Harry Light
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The flowers in the worship center are given
to the glory and honor of God.

I want to thank everyone who lifted my spirits this past Sunday (November 26th) with the greeting card ministry. I never before realized how much love and concern could be conveyed in a get well card! Opening and reading each card was a mood lifter, and I felt the power of prayer moving towards relief of pain. I am greatly appreciative to my new church family for your kindness! You are the best. – Jeanne

Thank you so much for the cards you gave last Sunday. When I get down I go through every card again and am very appreciative of all you have done for me. Thank you again, Don

Thanks to those who created the perfect atmosphere for our Advent theme - *The Gift of Being Present*: Don and Sara Wagner, Cindy Heisey, Joy Meley, Wendy Allshouse, Barry Lauver, and Harry Light. What a gift you are!

Prayer Ministry Update

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. (James 5:16b)

Please add the following people to your prayer list:

- Continue to pray for, Fay, Harold, George, John, Jim, the Light family, the Winters family, Wendy, the Fitze family, and Nick.
- Please pray for Joe as he continues his Chaplaincy internship.
- Pray for all who are grieving violence. Christ have mercy.
- Pray for the families of the victims of the mass shooting in Maine.
- Please pray for peace to prevail in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Nigeria, Niger, Haiti, Sudan, and around the world.
- District Prayers: Today we are praying for East Fairview COB. Wyomissing COB is praying for us.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you haven't already returned them, there is plenty of time to get your pledge cards in. You may drop it in the offering plate, give to Jackie or Linda Weber, or put it in mailbox #87. Thank you.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Columbia Food Bank receives our December Food Cart items, located in the lower entrance by the elevator, and monetary donations. Please remember no perishables, glass, or outdated items.

LET'S FILL THE TRUCK!

Dayspring Christian Academy has once again joined forces with the Mountville Lion's Club to collect food for the Columbia Food Bank. There will be an enclosed truck in our parking lot Friday, December 8 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for the community to stop by and fill the truck with food. We may bring our used prescription glasses for the Lion's Club to repurpose.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE SPECIAL MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

Today, 2:30 p.m.: Christmas Concert & Carol Sing with the Bainbridge Band

December 10, 4:30 p.m.: All Church Christmas Caroling & Refreshments

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

ALL CHURCH 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 think you will be attending, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board. Signing up is not necessary to attend, but will be helpful in making sure we have enough cookies! If you have questions, direct them to Ann Schantz.

NARTHEX DISPLAY CASES INVITE YOU TO REFLECT ON ADVENT AS A RECEIVER AND AS A GIVER

Now through the end of our Advent season ending Sunday, December 24, our two Narthex display cases are focusing on Jesus as God's Present to us, *and* how we live in God's Love when our lives reflect our stewardship for others. That's truly putting God's Presence and Love into action!

If the phrases on the colorfully wrapped presents seem familiar and inspiring, you have reason to think that. Each is a Core Value of our Mountville Church reflecting how we as a congregation are putting God's Love into action. Amen! Please, stop at the Narthex exhibit to refresh yourself in who we are by extending God's Love to others.

2024 FLOWER CHART

The 2024 flower chart has been posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. Please sign your name and write **V for vases or A for arrangement** on the date you want to place flowers in the worship center. Remember to fill out a pink order form and turn it in with payment to the church office or put in the offering plate. Cost for one arrangement is \$35; the cost for 2 vases is \$40. Please call the church office with questions.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Deadline Extended!

As in years past, we will decorate the Sanctuary on December 24 with poinsettias. If you are interested in placing a poinsettia in the Sanctuary, please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check made payable to the Mountville Church of the Brethren. Mark your check "Poinsettia". YOUR PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER. Deadline to order your poinsettia(s) is **TODAY, December 3.**

You may place as many poinsettias as you wish in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Those names will be included in the bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Please write in the amount you wish to order.

6" bloom Red \$ 10.50 _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Please print the names below exactly as you want them to appear in the bulletin.

Given in MEMORY of _____

Given in HONOR of _____

Given by _____

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shep-herd,
I would bring a lamb. If I were a Wise One, I would do my part; yet
what can I give Him? I will give my heart.

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SCRIPTURE CHAT

We will gather by Zoom and in room 102 each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for Scripture Chat. This week's scripture is Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8. The link will be sent each Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome. All you need to bring is a Bible.