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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.

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.

©2023. Used with permission. Adapted.

^{^^}United Church of Christ resources. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/stewardship-advent-offerings/>. Used with permission. Adapted.

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

^{^^^^}Beu, B.J. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN, 2016). Pg. 261.

Purpose Statement

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

Mountville Church of the Brethren



December 10, 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 10, 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 *Jeg er saa glad* Gabrielsen

BECOMING PRESENT / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE^

What Can I Give Him? Solo

CANDLE LITANY^

We unwrap a present on this second 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 Peace is the Divine Gift we receive.

And what will we do with it?

(candle is lit)

The gift of Christ's peace reminds us that we can have serenity even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. Peace is not simply the absence of conflict. Peace is an ever-present gift that we can open at any time when we stop, breathe, and trust that we are never alone. And the gift of peace we can give is to be present for those who feel alone.

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

What Can I Give Him? Congregation Back page

PRAYER OF PRESENCE^

*HYMN *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* 185

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

THE WORD PRESENT AMONG US: RECEIVING

FIRST READINGS Isaiah 40:1-11 OT 667, 2 Peter 3:8-15a NT 238

PIANO & ORGAN DUET *Sheep May Safely Graze*

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

FULLY PRESENT IN THE MOMENT: RESPONDING

INVITATION TO GIVE^^

OFFERTORY *The First Noel* arr.. Lasky

*DOXOLOGY^^^ *Praise God from Whom* Overhead

*PRAYER OF BLESSING^^^^

HYMN *Bless'd be the God of Israel* 174

SOUNDING THE PRESENCE: PROCLAIMING

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:1-8 NT 34

SPECIAL MUSIC *Panis Angelica* arr. Johnson

MESSAGE *Being Present with Peace* Rev. Angela Finet

PRESENT TO THE WORLD: PARTING

*HYMN *I heard the bells on Christmas day* Overhead

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

Please Remember to Sign the Attendance Pads.

STATISTICS for December 5, 2023

Received for General Fund	\$ 7,019.50
Room Use Donation.....	80.00
DESIGNATED FUND	
Global Food Initiative.....	20.00
Seasonal Flowers: Poinsettias.....	157.50
Sunday Flowers.....	40.00

Worship: 90 Sunday School: 24

THIS WEEK

- Today: 11:00 a.m. – UNR Young Adult Bible Study, Rm. 100
4:30 p.m. – All Christmas Caroling, meet @ church
- 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: 10:00 a.m. – Loss Support Group, Hospitality Room
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: 5:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, set-up for Saturday
- Sat: 4:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, December 17, 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 Joy* from Isaiah 61:1-4, 10, Psalm 126:1-3, Luke 1:41-55. Forrest Collier 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	Kathy Long
Organ	Gloria Hess
Piano	Cindy Dale
Special Music	Trumpet
Acolytes	Autumn & Eva Priest
Advent Candle	The Schulz Family
Soloist	Bill Kepner
Ushers	Beth Hess, Cindy Heisey, Bob Keller, Holly Mele
Children’s Ministry	Joyce Kerns, Sue Beiler
Nursery	Becky Fuchs
Greeters	Bob & Heidi Keller, Glenn Bushong, Nanette Bushong
Prayer Chain	Cathy Funderwhite, Karen Strine
Security	John Musser
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Jeralyn Rettew and Joel and Dawn Musser give the flowers in the worship center to the glory and honor of God and in memory of their mother, Edith Kauffman’s birthday on December 11.

Thank you for the gifts you brought in for BHA moms and children. Twelve (12) extra large reusable shopping bags are labeled ready to be delivered very soon. Thanks also to Fabric Arts who gave a blanket for each family.

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.

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 Don, 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 Lampeter COB. Green Tree COB is praying for us.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN BRETHERN VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Please stay a few minutes after worship to sign nineteen (19) Christmas Cards that will be sent to those volunteers serving stateside who will not be able to be with their families this Christmas.

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.

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 61:1-4, 10; Psalm 126:1-3, Luke 1:41-55. The link will be sent each Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome. All you need to bring is a Bible.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 envelopes are in your mailbox. If you did not receive them and would like to, please contact Linda Weber.

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

Today, 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 today. 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.