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### 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 Please remember no perishables, glass, or outdated items.

### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Pastor Angela will be out of the office Monday, December 25 thru Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Jackie will be out of the office December 25 and return January 2, 2024. Please contact Karen Strine or Cathy Funderwhite with prayer concerns during this time.

### 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](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com).

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^^Bartlett, David L.ed. *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion*. (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, KY, 2014). Pg. 75.

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

#### **Purpose Statement**

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

# Mountville Church of the Brethren



## December 17, 2023

Worship 10:15 a.m.

60 Clay St., Mountville, PA 17554  
717-285-5122

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

# MOUNTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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

December 17, 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 *Veni Emmanuel* arr. Lau

BECOMING PRESENT / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE^  
What Can I Give Him? Solo

### CANDLE LITANY^

We unwrap a present on this third 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 Joy is the Divine Gift we receive.

**And what will we do with it?**

*(candle is lit)*

The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep conviction that we are called to be present in the work of bringing about “great things” — a better world for those who need it most.

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

What Can I Give Him? Congregation Back page

### PRAYER OF PRESENCE^

\*HYMN *Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee* 71

## THE WORD PRESENT AMONG US: RECEIVING

FIRST READINGS Isaiah 61:1-4,10 OT 691 Psalm 126:1-3 OT 572

ANTHEM *Gloria in Excelsis* Pote

BRASS CALL TO PRAYER *Lo, How A Rose e'er Blooming*

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

## FULLY PRESENT IN THE MOMENT: RESPONDING

### INVITATION TO GIVE^^

OFFERTORY *A Maiden Most Gentle* Gant

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

### \*PRAYER OF BLESSING^^

HYMN *My soul proclaims with wonder* 181

## SOUNDING THE PRESENCE: PROCLAIMING

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:41-55 NT 57

SPECIAL MUSIC *Noel Fanfare* Drennan  
*Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child* Larson  
*Brass Interlude Mary's Boy Child*

MESSAGE *Being Present with Joy* Rev. Angela Finet

## PRESENT TO THE WORLD: PARTING

\*HYMN *Hark! the herald angels sing* 201

### \*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Rise Up Shepherd* arr. Osterland

**Please Remember to Sign the Attendance Pads.**

## STATISTICS for December 10, 2023

Received for General Fund .....	\$ 6,671.00
Room Use.....	300.00
DESIGNATED FUND	
Seasonal Flowers: Poinsettias .....	41.00
Sunday Flowers.....	35.00
Brethren Housing Assoc. ....	200.00

Worship: 120    Sunday School: 25

## **THIS WEEK**

Today: 11:00 a.m. – UNR Young Adult Bible Study, Rm. 100  
12:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer  
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  
7:00 p.m. – Stewardship Ministry Team, Rm. 106  
Wed: No Stitch ‘n Sew ‘n Share, Rm. 106  
5:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall Reserved  
7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir, Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer Youth, Rm. 100  
Thurs: 2:45 p.m. – Power Packs  
7:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Fellowship Hall  
Fri: 10:00 a.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Fellowship Hall  
Sat: 1:30 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Fellowship Hall

## **Next Sunday, December 24, 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. Please note that there will be **no Adult Sunday School on December 24**. We will have class December 31.

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

Next Sunday Pastor Angela shares *Being Present with Love* from 2 Samuel 7:1-11, Psalm 89:1-4, Luke 1:26-38. Gina Bautista 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	Forrest Collier
Organ	Gloria Hess
Anthem	Chancel Choir
Brass	Baritone: Chuck Few; Percussion: Brendon Miller;
	Trombone: Jim Zeigler; Trumpets: Evan Gregory, John Hess,
	Libby Weder; Tuba: Bruce Smith
Acolytes	
Advent Candle	The Cyr Family
Soloist	Bill Kepner
Ushers	Beth Hess, Cindy Heisey, Bob Keller, Holly Mele
Children's Ministry	Nanette Bushong, Gina Bautista
Nursery	Betsy Thomas
Greeters	Bob & Heidi Keller, Connie Renn, Charlie Worrall
Prayer Chain	Cathy Funderwhite, Karen Strine
Security	Carl Harnish
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Holly gives the flowers in the worship center to the glory and honor of God and in celebration of Tess and Kevin's 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and McKenna and Alex's 20<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Janice and Harold wish to thank everyone who has offered "comfort and joy" during Harold's recent surgery and recovery. Your Mountville Church of the Brethren friendship has meant the world to us. Thanks also to Tim who has offered his photographic skills during this busy season and hopefully beyond.

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the church Sunday night to play games, drink hot cocoa, eat awesome homemade cookies and sing Christmas carols. We were not going to let the weather nor all the illnesses beat us. We made a short video of everyone singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" who we are hoping to send to our shut-ins who could not be there. Thanks again everyone for all your help!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **no** Children's Worship on Sunday morning, December 24.

## 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, 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.
- 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.

### 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 2 Samuel 7:1-11, Psalm 89:1-4, Luke 1:26-38. The link will be sent each Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome. All you need to bring is a Bible.

### BLUE CHRISTMAS/LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church will host the Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service on Thursday December 21st at 7:00 pm. Pastor Angela, and other pastors from the Mountville Ministerium, will provide leadership. This service recognizes that, for many of us, joy and grief co-exist at this time of year, and provides space to acknowledge all of those emotions. All are welcome, but especially those who are grieving loss - a death, a job loss, relationship loss, or health loss, etc. Come allow God's love, and the love of the wider faith community, to enfold you.

CHRISTMAS CARD BAGS for the shut ins that are part of our church family are on the table outside the kitchen. Today is the day to pick up your bag of Christmas cards to deliver if you signed up to do so. There are still a few names that need a delivery person. If you have questions, please ask Marian Bollinger.

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

December 21, 7:00 p.m.: Blue Christmas Service @ Concordia Lutheran Church

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

### 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 EVE WORSHIP

Join us Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. for Christmas Eve worship. This family-friendly service features the arrival of the shepherds, inspiring music, a reading of the Christmas story from Luke 2, and candelighting. Together we will open the Gift of Light. Pre-service music begins at 6:45 p.m. Bring your friends and family and celebrate God with us – Immanuel.

### 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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