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 Please remember no perishables, glass, or outdated items.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

©2023. Used with permission. Adapted.

^^The United Church of Canada. *Advent 2021 Offering Invitations and Prayers*. Copyright 2021.

^^^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 24, 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 24, 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 *Greensleeves* arr. Purvis

BECOMING PRESENT / LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE^

What Can I Give Him? Solo Advent Song Leader

CANDLE LITANY^

We unwrap a present on this last 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 Love is the Divine Gift we receive.

And what will we do with it?

(candle is lit)

The gift of love is the essence of the birth of Christ. The Holy One wanted to be so present to us that God's Spirit became flesh in order to inhabit the gifts of touching, healing, comforting, and challenging.

Love is the clarion call to us as Jesus' disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

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

What Can I Give Him? Congregation Back page

PRAYER OF PRESENCE^

*HYMN *Love divine, all loves excelling* 592

THE WORD PRESENT AMONG US: RECEIVING

FIRST READINGS 2 Samuel 7:1-11 OT 281 Psalm 89:1-4 OT 545

ANTHEM *Whisper Whisper* Althouse

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

FULLY PRESENT IN THE MOMENT: RESPONDING

INVITATION TO GIVE^^

OFFERTORY *What Child is this* arr. Wells

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

*PRAYER OF BLESSING^^

HYMN *Angels we have heard on high* 197

SOUNDING THE PRESENCE: PROCLAIMING

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38 NT 56

MESSAGE *Being Present with Love* Rev. Angela Finet

PRESENT TO THE WORLD: PARTING

*HYMN *Love came down at Christmas* 208

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Helman

Please Remember to Sign the Attendance Pads.

STATISTICS for December 17, 2023

Received for General Fund	\$23,706.18
DESIGNATED FUND	
Building Maintenance.....	1,000.00
Kits.....	50.00
Disaster Relief.....	50.00
Church Music.....	40.00
Food Bank.....	20.00
Christmas Eve Offering	200.00

Worship: 118 Sunday School: 23

THIS WEEK

Today: 11:00 a.m. – UNR Young Adult Bible Study, Rm. 100
 12:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer worship
 Mon: Christmas Day – Office closed
 Tues: 6:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer, Fellowship Hall
 No Scripture Chat, Rm. 102 & Zoom
 Wed: No Stitch ‘n Sew ‘n Share, Rm. 106
 No Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. – Un Nuevo Renacer Youth, Rm. 100
 Thurs: 2:45 p.m. – Power Packs

Next Sunday, December 31, 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. They will conclude the Advent series “The Angels of Christmas.” Dave Fuchs will lead the discussion focusing on the Shepherds encounter with the Angels.

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

Next Sunday, Walt VanderHeijden will speak on Psalm 48 and Luke 2:22-40. Sara Haldeman-Scarr will be the worship leader.

In God’s Service Today

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Pastor	Rev. Angela Finet
Music Director	John Hess
Worship Leader	Gina Bautista
Organ/Piano	Gloria Hess
Anthem	Chancel Choir
	Soloists Cindy Dale, Bill Kepner
Musicians	Chuck Few: Euphonium; John Hess: Trumpet; Jim Zeigler: Trombone
Acolytes	
Advent Candle	The Deeg Family
Soloist	Bill Kepner
Ushers	Beth Hess, Cindy Heisey, Bob Keller, Holly Mele
Children’s Ministry	Family Worship
Nursery	Regina Schulz
Greeters	Bob & Heidi Keller, Carolyn Berrier, Walt VanderHeijden
Prayer Chain	Cathy Funderwhite, Karen Strine
Security	Pete Musser
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The flowers in the worship center are given in celebration of Janice and Harold Ulmer’s 10th wedding anniversary, in memory of their parents Frances, Harold, Janet and Paul, and in celebration of the birthday of Christ our Lord.

Wishing all our church family a beautiful holiday season with loved ones. We love belonging to such a caring church. Healthy New Year and God bless. Holiday hugs from Molly and Lynn

MOUNTVILLE ELEM SCHOOL families in need surely will sense God’s love this Christmas. Our congregation again has responded joyfully and generously to requests from neighboring parents for clothing, toys, and household items...PLUS extra gifts including new coats, hoodies, shirts, pants, knit scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, Giant gift cards, and even a cozy throw blanket. We are blessed by this and every opportunity to live out our core values of Love, Connections, Justice, Service, and Generosity.

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 Wyomissing COB. East Fairview COB is praying for us.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Join us tonight 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

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.

NO SCRIPTURE CHAT

We will not gather this Tuesday, December 26. This week's scripture is Psalm 48 and Luke 2:22-40.

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

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

January 7, 10:15 a.m.: Communion Sunday

January 14, 10:15 a.m. – Pastor Swap with York 1st COB

February 24, 9:00-12:00 p.m.: Brethren Belief's Class

February 25, 10:15 a.m.: Joe Buohl's licensing service

February 25: 11:30 a.m.: Congregational Business Forum

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.