



The New Vision

Vol. 42, No. 1

www.office@mountvillecob.org

January 2024

Inside This Issue

Regular Features

- 2 - Bits 'n Pieces
- 4 - January Sermon Topics
- 5 - January Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 5 - Members & Friends
- 6 - January Servers
- 6 - Tithes & Offerings
- 7 - January Calendar

Around the Church

- 3 - Welcome New Members
- 4 - A Short Explanation . . .
- 6 - Winter Weather Policy
- 8 - Adult Seeker's Class



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

Love Notes from Pastor Angela

*Who do you say that I am?
~Matthew 16:15*

We've spent a significant amount of time over the last year and a half exploring together Who Jesus is, What Jesus said and did, and What Jesus is saying and doing today as part of our Core Values work together. That work made me wonder – have we come to a conclusion? Are we so familiar now with Jesus that we've "pinned him down?" Or "boxed him in?"

I was struck recently that when Paul had his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus – the encounter that rendered Paul blind – his first question wasn't, "What have you done to me?" It wasn't, "Why have you singled me out?"

It was, "Who are you?"

Part of the reason for doing the Core Value work together in community is that we all experience Jesus differently. Jesus shows up in each of our lives over and over, and each time we ask the question, "who are you?" we might just get a different answer.

Diana Butler Bass, in her 2021 book *Freeing Jesus*, says that "to know 'who' is an invitation into a relationship that can – if we let it – change us, often sending our lives onto a completely unexpected path." That sounds like good work for a new year!

Beginning in January, each worship service will explore a different facet of Jesus – liberating him, perhaps, from the ways our language about him has confined him. We'll consider Jesus as a *Friend*, a *Teacher*, the *Savior*, the *Way*, and the *Presence*. This series will include a Pastor Swap on January 14th with Joel Gibbel, the pastor at the York First Church of the Brethren.

Consider inviting your friends. They are welcome here – to this story of Jesus, a "rediscovery of the Jesus who is liberated from constraint and whose company releases the possibility of peace, healing, and compassion in our lives and for the world."*

In anticipation,
Pastor Angela

*quote from *Freeing Jesus*.



To all who sent me so many get well cards. I am recovering from my carpal tunnel release surgery. Thank you. - Heidi

A very special thank you for the cards, visits, food, and especially your prayers for my back surgery. – Rick

We are deeply grateful for your support during the past several months. Your love, prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and gifts of food for our family have been a blessing to us during Dot-tie's illness and passing. We are blessed to be a part of this church family and grateful for your thoughtfulness and continued support. With warmest thanks. The Light Family

Thank you for all the cards that were sent to me for my 81st birthday. I appreciate everyone's caring and love.- Louise

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

A BIG THANK YOU to all who signed up and brought in food and gift cards to put smiles on faces at Brethren Housing Association and to remind them that they are loved and cared for at Thanksgiving and always. If you couldn't sign up because all the spaces were filled, there will be another opportunity for you to help with gifts for 3 moms and 3 children for Christmas.

Thank you for the 169 pounds of food items given to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry in October. - Diane Gerlach

We are grateful for the much needed and appreciated 125+ food supplies and the check for \$290 that helps those facing food insecurity. - Danielle Peters, The Columbia Food Bank

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$3,510 to Brethren Village. - Renny Magill, Vice President

We thank you for your generous donation of \$510 and continued support to help us work for justice and peace in our nation and in our world. - Darlene Johnson, On Earth Peace

Your financial gift of \$500 to the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is much appreciated.
- Donna Rhodes Executive Director

A Short Explanation of Our Outreach Budget Recipients

Page 2 of a series of 4.

Camp Swatara @ \$7.50/member – This is a District fund. The money goes to Camp Swatara's general fund and is used where needed. Camp Swatara is a Church of the Brethren summer camp, year round retreat/conference center, and family campground, located at the foot of the beautiful Blue Mountain in northwestern Berks County, Pennsylvania. Camp Swatara provides opportunities in the natural setting for persons of all ages to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, so that they may give their lives to Him in total discipleship.

Brethren Village - Brethren Village Retirement Community is a Continuing Care Retirement Community that provides care for residents 62 years of age and older. Brethren Village maintains a close affiliation with the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren. Our contributions go to their General Fund to be used as needed.

Lancaster County Food Hub – This is the Lancaster County Food Bank. The Outreach Team decided to put this item in as a budgeted item several years ago when food shortages escalated in the city, apart from Hempfield Food Bank and Columbia Food Bank.

Mountville Ministerium Association – A group of ministers and chaplains from churches and institutions in Mountville. This fund is given to help with activities at Hershey Mill Home and Friendship Village located in Mountville Borough.

COBYS – Church of the Brethren Family Services. This is an Atlantic NE District program that provides foster care, adoption, counseling, family life education and permanency services for children and families at risk in Lancaster County and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your faithful, and generous giving to Mountville Church of the Brethren Outreach. I hope you find this report helpful.
Dianna L. Zimmerman, Outreach Chairperson.

January Sermon Topics

Jan. 7	Jesus our Friend	John 15:9-17
Jan. 14	Jesus our Teacher	Matt. 7:24-29, Pastor Swap with Joel Gibbel
Jan. 21	Jesus our Savior	Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 2:8-14
Jan. 28	Jesus the Way	John 14:1-6



JANUARY SERVERS

Worship Leaders

7 - Patrick Snyder
14 - Lois Silver
21 - Dave Serfass
28 - Cathy Funderwhite

Ushers

Dave Fuchs
Joel Musser
John Musser
Daryl Strine

Greeters

7 - Daryl & Karen Strine: Upper Narthex
- Holly Mele, Mark Yoh: Lower Narthex
14 - Carolyn Berrier, Beth Hess
21 - Dave & Becky Fuchs
28 - Cindy Heisey, Joel Musser

Children's Worship

7 - Joyce Kerns, Becky Fuchs
14 - Margie Musser, Beth Hess
21 - Joyce Kerns, Connie Renn
28 - Nanette Bushong, Sue Beiler, Joy Ricard

Nursery

7 - Joan Boshnaugle
14 - Alexa Taylor
21 - Betsy Thomas
28 - Regina Schulz

Mountville COB November 2023 Tithes & Offerings



For General Fund	\$ 18,613.00
Designated	\$ 2,638.50

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



Amy Jill Levine Returns to Faith Formation Class in January

Back by popular demand, January's Adult Faith Formation classes will feature a DVD series by noted Biblical scholar A.J. Levine entitled "The Short Stories of Jesus." She will focus on the misunderstood and sometimes misinterpreted parables of Jesus. In her usual delightful manner, she will make these parables relevant to our lives today. Join us for lively discussion in room 102 at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, or on Zoom if you cannot make it to church.

*Deadline for the February 2024 New Vision articles is **Sunday, January 14, 2024.***



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