

The New Vision

Vol. 42, No. 4

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April 2024

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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

"Lord, teach us to pray."

~~ Luke 11:1

These are the words of the first disciples of Jesus. They are also the words of modern-day followers of Jesus..."teach us to pray." This request represents a yearning for a deepening relationship – not only with God, but with one another. It's impossible to pray earnestly for someone and not have your heart soften towards them.

These words, "teach us to pray," were written to me earlier this year, and this is a request I delight in answering. So, for three Sundays in April, beginning the 14th, we will spend time together in Scripture learning to pray. In preparation for this precious time, I want to encourage you to find a journal, or a tablet, or the "notes" on your phone, and label it "Prayer Journal." Each week, I will give you prompts or suggestions for things to explore in your personal prayer time.

Here are your prompts for the first week of April. Carve out a few quiet moments and reflect on your experience of prayer.

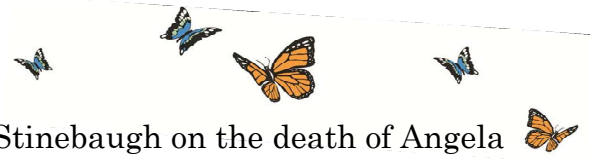
Are there specific instances of prayer that stand out to you? If so, what made them meaningful? Was it a need you had, the setting in which you prayed, the words you expressed, or something you felt or sensed in your spirit? Record your thoughts in your journal.

What is your experience with routine times of prayer? Do you keep to a prayer schedule of sorts, praying at specific times or at certain events of the day? Or, do you find yourself uttering a one-sentence prayer as people and situations come to mind?

We will continue the process of prayerful Sunday worship and teaching along with private prayer time and journaling all month. Then, on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2, at 10:00 am, we will gather together here at the church to pray over the joys and needs of our families, our church, our neighborhood, and our world. Join me ... in prayer!

Peace and grace,
Pastor Angela

Bits 'n Pieces



Prayers and sympathies to the family of Vernon and Angela Stinebaugh on the death of Angela on February 16, 2024.

Prayers and sympathies to the family of Isabelle Rudisill who passed away February 13, 2024

To the Mountville Church of the Brethren Congregation, my church home. Thank You for the lovely, heartwarming Valentine greeting card I received on Shrove Tuesday. Out of the many signatures on the card, I was pleasantly surprised at how many names I recognized after not attending church regularly in such a long time. It is six weeks until Easter, one of the most sacred holidays of the year for us. I will join you in thought as we go through this most sacred season of Lent and celebrate Easter as we worship the risen, Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. With love and gratitude, Sarah, Brethren Village

We just want thank everyone for all their cards and prayers and a special thank you for everyone that participated in the service and with the meal preparation, serving and clean up.
From the Finkbiner family

I'm grateful for the "Bags of Joy" I've received from you over the past few months. Get well, Christmas, birthday cards and a valentine full of your names have been cherished. Thanks to all of you, my dear Church Family. Love from Barbara

Dear friends and family, I want to thank all of you for the cards and well wishes and prayers on my Licensing Service on February 25th. Thank you all, my beautiful church family. I especially want to thank Lynn Landis: Molly, her sister; Bev, my second mom; and the Colliers for their support. You all are my brothers and sisters, and I appreciate all of you. Thanks be to God,
Joe Buohl II

To all wonderful church people who sent Valentine cards and notes of encouragement. We thank very one for your kindness and generosity. May the peace with Christ be with you.
Brenda& Mark

I really liked & appreciated the signed card I got from the church. It was nice to see that I was being thought of. I am certainly not an invalid but it is true that I don't go out as freely as I once did when Connie & I first came to Mountville COB. I enjoyed reviewing the signatures to see who I still remembered. Sincerely, Henry

Thanks to Marian Bollinger for composing the lovely valentine card and to all our dear friends who signed it, especially the children. Thank you and love to all, Mary

To the miracle workers, My family and I would like for you to know that every ounce of effort you put towards our new home is so greatly appreciated. It was literally live-in ready for us! You make a positive difference in people's lives doing all that you do and have greatly made this transition much easier for my children and myself. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
God Bless! Family #23 (Brethren Housing Apartments)

Please make note: Don & Sara W. no longer have their landline phone number. Please use their cell phone numbers to contact them.

ADULT Sunday School

The month of April will bring a variety of topics to the Adult Sunday School class. Bill Kepner will discuss a book called "Halftime," which talks about what challenges you face and opportunities you have as you enter the phase of life that begins when you retire. On April 21, Judge David Ashworth will discuss some innovations in the Lancaster County Court system, including the Drug Court. We will also embark on a study of Heaven; what do we know about what happens after death? Join us at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings for these enlightening discussions.

YWCA Training for Suspected Child Abuse

Pennsylvania has now included volunteers who work with children in the church setting as mandated reporters of any suspected child abuse. In order for the volunteers to be aware of what is defined as child abuse by the state, the Education Ministry team has asked a certified trainer from the YWCA to come out to the church on Wednesday, April 17 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., in room 102 to provide State approved, mandated reporter training. This will include the information used by the state to identify child abuse. All volunteers serving the children in our church family are encouraged to attend. This training will also be open to any individuals interested in learning how and when to report suspected child abuse. See Ginny Hart with questions.

Congregational Forum Highlights

The Congregational Forum was held on February 25. During the meeting, year end reports were given. The 2023 year ended with a budget surplus. The Leadership team recommended that the church allocate it in four ways: save for ministerial coverage during Pastor Angela's sabbatical in 2025, add to the Endowment Fund, give to Outreach Team to disburse, and save to the Building Maintenance Fund for possible use following architectural RFPs to study the safety, accessibility, and emergency aspects of our worship space and front sanctuary. Walt V. gave an update from the Core Values team. They will be looking at how the Ministry teams' activities match with our core values. Nanette B. gave a photo directory update. The Instant ChurchDirectory app and website are up to date. The supplemental directory information will be emailed when it is ready. If you don't have an email, you will be sent or given the directory.



April Sermon Topics

April 7	John 10:1-11a, Psalm 23 I Am The What???	Guest Speaker Gina Bautista
April 14	Matthew 6:9-13	Teach us to pray
April 21	Colossians 1:1-14	A Tale of Two Prayers
April 28	Matthew 7:7-11	The "Rules" of Prayer



APRIL SERVERS

Worship Leaders

7 - Lois Silver
14 - Dave Serfass
21 - Catherine Repkoe
28 - Sarah Repkoe

Ushers

Jerry Bushong
Bob Keller
Harry Light
John Musser

Greeters

7 - Karen & Daryl Strine: Upper Narthex
- Beth Hess, Sara Wgner: Lower Narthex
14 - Harold & Janice Ulmer
21 - Holly Mele, Anne Schanz
28 - Lynn Landis, Molly Mitchell

Children's Worship

7 - Joyce Kerns, Connie Renn
14 - Betsy Thomas, Beth Hess
21 - Joyce Kerns, Gina Baustita
28 - Nanette Bushong, Tess Wolford

Nursery

7 - Joan Boshnaugle
14 - Regina Schulz
21 - Betsy Thomas
28 - Becky Fuchs

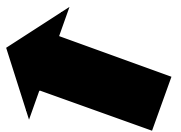
An Evening of Entertainment!

On Saturday, April 27 at 5:00 pm, character juggler, Chris Ivey, will be returning to MCOB to perform a brand new ministry show entitled: "Blessings." This show combines brand new routines, a brand new message, and a few of our fan favorite routines. Plus, there will be fun food: hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecue, mac & cheese...and more! Details will follow, but mark your calendars now! Come share in a fun-filled evening!

MCOB Hosting SVMC

In April and May, MCOB is hosting the Atlantic Northeast District's students who are pursuing their ministry training through the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC). Pastor Angela will be teaching this course. If you see them in the building on Thursday evenings, say "hi". Please hold them in prayer as they faithfully seek to answer God's call.

Pastor Angela will be out of the office and away from ministerial duties from April 1 - 8. Please contact Jerry Bushong with pastoral needs or Cathy Funderwhite and Karen Strine for prayer needs.



Mountville COB February 2024 Tithes & Offerings



For General Fund	\$ 26,765.67
Designated	\$ 1,172.00

Thank you for your faithful gifts!



LOOKING AHEAD

March 31 - Easter Sunday

April 27: All Church Meal and Event

May 2: National Day of Prayer

May 19: Pentecost

June 2: Talent Show

*Deadline for the May 2024 New Vision articles is **Sunday, April 14, 2024.***



*"Your young . . . shall see Visions -
your old . . . shall dream Dreams."
- Acts 2:17-21*

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