



# The New Vision

## Inside This Issue

### Regular Features

- 2 - Bits 'n Pieces
- 7 - August Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 7 - Members & Friends
- 8 - August Servers
- 8 - Tithes & Offerings
- 8 - August Sermon Topics
- 9 - August Calendar

### Around the Church

- 3 - Blessing of Students & Pizza Party
- 4 - A Witness to God's Grace
- 5 - Mountville Mini Disaster Relief Event
- 6 - Bear ye one another's burdens



Sunday Worship Service is in house or live stream Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MountvilleCOB>

There is Nursery care available for younger children and Summer Children's Worship for age 4 through 6th grade.

#### 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

*Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.*

~~ Hebrews 10:25

I have just returned from the 237<sup>th</sup> recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, and wanted to share some random impressions. I will offer my full delegate report during Faith Formation (9 a.m.) on Sunday, September 1, so please join me (in person or via Zoom) for that.

Attendance is beginning to rebound following the pandemic. This year, there were 1,450 attendees: 410 delegates and 1,040 non-delegates (including 45 virtual). I always get goosebumps hearing that many voices singing and praising, and we had several opportunities to sing hymns acapella too – very inspiring!

At the beginning of each business session, various pastors from within the denomination led a Bible Study. This doubled the amount of Bible Study from previous meetings – a change I greatly appreciated. When there was “down time” during business sessions (as votes were being counted, for instance), we were treated to *Jesus in the Neighborhood* videos, prepared by several congregations to share their encouraging ministries. These videos were so joyful!

Upon arriving, I dropped off our gift of 400 lunch bags. They had a station set up in the exhibit hall for folks to stop by and decorate more bags in between sessions. Several pallets of food were donated to *Kid's Food Basket*, and at least one pallet of bedding was collected for *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*. On Saturday, attendees gathered in the exhibit hall to construct 30 beds for children in need. And, we collected \$15,418.24 to be split between the two organizations.

Continued on page 3.



## Bits 'n Pieces

Dear Church Family, We want to thank you once again for helping us to celebrate a very special occasion, "86" years of marriage. It has not always been without challenges but the Lord has always been with us to see us through. Our Lord always keeps His promises. When we are weak He makes us strong. Blessings to all, Lew & Fay

Dear Church Family, I cannot thank everyone enough for the warm wishes, congratulations, and gifts that I received! It has been such a blessing to have the opportunity to grow up in such a loving church environment. Where ever the Lord will guide me I will never forget the support that I have from my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you everyone so much and may God bless you! Love, Claudia Ebersole

THANK YOU so much for all the donations to Brethren Housing Association. We are thrilled and I know our moms are about to be too! We ran out of some of these cleaning supplies, so I know these will be quickly picked up by our mothers. Thank you! Thank you!

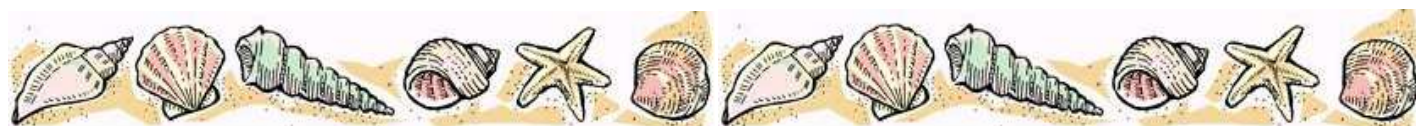
Blair Grove, BHA

Hello my dear Church Family, I want to update you on my condition after the back surgery: I was discharged from Hamilton Arms Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> where I received Physical and Occasional Therapy daily. I am only taking Tylenol for pain as needed. I have no back pain; the only pain I feel occasionally is in my right hip from inflammation pressing against the hip post-surgery. I am walking with my rolling walker, can get in and out of bed by myself and I dress myself with assistive tools like a reacher (grabber) and sock "puller on-er". I believe God has granted me a miracle and I believe that your prayers have interceded for me. The love that you have demonstrated to me is amazing. I thank you for all the mail and phone calls I have received. I am honored to call you friends and "family"! – Jeanne

The **Columbia Food Bank** thanks us for our donation of \$115 plus 160+ lbs. of food supplies. The **Hempfield Area Food Pantry** sends their thanks for our financial contribution of \$49 and food supplies. **Brethren Housing Association** gives thanks for our recent financial gift of \$165 in June. The **Lancaster County Food Hub** greatly appreciates our gift of \$1,427.

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Jackie is in the church office Tuesday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and on Fridays 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Mondays the office is closed and you may call Pastor Angela on her cell phone if there is a need.



## Love Notes from Pastor Angela continued from page 1

The blood drive, which we conduct every year, collected a total of 121 units of blood over 2 days. Being a blessing to the host city is always one of my favorite things about Annual Conference.

In sad news, we learned that this would be the last year for quilting at Annual Conference. Fewer congregations are sending in blocks (only 48 were received this year), and fewer people are available to quilt, indicating to the Association for the Arts that this ministry, founded in the early 1970s, has run its course. The final auction raised \$8,200 for hunger relief, benefiting the Global Food Initiative.

During one of my rare free moments, I stopped by the Church World Services booth in the exhibit hall. The men staffing the booth were very familiar with MCoB and our volunteer work, and one of the men is, himself, from Afghanistan (just like our refugee family that we sponsored through CWS). They insisted on a picture, so here it is!



Friends, you don't have to be a delegate to enjoy all there is to offer at Annual Conference. Next year's conference is in Greensboro, NC, July 2 – 6. The theme will be *Faith Working through Love*. Let me know if you're interested in learning more and joining me there!

Joyfully,  
Pastor Angela

## Blessing of the Students and Pizza Party Set for August 18

**Mark your calendar for August 18th “Blessing of the Students” Sunday!**

Our 10:15 a.m. service that day will feature a special blessing for students of all ages along with teachers and other school staff. Immediately following worship **everyone** is invited to enjoy a delicious pizza lunch in Fellowship Hall. You will be sure to find your favorite pizza toppings, salad, beverages, fresh cut fruit, and desserts including a sundae bar!

All food and fellowship will be provided, so you need only bring your appetite and a smile. And, hey, who doesn't love pizza and ice cream?



# **A Witness to God's Grace Here in Our Neighborhood (John 1):**

## **Visiting Our County Drug Court**

By Lois Silver and Charlie Worrall

One Sunday in April, our Seeker's Sunday Morning Forum featured a friend of our congregation, David Ashworth... Judge David L. Ashworth, that is, speaking about a career love of his, a creation he helped birth and currently oversees- Lancaster County's voluntary Adult Drug Court. Its mission, Judge Ashworth stresses, is to help non-violent drug offenders turn the page to a better life drug-free with their legal problems behind them.

The Seekers gathering in Room 102 was well attended by an audience of folks wanting to learn about this outreach program by a local government in-action. In many respects the Adult Drug Court resembles a large scale version of our just approved Core Values. Quoted just below are Judge Ashworth's own words posted on the Internet ([court.co.lancaster.pa.us/130/Drug-Court](http://court.co.lancaster.pa.us/130/Drug-Court)) recalling in particular our church's two Core Values of "Extending Love" and "Embodying Service" to neighbors:

The Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas has instituted a voluntary Adult Drug Court based on proven national research and program models. This Treatment Court targets primarily offenders who are 'high risk/high needs' through its evaluation process. This provides the participant an opportunity to pursue treatment for their addiction(s), while productively addressing associated legal problems... Once accepted, program participants can expect frequent contact with the Adult Drug Court Judge, Probation Officer, Treatment Providers, and the Drug Court Team. The Adult Drug Court program involves a minimum time commitment of twelve months to complete four phases, followed by a period of Aftercare. The length of the Aftercare component may extend up to thirty-six months... If the participant is accepted into the Adult Drug Court program, the participant will be expected to participate in and complete numerous pro-social, treatment-oriented activities.

On Tuesday, May 21, we attended the weekly Drug Court meeting downtown to experience the program in action. We were not disappointed. In fact, we felt the work Jesus asked his followers to do for their neighbors, going on by this government agency right before our eyes. Over 30 participants of both genders, and ages, from late teens to older adults were there. These were folks who populate our lives as neighbors, business folks, caregivers... you name it. Folks you might never suspect would be trying to escape the nightmare of drug addiction. One-by-one, each participant walked to the judge's bench and, in ear-shot of everyone, told the judge how the week went. The judge, in turn, asked questions and gave supportive guidance for the coming week. The highlight of our visit to the Court was when the judge stopped the session and came down from his bench with a big smile on his face and something in his hand. He was "graduating" one participant from the program with warm comments, a warm hug, a small gift of a coupon at a local business, and encouraging waves from fellow participants for the graduate.

We plan to return to the Tuesday Drug Court again to experience Jesus in the Lancaster neighborhood modeling the connection between our faith reflecting the Word made flesh and helping neighbors in need.

Amen to that!

# Mountville Mini Disaster Relief Event

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Our congregation will hold a one day fundraiser to provide a special donation to the Annual Conference Disaster Relief Sale in Lebanon on September 21, 2024.

We will have a silent auction with items donated by members of our congregation. You and your friends will be able to bid on them throughout the day.

At the same time we plan to hold items for sale on the church lawn. All will be donated, with money going to Disaster Relief. Hot dogs, bar-b-que and drinks will be sold. We will be asking for our church family to man these tables:

Baked Goods	Produce
Plants	Games & Toys
Costume Jewelry	Food & Drinks
Craft Items	Small Housewares
Books & Puzzles	

This sale will be advertised in the Merchandiser and notices to the other churches in Mountville and fliers will be posted in local businesses.

Saturday evening we will serve a fellowship meal, again with all proceeds going to the Relief Sale. We cannot open this meal to the public. Tickets will be a set donation. The number of available tickets, cost and menu will be announced in a few weeks.

This is a large undertaking for our church family, but it is just the sort of outreach at which we excel! Our committee shared these plans with a number of church members and they were excited for this event. We hope and pray you will feel the same and help us when we approach you for the needed donations and people to man the tables.

Congregational Fellowship Committee



**"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."  
Galatians 6:2**

Challenged by this Biblical mandate to carry the burdens of others, the Church of the Brethren traditionally has been involved in the relief of suffering whether caused by war, strife, or natural disasters.

The Brethren Disaster Ministries was originally part of the Brethren Service Commission, which was established in 1941. The Emergency Disaster Fund was established in 1960 to globally support all Brethren disaster recovery projects and relief efforts. These efforts were somewhat sporadic and small-scale until a massive disaster struck in 1972. Devastating floods from Hurricane Agnes inundated the tri-state region of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Brethren Disaster Ministries responded with 2,203 volunteers who assisted in helping 725 households rebuild or repair in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The founding of Children's Disaster Services (CDS), a part of Brethren Disaster Ministries, has worked at meeting the needs of children impacted by disaster since 1980. A few days following a disaster, trained CDS volunteers arrive to provide love, respite and a safe place for the children to share their stories in creative play to assist in their healing process.

The Church of the Brethren has become known for providing capable, caring and hardworking volunteers in helping the survivors of a devastating disaster. Disaster response provides recovery groups to repair and to rebuild homes due to wildfires, tornados, hurricanes, and floods. Each COB district has an appointed disaster coordinator who issues appeals for volunteers when they are needed for a specific disaster project.

In 1977, the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction began. In a joint effort the Atlantic Northeast and the Southern Pennsylvania Districts gather at the Lebanon Fairgrounds for a 2-day event to raise money for victims of natural and man-made disasters. This fundraising event is held the 4th weekend in September.

This year Mountville COB has undertaken a Mini Disaster Relief Event to be held on the 7th of September. All money raised will be sent to the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction to support the district's relief auction. For years Mountville has done a great job supporting the relief efforts by assembling health kits, school kits and clean-up buckets. With our new adventure to help disaster victims, we will be seeking your help in supporting our Mini Relief Event by helping to organize, head a committee, serve on a committee, or something as simple as inviting friends and family to attend this event. Mark your calendars and reserve September 7 for a fun day of activities. With your help, we will have a successful event.

# AUGUST SERVERS



## Worship Leaders

4 - Joel Musser  
11 - Patrick Snyder  
18 - Kathy Long  
25 - Cathy Funderwhite

## Ushers

Norman Bollinger  
Jerry Bushong  
Bob Keller  
Barry Lauver

## Children's Worship

4 - Rebekah Priest, Tess Mele  
11 - Gina Bautista, Joy Meley  
18 - Joyce Kerns, Alexa Taylor  
25 - Nanette Bushong, Sue Beiler

## Greeters

4 - Larry & Janice Booz: Upper Narthex  
- Don & Sara Wagner: Lower Narthex  
11 - Holly Mele, Connie Renn  
18 - Cindy Heisey, Anne Schanz  
25 - Rick & Linda Weber

## Nursery

4 - Joan Boshnaugle  
11 - Alexa Taylor  
18 - Regina Schulz  
25 - Betsy Thomas

## Mountville COB June 2024 Tithes & Offerings

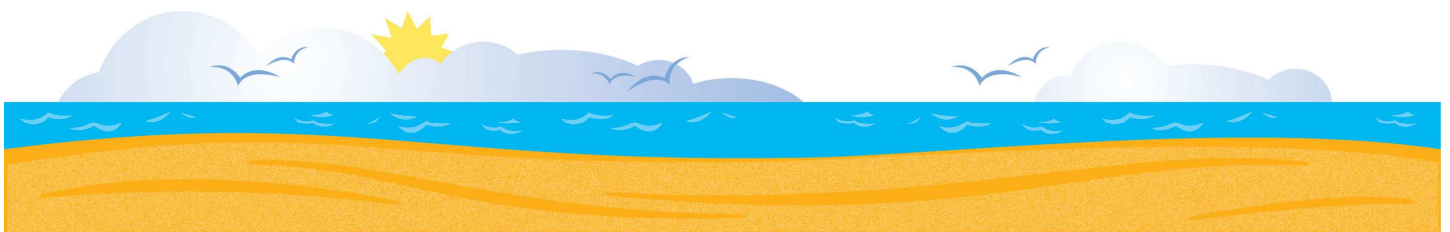


For General Fund	\$ 27,634.00
Designated	\$ 687.00

*Thank you for your faithful gifts!*

## August Sermon Topics: "Exploring Ephesians"

August 4 - Ephesians 4:1-16  
August 11 - Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
August 18 - Ephesians 5:15-20  
August 25 - Ephesians 6:10-20



# LOOKING AHEAD

Aug. 18: Back to School Blessing & Pizza Party  
Sept. 7: MCOB Auction for Disaster Relief  
Sept. 8: COBYS Bike & Hike

*Deadline for the September 2024 New Vision articles is **Sunday, August 11, 2024.***



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

**Address Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed**