



# The New Vision

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Sunday Worship Service is in house and live streamed Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MountvilleCOB>

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

Sunday School begins at 9:00 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](mailto:Office@Mountvillecob.org)

## Love Notes from Pastor Angela

*Take a fresh breath and let God renew your attitude and spirit.  
 ~~ Ephesians 4:23, The Voice ~~*

As we begin 2025, instead of celebrating a New Year, let's celebrate a *Renew Year!*

On January 21, 1525, a small group of Christians secretly gathered in Zurich, Switzerland, for a worship service. They renounced their baptism as infants and chose to be rebaptized as adults, believing that this decision led a transformation of life in the way of Jesus. For many, this decision led to imprisonment, torture, and even death.

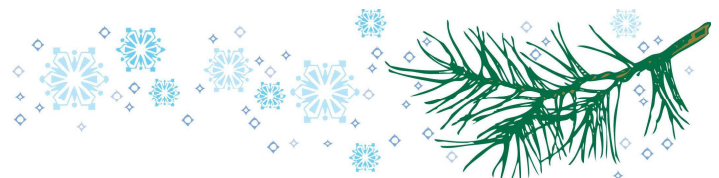
But this gathering also marked the beginning of the Anabaptist movement that continues today in more than 80 countries around the world in the form of the Brethren, Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, and many other related groups.

In January, to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, our worship services will invite personal and congregational spiritual renewal. We will look back, even as we strive to live wholeheartedly into God's future.

As part of worship, we will seek a renewed groundedness in our community's sacred stories (a groundedness that includes honest repentance and humility about our failures), a renewed trust in yielding ourselves to seek and do God's will, and a renewed sense of joy and celebration as siblings around Jesus' table – through the celebration of communion on Sunday, January 26.

It is my prayer that this time of renewal will foster great growth – for you personally, and for your relationships with one another and with God. And that sounds like a great start for a new (and renewed) year!

In Christ's love,  
 Pastor Angela



## Bits 'n Pieces

Dolly and family extend a heartfelt thank you to all who sent cards of encouragement and well wishes as she adjusts to her new home.

Thank you so much for all of your phone calls, texts and cards following my recent fall and subsequent surgery. Your acts of kindness and prayers are greatly appreciated. my goal is to return January 5th to begin playing for services again. I miss you all and look forward to returning to church. - Gloria

We offer a very big "Thank you" to all of our wonderful family and friends here at Mountville COB. Your continued support of both of us throughout the events of the past 2 years has meant the world to us. All of the cards, visits, meals, prayers and acts of help and kindness continue to keep us moving forward in this daunting process. God bless you all, George & Janet Schwert

Danielle Peters, Director of **The Columbia Food Bank** thanks us for our donation of \$154 and 94 lbs. of food.

Diane Gerlach, Vice President/Pantry Coordinator of **Hempfield Area Food Pantry**, thanks us for our financial donation of \$141.

## ADULT Sunday School

The Book of James is one of the shortest books of the Bible, but it is important to the Church of the Brethren due to its emphasis on putting faith into action. It is also the basis for certain Brethren practices, like anointing and laying on of hands. In January the Seekers Class will have a traditional Bible Study on the Book of James, based on the book in the Covenant Bible Study Series by Brethren pastor David Young. Join us downstairs Sunday mornings at 9:00!

### Coming in 2025...

snippets of articles from the church archives - events, celebrations and whatever else there is to find and share. Since I've never looked at our archives, I'm excited to discover the treasures it holds. Our church was founded in 1881 so there may be many things for me to learn and share. Looking forward to this new adventure as we learn (or review) special times in the life of our church together. Watch this space! - Janice Ulmer

### January Sermon Topics

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 5 - 1 Corinthians 3:11 (yep, just 1 verse) | Renewal through Story  |
| 12 - 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 and 12:19b-21    | Renewal through Repentance   |
| 19 - Matthew 18:1-5 and John 15:1-10       | Renewal through Trust and Yieldedness                                |
| 26 - Luke 22:14-20                         | Renewal at the Lord's Table (communion and handwashing in sanctuary) |



## New Library Books for Young and Not So Young

Cozy in this winter with a book! We continue to add new titles to our library collection. You can find them in the lower narthex and check them out yourself!

For children, we have new titles by Rachel Held Evans, Amy-Jill Levine, Sonia Sotomayor, and others on topics like learning to respect one another even though each one has different abilities, the difficulties and rewards of making new friends, a fresh look at the parable of the fig tree, and perhaps the ultimate question - What is God like? These books are sure to inspire some great conversation as you share them together.

For adults, we have 3 new titles. In *An Untidy Faith: Journeying Back to the Joy of Following Jesus*, Kate Boyd takes a fresh look at what it means to be a follower of Jesus in the midst of culture wars, scandals, and other abuses of the institutional church, by asking and answering the questions many of us have wanted answers to but were afraid to ask. Boyd has a remarkable story, and this book includes personal stories of her own faith journey. This book will help you grow in your faith and encourage us all to build community that looks ever more like Jesus.

The blurb on the back of Timothy J. Geddert's book *The Beginning of the Story: Understanding the Old Testament in the Story of Scripture*, says: "Although the Bible contains 66 books that usually span over 1000 printed pages, most Christians turn first - and sometimes only - to the New Testament." We don't know what to do the the Old Testament, except for a few well known stories and the occasional Psalm for our personal devotions. "But to understand the Bible as the grand story that it is - the story of God's dealings with humanity, and relationship to the whole universe - we must learn to read the first 3/4 of scripture as Jesus did, and as the New Testament teaches us to do." Sound helpful? Check it out!

In *Godbreathed: What it Really Means for the Bible to be Divinely Inspired*, author Zack Hunt confronts the many ways the Bible has been used as a weapon - a means to divide, marginalize, and conquer. How do we work with the texts that have been used in this manner? Where do we find the love contained therein? Hunt's writing is down-to-earth, and his book invites us to read the Bible anew - as an invitation into a new way of living and loving on earth as it is in heaven.

And, finally, if cold weather inspires warm cooking, then check out the *New Plains People's Cookbook*, filled with recipes from the Western Plains District Church of the Brethren. Yum!





## A Few Reminders for 2025!

### Deadlines

- *New Vision* articles are due in the church office the 2nd Sunday of the month. Articles received after the deadline will be put in the following month's newsletter.
- *Bulletin announcements* are due in the church office Wednesdays by 2:00 p.m. Announcements received after 2:00 p.m. will be included in the following week's bulletin. It would very much be appreciated if bulletin and newsletter announcements would be emailed or written.

### Church Key Fobs

In 2012 key fobs were distributed to church members/friends who desired to enter the church building other than during office hours. If you had a fob and no longer need it, please drop it off in the church office or mailbox # 174. The cost for a replacement fob is \$15. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

### Room Reservations

If you would like to reserve the sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen or a class room for an event or a meeting, **please call or email the church office** to see if your date and room are available. Jackie will then give you a *Building Use Form* to fill out and return to the church office. Thank you for helping to keep the church calendar accurate.

### Church Table and Chair Loan Policy

Church members are allowed to borrow a maximum of 4 tables and chairs as needed. They are to be returned a.s.a.p. or within 4 days after pick-up. We ask that the tables be cleaned before returning and notify Jackie if there is any damage. Please call the church office to check on availability and to reserve the tables / chairs you need.

### Flowers for the Worship Center

If you would like to place flowers in the worship center in memory or in honor of someone, please see the flower chart located in the hallway by the kitchen. There you may sign up for your special date and write what you would like put in the bulletin and if you would like an arrangement: \$43 or 2 vases: \$48. Orders are placed monthly with Schaefer's Flowers about 1 week prior to the upcoming month. Fill out a pink form by the flower chart and return with payment to the church office or offering plate. You may call Schaefer's directly to place a special request. You may also choose a different florist. Please contact the church office if you plan to use a different florist so you won't be billed twice. Thank you.

### Placing Items in the Refrigerator / Freezer

When placing items in the refrigerator or freezer please put your name and date on a label and attach it to each item of food and/or drink. Labels are located on both the freezer and refrigerator doors. This will help keep your items from being taken accidentally and will help us know who to contact if there are any questions about the food.



# JANUARY SERVERS



## Worship Leaders

5 - Harold Ulmer  
12 - Kathy Long  
19 - Dave Serfass  
26 - Jeanne Dickel

## Ushers

Dave Fuchs  
Joel Musser  
John Musser  
Daryl Strine

## Children's Worship

5 - Kathy Long, Tess Wolford  
12 - Gina Bautista, Sue Beiler  
19 - Rebekah Priest, Beth Hess  
26 - Joyce Kerns, Joy Meley


## Greeters

5 - Holly Mele, Mark Yoh  
12 - Tom & Gail Drick, Upper Narthex  
- Daryl & Karen Strine, Lower Narthex  
19 - Dave & Becky Fuchs  
26 - Carolyn Berrier, Beth Hess

## Nursery

5 - Joan Boshnaugle  
12 - Joan Boshnaugle  
19 - Betsy Thomas  
26 - Regina Schulz





## Mountville COB November 2024 Tithes & Offerings

For General Fund	\$ 36,531.50
Designated	\$ 6,744.00

## 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

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

January 26: Communion during Worship, 10:15 a.m.

March 6: World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m. Rm. 102

April 17: Love Feast, 7 pm

May: National Day of Prayer, 10 a.m., Rm. 102

*Deadline for the February 2025 New Vision articles is **Sunday, January 12, 2025.***



MOUNTVILLE CHURCH of the BRETHREN  
60 Clay Street  
Mountville, Pa 17554  
Telephone: 285-5122

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

**Address Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed**