



The New Vision

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God is LOVE.
1 JOHN 4:16



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

Love Notes from Pastor Angela

I pray that you may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.

~~Ephesians 3:18-19a

That really is my Valentine's prayer for you – that you would truly know how very, very much you are loved! In lieu of expanding on that thought, I want to instead share a prayerful blessing from one of my favorite authors, Kate Bowler. This is from her book *The Lives We Actually Have*.

For learning to love yourself

When I don't feel worth loving, God, help me remember that you made me on purpose.

God, let me look through your eyes to see the way you look at me with pride and tenderness, deep joy and love.

Every freckle put in place. Every split end, numbered. Every tear, bottled. Every bad joke, laughed at. All my limits and all my mistakes, all my wild hopes and sometimes sour attitude, All that makes me *me* is a masterpiece – *at least in your eyes*.

So, blessed am I, the one who sometimes feels unlovable, the one who can't stop replaying that one horrible moment over and over and over again, *never mind, it's been several years and they definitely don't remember what I said*.

Blessed am I as I shake off the embarrassment of being human again today in all my cringeworthy, foot-in-mouth moments, in my old school photos, the crooked smiles and the out-of-placeness I felt or still feel.

Blessed am I, as I try to feel at home in this skin, remembering with more and more compassion that this is me in all my un-wieldy humanity.

Maybe humility is something like this: compassion for ourselves, because there are no preconditions to being loved.

**

And you really, truly are – so loved.

Happy Valentine's Day,

Pastor Angela



Bits 'n Pieces

Thank you for sending so many wonderful Christmas cards and greetings. It is so appreciated to be in your thoughts at this special time of year. I especially loved seeing the church and nativity scene in the photo and receiving so many messages from old friends and new. Blessings to all in the year ahead. - Gene and Linda

I received my bag of Christmas cards!. Thank you MCOB for thinking of me. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. - Margie

I am so blessed to be part of a giving, warm, church community such as Mountville COB. All of the wonderful Christmas cards I received were greatly appreciated. I wish I were there in person to be able to thank you all individually, but please know that my heart is warmed by your generosity and love. – Pat

Thanks so much for the lovely Christmas card bag. My granddaughter read each one to me, and we felt the love and support of this caring church family. - Marian

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who sent cards, texts & emails, said prayers, asked for updates, and sent good wishes, thoughts, and love my way these past 3 1/2 months. Your support carried me and my family through a very difficult time. Words seem inadequate to express the depth of my gratitude and appreciation. I am so looking forward to seeing you all in February. Oh, how I have missed you! With love, Gina

Becky and I wish to thank the congregation for the numerous meaningful expressions of support and encouragement following the deaths of my sister and brother-in-law this fall, and the terminal cancer diagnosis of my brother. This is truly a caring Christian body. - Dave

Thank you to everyone who left Christmas goodies, gifts and cards on my desk. I feel very blessed to work here! - Jackie

John N. Snader, President & CEO of **Brethren Village** sends their thanks for our generous contribution of \$3,510 in December, which provides peace of mind for family members and Residents who are able to stay at Brethren Village even when they have exhausted their financial resources.

Diane L. Gerlach, Vice President/Pantry Coordinator of the **Hempfield Food Pantry** thanks us for our recent financial contribution of \$380.

Darlene Johnson, Administration Director of **On Earth Peace**, sends thanks for the gift of \$510 in December, which ensures the message of justice and peace will continue on for the next 50 years.

February Sermon Topics

| | | |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | Love on Repeat |
| 9 | Isaiah 6:1-8 | Here I am, send me |
| 16 | I Corinthians 12:12-30 | Guest Speaker Anne Stokes, COBYS |
| 23 | Luke 6:27-38 | Who wants to be first? |



Mitten Gifts Bless Local Families

Seven low-income families with children attending Mountville Elementary were blessed this Christmas by our church's response to the school's "Mitten Gift" project. During the weeks leading up to Christmas members of our congregation selected and fulfilled family wish lists for toys, clothing, cleaning products, and household goods. Also, generous contributions of cash to the Mountville Elementary designated fund were used to purchase new winter coats requested by School Counselor Madelyn Saunders for seven children.

Every Christmas since 2018, it's been a joy for our church to act as "Jesus in the neighborhood" for local families in need.



Sue Miller and Molly Mitchell carefully select their mitten project wish list.



Lori Lauver delivers a gift of clothing for a child at the school.

ADULT Sunday School

This month the Seekers class will search for ways to mature our faith by studying a series by Marcus Borg entitled "Embracing an Adult Faith." Topics include Jesus, Salvation, Practice, and Community. Please join us downstairs at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning in room 102.

February 23rd Congregational Forum

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to our semi-annual Congregational Forum meeting on Sunday, February 23rd after church. Following a meal, we will hear from our leaders about what we accomplished in 2024 and what lies ahead as we plan our ministry based upon our Core Values for 2025. We will also decide how to appropriate our 2024 budget surplus. Please make every effort to attend this important gathering to have the opportunity to weigh in on important issues and learn how you may become more involved in the life and ministries of this congregation.



Glimpses from the Past

Anabaptist Beginnings

With Pastor's Angela's permission and use of her sermon from January 5, 2025, let's review some important facts about the Anabaptist movement.

During the Reformation, Ulrich Zwingli began preaching at the Grossmunster church in Zurich, Switzerland about reforming various Catholic traditions. By challenging the practice of infant baptism, he agreed with other reformers that baptism be a believer's choice, made when a person is of an age to make a choice to follow the teachings of Scripture. Zwingli found others who wanted to see reform in the church. They wanted to see a church more in agreement with what they were reading in the New Testament. These people gathered to read Scripture, study and share ideas. This began in 1522, only five years after Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of a church with critiques of the Roman Catholic Church.

On January 21, 1525, a group of these radical reformers met at a home near the Grossmunster church. They read the Bible and prayed together. They concluded that the baptism they had received as infants was no baptism at all! After praying, one of them asked another to baptize him. He then baptized the others who were present and Anabaptism was born.

This story was repeated in 1708 in Schwarzenau, Germany by Alexander Mack and the seven others who laid the foundation for the Church of the Brethren.

Anabaptism (meaning rebaptism) was an act of sedition. This was a label given to the group, but they didn't think they were being *rebaptized*, since they felt that the baptism received at birth was not a baptism at all. Needless to say, the Anabaptists were persecuted for their beliefs. For example, in 1527, Felix Manz whose feet and hands were bound before he was "rebaptized" (drowned) in the Limmat River.

In 1525, the Anabaptist movement spread into the Netherlands being heard by Menno Simons, a Catholic priest. Menno began teaching and preaching Anabaptist values and became influential in the spread of the movement. The label Mennonites was assigned to the people who subscribed to the teachings of Menno, but it was not chosen by them.

I Corinthians 3:11 expresses the sentiment of the early Anabaptist movement. No one - not the emperor, not the pope - can lay a faith foundation other than the one already laid by Christ. We focus on seeking the mind of Christ by gathering around Scripture which is a fundamental aspect of our Anabaptist tradition.

A summary of what it means to be Anabaptist from Palmer Becker's book Anabaptist Essentials: Jesus is the center of our faith, Community is the center of our life, and Reconciliation is the center of our work. Doesn't this sound like our Core Values? We are the descendants of this faith tradition - the ones charged with breathing new life into Christ's peaceful and active movement in our world today. Let us continue in this endeavor in 2025 and beyond.

Watch this space next month for another installment of *Glimpses of the Past*.

Submitted by Janice Ulmer

The Rest of the Story . . .



(from January 5th Sunday Service - the segment about Stitch 'n Sew 'n Share)

I did not expect to speak about our quilt that was cross-stitched by John Graham and quilted by Fay Powell and Heidi Keller in 2013-14.

I stopped my story too soon. The reason we made the quilt was to take it to the Quilt Auction at the Lebanon Disaster Relief Auction.

As our quilt was about to be auctioned we prayed for a profitable price for the fundraiser.

It went up to \$525. The auctioneer dropped his gavel and said "sold to the highest bidder Bob Keller". Bob promptly stood up and said "Sell it again!" A common thing at this auction. So it went on the block again. Went up to \$600 this time. Bob was the final bidder.

Not only did the auction raise \$1,125 I got the quilt to keep and cherish. - Heidi Keller



Atlantic Northeast District Women's Spring Fellowship

Mountville Church of the Brethren
March 15, 2025

A New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17

Speaker: Dave Weiss

Registration information coming soon.

FEBRUARY SERVERS



Worship Leaders

2 - John Musser
9 - Tim Wrightson
16 - Lois Silver
23 - Phyllis Kepner

Ushers

Norman Bollinger
Barry Lauver
Harry Light
Tim Wrightson

Children's Worship

2 - Kathy Long, Connie Renn
9 - Gina Bautista, Tess Wolford
16 - Rebekah Priest, Beth Hess
23 - Joyce Kerns, Sue Beiler

Greeters

2 - Sara Wagner, Mark Yoyh
9 - Harold & Janice Ulmer, Upper Narthex
- Cindy Heisey, Joel Musser, Lower Narthex
16 - Forrest Collier, Connie Renn
23 - Jeralyn Rettew, Anne Schanz

Nursery

2 -
9 -
16 -
23 -



Mountville COB December 2024 Tithes & Offerings

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| For General Fund | \$ 43,375.06 |
| Designated | \$ 1,834.00 |
| Christmas Eve | \$ 5,436.00 |

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



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

Feb. 8: Men's Breakfast, Columbia Family Diner, 9:30 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 March 2025 New Vision articles is **Sunday, February 9, 2025.***



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

**Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed**