



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

Love Notes from Pastor Angela

When Jerusalem came into view, He looked intently at the city and began to weep, saying "How I wish you knew today what would bring peace! But you can't see."

~~ Luke 19:41-42, *The Voice*

Each year, it seems we skip from the joy of Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter, with only a brief pit stop on Maundy Thursday. But the verses above, which follow immediately after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, tell us that Holy Week was fraught with emotion as Jesus set out to teach us the ways that make for peace.

This year, our Lenten theme is *Fight Like Jesus: How Jesus Waged Peace throughout Holy Week*, based on a new book of the same name by author Jason Porterfield. Each Sunday of Lent, we will focus on a different day of Holy Week and the lessons on peacemaking Jesus has for us.

This means we will begin Lent on Sunday, March 9 with the celebratory *Hallelujahs* of Palm Sunday (although we will revisit this theme on the actual date of Palm Sunday, April 13).

There is no better place to learn more about our Core Value of *Pursuing Justice and Peace* than a deep dive into Holy Week – a week where Jesus embodied all of his previous teachings on peace. Want to learn what Jesus meant when he said, "Love your enemies?" Need more clarification on what Jesus' instruction to "be merciful" prescribes? We'll uncover answers to these questions, and so much more, as we walk this journey together. I pray that you will join me.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Angela



Bits 'n Pieces



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

Thank you so much for the Christmas cards and kindness. It really meant a lot to us to stay in touch this way. Thanks also to Bob and Heidi Keller for the delivery. – John & Louise

I would like to thank all the kind and thoughtful people that sent get well cards and prayed for me during my hip replacement surgery. Such a wonderful church family at Mountville COB. The surgery was successful and now physical therapy for several weeks. - Don

Rev. Joel Pena, Executive Director of Alpha and Omega Community Center, thanks us for our faith prayers and financial support of \$500 in 2024.

Donna Rhodes, Executive Director of Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, thanks us for our support of \$500 in 2024 which provides educational opportunities to those in training and to clergy and laity seeking Continuing Education.

“Thank you so much for your support in 2024 in the amount of \$3,465. Your commitment to helping us is amazing!” - Jessica Vinton, Brethren Housing Association.

“In 2024, The Columbia Food Bank helped 1,273 households totaling 3,241 men, women, and children. Included in every monthly order: shelf stable food packed based on household size determined through our screening process. Every order also includes bread, butter, cheese, hamburger and hotdogs. Fresh fruits and vegetables are distributed when they are donated, usually during the summer months. Thank you for your donation of \$414 and 144 lbs. of food.”

- Danielle J. Peters, Director

March Sermon Topics

2 - Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) - Here I am, send me

*Lent Begins - Theme: Fight Like Jesus:
How Jesus Waged Peace throughout Holy Week*

9 - Luke 19:28-42 - The Things that Make for Peace

16 - John 2:12-22 - The Whip of Christ

23 - Mark 12:13-17 - Traps

Matthew 23:13-32 - Truth

Mark 13:5-23 - Traitor

30 - Mark 14:1-11 - A Fork in the Road



ADULT Sunday School

After finishing theologian Marcus Borg's sessions on "Embracing an Adult Faith," our Lenten Sunday School offering will feature "Questions Jesus Asked." We will explore the meaning behind some of the more challenging questions posed by Jesus in the Gospels. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. downstairs on Sunday mornings in room 102.

Family Bowling Outing for All Ages!

The Education Ministry Team would like to invite you to our 3rd Annual Bowling Outing on Saturday, March 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at Leisure Lanes. The cost is \$3.75 per game and shoe rental is **FREE!** All ages are welcome! Please sign up on the sheet across from the church mailboxes so we can reserve enough lanes. We hope to see you there! See Rebekah Priest with questions.



Brethren Beliefs Class

Are you new to our family of faith? Have you been around awhile and never had a behind-scenes-tour? Would you like to know more or have your knowledge refreshed about the Church of the Brethren globally, and Mountville Church of the Brethren specifically? Since 1708, Brethren have had a unique way of engaging with God and neighbor, and a rich history of service to each other, and to the world! Join Pastor Angela for conversation around these topics as well as the history and structure of the Mountville congregation on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 in room 101. This is a no pressure opportunity to expand your knowledge. Please RSVP to the church office so Angela can prepare enough materials. Those wishing to place membership with our family of faith will be received during worship on a mutually agreed upon Sunday in April.

World Day of Prayer - Thursday, March 6

Jesus taught us to pray, and then modeled the importance of a healthy prayer life throughout his earthly ministry. You are welcome to gather at 10:00 a.m. in Room 102 to join with your family of faith in a time of prayer. Participate as your comfort dictates. You don't have to pray out loud - your presence is an act of prayer. Even if you can't join us, you are welcome to send your prayer requests to Pastor Angela by Tuesday, March 4 to be included in our prayers that morning. They can be for a person, our country, or our world. Lord, listen to your children praying.



Glimpses from the Past

Fasnachts

Fasnacht Day or Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday (this year March 5) and the day to use up remaining fat, sugar, eggs and butter before the forty day season of Lent begins. Fasnacht is derived from the German words fast meaning “to fast” and nacht meaning “night”.

Fasnacht is a type of fried doughnut that originated in Germany and traditionally served during popular German celebrations such as Carnival, Shrove Tuesday or Fasnacht Day.

Did you know that we, here at Mountville Church of the Brethren, made fasnachts as a fundraiser with the proceeds going to the building fund? From an article in the Lancaster Sunday News dated February 8, 1959, we learned that 60,000 doughnut-shaped fasnachts were baked in the church’s pre-Lenten project over a four-week period. Members worked in shifts, starting very early Monday morning for four consecutive weeks and finishing about 5 pm Tuesday. Started by the women of the church in 1945, the project became so big the men had to pitch in and help. Many of the fasnachts were sold in advance to individuals, businesses and industries in the area. In 1959, when Shrove Tuesday and Valentine’s Day were only four days apart, the bakers created a heart-shaped fasnacht to combine the two holidays!

One day when I was working in the church archives, I discovered the cooking items pictured with this article. Since I wanted to learn more about the fasnacht story at MCOB, I began to ask people for information and was directed to Marian Bollinger. The following paragraph is information Marian kindly shared with me. Mary (Longenecker) Musser, wife of Norman Musser and grandmother of Bill, Jim, Tom, Joel, John and Pete was the person in charge of the project. The dough was mixed and cut using the cutter pictured (our fasnachts had holes in them). After which, the pieces were placed on a 36x48 wooden frame and covered with a sheet to raise. They were deep fried in fat and turned over once. When finished frying, they were placed to cool, before being packaged six per bag and sold at 60 cents per dozen. Marian shared that she and Janice Enders would hurry home from school, quickly complete their homework and go to the church to bag fasnachts. Other people who Marian recalled helping with the fasnachts were: Ruth H. Bushong, Emma Enders, Virginia Gerlach, Sadie Lenhart and Frances Musser. The fasnachts were not made once the congregation moved into the new church building (1962) since the fried smell lingered in the building for quite a while.

By the way, there are two acceptable spellings: fasnacht and fastnacht. Those of you that know Pennsylvania German may recognize fassenacht. Whichever spelling you prefer, enjoy your sweet treat on March 5.

Watch this space next month for another treasure from the church archives aka *Glimpses of the Past*.

Submitted by Janice Ulmer



A Practical View About Peace and Justice Here at MCOB

By: Lois Silver, Member of the Core Values Team

Peace and Justice are both core goals of our faith. They are often thought of as different from one another (in some ways, “Yes”) but have you ever thought how they relate and support each other?

Hopefully, this short article will help you focus on how Peace and Justice intertwine and reinforce one another, using a few actual examples taken from our own church to demonstrate this. I hope you find this perspective thought provoking. It was for me.

“Peace and Justice can be thought of as two sides of the same coin,” President Dwight Eisenhower said in his February 1957 radio and tv address to the American people on a situation in the Middle East. “They are not something remote and abstract, but involve matters vitally touching upon the future (sic. and well being) of each of us.” Peace and Justice also cluster together in Scripture. Consider Micah 6:8 (“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness?”). And Psalm 85:10-11 (“Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; justice and peace will kiss each other.) for example, or the entire life and teachings of Christ in the New Testament.

If pressed, however, for clarity, I like to think of Justice as what we aim for as we strive to follow Jesus’ example and command to do God’s bidding; a sense of Peace is what comes to us when we serve others in need.

Below are representative examples of Peace and Justice intertwining in our home church.

- The Garden of Release, located outside in back of the church, is a quiet, spiritual place with a simple cross and comfortable benches, for people - congregants or not - to lay down the burdens that are too weighty to carry on their own. Requests left in the prayer box are transferred to our prayer chain of caring members to share in our own conversations with God, asking for peace for others.
- Weekly donations to the Columbia and Hempfield Food Banks, as well as Power Packs, are our chance to reduce the daily challenge of food insecurity in our surrounding neighborhood. What could be more just than to find a way to feed hungry neighbors, bringing peace to both giver and receiver?
- Fabric Arts’ donations benefit patients and caregivers alike. For example, in our donations to Penn Medicine through its Emergency Department we are able to give warmth and a loving gift to those who cannot care for themselves. The group’s “fidget blankets” quiet patients dealing with cognitive loss, and heart pillows go to mastectomy cancer patients in recovery at Barshinger Cancer Center.
- Maintenance of our church building and property by our members, constantly takes place so that others are free to do the work of Jesus in local neighborhoods. A sense of peace comes from knowing that their time and skills help support others who need our outreach.

If you would like to deepen your engagement with issues of Peace and Justice to help the marginalized and less fortunate in our communities, talk with Walt Vanderheijden, Leadership Chair and member of the Core Values Team, or find me.

MARCH SERVERS

Worship Leaders

2 - Cindy Dale
9 -
16 -
23 -
30 -

Ushers

Cindy Heisey
Beth Hess
Holly Mele
Lois Silver

Children's Worship

2 - Kathy Long, Connie Renn
9 - Rebekah Priest, Sue Beiler
16 - Gina Bautista, Tess Wolford
23 - Joyce Kerns, Joy Meley
30 - Family Worship

Greeters

2 - Tim & Gail Wrightson
9 - Dave & Beth Serfass, Upper Narthex
- Matt & Eva Priest, Lower Narthex
16 - Glenn Bushong, Nanette Bushong
23 - Charlie Worrall, Mark Yoh
30 - Lynn Landis, Molly Mitchell

Nursery

2 - Joan Boshnaugle
9 - Connie Renn
16 - Regina Schulz
23 - Betsy Thomas
30 - Lori Lauver

Mountville COB January 2025 Tithes & Offerings

3 Sundays



For General Fund	\$ 21,341.34
Designated	\$ 1,747.00
Christmas Eve	\$ 510.20

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

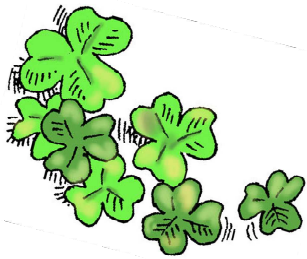
March 6: World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m. Rm. 102

March 8: Men's Breakfast & Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.

Black Olive Family Diner

March 22: All Church Bowling, 10 a.m., Leisure Lanes

April 17: Love Feast, 7 pm



*Deadline for the April 2025 New Vision articles
is **Sunday, March 9, 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**