



# The New Vision

Vol. 43, No. 4

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April 2025

## Inside This Issue

### Regular Features

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

### Around the Church

- 3 - God's Eternal Word
- 4 - Glimpses from the Past
- 5 - Adult Sunday School
- 5 - Surplus Allocation Update
- 5 - New to the Library
- 5 - Invitation!
- 6 - Sabbatical Team Update
- 6 - Stewards: Sanctuary
- 8 - Love Feast
- 8 - Hand bells, Ice cream & Pie

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

*Then Jesus said, "The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren't created for the Sabbath. ~ Mark 2:27*

In May of 2024, I received an invitation to write a Bible study for Brethren Press on the topic of Sabbath. The seven months following that invitation completely changed my understanding of Sabbath and its importance to a life of Shalom that God intends for each of us.

In researching and writing about this topic, I have adopted new habits and practices that have strengthened my faith, improved my health, and deepened my awareness of the inequity of Sabbath opportunities in our culture, and the violence and harm that causes.

I am eager to share what I have learned with you, and to gather together to discuss it. We will be using this book for a small group study beginning *Thursday, September 11 at 1 pm*, and continuing on Thursday afternoons for the next several weeks.

The books are \$11.99 plus tax and shipping. However, if we pre-order as a group, we save 20% and lower the shipping costs. For those for whom this creates a financial burden, free copies will be available.

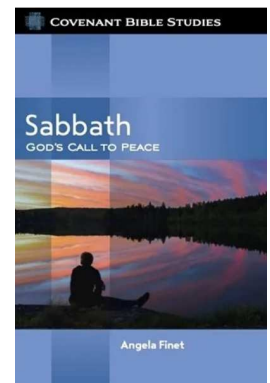
If you would like a copy of the study for your personal use, rather than joining the small group, you are still welcome to join the pre-order for the cost savings. You are not committing to attend the small group by purchasing the book.

Books will begin shipping at the end of May, and we will calculate the actual cost of shipping and notify you then to collect your book and make payment.

Please contact Jackie in the office to have your name added to the pre-order list. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 13.*

I am so excited to go on this journey with you – a journey of Sabbath that God created... just for you!

In anticipation,  
Pastor Angela



## Bits 'n Pieces

It feels so wonderful to be part of a church family that is so caring. Bud and I want to thank everyone for their prayers and all the ways they have shown their concern for us. I truly feel blessed to be part of this Church family. – Bud & Ginny Hart

I would like to express my heart felt appreciation for the numerous cards that were sent following my mother's passing. Although she was not a member of MCOB, she had a profound affection for this church and its congregation, which she developed through her regular viewing of our Sunday services, commencing in 2020. While my sisters and I were cleaning out her kitchen this past weekend, I came across stacks of cards from the MCOB congregation, which she had accumulated over the years. Her sentimental nature led her to preserve these cards, along with our church directory, pictorial directory, and handwritten notes about the strengths of various church members. – Betsy

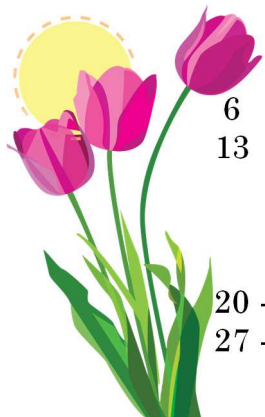
Thank you for the birthday cards and wishes for my 102nd birthday! – Edna

On behalf of the CCEPI USA Board of Trustees, please accept my thanks for your generous donation of \$2,998.10. We are greatly pleased that you chose to devote your Christmas Eve to CCEPI. Your support directly benefits those who are harmed and traumatized by violent attacks in northern Nigeria.—David A. Leiter, Treasurer, CCEPI USA

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2,998.10 from your Christmas Eve service to the **Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition!** The new Clay Street Emergency Shelter that opened in December is the first permanent 80 bed low-barrier shelter in Lancaster City in over a decade. Your gift helps to provide resources to individual and families experiencing homelessness. "What a blessing! Your love and kindness will help families in need. Thank you so much!" - Deb Jones, Director of Human Services and the Office for the Homelessness Coalition

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and share on Sunday morning and for the donation of \$165 to the COBYS Care Fund. It was such a pleasure to connect with the congregation. I look forward to future relationship building. - Steve Nichols & Anne Stokes, COBYS

## April Sermon Topics



- 6 John 13:31-38 - A Community Conceived
- 13 Palm Sunday and Good Friday combined in a 3-part sermon
  - John 12:12-15 - Rejoice
  - Luke 4:18-30, Mark 15:1-15 - Reject
  - Mark 15:33-34, Luke 23:34 - Reconcile
- 20 - Easter - Luke 24:1-12 and John 20:19-23 - Peace be with you
- 27 - Genesis 1:28, 2:15-20, Romans 8:18-23 - Peace with Creation/Earth Day



# God's Eternal Word

Just prior to COVID, MCoB member Sarah E. received a call from the Thrift Store at Brethren Village, where she lives. They had received a donation and they thought she might want to see it. She was mystified, because while she occasionally bought jewelry there, she didn't think a new piece of jewelry would necessitate a personal invitation to shop!

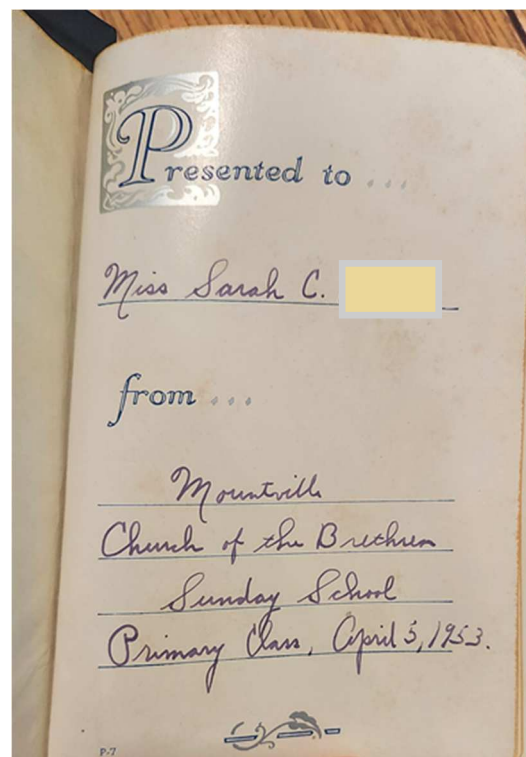
Upon arrival at the Thrift Shop, a black bag was presented to her. Inside the bag was a Bible. When she opened the Bible, it became clear that the Bible had been given to her by the Mountville Church of the Brethren in 1953. What was more remarkable, the handwriting was her father's - Rev. Harry E.

Sarah had no recollection of receiving the Bible, but when she shared the story with Marian Br, Marian told her that the Sunday School Primary Class had all received Bibles after their baptism at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren's old building. (The picture is of Sarah at that age).

Sarah doesn't remember that event, but she believes the Bible ended up in her father's home office...and Sarah didn't touch the books in her father's home office. Over the many years, the books were all boxed up and ultimately sold by the box at an estate sale. An unknown person bought the box the Bible was in....and then somehow the box ended up in a storage room in another woman's home in Lititz. She turned it into the Thrift Store because someone had mentioned to her that a Sarah Enders resided there.

More than 70 years later, the book found its way back to its original owner! When Sarah received it, it was in pristine condition. But the lockdowns that occurred during COVID afforded Sarah with uninterrupted hours to read her Bible...to the point where the spine and cover had to be reattached with binding tape.

God certainly moves in mysterious ways!





## Glimpses from the Past



The group pictured above visited a church in Virginia and then toured Luray Caverns sometime in the early 1960's.

Left of the stalagmite:

Front row - Mervin Nissley, Ted, Barbara and Rick Swords

Back row - Gene Swords, Lois Snader

Right of the stalagmite:

Front row: Lee Martin, Dell Boshnaugle

Second row: Beverly, Leroy, Donald, Esther and Janet Heisey, Art and Betty Martin, Lorraine Heffley, Ruth and Don Boshnaugle

Third row: Glenn Snader, ?, ? Rowena Geib, ?. ?, Marian Nissley, Marian Heisey

Fourth row: ?, Marie Snader, Harry, Mary, Janice and Sarah Enders, Reba Bushong, Marian Musser

As you can see, not everyone is identified. If you can be helpful in filling in these blanks, please contact me.

I hope you have enjoyed this short trip down memory lane.

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

- Submitted by Janice Ulmer



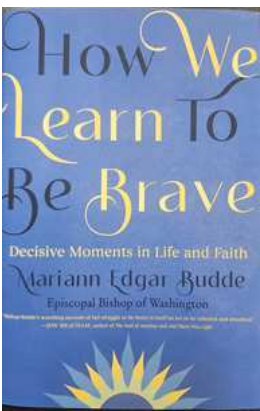
# ADULT Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will finish the year with *The Wired Word*, a thought-provoking platform that seeks to interpret current events in light of Christian scripture and values. It should stimulate lots of discussion. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. downstairs on Sunday mornings in room 102.

## Surplus Allocation Update

At our semi-annual Congregational Forum on February 23, the congregation voted to spend the \$71,740.91 2024 budget surplus in the following manner: 30% to the Endowment Fund (our savings account); 20% to Outreach Ministry Team to include gifts to Power Packs, COBYS, and Church World Service; 15% to the Deacon Emergency Fund to help those in need; 15% to the Building Maintenance Fund; 10% for technology upgrades; 5% to the Education Ministry Team for upgrades to the Children's Wing; and 5% for a new ministry based upon our Core Values. We are in awe of the generosity of this congregation which makes all these important expenditures possible.

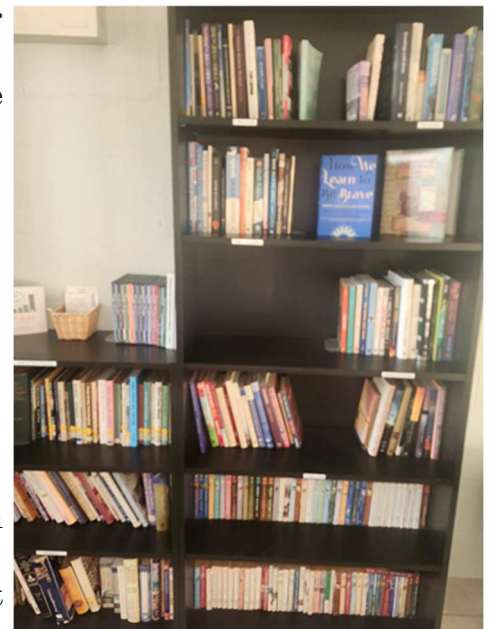
## New to the Library!



We continue to add new reading material to our church library, located in the lower narthex. And now, books of interest are easier to find! We have categorized the books by topic, including: Bible Study, Devotionals, Peace and Justice, Building Community, Christian Living, Brethren History/Theology, Biographies, and Christian Fiction. Stop down and take a look.

This month's new book is by the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, Mariann Edgar Budde.

Drawing on examples from The Gospel of Luke (and even Harry Potter), *How We Learn to Be Brave* offers practical wisdom for how to live and respond according to our faith, and provides much-needed strength and insight for those searching for answers in uncertain times. Bishop Budde reminds us that being brave is not a singular occurrence; it's a journey that we can choose to undertake every day.



## Invitation

The Education and Nurture Team will be meeting on April 9 at 6:00 p.m. Are you curious about how we educate and nurture people in our church?? Please join the team to find out! We welcome anyone who would like to know more about this team.

# Sabbatical Team Update



Pastor Angela will be away from the church from May 24 - July 6.

May 24 - June 2 will be her Continuing Education work.

June 3 - 29 will be her Sabbath Renewal time.

June 30 - July 6 will be her attendance at Annual Conference.

## Why is Sabbath Rest important for Pastors?

A pastor who has a periodic opportunity to step away from day-to-day ministry for spiritual renewal, to strengthen their own faith, and to develop new skills and a broader perspective is likely to have a longer term of service and to serve with greater levels of passion and creativity in their mission. After the pastor returns, the congregation enjoys improved pastoral leadership. The church is more likely to retain the services of a pastor who has greater satisfaction in their ministry, which a period of sabbath rest is uniquely able to support. A sabbath rest leave is an investment on the part of the church in building and sustaining the future of ministry for the pastor, the congregation, and the broader church.

The Leadership Team has been working on this and planning for this for the last 18 months. There is money in the budget for pastoral coverage. A Sabbatical team has been formed with Nanette Bushong, Cathy Funderwhite, and Jerry Bushong. They have been meeting to define the pastoral responsibilities that need to be covered. As the meetings progressed, an idea of splitting the responsibilities between more than one individual came to the forefront. A meeting with Pastor Angela was held to make sure all responsibilities were covered.

There are 2 candidates that the Sabbatical team will be meeting with to offer a ministry agreement. More details will be forthcoming in the bulletin and newsletter.

## Steward Ministry Team: SANCTUARY

You may have noticed the shortened pew in the sanctuary. This work was recently completed to provide wheelchair access and promote inclusion.

Short term changes: More changes are in the works! This includes shortening another pew directly across from the one already modified to provide additional access to those with mobility issues. Handrails will be added at the steps at the front of the sanctuary, one on each side, and one in the middle. Again, the intent is to provide better access and safety for those who need to navigate these steps. Finally, the organ will be raised out of the pit it is currently located in and placed on a newly constructed platform at the same level as adjacent area.

Long term changes: Additional changes in the foreseeable future are also being considered. We will soon be soliciting the assistance of an architectural firm to assist in the review of current sanctuary condition and provide several possible options for modifications. Changes reviewed and considered will be intended to provide better access and safety to ALL areas of our worship area. The focus of any and all changes considered will also include appearance, functionality, safety, egress, future technology infrastructure, compliance with current codes and insurance requirements.

Look for the congregational questionnaire later this month. This will allow all members to have input and share any thoughts, concerns and ideas.

Also, I will keep all of you posted on status and progress of this project each month. So read your newsletter!

Respectfully Submitted, Barry F. Lauver, Chair, Stewardship Ministry Team



# APRIL SERVERS

## Worship Leaders

6 - Patrick Snyder  
13 - Forrest Collier  
20 - Phyllis Kepner  
27 - Bill Kepner

## Ushers

Cindy Heisey  
Beth Hess  
Holly Mele  
Lois Silver

## Children's Worship

6 - Kathy Long, Beth Hess  
13 - Rebekah Priest, Joy Meley  
20 - Easter - Family Worship  
27 - Joyce Kerns, Tess Wolford

## Greeters

6 - Dave & Becky Fuchs  
13 - Barry & Lori Lauver, Upper Narthex  
- Rebekah & Autumn Priest, Lower Narthex  
20 - Tom & Gail Druck  
27 - Gina Baustia, Cindy Heisey

## Nursery

6 - Joan Boshnaugle  
13 -  
20 -  
27 -

## Invitation to Love Feast

During Lent, we have examined each day of Holy Week. Thursday was such a jam-packed day that it requires two services to cover it all! *Sunday, April 6* will cover the Garden of Gethsemane. **Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.** will re-enact the events in the Upper Room. Everyone is invited to partake in this Love Feast service of confession, foot (or hand) washing, a simple meal, and communion.



## Handbells, Pie and Ice Cream



All are invited to our next all church family event on Saturday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Nationally known solo hand bell artist Ron Bellamy will perform and ice cream and pie will be served. Please sign up on the sheet by the church mailboxes. See Gail Druck with questions.

## Mountville COB February 2025 Tithes & Offerings

*3 Sundays*

For General Fund	\$ 21,411.60
Designated	\$ 12,460.78



# LOOKING AHEAD

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

April 12: Men's Breakfast & Women's Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.

@ Mountville Family Restaurant

April 12: Handbells, Ice Cream, and Pie Family Event,  
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

April 13: Palm Sunday

April 17: Love Feast, 7 pm

April 20: Easter

*Deadline for the May 2025 New Vision articles  
is **Sunday, April 13, 2025.***



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

**Address Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed**