



The New Vision

Vol. 43, No. 5

www.office@mountvillecob.org

May 2025

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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

*Blessed are those who make You their strength,
for they treasure every step of the journey.
~~ Psalm 84:5, The Voice Paraphrase*

On Sunday, May 4, we will celebrate World Labyrinth Day – a day we are encouraged to make a *pilgrimage* that promotes peace and wholeness: God's Shalom. Labyrinths have been used for meditation and prayer for more than 5000 years. They may, at first glance, look like a maze, but there is only one way in, and one way out. The path, with its gentle twists and turns, mirrors our journey toward, and with, God.

Our worship service will prepare us for this journey. Then, you are invited to stay after worship and walk the large canvas labyrinth that will be available in our fellowship hall (we will also have finger labyrinths for those who prefer that method of meditation). We will provide centering words and journaling pages so that you can reflect on your experience.

We have invited our siblings in Christ from the other Mountville churches to drop in after their worship services to partake of this spiritual discipline as well. And you are certainly welcome to invite your friends! The labyrinth will be available anytime between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm (so you could go and have lunch and then come back, if you choose).

Please see me with questions. I yearn to share this journey with you.

Peacefully,
Pastor Angela



Bits 'n Pieces



We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and support we've received during this challenging time. Your visits, cards, errands running, and most of all, your prayers have been a tremendous comfort to us. The kindness and compassion from each of you have made all the difference in our journey toward recovery. A special thank you to Jerry, Ruthie, and Connie for the delicious food you so thoughtfully brought. Your care and generosity have nourished us both physically and spiritually, and we are deeply grateful. We are blessed to be part of such a loving and supportive congregation. - Rick and Linda

Church family, Deb and I would like to thank you for your calls and texts, cards, visits, meals and mostly your prayers during my surgery and recovery. This doctor put a cage around my spinal column right below where I had surgery before! I thank God for giving doctors the knowledge and gifted hands that perform these surgeries and that He is with us every step of the way in our daily lives! In Christian love, Pete

Bill and Phyllis Kepner would like to thank all who touched us with their kind words of sympathy and support, the many heartfelt cards and prayers, and flowers from the choir after our Mother's recent passing. We are truly blessed and thankful for each one of you.

Becky and I are most grateful for the outpouring of expressions of sympathy upon the death of my brother, John. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring Christian fellowship.
- Dave

Heidi K. wants to thank all of you who sent me cards and good wishes for the celebration of my 95th birthday!

Thank you for your donation of \$4,728.73 to COBYS Family Services. This gift and the congregation's partnership mean so much for our care. We were glad to visit and connect more.
- Anne Stokes, Director of COBYS Development & Communications.

Danielle Peters, Director of The Columbia Food Bank, thanks us for our donation of 97 lbs. of food.

Thank you for the 306 pounds of food contributed to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry in March.
- Diane Gerlach, Director



May Sermon Topics

- | | |
|----|--|
| 4 | Psalm 16 - The Path of Life, World Labyrinth Day |
| 11 | Revelation 7:9-17 |
| 18 | Revelation 21:1-6 |
| 25 | Guest Speaker |



Sabbath, Sabbatical, and Pastor Angela

Sabbath and Sabbatical share the root of the Hebrew word Shabbat, meaning “rest.” Sabbatical is an extended period of leave for prayer, study, travel, and spiritual growth. It is derived from the biblical concept of the Sabbath.

Beginning May 24 through July 6, Pastor Angela will be away from the church. This period will comprise a period of Continuing Education, (May 24—June 2), Sabbatical time (June 3—June 29), and Annual Conference Attendance (June 30—July 6). The Leadership Team has prepared for this time of Pastor Angela’s absence for the last 18 months. A Sabbatical planning committee is working to insure all the pastoral, administrative and financial needs of the church are met.

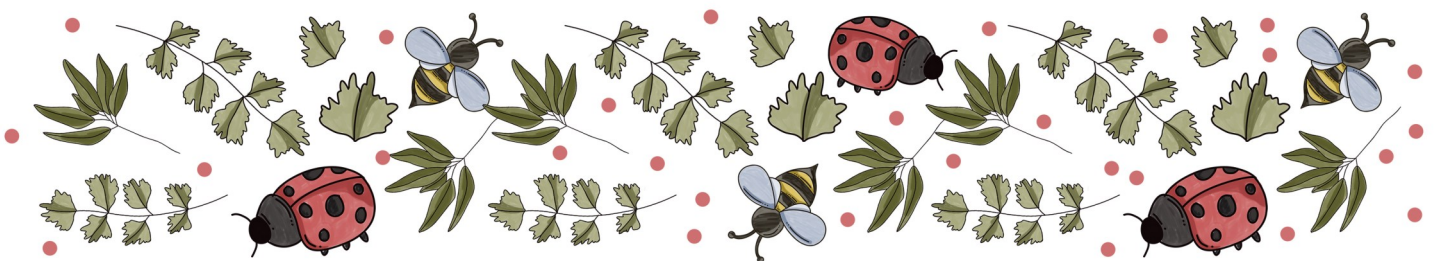
This time of scripturally based renewal for pastors is an investment on the part of the church in sustaining the future of ministry for the pastor, the congregation and the broader church. A pastor who has a periodic opportunity to step away from day-to-day ministry for spiritual renewal, to strengthen 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.



Since Pastor Angela will not be receiving emails, texts, or phone calls during this time, a congregational letter will be sent shortly providing contact information for two individuals who will be our coverage for pastoral, pulpit supply, and visitations. Information for other administrative details of our church life will also be included. This is an exciting opportunity for embracing God’s gift of Sabbath, the gift of rest, reflection, and renewal.

Walt VanderHeijden,
Leadership Team Chair

Despite recent stock market losses, many of you may own stocks or mutual funds that have appreciated in value. In order to escape Capital Gains tax and get credit for a charitable contribution, you may choose to transfer these to the congregation's brokerage account. Please contact Dave Fuchs (defuchs@comcast.net) for instructions. If you already have instructions from past transfers, please alert Dave when you are sending funds so they can be allocated as you wish.



As we finish the Sunday School year in May, we will work on issues related to the congregation's Core Value of Peace and Justice. Our final session on May 18 will feature a guest speaker, Lisa Krieg, who will focus on what we as a congregation can do to promote peace and justice. Join us at 9:00 a.m. downstairs on Sunday mornings in room 102.

ADULT Sunday School

Family Mini Golf Outing for All Ages!



The Education Ministry Team would like to invite you to our 3rd Annual Mini Golf Outing on Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Boulders Miniature Golf located at Scoops Ice Cream and Grille, Mountville. All ages are welcome! Please sign up on the sheet across from the church mailboxes. We hope to see you there! See Rebekah Priest with questions.

New Additions to the Church Library!

We continue to add new titles to our library offerings that reflect our Core Values. Each of this month's new books were authored by women! If you haven't visited our library in the lower narthex recently (or ever), please come on down! There is something for everyone!

For our young readers, we have added the classic book by Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*. The book is the hope-filled story about the triumph of light and love over darkness, as seen through the experiences of one little girl. Also check out *Walk in Peace*. This is a wonderful bedtime read, with the refrain "God loves you, sweet child. Walk in peace," serving as a beautiful prayer and benediction for a busy day.

New books for adults cover a wide range of topics. *Relentless Goodbye: Grief and Love in the Shadow of Dementia* is one woman's story of her journey alongside her husband as he slowly slips away. This beautifully written memoir offers encouragement and the reminder that we are never alone.

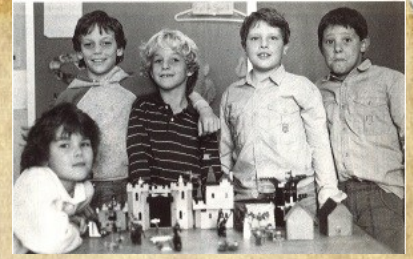
Dear White Peacemakers is a love letter to the beloved community, and an invitation to be about the holy work of anti-racism. This book draws heavily on the Sermon on the Mount, and helps us to look at our own efforts to seek God's shalom and healing in our racially torn world. Our emerging theme from our Core Values work is the practice of peace and justice. But *What Does Justice Look Like?* This small book gets at the heart of what Jesus has to say about it. This book would make an excellent personal devotional. Grab a journal and see what God calls forth in you!

With so much in the news surrounding immigration, it is good to be reminded of Jesus' command to "welcome the stranger." *Love Undocumented: Risking Trust in a Fearful World* explains the situations facing today's immigrants as they navigate the U.S. immigration system. As we learn more, we will fear less - allowing us to live out Christ's command faithfully.



Glimpses from the Past

C.L.I.M.B.



How would your child feel if he/she came home to an empty house after school? How would you feel? In 1987, Mountville COB saw a need in the number of children that were alone after school and set about to fill it. We joined with the other churches from the Mountville Ministerium (Trinity United Church of Christ, Mountville Mennonite Church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and Concordia Lutheran Church) and developed a "latchkey" program.

Many things needed to be done in order to get this project under way. It was aptly named C.L.I.M.B. (Caring and Learning in Mountville Boro). A board of directors was chosen with members from each of the participating churches and the president of Mountville Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization. The board hired Kitty Collier, a certified teacher and member of Mountville Church of the Brethren, as its part-time director. Kitty, along with the board, began to work on funding and obtaining a state license. Projected first year costs to care for 45 children was \$24,186. Budget items included salaries for a part-time program director, two part-time group leaders and two part-time aides as well as utilities, equipment and supplies.

Income would come from the \$5 per child registration fee plus the \$1-per-hour care fee. Low income families and families with more than one child would pay lower fees. In order to make up the deficit, grants were received from the Mountville Welfare Association and Central Intermediate Unit, a state agency that provided start-up grants and training for latchkey programs in central Pennsylvania. St. Paul's United Methodist Church offered a \$10,000 interest free loan, if needed.

Rev. Allen T. Hansell (pastor of Mountville COB 1985-1989) indicated that the monetary backing is a "symbol saying that this community stands together. Not only is there a unified ministerium, but the community itself sees this need and is responding to it."

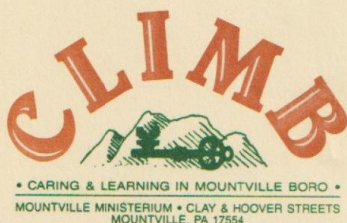
Seven classrooms and the fellowship hall were available for use. Snacks were served in the open area of the basement. There were classrooms set aside for quiet activities such as homework. Kickball and softball could be played at the park next to the church. Crafts and games would also be available. The program's format was informal, depending on the interests of the children. Kitty hoped that members of the ministerium would volunteer to work at C.L.I.M.B., possibly providing tutoring for homework or supervising children who will practice musical instruments.

The program was in existence for two years with approximately 24 children in attendance each year. The YWCA was so impressed by the success of the program that it transitioned C.L.I.M.B. into additional elementary schools and our program was absorbed into the Hempfield group.

The logo seen here was designed by Joanne Swords Wang, daughter of Barbara and the late Gene Swords.

Thanks to Kitty Collier for her assistance with this article and all her work with the children over the years.

Watch this space next month for a new *Glimpse from the Past* found in our church archives!



Submitted by Janice Ulmer



Calendar of Events for 2025

- from the Congregational Fellowship Committee

Sunday, June 1

Pot Luck Dinner & Talent Show

following morning worship.

Bring your favorite covered dish to share.

Sign up during the month of May to participate in the talent show!

All ages and talents welcome!

Saturday, September 13

Silent Auction & Dinner

Both events benefit Disaster Relief.

Start working on your craft item for the auction now.

The dinner will be ticketed with proceeds to Disaster Relief.

More details will appear in future bulletins and newsletters.

Saturday, September 27

Bus Trip to Relief Auction

Plan to leave Mountville COB at 8:00 a.m. & return at 2:30 p.m.

A great way to experience the Auction. Breakfast/lunch, items galore.

Many items to purchase or bid on, especially the quilts.

Will cost approximately \$15 per person if we use a bus that seats 24 people. More details soon!

Saturday, November 1

Chalk Talk & Dessert, 6:30 p.m.

With Elva Hurst from Barnyard Art Studio in Lititz

Sunday, December 5

Supper & Caroling

Supper: 4:00 p.m.

Craft time: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Carol Sing: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

We will sing in the church with the event live streamed.

Everyone is asked to wear Christmas PJ's, night gowns, robes, etc.

There will be prizes!

Questions? See Gail Druck, Phyllis Kepner, Lori Lauver, Anne Schanz,
or Janet Schwert, members of the Congregational Fellowship Committee.

May SERVERS

Worship Leaders

4 - Walt VanderHeijden
11 - Bill Kepner
18 - Michael Graham
25 - Lois Silver

Ushers

Dave Fuchs
Barry Lauver
Joel Musser
Daryl Strine

Children's Worship

4 - Kathy Long, Joy Mele
11 - Joyce Kerns, Beth Hess
18 - Gina Bautista, Sue Beiler
25 - Rebekah Priest, Connie Renn

Greeters

4 - Daryl & Karen Strine
11 - Harold & Janice Ulmer, Upper Narthex
- Ann Schanz, Shirley Smith, Lower Narthex
18 - Forrest Collier, Joel Musser
25 - Beth Hess, Walt VanderHeijden

Nursery

4 - Joan Boshnaugle
11 - Regina Schulz
18 - Lori Lauver
25 - Betsy Thomas




Mountville COB March 2025 Tithes & Offerings



For General Fund	\$ 38,001.50
Designated	\$ 1,262.50

Thank you for your faithful gifts!





you are invited

Annual District-Wide Older Adult Luncheon

A celebration of fellowship, food and entertainment

Wise and Wonderful

May 14, 2025, 12:00pm

Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, PA

\$25.00/person

Register on line at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bqhvjwv/lp/9628012c-a161-408b-b092-cbab71abc412> or see Gail Druck to help with your registration.



Entertainment:

Matt Miskie, a local musician and singer who specializes in well known folk songs from the 1950s through early 1970s.

Menu: Broasted Chicken, Ham Balls or Vegetarian Lasagna. Gourmet Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans & Baby Carrots, Tossed Salad, Dressings and Family Style Rolls, Butter & Jelly, Hot and Cold Beverages, Vanilla or Chocolate Ice Cream

Special Note: Gluten Free Chicken Platter and Vegan Hot and Cold Vegetable Platter are also available

LOOKING AHEAD

May 4: 11:30 a.m. - Labyrinth

May 10: 9:00 a.m. - Mens & Womens Breakfasts
@ Centerville Diner

May 18: 10:15 a.m. - Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 25: Pastor Angela's begins Sabbath Renewal

June 1: 11:30 a.m.: Pot Luck Dinner & Talent Show

June 12: 6:00 p.m. - All Church Mini Golf

@ Boulders

*Deadline for the June 2025 New Vision articles
is **Sunday, May 11, 2025.***



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

**Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed**