



The New Vision

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Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m.

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.

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

Again Jesus said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"

~~ Mark 4:30

If I asked you to define what a "parable" is, what would you say? You could certainly look it up in a dictionary, but perhaps that wouldn't really help you identify a parable when you see one. And you would not be alone.

When I searched, "How many parables did Jesus teach?" on the Internet, I came up with all kinds of numbers, ranging from 30 to 46 (for the most part, although there were some extreme outliers!). Hmmmm, if Biblical Scholars can't agree on what a parable is, then what hope is there for us?

If the *definition* of "parable" is unclear, and the *number* of parables is uncertain, at least we can all agree on the *meaning* of Jesus' teachings, right? Jesus often finished a parable leaving the listeners with more questions than answers – and perhaps that's the point. Maybe we are intended to wrestle with what Jesus offered, allowing the Spirit to breathe meaning into these ancient words. Although, surely we can't hope to understand them without knowing more fully the context in which they were spoken.

In his book, *Simply Jesus*, N.T. Wright wrote: "Jesus' stories are designed to tease, to clothe the shocking and revolutionary message about God's Kingdom in garb that would leave the listeners wondering, trying to think it out. They were stories that eventually caused Israel's leaders to decode his rich message in such a way as to frame a charge against him, either of blasphemy, sedition, or 'leading the people astray.' Whatever the parables are, they are not, as children are sometimes taught in Sunday school, 'earthly stories with heavenly meaning.' Rather, they are expressions of Jesus' shocking announcement that God's Kingdom was arriving on earth as in heaven."

Make a point to be in worship during October and November as we hear, from Jesus, what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. And discern with me what is ours to do as Kin-dom builders – peacefully, simply, together!

In anticipation,
 Pastor Angela



Bits 'n Pieces

Thank you all for your prayers and cards of support for my family, and particularly my granddaughter, on the loss of her baby girl. - Wendy

Praise God, for bringing George and me to this loving church family 45 years ago! The love, caring and true friendship you have given us over those years show the Holy Spirit is at the center of Mountville Church of the Brethren. Our entire family can never say enough "Thank Yous" for the help and support you have given George and us throughout the past 3 years of George's journey of health issues. He loved each and every one of you and he felt your love to the very last of his days. – In Christian love, Janet and family

My friends at MCOB, Thank you for the prayers, cards, and messages during the two years of my cancer journey. I have experienced the healing power of God's grace and mercy. Having completed a radiation regimen, and trusting in God, I am again on the way to recovery. I will bend to God's will with a prayerful and grateful heart, and the support of others. Thank you for the love that you graciously extended to my brother, Walt, and to me. In His love, Bernadette
(

Daryl would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers that were said on his behalf for the last nine months. He also appreciated the texts, cards, visits and flowers. He is now pain free. Thanks be to God!

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages to help us celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. It was very special for us to be remembered by our church family. – John & Louse Graham

Diane Gerlach, Vice President of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry, thanks us for our continued support with our recent donation of \$129. This helps us to purchase food items at Central Penn Food Bank in Harrisburg, below super market costs, many items at .76¢ per pound.

Pastor Angela's October Schedule

Pastor Angela will be away from ministerial duties Thursday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Please contact Jerry Bushong with pastoral needs or Cathy Funderwhite and Karen Strine for prayer needs.



Welcoming New Members

There is a wonderful hymn that says, "Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side." During worship on Sunday, October 19 AND Sunday, October 26, we will *draw the circle wider still* by receiving new members into the body of Christ gathered here at Mountville. Some of these members will transfer their membership. Others will enter into the waters of baptism. All will be welcomed and cherished as new siblings in Christ. Make it a point to be here to share in the vows of covenantal love and support as our body grows and flourishes.

October Congregational Forum

On Sunday October 26 why not stay after church for lunch and our semi-annual Congregational Forum? We will be voting on our budget for 2026 and will call members to leadership positions for the coming year. In addition, the congregation will vote to move the Finance Committee to become a Ministry Team, giving the Finance Chair a seat on Leadership Team. Information packets will be available two weeks prior.

Blessing the Animals

Our siblings in Christ at St. Anne's have invited us to share in a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 5 at 4:00 p.m. You are invited to bring your pet, or a photo of your pet, and receive a blessing as we thank God, the Creator of the Earth and all who dwell upon it, for our faithful companions. Allow this brief blessing to increase your gratitude for your pet's presence in your life, and our gratitude and awe for God's creative gifts. All pets must be in a carrying tote or on a leash.



ADULT Sunday School

During the month of October we will continue the series with Josh Scott as he provides new insights into some of Jesus' more famous parables. On October 26 we will begin looking at Peace and Justice issues. Guest speaker Kate Good, Executive Director of the Parish Resource Center in Lancaster, will tell us about their new initiative to aid legal immigrants in their efforts to become productive contributors to their new home country.

All are welcomed to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. downstairs in room 102.

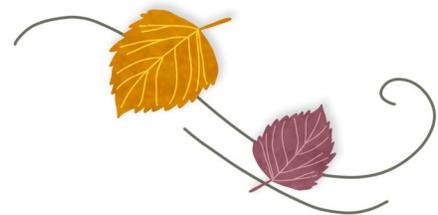
Seeing is Believing

Claudia Ritter

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| His stories and His parables | 8A |
| Our Lord made of things visible | 8A |
| His topic was His Father's world | 8B |
| He spoke so He'd be understood. | 8B |

Of trees and seeds and fields and vines,
Of pearls, and lamps and nets and coins,
Of weeds and dirt and yest and wheat,
Of birds and fish and goats and sheep.

I see that Christianity
Does love around us what we see
With creation, God does reach us
With it too, His Son did teach us.



Glimpses from the Past

Parsonage

Did you know that MCOB once owned a parsonage? By definition, a parsonage is an official residence provided by a church for its parson (minister). One of the perks of being a minister in a small rural church would be getting to live in a parsonage.

Since September 3, 1961, our church has been served by a full time minister. Pastor A. Joseph Caricofe was chosen as our first full time pastor. Since he lived out of the area, the leadership decided he should be provided a place to live. For this reason, the house at 157 North Clay Street was purchased to serve as a parsonage.

August 29, 1961 the trustees concluded the purchase of the house and lot from Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Finkbiner. The house was built in 1954 with six rooms and bath, and full basement, including a recreation room in part of the basement. The lot has a 70 foot frontage with a 220 foot depth.

The purchase price was \$14,000 plus closing costs. The full check was drawn against the building funds. The real payment for the parsonage was consolidated with the payment of the church and was paid from our weekly offerings and special gifts.

August 30, 1961 Pastor and Mrs. Caricofe moved into the parsonage, comfortably located near the church. (The parsonage was located on the east side of Clay Street, the last house on the right before traveling over route 30.) They expressed sincere appreciation to members and friends of MCOB for providing living quarters for the parsonage family and were happy to be the church's first pastor. The parsonage telephone was ATlas 5 - 3692.

Pastor Caricofe retired in 1966. Luke H. Brandt was chosen as the next pastor to serve our church. Pastor Brandt was interested in owning his own home; therefore, the church no longer needed a parsonage. According to a deed found in the Lancaster County records, the church sold the parsonage to Donald and Ruth Boshnaugle for an investment property in April 1976.

Ever since each pastor has owned their home and received a housing allowance in lieu of living in a church-owned house.

Thanks to Donald Boshnaugle for his time in discussing the various aspects of this article.

Watch this space next month for a new and exciting way "cowboys" served others.

Submitted by Janice Ulmer

As Mountville Brethren We Are ALL Ministers

What is it about our Mountville Church that makes it so dear to us? Is it our church building? Is it our Sunday morning service? Yes, we enjoy an attractive worship space. We also experience an uplifting, thematic worship service every week. But our love of MCOB is so much more deeply-rooted.

What makes our church so precious to us are the many ways we join in joyful community to embody God's love, not only for our neighbors, but also for each other.

As our spiritual leader, Pastor Angela is fundamental to our adopted vision: to "live the transforming discipleship of Christ" and also to our mission: to "model God's love". Toward these goals, Pastor Angela is contracted to work 44 hours per week, the Brethren Denomination's standard for a full-time pastor. Forty-four hours a week is not a lot of time for the many important tasks she performs including worship planning, leading Scripture Chat, preparing sermons, visiting shut-ins, making hospital visits, counseling, attending ministry committee meetings, and performing many other duties. Also, Pastor Angela often works non-consecutive hours, including evenings and weekends, to fulfill her responsibilities.

We thank God for Pastor Angela's love and effective leadership. But at the same time we recognize that our love and care for one another is what makes our church so special. Yes, Angela is our pastor, but she also has a life beyond her contracted time with us. She is a mom, a homeowner, and a person with many talents and interests to pursue.

When we minister to each other by listening, praying, visiting, etc. we not only lift some of Pastor Angela's burden, but also and more importantly, we practice and grow our own faith. In upcoming articles, we will discuss specific ways we all can more fully participate in the ministry of Mountville Church. — Pastoral Relations Team

School Kits - Wrap up

The School Kits have been completed and were delivered to Church World Services at new Windsor, MD, August 25, 2025. The Outreach Team thanks everyone who helped in any way with the School Kits through the years!

We used all of the notebooks and boxes of crayons. There were 1,043 pencils, 100 blunt-ended scissors, 56 rulers, 50 pink erasers, and 4 hand-held pencil sharpeners leftover. All of the leftover items were distributed to several teachers affiliated with Mountville Church of the Brethren. The cloth bags that are sewn will be distributed to CWS when all of the material has been used that has been donated or purchased.

We will be focusing on our financial gifts to CWS in the future. CWS will determine the best use of those funds, and assemble needed kits on site to meet the demands of our neighbors locally and around the world.

If you have any questions, please contact Dianna Zimmerman, Outreach Team Chairperson.



Invitation to Love Feast

On World Communion Sunday, everyone is invited to gather around the table and celebrate Love Feast. While this is one of the most precious ordinances within the Church of the Brethren, there are many ways to share in it. Join us **immediately after worship on Sunday, October 5**, and see a new thing God is doing!

This service will include all of the traditional elements, but with a twist. It is our desire that everyone feel welcome and comfortable. We will have several tables for hand washing, and several for foot washing, but we will no longer sit separated by gender - so sit wherever you like! We will begin with a brief time of silent confession and assurance of God's loving pardon. When it's time to wash hands/feet, those participating in foot washing will move away from the tables to stations where men wash men's feet and women wash women's feet.

We will then enjoy the *Feast* part of Love Feast - with a **POTLUCK! Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share.** Finally, we will celebrate communion. This meaningful time of worship was instituted by Jesus over 2000 years ago, and we continue to benefit from these practices to this day. Come, meet Jesus around the table, for it is he who issues this invitation....to you.



Glimpses of Christmas Past

I'm asking for assistance from the congregation to submit pictures from Christmases past to fill the bulletin board across from the kitchen for this Christmas season. The pictures can be of your family or activities at church. Please put the pictures in my church mailbox #100.

Horizontal orientation would be preferable, but vertical is also acceptable. If your picture is too large for the mailbox, please put it in the box on top of the mailboxes - nothing larger than 8 x 10. Be sure to note on the back of the picture details of the picture - names of persons pictured and an approximate date. The pictures will not be damaged for the display and will be returned to you in January. Don't forget to include your name so the picture may be returned to the proper person.

I would like to have all pictures no later than Sunday, November 2. Thanks for your help with this project.

- Janice Ulmer



OCTOBER SERVERS

Worship Leaders

5 - Patrick Snyder
12 - Lois Silver
19 - Tim Wrightson
26 - Larry Booz

Ushers

Dave Fuchs
Cindy Heisey
Bob Keller
John Musser

Children's Worship

5 - Joyce Kerns, Tess Wolford
12 - Rebekah Priest, Connie Renn
19 - Kathy Long, Sue Beiler
26 - Joyce Kerns

Greeters

5 - Joel Musser, Charlie Worrall
12 - Carl & Louise Harnish, Upper Narthex
- Dave & Becky Fuchs, Lower Narthex
19 - Forrest Collier, Connie Renn
26 - Jeralyn Rettew, Walt VanderHeijden

Nursery

5 - Joan Boshnaugle
12 - Regina Schulz
19 - Beth Hess
26 - Lori Lauver

Mountville COB August 2025 Tithes & Offerings

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| For General Fund | \$ 37,018.90 |
| Designated | \$ 7,655.00 |
| Total | \$ 44,673.90 |

Thank you for your faithful gifts!

Other Ways to Give

Those of you who own stock or stock mutual funds may be sitting on rather large taxable gains. Instead of giving cash to the church, one way to avoid tax would be to gift some of those shares to the church. If you wish to learn more or take advantage of this opportunity, contact Dave Fuchs for details.

October Sermon Topics

October 5: Acts 2:42-47 - Come Hungry
October 12: Matthew 20:1-16, Glancing in the Rear View Mirror?
- Guest speaker Del Keeney
October 19: Luke 18:1-8 - Persistent Prayer
October 26: Luke 18:9-14 - Switch it Up



LOOKING AHEAD

October 5: Love Feast, 11:15 a.m.

October 11: ANE District Conference

October 26: Congregational Forum

November 1: Chalk Artist & Dessert

December 7: Community Christmas

Concert & Carol Sing, 2:30 p.m.

December 7: All Church Christmas

Caroling event



*Deadline for the November 2025 New Vision articles is **Sunday, October 12, 2025.***



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

**Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed**