



# 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.

#### 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](mailto:Office@Mountvillecob.org)

## Love Notes from Pastor Angela

I wrote this article for *Messenger Magazine* in 2019. But it bears repeating....

Ahhhh, November. That glorious time of year when I am overwhelmed by everything “pumpkin spice” and bombarded by social media “gratitude challenges.”

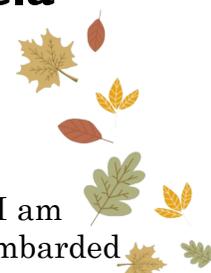
To be fair, I see a lot of benefit in keeping some sort of personal gratitude journal. Daily reflection on the blessings we've received is a great first step to developing the spiritual discipline of gratitude. We're instructed in song, after all, to “count your many blessings, see what God has done.”

But sometimes social media reflections on gratitude seem to turn into brag-fests or competitions. Even as we reflect on those things we're grateful for, dissatisfaction creeps in as we subconsciously compare our list of blessings to the lists of our friends. Or worse yet, our blessings become a source of personal pride.

2 Corinthians 9:9-11 states: “As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way *so that* you can be generous on every occasion, and through us *your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*”

I was pondering that passage earlier this year – not in preparation for Thanksgiving, but in anticipation of Easter. During that special season of Lent, some Christians make a point of giving something up. But I felt called to encourage my congregation to give something away instead. Our focus was to give away our gratitude – to share our grace, a word that shares the same root.

Continued on page 3.



## Bits 'n Pieces



Jeanne wants to genuinely thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits during her recent hospital stay.

The School Kits have been completed and were delivered to Church World Services in New Windsor, MD on August 25, 2025. The Outreach Team thanks everyone who helped in any way with the school kits.

### MCOB Silent Auction/Dinner Results

The total donation from the Silent Auction, the Lasagna Dinner, and designated funds was \$9,581.72 . The amount of cash put into the plastic jar in the narthex was \$330.08. Grand total equals \$9,911.08. Thanks to all who participated in these events!

Danielle Peters, Director of Columbia Food Bank, thanks us for our donation of \$290 and 280 + lbs. of food supplies.

Anne Stokes, Director of Development & Communications for COBYS thanks us for being a part of the 29th annual COBYS Bike & Hike on September 7, where our donation of \$2,500 helped raise more than \$112,000!

# ADULT *Sunday School*

October 26 will feature guest speaker Kate Good from the Parish Resource Center to talk about their community initiative regarding immigration. Our series on Peace and Justice Issues will continue in November with sessions on Gun Violence and Christian Nationalism. These topics will challenge us to put our faith into action as we discuss potential solutions. We will begin our Advent series to prepare for the birth of Christ on November 30. Why don't you join us at 9:00 on Sunday mornings in room 102?

## COBYS Snacks and Fellowship

Our congregation has long supported the work of COBYS (Church of the Brethren Youth Services) in several ways: as volunteers serving on their Board, and financially through the annual COBYS walk. In order to deepen our relationship, COBYS provided a guest speaker during worship last year, and this year wanted to offer something different.

Stay after worship on **Sunday, November 2,** for snacks and a time of fellowship - COBYS will provide the snacks as we grow in fellowship with them and with one another. Strengthening God's people through building relationships - may God be glorified!



## Love Notes from Pastor Angela *continued from page 1*

We live in a culture where there is a Gratitude Gap. This gap is defined as the difference between what we believe and what we practice. Meditating on the things for which we are thankful may build up feelings of gratitude and contentment within us, but does it move the community, the society, in which we live toward gratitude?

Diana Butler Bass, in her book *Grateful; The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, suggests that society benefits from our acts and expressions of gratitude.

She proclaims that we live in a society overwhelmed with the fear of scarcity. Many are anxious that there simply isn't enough go around. We worry that someone else will get what we deserve, leaving us unfairly lacking. Those feelings make us prisoners of dissatisfaction.

Her recommendation really resonates with me. She states that when we recognize and act out of our abundance - and quite frankly, by world's standards, we all live with abundance - our community becomes a safer and happier place.

And, when our generosity is offered in the name of Christ, it results in thanksgiving to God.

Join me this fall in closing the gap. Move beyond naming your blessings. Gratitude grows when we care enough to contribute. Our community flourishes. And our God is glorified.

Gratefully,  
Pastor Angela

## *Glimpses from the Past*

### **Update on Metal Vessels from June 2025**

I sent an email to the Church of the Brethren Archives Center in Elgin, Illinois inquiring about our metal vessels we have in our archives since no one here was quite certain of their use. My query was forwarded to the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College. I received a reply from Director Emeritus Jeff Bach. He relates that it is a pot for cooking Love Feast soup. The Elizabethtown Church donated one to the Young Center. The person who brought it in was elderly and knew its history. Rev. Bach has since seen a few others in Pennsylvania churches and also one in Maryland.

A response was also received from Frank Ramirez, a retired pastor and frequent contributor to Church of the Brethren communications. Rev. Ramirez supposes one could cook meat for Love Feast, but he thinks it is a serving dish for Love Feast. The vessel would have been taken to a table and then the soup ladled out for shared bowls. Two or four might have eaten out of the same bowls. Changing scruples would have led to a more hygienic Love Feast.

Many thanks to these kind folks for sending answers to our inquiry.



# Annual District Conference 2025 Report

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference of the Atlantic Northeast District was held on Saturday, October 11 at Elizabethtown College with 147 delegates in attendance. Delegates from Mountville were Becky Fuchs and Tim Wrightson. Throughout the day the themes of story and relationship emerged. Moderator Adam Ulm from Spring Creek COB led us through a meeting that was full of stories.

We heard stories from the Church Development Commission who works with new churches. In the past year three multi-ethnic congregations relocated, and Ebenezer COB is in the process of seeking approval for congregational status. The Nurture Commission of the District shared stories of Older Adult events and Women's Fellowship camps and programs. A new chapter in the story of district youth ministries is being written as efforts are being made to revive district youth activities. The District Ministry Commission related how they have approved six persons for ordination and two for licensing. They are pursuing ways they can support those in licensed ministry and in part-time pastorates.

Some of the most compelling stories came from the Witness and Outreach Commission who oversees the Barnabas Fund which offers financial support to ANE churches who express a ministry-driven need. This year they have committed \$102,400 to help the ministries of Alpha and Omega in Lancaster, Brooklyn First, Germantown, and Harrisburg First. However, the balance in the Barnabas Fund is very low so contributions are being solicited to help support these congregations with their inner-city ministries. Grants from the Helping Hands Benevolence Fund are available to congregations in responding to needs in their congregation or community. One church received a grant to help a church member who needed financial assistance during a time of recovery from knee surgery. Another received funds to help different families in their communities who needed help to repair damaged homes.

The Stewardship Commission oversees the Facilities Assistance Fund which helps churches improve or expand facilities. This could be a resource for Mountville as we consider improvements to the sanctuary. Unfortunately, the story of the Stewardship Commission contains some challenging plot twists. District expenses have exceeded income in 2023 and 2024 so reserve funds of more than \$70,000 each year had to be used to balance the budget. District leadership is considering ways to cut expenses and eliminate deficits. The delegates at conference approved a budget of \$532, 381 for 2026. This represents a 2.3% increase. **They also approved a request for congregations to give \$55 per member for support of district ministries. Another \$5 per average attendee is asked for the Seeds of Faith program and \$7.50 per member to help support Camp Swatara.**

District Board chair, Jim Grossickle-Batterton brought a recommendation from the District Board to approve the disorganization of the Coventry congregation and the Blue Ball congregation. These recommendations were approved with regret. The delegate body also approved a slate of district leaders which included Bill Kepner who will join the COBYS board of directors in January.



Continued on page 6.

# Glimpses from the Past

## The Seagoing Cowboys

In 1938 Dan West had an idea to help the countries in Europe that were devastated by war. This idea would offer the opportunity of a “trip of a lifetime” for some 7,000 men ages 16 to 72. Dan was an Indiana gentleman farmer and church worker who lived under the conviction that he should do as much for peace as a soldier does for war. He went to Spain during the Spanish Civil War to help provide relief for the war’s victims through a cooperative program of the three Historic Peace Churches: the Quakers, the Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren.

The futility of doling out limited supplies of powdered milk for infants brought Dan to the vision of sending cows to Spain, then the people could feed themselves and regain some dignity. His vision became reality when the Service Committee of the Church of the Brethren adopted the Heifer Project plan in January 1943. By then, however, World War II was going on and heifers couldn’t be shipped abroad. So the first shipment in 1944 was made to Puerto Rico.

At the close of World War II, the Brethren Service Committee had a dilemma: the Heifer Project had over 1,000 cattle ready to ship, but no ships. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), created by 44 nations in November 1943 to provide postwar relief, also had a dilemma. They had ships, but no cattle tenders for the 200,000 head of livestock they planned to ship to devastated countries. UNRRA agreed to ship Heifer Project’s animals free of charge and in return the Brethren Service Committee agreed to recruit all the cattle attendants needed for their 360 livestock shipments: The seagoing cowboy program was born.

The seagoing cowboys came from all over the United States and Canada and from all walks of life. They were farmers and students, teachers and preachers, bankers and carpenters, from many different religions and races. After witnessing the wounds of war, many of them dedicated their lives to working for peace and many entered service professions such as pastoral ministry or social work.

UNRRA and the Heifer Project shipped livestock to Albania, Belgium, China, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Italy and Poland. Shipments also went to Czechoslovakia, via ports in Germany, and to Yugoslavia via Italy. Horses, heifers and mules were the main livestock shipped, but many chicks and some sheep, pigs and goats were also sent. These shipments originated in Baltimore, Galveston, Gulfport, Houston, Montreal, New Orleans, New York City, Newport News, Portland (ME) and Savannah.



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## **Pastoral Relations Team...Still curious about what this is? Please read on...**

The Pastoral Relations Team is new, and so it may be something about which you are still unsure. Since late summer our team has taken turns placing a weekly prayer in the bulletin that is specifically for Pastor Angela. We hope you have noticed them. This is one way of making the congregation aware of ways we can help support her. In the October newsletter an article about our committee was explained. If you read that you now know how many things Pastor Angela does every week...and most of it is done for us! The way our pastor does her job is thorough and takes a lot of love and time. So, as stated then, she needs to use her time wisely. Our committee's goal is to support her efforts and to make you all aware of her needs.

Our committee is made up of Lois Silver, Janice Booz, Larry Booz, and Ginny Hart. Our prayers for her are in the form of active engagement. We pray for God's help for HER as she ministers to US. We have also mentioned her time constraints, thus the polite routine of making appointments if you need to see her. We hope to make you aware of ways that we can all support her by respecting her busy schedule. She listens attentively to us all. She hears our joys and concerns, in the moment, as we exit the church on Sundays. The time she give us there, individually, is impressive by itself, as we all have needs, concerns, and personal good news to share with her. And...there are a lot of us! But, we have just one Pastor Angela!

Our committee hopes that since late summer you have noticed our prayers for her in the bulletin. These have been in the form of active ways we can make this large responsibility she carries, more pleasant, while returning some of the care she offers us back to her. She is praying for us, and we can all pray for her. It should be a gift that goes both ways.

You will hear from our Pastoral Relations Team coming up, one Sunday in November. You will learn more about how we can love and support Pastor Angela as she works hard to love and support us.



## **Annual District Conference 2025 Report**

Continued from page 4.

Next year's District Moderator will be David Sollenberger who chose a theme based on Hebrews 12. He is calling ANE churches and their members to continue our stories by fixing our eyes on Jesus as we engage in the ministries that bring Jesus into our neighborhoods.

One of our assignments during the day was to write something on a brightly colored paper leaf that our congregation is doing to reach out to our neighborhood. These leaves were then pasted on a tree trunk that had been drawn on a mural. We put "partnering with a local elementary school to provide for the needs of children in need" on our leaf. A wide variety of ministries were named and added to the tree. Thank you for the opportunity to represent all of you at District Conference and to hear the stories of God's work in our churches and our district.

## *Glimpses from the Past* : The Seagoing Cowboys

continued from page 5.

UNRRA and the Heifer Project shipped livestock to Albania, Belgium, China, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Italy and Poland. Shipments also went to Czechoslovakia, via ports in Germany, and to Yugoslavia via Italy. Horses, heifers and mules were the main livestock shipped, but many chicks and some sheep, pigs and goats were also sent. These shipments originated in Baltimore, Galveston, Gulfport, Houston, Montreal, New Orleans, New York City, Newport News, Portland (ME) and Savannah.

UNRRA lasted only about two years after World War II ended, but the Heifer project continued. For over four decades, the Heifer Project's seagoing, airgoing, and land cowgirls and cowboys helped to transport animals to countries all over the world, starting with countries like Japan and Germany which had been our enemies during the war. The Heifer Project grew into today's organization called Heifer International. Today, Heifer International buys animals from the regions close to where they are needed to save on shipping costs and to obtain animals better adapted to local climates and diseases.

Three of these seagoing cowboys were from our congregation: Floyd Bantz, Mark Bushong and Gene Swords. Floyd was a pastor, Mark was a farmer, banker and college administrator and Gene was a teacher and school administrator. Further showing that seagoing cowboys came from all walks of life.

Floyd was on a ship named S. S. F. J. Luckenbach. In doing my research I found a personal account from a man named Jim Martin who also sailed on that ship although not necessarily with Floyd. I've printed several copies of the account and placed them on the table in the narthex. It is very interesting reading!

Much of the information for this article was obtained from The Seagoing Cowboy by Peggy Reiff Miller. Thanks to Dianna Zimmerman for allowing me to borrow this book from her personal library. This book is also available in the Church Library.

Watch this space for next month's *Glimpse from the Past* which will require your participation.

Submitted by Janice Ulmer



# Christmas Supper & Carol Sing

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Supper: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Craft Time: 5:30 - 6:15

Caroling: 6:15 - 6:45 p.m.

## MENU

Hot Dogs w/sauerkraut  
Meatballs  
Baked Beans  
Mac & Cheese  
Christmas Cookies  
Hot Chocolate

## Christmas P. J. Contest

Prizes for:  
Prettiest  
Funniest  
Most Original  
Family Unit

\* Christmas Caroling will take place in the sanctuary, up front, and will be live streamed.

\* Please join us for this special fun night for all young & young at heart.

\*Sign-up on the bulletin board so we can plan enough food and craft supplies.



# NOVEMBER SERVERS



## Worship Leaders

2 - Jeanne Dickel  
9 - Forrest Collier  
16 - Sarah Repkoe  
23 - John Musser  
30 - Phyllis Kepner

## Ushers

Jerry Bushong  
Barry Lauver  
Harry Light  
Daryl Strine

## Children's Worship

2 - Joyce Kerns, Connie Renn  
9 - Rebekah Priest, Joy Meley  
16 - Kathy Long, Beth Hess  
23 - Joyce Kerns, Tess Wolford  
30 - Joyce Kerns

## Greeters

2 - Rebekah & Autumn Priest  
9 - Barry & Lori Lauver, Upper Narthex  
- Daryl & Karen Strine, Lower Narthex  
16 - Carl & Louise Harnish  
23 - Glen Bushong, Charlie Worrall  
30 - Tim & Gail Wrightson

## Nursery

2 - Joan Boshnaugle  
9 - Regina Schulz  
16 - Betsy Thomas  
23 - Lori Lauver  
30 - Nanette Bushong

## Mountville COB September 2025 Tithes & Offerings



For General Fund	\$	28,913.00
Designated	\$	11,591.00
Total	\$	40,494.30

*Thank you for your faithful gifts!*

## November Sermon Topics

November 2: Luke 15:1-10 - Parables of Lost "Stuff"  
November 9: Luke 16:1-13 - The Manager of Injustice (Stewardship Sunday)  
November 16: Luke 14:15-24 - Guess who's coming to dinner?  
November 23: Matthew 13:31-32 - Parable of Small Nuisance (Thanksgiving Sunday)  
November 30: Isaiah 2:1-5, Mark 13:24-37 - Vigilant Hope



# LOOKING AHEAD

**October 26: Pot Luck Lunch & Congregational Forum**

**Nov. 1: Chalk Talk, Punch & Cookies, 6:30 p.m.**

**Nov. 9: Stewardship Sunday**

**Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Day, Office closed**

**Dec. 7: Community Christmas Concert, 2:30 p.m.**

**Dec. 7: Christmas Supper & Carol Sing, 4:30 p.m.**



*Deadline for the December 2025 New Vision articles is Sunday, November 9, 2025.*



MOUNTVILLE CHURCH of the BRETHREN  
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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**