



# 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

## Love Notes from Pastor Angela

*The angel said to Mary,*

*"Do not be afraid." ~ Luke 1:30*

And so begins this ancient story of hope, peace, joy, and love – spoken to people experiencing great fear, uncertainty, and maybe even hopelessness. The invitation to not be afraid in times of great fear, uncertainty, and hopelessness reverberates across the miles and across the centuries, into the present time.

In our world today, we find trust is fragile, truth contested, and spaces between us feel harder to cross. Divisions stretch far and wide. Community feels strained, and connection is harder to come by. Hearts are weary, and souls unsettled, and people of all perspectives are searching—not just for answers, but for understanding, healing, and hope.

This ache is not weakness; it is a holy longing—a sacred desire for a world made whole. From this longing comes the will to dream—a persistent courage to imagine, resist, and rebuild a better world.

Our Advent theme - *The Will to Dream* – springs from this holy longing. Inspired by the work of the late theologian and biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann, we will engage in the sacred practice of holy dreaming to see beyond what is and move toward what could be.

From Isaiah's vision to Mary's song, it is my hope we will find ourselves in the story—and begin to dream, not as escape, but as a spiritual practice that produces hope, peace, joy, and love – qualities that change our lives and changes the world.

In anticipation,  
*Pastor Angela*





## Bits 'n Pieces



It is such a privilege and joy to serve as your pastor. Thank you for all of the kind words of affirmation, prayers, and gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month. I deeply appreciate the way we minister to one another. Love, Angela

Thank you so much for your generosity with the Rutters gift cards. It was definitely a big help. I would also like to thank everyone for all the prayers. My husband continues to heal at the hospital in Philly. We are praying he soon can go to a rehab center closer to home. Bless you all, Mary

“Thank you for your continued support of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry evidenced by your recent generous donation of \$440. You are generous givers!” - Diane Gerlach, Vice President / Pantry Coordinator

## Nativity Sets Needed for Narthex Display Cabinets



Do you have a Nativity Set that you would like to share and display in the narthex during the advent season? If you would like to participate, please bring your Nativity to the church office by November 30 and enjoy the display through the Advent and Christmas season.

## 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.



# ADULT Sunday School

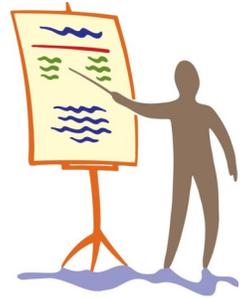
"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" will be the Advent series for Adult Sunday School. Utilizing the DVD series by Andy Langford, we will prepare ourselves for the gift of the Christ Child through Bible study and discussion. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in room 102.

## An Overview of Congregational Forum

At our Congregational Forum on October 26 we unanimously approved the renewal of Joe Buohl's license for ministry. We affirmed the 5% budget increase for 2026, which had been prepared by Church Leadership and approved by the Finance Committee. A By-Laws change was approved which will transition Finance Committee to become the Finance Ministry Team, giving them representation at Leadership Team meetings.

New leaders were called to serve as District Conference Delegate for 2026-27 (John Musser) and Worship Ministry Team Chair (Sara Wagner, first term, through 2028). We are grateful to all those serving in leadership positions, with special thanks to the renewal of our Treasurer Don Wagner, Assistant Treasurer Pat Snyder, Financial Secretary Greg Smith, Assistant Financial Secretary Karen Strine, Church Clerk Joyce Kerns, Deacon representative to Leadership Team Jerry Bushong, and Cemetery Coordinator Joel Musser.

Finally, Stewards Chair Barry Lauver reported that he has received input from the necessary members and staff regarding desired changes to the Sanctuary. These will largely involve tech upgrades and ADA compliance issues. A meeting has been scheduled with architect Scott Shonk, who led us through the 2012 renovations to the building. Our goal is to come to February, 2026 Forum with a plan for the congregation to review.



## Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service

Join Pastor Angela and other pastors from the Mountville Ministerium at Concordia Lutheran Church on **Monday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** for a special service. While Christmas is a time of joy for many, for others there is a sense of loss as we approach the holidays. Some may grieve that this year won't be the same as last year – or the year before – or 50 years ago. We may be mourning the loss of a loved one – or the loss of the physical space where we all used to gather – or the loss of good health and strength of our bodies to celebrate the way we used to. All of those emotions are precious, and this is a safe space to acknowledge them. As we approach the longest night of the year – the day with the fewest hours of sunlight – we lean into that darkness together, knowing that the light is coming that the darkness cannot overcome.



## Christmas Eve Offering Designations

Traditionally our congregation has chosen to take up an offering on Christmas Eve to benefit those in need both locally and globally. The Outreach Ministry Team has recommended that our Christmas Eve offering this year be split equally between Anchor Lancaster and World Central Kitchen.

At **Anchor Lancaster** we open our doors every weekday morning to serve neighbors experiencing homelessness and hardship with dignity, compassion and hope. Guests find more than a hot breakfast. They find showers, laundry and case management that connects them to housing, healthcare, benefits, documentation and a path forward. At our day center on East King Street, open 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., neighbors can rest, access resources and find a safe, welcoming place of belonging.

Each week volunteer teams prepare meals for 140-160 people everyday. Medical professionals provide on site care. Case managers walk alongside guests through eviction prevention, resume building and assistance with applications. We are rooted in the love of Jesus which inspires our actions and guides our work.

Anchor Lancaster is committed to being a low barrier community program. This means we:

- Remove obstacles to access services-there is no application process or interview procedure.
- Welcome all regardless of background, current situation, or past experiences.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, meeting them where they are.

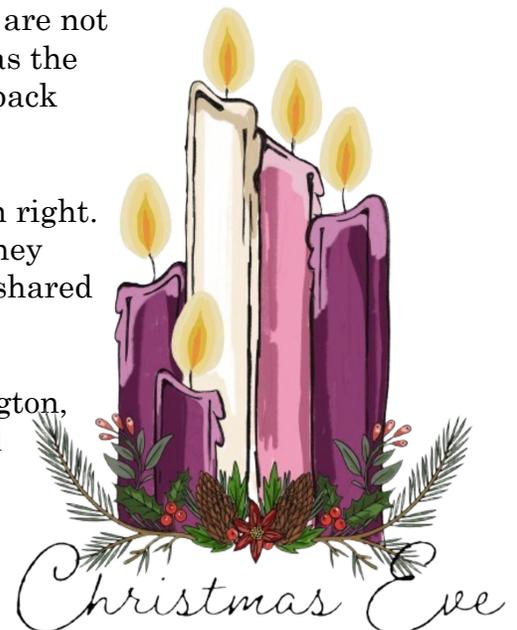
Anchor Lancaster is a non-profit organization. It is located on 29 E. Walnut Street in a United Methodist Church. (This information was obtained from [anchorlancaster.org](http://anchorlancaster.org))

**World Central Kitchen** is the organization we have chosen to benefit for the international portion of the Christmas Eve offering.

Founded in 2010 by Jose Andres, the organization has served over 500 million meals around the world. "Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world-and it is more important than ever in a crisis. No only is a thoughtful, freshly prepared meal one less thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that you are not alone, someone is thinking about you, and someone cares. Food has the power to be the nourishment and hope we need to pick ourselves back up in the darkest times."

WCK's work is guided by the belief that food is a universal human right. Both in the communities they serve and in the daily workspace, they uphold and rely on their values to direct them toward fulfilling a shared purpose.

WCK is currently serving in Alaska, Jamaica, California, Washington, DC, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Texas, Afghanistan, Haiti, Syria and others, serving through floods, wild fires, our government shut down, hurricanes, and war torn areas in humanitarian crises.





## Pick up an Advent Calendar!

Advent calendars are available on the narthex table beginning Sunday, November 23. Advent begins Sunday, November 30. These advent calendars match our Advent Theme - *The Will to Dream* - and invite families to participate in activities for each day during advent. Please pick up a calendar and mark those days and activities as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth. Everyone is welcome to participate!

## Kits Assembled

There were 223 towels left from CWS Hygiene Kits. The Outreach Team and others assembled kits for the shelters nearby that offer showers to the homeless. 23 kits were given to the Dream Center in Columbia; 75 kits were given to Otterbein United Methodist Clay Street Shelter; and 125 kits were taken to Water Street Rescue Mission. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this Outreach Project.

## Did you know?

The Garden of Release is a wonderful place to sit and pray - lifting your cares and burdens to God. But, sometimes you may want additional support. Did you know that we have a **Loss Support Group** that meets in the Hospitality Room the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.? Come and share, or simply be encouraged by others who are sharing this grief journey with you.

Perhaps your cares and burdens don't involve loss, but you would still benefit from someone to talk to. As partners in ministry with the **Samaritan Center**, we have a few vouchers to help cover the cost of appointments to speak with a counselor there. Please see Pastor Angela to make use of this benefit. A burden shared is a burden relieved.

## Migration Pattern

That some birds go and others stay.  
A lot about their faith does say  
Remain the steadfast when all dies,  
Away fly some to warmer skies

The little ones that do stay here,  
Survive the winter with good cheer  
They know that life will come again,  
For it's a promise that they were giv'n.

The ones that leave have faith also  
That they'll be welcomed back they know  
When one returns, God rejoices,  
Another of His promises.

- Claudia Ritter



## December Sermon Topics: The Will to Dream



- Dec. 7: Prophetic Peace - Matt. 3:1-12 and Malachi 3:1-6
- Dec. 14: Unexpected Joy - Luke 1:39-55, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Dec. 21: Merciful Love - Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
- Dec. 28: Guest Preacher, Joe Buohl - Luke 2:22-40, Psalm 148

# 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.



## *Glimpses from the Past*

In this year of 2025, the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Anabaptist Movement, we, here at Mountville, noted some important topics.

The Glimpses from the Past articles focused on:

Pastor Angela's January sermon where she reviewed some important aspects of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement.

Fasnachts - After finding some cooking tools related to the making of fasnachts, we learned how fasnachts were part of fund raising here at Mountville.

Photos - A picture of the reenactment of the Last Supper was located and shared with the congregation. Other photos found in the archives included a group that visited Luray Caverns in the 1960s which identified most of the persons and a newspaper photo from 1968 of the 50 year members.

Metal vessels - Another find in the archives was two large metal vessels which we eventually learned were used in the making of soup for Love Feast.

C.L.I.M.B. - We learned or were reminded of the C.L.I.M.B. program - Caring and Learning in Mountville Boro - an afterschool program for Mountville Elementary School students.

Alexander Mack - In July, the focus was on Alexander Mack, founder of the Church of the Brethren, as we "celebrated" the 346th anniversary of his birth.

History Quiz - In September, there was a quiz on the history of the Church of the Brethren.

The church's parsonage was the topic of the October article and we learned about the sea going cowboys in November.

Thus, December brings the end of the regular monthly Glimpses from the Past articles. I've appreciated your questions, assistance and comments about the articles. I know I have certainly learned much about our church and, of course, there is much more to learn. As I happen upon interesting items/topics in the future, I will share them with you in future Glimpses from the Past articles.

Thank you - Janice Ulmer

# DECEMBER SERVERS

## Worship Leaders

- 7 - Cindy Dale
- 14 - Harold Ulmer
- 21 - Patrick Snyder
- 24 - Phyllis Kepner
- 28 - Cathy Funderwhite

## Ushers

- Cindy Heisey
- Beth Hess
- Bob Keller
- Holly Mele

## Children's Worship

- 7 - Family Worship
- 14 - Joyce Kerns, Tess Wolford
- 21 - Rebekah Priest, Joy Meley
- 28 - Joyce Kerns

## Greeters

- 7 - Nanette Bushong, Don Wagner
- 14 - Dave & Beth Serfass, Upper Narthex  
- Tom & Gail Druck, Lower Narthex
- 21 - Barry & Lori Lauver
- 24 - Cindy Heisey, Priest Family, Mark Yoh
- 28 - Forrest Collier, Charlie Worrall

## Nursery

- 7 - Joan Boshnaugle
- 14 - Lori Lauver
- 21 - Regina Schulz
- 28 - Betsy Thomas



American Guild of  
**ORGANISTS**  
LANCASTER CHAPTER

# Christmas at the Organ

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 4 PM**

**ETOWN COB SANCTUARY**  
777 South Mount Joy St, Elizabethtown

Local organists will be leading carol singing  
and will then perform organ solos based  
on the carols.



## Mountville COB October 2025 Tithes & Offerings

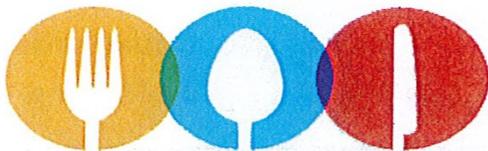


For General Fund	\$	17,031.00
Designated	\$	855.00
Total	\$	17,886.00

*Thank you for your faithful gifts!*

# Resources for Free Meals

Free free to share this resource sheet with those in need. Up-to-date info is also available on the OurCommunityMeals.org website. - Submitted by the MCOB Outreach Ministry Team.



Always find an up-to-date schedule at  
[OurCommunityMeals.org](http://OurCommunityMeals.org)

- Mon - Fri 8:30 -9:45 am @ Anchor Lancaster (First UMC) 29 E. Walnut St
- Sat 9:00 - 10:00am @ First Reformed 40 E Orange St
- Sun 7:45-8:45am @ Holy Trinity Lutheran, 31 S Duke St (includes breakfast & lunch)

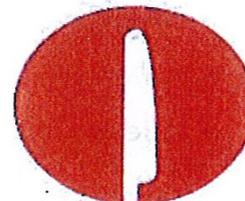


**Breakfast**



**Lunch**

- Mon - Fri 11:30am-1:00pm @ St. Anne's 929 N Duke St
- Mon - Fri 12:00-1:00pm @ SACA, 545 Pershing Ave
- Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:00 @ Crispus Attucks Center, 407 Howard Ave
- Sat 12:00-1:00pm @ SACA, 545 Pershing Ave
- Sat 12:30-1:30pm @ Catholic Worker House, 41 W Vine St
- Mon - Fri 4:00-5:00pm @ SACA, 545 Pershing Ave
- Mon 5:00-6:00pm @ E Chestnut St Mennonite, 432 E Chestnut St
- Tues 5:00-6:00pm @ First Reformed, 40 E Orange St
- Wed 5:30-6:00pm @ Grace Lutheran, 517 N. Queen St
- Wed 5:00-6:15pm @ Ebenezer Baptist, 701 N Lime St
- Thurs 5:15-6:30pm @ Redeemer Lutheran, 500 Pearl St
- Fri 5:00-6:00pm @ St Mary's Catholic, 119 S Prince St
- Sat 5:00-6:00pm PRC @ Grace Lutheran, 517 N Queen St
- Sun 5:00-6:00pm PRC @ Grace Lutheran, 517 N Queen St



**Supper**

Maintained by Parish Resource Center

Schedule valid April 2024

# LOOKING AHEAD

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.

Dec. 13: Men's & Women's Breakfasts, 9:00 a.m.: Black Olive Diner

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 10: Men's & Women's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.: Mountville Family Diner



*Deadline for the January 2026 New Vision articles is Sunday, December 14, 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**