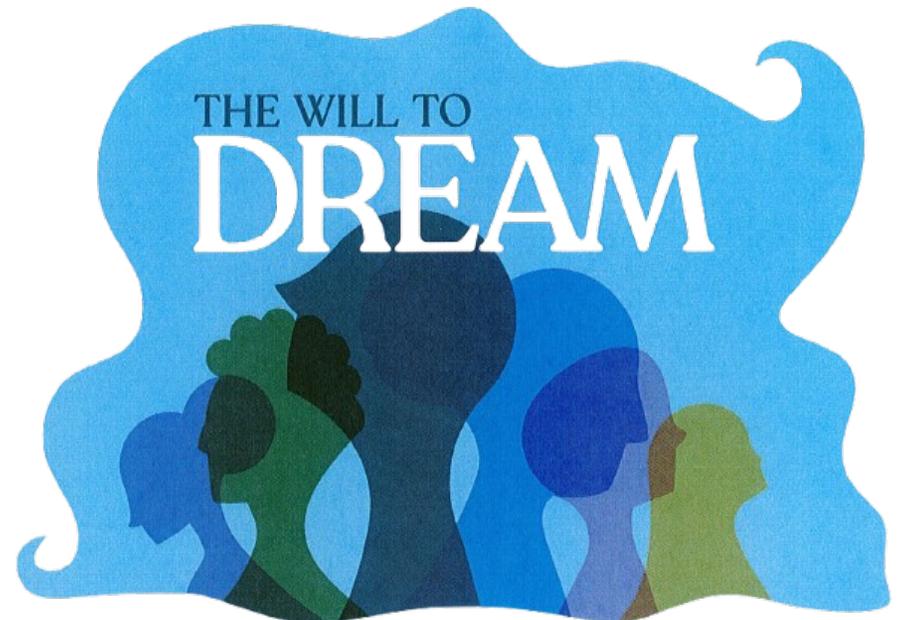


# Mountville Church of the Brethren



**December 14, 2025**

Worship 10:15 a.m.

60 Clay St., Mountville, PA 17554

717-285-5122

[www.mountvillecob.org](http://www.mountvillecob.org)

email: [office@MountvilleCOB.org](mailto:office@MountvilleCOB.org)

FRIDAYS ARE PASTOR ANGELA'S SABBATH

Friday's prayer concerns should be directed to Cathy Funderwhite and Karen Strine. If you want to leave a non-urgent message for Pastor Angela on Fridays or any day after 9:00 p.m., please send an email rather than a text. She keeps her phone on 24/7 for emergencies.

# MOUNTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



*In joyful community, we follow Jesus to  
embody God's love with all our neighbors.*

December 14, 2025 10:15 a.m.

**Hearing assistance devices are available at the sound booth.  
Large print bulletins and hymnals are available in the narthex.  
\*Congregation stands in body or spirit.**

## GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMES

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of man's desiring* J. S. Bach

## CALLING US TO IMAGINE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP^

We gather together in this place:

**prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**  
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;  
**we who dare to dream God's dream.**

We sing with Elizabeth and Mary.

**Our spirits rejoice in God, our savior!**

We bless the God of justice and joy,

**who lifts up the lowly and vulnerable.**

God's mercy is upon us all,

**from generation to generation.**

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

**We have come to wonder and praise.**

### \*INVOCATION^

\*HYMN *Awake, arise, O sing a new song* 56

## ADVENT WREATH: KINDLING THE LIGHT

**Today, we light the candle of joy because joy sustains us  
in the midst of uncertainty.**

## INSPIRING OUR DREAMS

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-55 NT 57

### THE PROPHET'S STORY

*Children ages 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to worship downstairs.*

### ADVENT PRAYER of JOY

SPECIAL MUSIC *Greensleeves* Arr. Ryden

## LIVING OUT OUR VISION

### INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Passacaile* Handel

\*DOXOLOGY *Paise God from whom* Overhead  
*To the tune of # 172 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

### \*PRAYER OF BLESSING^

HYMN *My soul proclaims with wonder* 181

MESSAGE *Unexpected Joy* Rev. Angela Finet

## SHARING OUR JOY WITH THE WORLD

\*HYMN *Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee* 71

### \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noel, Noel* Bach

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*^Illustrated Ministry. Used with permission. Copyright 2025.*

**Please remember to sign the attendance pads.**

## THIS WEEK

Today: 10:15 a.m. – Worship, Sanctuary  
Tues: 7:00 p.m. – Scripture Chat, Rm. 102 and Zoom  
7:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Committee, Rm. 101  
7:00 p.m. – Stewards Ministry Team, Rm. 106  
Wed: NO Stitch ‘n Sew ‘n Share  
7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir, Sanctuary  
Thurs: 2:45 p.m. – Power Packs

## Next Sunday, December 21, 2025

### 9:00-9:50 a.m. Christian Education for all ages.

- Adult Sunday School studies meets in Room 102 featuring Andy Langford's Advent series "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" with Bill Kepner.
- Birth through pre-K meets in the nursery, room 122.
- Elementary class for grades K-6 meets in room 123.
- Jr. High class meets in room 100.

### 10:15 a.m. We gather to worship God.

Next Sunday Pastor Angela shares “Merciful Love” from Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26. Patrick Snyder is the worship leader and the Chancel Choir sings.

Nursery is available in room 122.

### Children’s Worship:

Children will begin worship in the sanctuary with their families. Those ages 4 - 6th grade are invited to join the Children's Worship Leaders at the back of the sanctuary at the designated time for their own special worship.

### JACKIE’S OFFICE SCHEDULE

Jackie will not be in the Church Office Monday, Dec. 15.

## In God’s Service Today

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Ministers ALL of Us  
Pastor Rev. Angela Finet  
Music Director John Hess  
Organist Gloria Hess  
Worship Leader Harold Ulmer  
Prophet’s Story Phyllis Kepner  
Advent Candles Anne, Oliver, and Grace Cyr  
Ushers Beth Hess, Bob Keller, Barry Lauver, Holly Mele  
Special Music: Erica Milbourne - Director; Brian Butterbaugh - Cello;  
Rick Ney - Viola; Sue McDevitt & Erica Milbourne - Violins  
Children’s Ministry Joyce Kerns, Joy Meley  
Nursery Lori Lauver  
Greeters Dave & Beth Serfass: Upper Narthex  
Tom & Gail Druck: Lower Narthex  
Prayer Chain Cathy Funderwhite, Karen Strine  
Security John Musser  
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The flowers in the worship center are given to the glory and honor of God.

Thank you for all your prayers and cards over a hard time for our family. – Louise

### SCRIPTURE CHAT

We will gather by Zoom and in room 102 each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for Scripture Chat. This week’s scriptures are Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26. The link will be sent each Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome. All you need is a Bible, or one can be provided to you.

DURING ADVENT (November 30 to December 24), we will not share spoken announcements at the beginning of worship. Please provide your announcements to the office by Wednesday morning of each week so that Jackie can include them in the bulletin and prepare an overhead slide for display during our gathering time.

## Prayer Ministry Update

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* (James 5:16b)

From the Pastoral Relations Team: Loving God, guide Pastor Angela and our congregation as we transition from a season of thankfulness to this new season of loving, giving and sharing. Make us aware that gifts are more than items chosen. Help us to give love, share time, and be a positive presence in this holy season. Amen. - Pastoral Relations Team

Please include the following people in your prayers:

- Louise, Lew & Fay, John, the Fitze family, and Nick.
- Joe Buohl as he continues his ministry training.
- Please pray for peace in Israel, Gaza, Pakistan, India, Ukraine, Nigeria, Haiti, Sudan, Venezuela, and around the world.
- Pray for the people in Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.
- District Prayers: Today we are praying for Philadelphia First COB. Conewago COB is praying for us.

### GLIMPSES FROM CHRISTMASES PAST

Be sure to stop by the bulletin board opposite the kitchen to view all the Christmas pictures shared. The pictures will be on display all the Sundays in December and will be returned to the owners in January. Many thanks to those who shared pictures - it's quite an assortment.

### 2026 SUNDAY GREETERS

Have you thought about being a Greeter on Sundays at the Church? If you are interested in serving as an occasional greeter and would like to know more about this, please contact Sue Miller by email or phone which can be found in the Church Directory.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you used offering envelopes this year you should have a box for 2026 in your church mailbox. If you did not previously use envelopes but would now like to, please see Greg Smith.

### STATISTICS for December 7, 2025

Received for: General Fund .....\$ 4,445.85  
DESIGNATED FUND  
K. VanderHeijden Social Justice Fund .....50.00  
Brethren Housing Association .....20.00  
Mountville Elementary Gifts .....65.00

Worship in Person: 86    Online: 50    Sunday School: 24

### SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE SPECIAL MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

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

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Columbia Food Bank receives our December Food Cart items. These can be placed in the cart in the lower entrance by the elevator. Please remember no perishables, **glass**, or outdated items. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering with "food bank" on the envelope.

### CHRISTMAS CARD BAGS

Christmas Card Bags for our church family who worship remotely are on the table outside the kitchen. You may bring in a card for each person on the list or just a few. It is whatever you feel led to do. Those who cannot worship in person with us really enjoy hearing from us each year. The list of names for Christmas bags can be located on the table across from the kitchen. Also, if you could sign up to deliver a bag or two, it would be greatly appreciated. The sign-up sheet for bag delivery is on the table across from the kitchen. DEADLINE for bringing in cards is Sunday, December 21! If you have questions, please ask Jeanne Dickel at 717-314-6159. Please leave a message! I don't answer calls from phone numbers that I do not recognize.

ARTICLES for the January 2026 *New Vision* are due in the Church Office today. Thank you.