



The New Vision

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www.office@mountvillecob.org

February 2026

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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

I have pursued you with my whole heart;
do not let me wander.... ~ Psalm 119:10

You may know that *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* is my favorite hymn. I have long felt a tug every time I sing the words: "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it." It is so easy to be distracted by even the "harmless squirrels" that vie for my attention. It is therefore so important to listen to the voice of Jesus saying, "Turn around. Don't wander off. Abide with me."

So, I am excited to share our theme for Lent 2026: *Prone to Wander!* Each week, focusing on a phrase from the hymn *Come Thou Fount*, we will keep company with women of the Bible who lived in literal wilderness, faced exile, or dwelt in the figurative wilderness of fear, pain and grief.

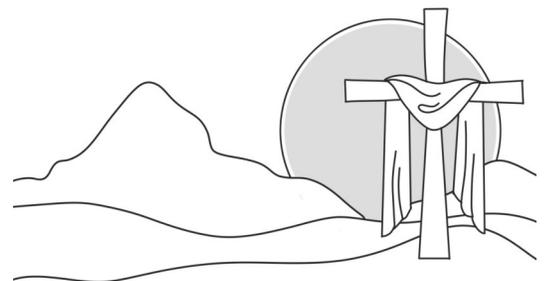
Wilderness is both a dangerous and sacred space. It's often a place of hunger and thirst, wild animals, and treacherous terrain that makes us concerned for our health and safety. But it's also a place where we can come face to face with God.

This trek through the wilderness can be scary for those who enjoy ease and comfort. But it can also be disorienting enough to open our eyes and hearts to notice and receive God's presence. Through the stories of these biblical women, we will learn to encounter our full selves, and the fullness of the Holy One. We will learn to give up our illusions of self-sufficiency, and cry out to God who provides for our needs and accompanies us on the path.

Welcome to the wilderness, beloveds. I am eager to share this Lenten journey with you.

Love,

Pastor Angela



Bits 'n Pieces

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas cards you sent. Your thoughtful messages and festive spirit truly brightened our holidays and filled our hearts with joy, reminding us of the wonderful blessings of our fellowship in Christ and making us feel so loved and connected. – Mark & Brenda



Church Family, It is with a most grateful heart that I am still able to write this thank-you to all of you for your cards, calls and food that you shared with us! Especially our own “Grub-Hub” for delivering many offers of good food (Shirley Smith and Norman Bollinger).

– Ruthie

Thank you for all the Christmas Cards I received this holiday season. Only God and I know how much they are appreciated. – Don



Dear Friends, Thanks you for the kind messages you sent to me during the 2 months that my heart, head and hands are healing from my fall in November. I am almost through my prescribed rest period. - Kitty

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.



Preparation for Lent

Some faith traditions offer the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. The words spoken by the officiant are: "From dust you have come, and to dust you shall return." And, in between, God is with you on the journey.



In lieu of an Ash Wednesday service, we will prepare for our Lenten journey in the wilderness, by responding to the invitation to draw near to God and receive a blessing through the ritual of Anointing. The deacons will anoint your forehead with oil and offer a prayer of blessing just for you. This will take place as part of worship on **Sunday, February 15**. Everyone is welcome to participate at your comfort level.

Welcome to the wilderness. From dust we have come; to dust we shall return. And God is, indeed, with us on this journey.

ADULT Sunday School

For the first three Sundays of February, we will continue our study of the Gospel of John with input from scholar A.J. Levine on DVD. With the beginning of Lent, on February 22 we will start a series with Matt Rawles entitled "The Final Days." We will approach Lent by pondering the themes of justice, poverty, freedom and love from the gospels. Join us in Room 101 on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.!

Congregational Meal & Forum

On Sunday, February 22 after church we will have a pot luck meal followed by our semi-annual Congregational Forum. In addition to reports from Ministry Team leaders and an update on plans for improving the Sanctuary, we will have a "Ministry Fair." You will have the opportunity to understand what our Ministry Teams do and to consider joining one or more to contribute your time and talents to our ministry at Mountville.



Elizabethtown College Scholarship

Years ago members of our congregation donated money to endow a scholarship to Elizabethtown College, which was founded by the Church of the Brethren and still has ties to the church today. Initially the scholarship was designated for any member of our congregation choosing to go there, but as few took advantage of that option, the fund has grown to over \$96,000! A couple of years ago, in consultation with Etown, we voted to change the disbursement requirements so that students could benefit from this fund. McoB members still receive first priority, but now candidates are also considered who have a COB affiliation, or have financial need and are from Adams, Dauphin, or Lancaster Counties. This year 3 students received a combined total of \$5,900 from our scholarship fund at Etown!





FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

A Few Reminders for 2026!

Deadlines

- *New Vision* articles are due in the church office the 2nd Sunday of the month. Articles received after the deadline will be put in the following month's newsletter.
- *Bulletin announcements* are due in the church office Wednesdays by 2:00 p.m. Announcements received after 2:00 p.m. will be included in the following week's bulletin. It would very much be appreciated if bulletin and newsletter announcements would be emailed or written.

Church Key Fobs

In 2012 key fobs were distributed to church members/friends who desired to enter the church building other than during office hours. If you had a fob and no longer need it, please drop it off in the church office or mailbox # 174. The cost for a replacement fob is \$15. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

Room Reservations

If you would like to reserve the sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen or a class room for an event or a meeting, **please call or email the church office** to see if your date and room are available. Jackie will then give you a *Building Use Form* to fill out and return to the church office. Thank you for helping to keep the church calendar accurate.

Church Table and Chair Loan Policy

Church members are allowed to borrow a maximum of 4 tables and chairs as needed. They are to be returned a.s.a.p. or within 4 days after pick-up. We ask that the tables be cleaned before returning and notify Jackie if there is any damage. Please call the church office to check on availability and to reserve the tables / chairs you need.

Flowers for the Worship Center

As of January 2026 the Church will no longer be ordering flowers for the worship center. We welcome flowers in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions. You may contact a florist of your choice to make arrangements for billing and/or delivery. Deliveries need to be at the church by noon before Jackie leaves. You may also bring to church on Saturday. Please sign the flower chart so we can add recognition for your flowers in the bulletin. Please see Sara Wagner with questions.

Placing Items in the Refrigerator / Freezer

When placing items in the refrigerator or freezer please put your name and date on a label and attach it to each item of food and/or drink. Labels are located on both the freezer and refrigerator doors. This will help keep your items from being taken accidentally and will help us know who to contact if there are any questions about the food.

FEBRUARY SERVERS

Worship Leaders

- 1 - Cathy Funderwhite
- 8 - Forrest Collier
- 15 - John Musser
- 22 - Holly Mele

Ushers

- Norman Bollinger
- Barry Lauver
- Harry Light
- Tim Wrightson

Children's Worship

- 1 - Joyce Kerns, Sue Beiler
- 8 - Rebekah Priest, Beth Hess
- 15 - Kathy Long, Tess Wolford
- 22 - Working Worship

Greeters

- 1 - Connie Renn, Shirley Smith
- 8 - Tim & Gail Wrightson, Upper Narthex
- Daryl & Karen Strine, Lower Narthex
- 15 - Cindy Heisey, Holly Mele
- 22 - Dave & Beth Serfass

Nursery

- 1 - Joan Boshnaugle
- 8 - Regina Schulz
- 15 - Betsy Thomas
- 22 - Lori Lauver

Mountville COB December 2025 Tithes & Offerings

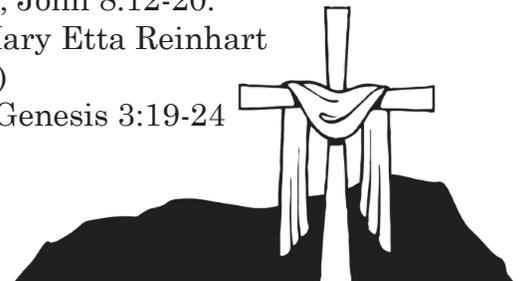


For General Fund	\$ 26,524.77
Designated	\$ 328.00
Christmas Eve	\$ 4,928.06

Thank you for your faithful gifts!

February Sermon Topics

- Feb. 1: Jesus is ... on the move - Matthew 4:12-23
- Feb. 8: Jesus is ... the light of the world - Matthew 5:13-16, John 8:12-20.
- Guest speaker Mary Etta Reinhart
- Feb. 15: Service of Anointing, Fount of Every Blessing (Eve)
- Psalm 139:1-18, Genesis 3:19-24
- Feb. 22: Streams of Mercy (Hagar) - Genesis 16:1-15



LOOKING AHEAD

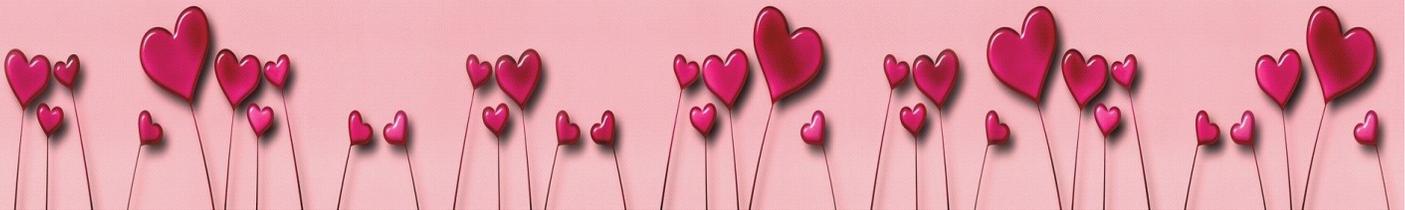
Feb.14: Men's & Women's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.:

@ Centerville Family Diner

Feb. 22: Potluck Meal after Church

Feb. 22: Congregational Forum / Fair after Meal

March 14: All Church Bowling @ Leisure Lanes, 10 am



Deadline for the February 2026 New Vision articles is Sunday, January 11, 2026.



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

**Address Service Requested
Dated Material Enclosed**