



The New Vision

Vol. 44, No. 8

www.office@mountvillecob.org

August 2026

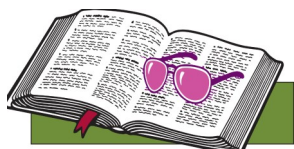
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Sunday Worship Service is in house and live streamed Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.

<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

“The kingdom of heaven is like...”

~~ Jesus, at least 11 times in the Gospel of Matthew

One of Jesus' means of teaching is to tell a story based on something familiar to the culture of the day...stories we call Parables. Even today, we gather around those stories to wonder together what the Kingdom of Heaven is like – the peaceable kingdom that we are tasked with proclaiming and working toward.

This technique of finding nuggets of truth in stories from the current culture survives. In fact, Bethany Theological Seminary offers a class on this topic called *Science Fiction and Theology*. In this course, we look for theological themes like: who is God, what does it mean to be human, what is the nature of evil, how is it overcome, is war or violence necessary, to name only a few.

Of course, science fiction is not the only genre of books and movies to contain theological themes. Questions about humanity and God, good and evil, law and love, are everywhere – all we have to do is look!

Which is exactly what we'll be doing together in August. For 4 Sundays (August 16 – September 6), you'll hear sermons from me and three other Bethany Theological Seminary graduates based on movies and a corresponding passage of Scripture. When possible, we will show these movies on a Thursday evening sometime prior to the Sunday they will be featured (stay tuned for a full schedule based on movie availability).

Our first movie night is **Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m.** where we will view the movie *Sully*. Popcorn will, of course, be served! The sermon that corresponds to this movie is slated for **Sunday, August 16**. Pizza will be served after worship as part of blessing the students!

Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends and neighbors, not only to movie night, but also to worship to hear “the rest of the story.” I am eager to share this worship series with you.

In anticipation,

Pastor Angela

Bits 'n Pieces

To my church family - thank you so much for the flowers, food, cards, texts and prayers you sent to me since my recent surgery. Surgery was a success and I am healing nicely. It's great to know so many people care. I look forward to returning soon to playing the organ during services. Thank you again for your continued thoughts and prayers. - Gloria

Jeanne wishes to eternally thank Lois and Charlie, Harold and Janice, Gail and Tom, and Harry Light for their assistance with moving her (and her stuff) into her Brethren Village apartment this past weekend. This move was not for the faint of heart. The dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ went well above and beyond the call of duty, even finishing the packing. They truly have each earned their crown of life through their work. Jeanne simply could not have done this without you, dear friends! Thank you.

Our prayers and sympathies to the family of Mark whose death was reported Friday, July 10, 2026.

Our prayers and sympathies to the family of Tom and Margie on the death of Tom on Sunday, July 12, 2026.

Paige McFarling, Executive Director of **Lancaster County Food Hub** thanks us for our gift of \$1,500 to help ensure that free food, and clothing, homelessness services are available for our neighbors.

Danielle Peters, Director of **The Columbia Food Bank**, thanks us for "much needed and ever so appreciated 142 pounds of food supplies."

Diane Gerlach, Vice President/Pantry Coordinator of **Hempfield Area Food Pantry**, thanks us for our recent contribution of \$285.

On behalf of the Alpha and Omega Community Center board and staff, "thank you for your generous gift of \$500 which will help us cover the costs of the Center's operations."

Blessing of the Students & Pizza Party Set for August 16, 2026

Our Sunday service August 16th will feature our annual "Blessing of the Students" tradition including pizza, ice cream, and other tasty treats following worship.

Our 10:15 a.m. worship that day will include a special blessing for students of all ages along with recognition of teachers and other school staff. And then immediately following the service all families, friends, and guests are invited to enjoy a delicious pizza lunch in Fellowship Hall.

You will be sure to find your favorite pizza toppings, salad, beverages, fresh cut fruit, and desserts including a sundae bar! The food and fellowship will be provided, so just please bring your appetite.

So right now, as you read your New Vision, remember to circle AUGUST 16 in **RED** on your calendar as a special day for **BLESSINGS, FELLOWSHIP, PIZZA, and ICE CREAM.**



Serving the Wider Church While Nurturing Our Congregation

Most of us know Pastor Angela through the many ways she serves Mountville Church of the Brethren each week—preaching, teaching, providing pastoral care, leading worship, visiting members, and helping guide our congregation through both celebrations and challenges. What many may not realize is that her ministry extends well beyond our local church.

In addition to serving as our pastor, Angela has devoted significant time, energy, and expertise to the wider Church of the Brethren at both the district and denominational levels. These responsibilities are not required of full-time pastors. In fact, pastors have complete autonomy to decide whether to accept such roles. Angela's involvement reflects her commitment to the broader church and her desire to share her gifts wherever they can be most helpful.

Service to the Mid-Atlantic District

Within the Mid-Atlantic District, Angela has served as a Board Member of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, an organization that provides certificate-level training for new pastors and continuing education opportunities for credentialed ministers.

Angela also served on the district's Calling and Credentialing Team, a group which helps oversee the preparation and credentialing of new pastors, responds to ethics concerns, and conducts the five-year reviews required for ordained ministers. In addition, she authored the district's Deacon Training materials to help equip deacons throughout the district for effective ministry.

Service to the Atlantic Northeast District

Angela's ministry has also extended into the Atlantic Northeast District. She has taught future ministers through the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, leading a six-session course on pastoral care. Her leadership has been visible at district conferences as well. She served as a preacher and worship planner for the 2024 District Conference and previously led training sessions to help board chairs, treasurers, and pastors understand new pastoral compensation tools and contracts. She has also led workshops for clergywomen and served as keynote speaker for the Atlantic Northeast Women's Spring Fellowship.

Service to the Denomination

At the denominational level, Angela's contributions have been equally impressive.

She served on the Conflict Resolution Team at Annual Conference and was invited to preach at the 2018 Annual Conference. Over multiple years she has led educational sessions both at Annual Conference and at the National Older Adult Conference.

She currently serves as the clergy representative on the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, where she is completing the fourth year of a five-year term. Her work helps shape policies that affect pastors throughout the Church of the Brethren.

Angela has also contributed extensively as a writer. She authored an Advent devotional, wrote the 2025 Covenant Bible Study, and has written numerous articles for Messenger magazine as well as bulletin-cover materials used across the denomination.

Most recently, she was selected to serve as Head Usher for the 2026 Annual Conference.

(continued on page 4.)

Why This Matters

The Church of the Brethren, like many denominations, operates with a relatively small paid staff at both the district and national levels. Much of the work that supports congregations is accomplished through volunteers. Angela describes this service as another form of “tithing” one’s time and talents.

She notes that a relatively small percentage of pastors perform a large percentage of the work required to sustain the wider church. As the number of full-time pastors has declined, experienced pastors who possess strong leadership, teaching, writing, and speaking abilities are increasingly called upon to serve.

Balancing Many Responsibilities

A natural question is how these responsibilities affect her work at Mountville.

Angela is clear that Mountville always comes first. Because much district and denominational work is now conducted through Zoom, travel demands are far lower than they once were. Most projects involve occasional deadlines rather than continuous obligations, allowing her to schedule this work around the needs of the congregation.

Those of us who experience her ministry firsthand can attest that she succeeds remarkably well in maintaining that balance. Whether she is leading worship, visiting members, counseling, or supporting church initiatives, she remains fully engaged in the life of our congregation.

Benefits for Mountville

Perhaps surprisingly, Angela’s broader church involvement benefits Mountville in tangible ways.

Her service often reduces expenses for our congregation. For example, serving as Head Usher at Annual Conference covered registration and travel costs that otherwise would have exceeded \$500. Her service on the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center board has also provided opportunities for continuing education at reduced cost.

Beyond the financial benefits, Mountville gains access to the resources, ideas, and expertise she develops through her wider ministry. The Deacon Training materials she wrote for the district have been used to train our own deacons. Material she authored for the Covenant Bible Study became the basis for a small-group study and a sermon series here at Mountville. Her work planning district worship services even created opportunities to showcase our choir and host events locally.

Most importantly, her involvement keeps our congregation connected to the larger Church of the Brethren. As denominational initiatives, benefits programs, and ministry resources evolve, Mountville benefits from having a pastor who is actively engaged in the conversations shaping the future of the church.

A Ministry of Service

When asked what she enjoys most about these broader responsibilities, Angela speaks of meeting new people, learning, researching, writing, teaching, and hearing stories of how God is at work throughout the church. Those experiences energize her and bring fresh ideas back to Mountville.

We are fortunate to have a pastor whose gifts are recognized far beyond our congregation. Even more importantly, we are blessed that she brings those gifts, experiences, and insights home to us every week.

As we thank Pastor Angela for her faithful leadership here at Mountville, we can also celebrate the many ways she serves the wider Church of the Brethren—and appreciate how that service strengthens the ministry we share together. - Pastoral Relations Committee

PeaceFest: Forging Peace & Cultivating Justice Together



PEACEFEST
Forging Peace & Cultivating Justice
Turning Guns into Tools. Turning Communities Toward Peace.

Featuring **Shane Claiborne**
Author, Peace Advocate, RAWtools Philly

September 19, 2026
11:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Lititz Church of the Brethren
300 W. Orange St., Lititz, PA 17543
A collaboration of local Church of the Brethren Congregations.

★ **Free Admission • Food • Music** ★
Face Painting • Balloon Animals, etc.
* Food collection for Food Bank.

RAWTOOLS
Scan for Event Information

For several months, the MCOB Peace and Justice committee has been gathering with the Peace and Justice committees from the Elizabethtown, Lancaster, Lititz, and York First Churches of the Brethren to plan an event to promote peace, justice, and nonviolence within our communities.

Through this collaboration, we are pleased to invite you to PeaceFest - a family-friendly event designed to bring people together in hope, education, fellowship, and action around a shared vision of a more peaceful world. **This event will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026 from 11:00 am - 4:00 p.m. at the Lititz Church of the Brethren.**

We will provide a full schedule of events as the date nears. The event includes presentations by ****Shane Claiborne****, prominent speaker, activist, best-selling author, and co-founder of RAWtools Philly, along with demonstrations of literally forging guns into garden tools, echoing the prophetic vision found in Isaiah 2:4, *"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."*

Additionally, there will be food trucks, music, face painting, the Tree House Playground, and a variety of hands-on activities and exhibits. The event is free, and participants are encouraged to bring donations for the Lititz Warwick Community Chest Food Bank. Come for an hour, or stay all day!

Contact a member of the committee for more information, or to join in our work: Rebekah Priest, Walt VanderHeijden, Dave Fuchs, Don and Sara Wagner, Janet Schwert, or Pastor Angela.



AUGUST SERVERS

Worship Leaders

2 - Patrick Snyder
9 - Joel Musser
16 - Sarah Repkoe
23 - Lois Silver
30 - Angela Finet

Ushers

Norman Bollinger
Jerry Bushong
Bob Keller
Joel Musser

Children's Worship

2 - Rebekah Priest, Tess Wolford
9 - Kathy Long, Sue Beiler
16 - Joyce Kerns, Joy Meley
23 - Working Worship
30 - Family Worship

Greeters

2 - Connie Renn, Walt VanderHeijden
9 - Daryl & Karen Strine: Upper Narthex
- Tim & Gail Wrightson: Lower Narthex
16 - Harold & Janice Ulmer
23 - Carl & Louise Harnish
30 - Charlie Worrall, Lois Silver

Nursery

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

Mountville COB June 2026 Tithes & Offerings

For General Fund	\$ 20,703.44
Designated	\$ 2,462.00



Thank you for your faithful gifts!

August Sermon Topics

August 2: Romans 9:1-15

August 9: Romans 10:5-15

Movie Theme begins

August 16: Mark 2:23-28 - Sabbath: Legalism vs. Life

August 23: Pulpit Swap with Lititz CoB, Jim Grossnickle-Batterton

August 31: Guest Speaker Audrey Hollenberg-Duffy



LOOKING AHEAD

July 30: Movie Night, Lower Level, 6:30 p.m.

August 8: Men's & Women's Breakfasts, 9:00 a.m.

August 16: Blessing of the Students & Pizza Party, 11:30 a.m.

August 18: Chair Yoga, 11:30 a.m.

Deadline for the September 2026 New Vision articles is Sunday, August 9, 2026.



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

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Dated Material Enclosed**