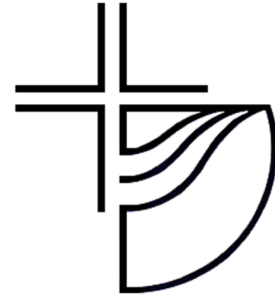


Montezuma Today

December 2017 – January 2018



Advent and Christmas at Montezuma

Below are the Advent and Christmas events at Montezuma Church. We hope you will join in as many of these events as you can.

- **December 3:** 1st Sunday of Advent, morning worship, 9:30 a.m.
- **December 10:** 2nd Sunday of Advent, morning worship, 9:30 a.m.
- **December 17:** 3rd Sunday of Advent, Cantata by the adult choir (Bethlehem's Light) during morning worship, 9:30 a.m.
- **December 17:** Youth caroling and party at Bridgewater Retirement Community
- **December 24:** 4th Sunday of Advent, Children's Christmas program during morning worship, 9:30 a.m.
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve Service, 8:00 p.m.

Winter Bible Study to Focus on Psalms

The Deacon's annual winter Bible study begins the week of January 14th and will continue for ten weeks. Easter is early this year so we are beginning our bible study in time to end just before Holy Week. The topic is Psalms and we will use a booklet by Church of the Brethren pastor John David Bowman. As in previous years we will hold at least one Bible study at the church during daylight hours plus additional offerings in homes spaced around our community. We are looking for people to host studies in their homes and for teachers to lead the groups. Talk to Mary Lou Glick and/or Kathleen Michael if you want to help or if you have questions.

What's Inside:

- 2** Worship Topics
- 3-4** News Articles
- 4** Youth Events
- 5** Birthdays/Anniversaries
- 6** News Articles
- 7** Stewardship
Financial Report

Church Events

December 2017

- 4: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 5: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 6: Choir – 7pm
- 8: MYF – 6:15pm
- 9: MYF afternoon at the movies
- 11: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 11: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 12: Church Board – 7pm
- 13: Friend-to-Friend – 3:30-6pm at the Hall
- 13: Choir – 7pm
- 14: Salvation Army Meal
- 17: Youth Christmas Caroling & Party – 4-8pm at BRC
- 18: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 19: Women's Prayer Group – 6:30pm
- 20: Choir – 7pm
- 24: Christmas Eve Service – 8pm
- 25: Christmas Day
- 27: Choir – 7pm

January 2018

- 1: New Years Day
- 2: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 3: Choir – 7pm
- 5: MYF – 6:15pm
- 8: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 8: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 9: Executive Committee – 7pm
- 10: Choir – 7pm
- 11: Salvation Army Meal
- 15: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 16: Women's Prayer Group – 6:30pm
- 17: Choir – 7pm
- 19: MYF – 6:15pm
- 22: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 24: Choir – 7pm
- 29: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 31: Choir – 7pm

WORSHIP – December 2017

Sunday mornings – 9:10 a.m. Gathering Time,
9:30 a.m. Worship Hour, 10:40 a.m. Classes

3: 1st Sunday of Advent God is Faithful

Pastor David

Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Matt. 1:1-17

On the first Sunday of Advent we will consider how God is faithful by following some of the names in Jesus's genealogy and by remembering that God gives us the resources we need to be part of this continuing story. God is faithful. How are we faithful?

Music provided by the adult choir

International S.S. Lesson: Faith in Jesus

10: 2nd Sunday of Advent The Holy Spirit

Pastor David

Isaiah 40:1-5; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8

At Christmas we prepare for the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist promises that Jesus has come and that he's going to baptize not only with water – but the Spirit.

International S.S. Lesson: Faith to Discern

17: 3rd Sunday of Advent Cantata: "Bethlehem's Light"

International S.S. Lesson: Faith to Persevere

24: 4th Sunday of Advent (morning) Love Accomplishes the Impossible

Pastor Gabe

Luke 1:26-38

The story of Jesus being born to a virgin mother is one of the greatest stories of all time. How can it be? Why a teenager named Mary? Why at that time? The truth is that God can accomplish the impossible through God's love for humankind, because God created us to be God-bearers.

Music provided by the adult & handbell choirs

International S.S. Lesson: Faithful Seekers of the King

24: 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service

31: 1st Sunday after Christmas A Child

Pastor David

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-24

Jesus is brought to the temple for dedication. We meet the child of God made flesh. In Galatians Paul writes that we are children of God – "and if a child, then also an heir."

International S.S. Lesson: Faith to Unite

WORSHIP – January 2018

Sunday mornings – 9:10 a.m. Gathering Time,
9:30 a.m. Worship Hour, 10:40 a.m. Classes

7: Of Water and Spirit

Pastor David

Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

On the first Sunday following Epiphany (January 6), the church reads about Jesus's baptism and each one of us has opportunity to reflect on our own baptism. At Montezuma, we will use this Sunday to think again about our baptism and re-commit to those vows.

International S.S. Lesson: A Sincere Faith

14: Why do we Anoint?

Pastor David

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; John 1:43-51; James 5:13-16

Along with baptism and communion, the Brethren have emphasized anointing with oil for the "forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the healing and wholeness of mind, body, and spirit." What does that mean for us now?

Music provided by the adult choir

International S.S. Lesson: A Bold Faith

21: As you are – Serve Christ

Pastor David

Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24;

Mark 1:14-20;

Paul is writing to first- and second-generation Christians. Some are Jewish; some are Gentiles; some are slaves and others have recently been released from slavery; some are married, others are single or widowed. Some have high social ranking. How do we understand our social standing? And does it matter?

International S.S. Lesson: A Prayer for an Obedient Faith

28: Build Up

Pastor David

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Chapter 8 in 1 Corinthians deals with the thorny issue of disagreement. Paul makes clear that Christians in Corinth were not of the same mind on all matters. In fact, their disagreements were a matter of genuine and devotional difference. Paul doesn't say who is right and who is wrong; he does work at a way for them to serve Christ together and build one another up in love. That is the true calling.

International S.S. Lesson: A Strong Faith

December Special Offering: Bridgewater Food Pantry

The special offering for the month of December is the Bridgewater Food Pantry.

The mission of the Bridgewater Food Pantry is to distribute food to local needy families. Monetary contributions will be given to People Helping People, which works with the Bridgewater Food Pantry to assist clients with rent, heat, etc.

Montezuma will be collecting non-perishable food items on Sunday, December 10th for the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Please be sure the food does not expire for at least 6 months (July 2018). They have plenty of canned vegetables right now, and are most in need of canned meat, canned fruit, cereal, canned soup and peanut butter. They also accept donations of paper products such as toilet paper and tissues.

Share your blessings with folks in our community!

Salvation Army Red Kettle Fundraising

"The Salvation Army Red Kettles have been an American tradition since 1891, helping raise financial support for critical Salvation Army programs and services year round. Over the years, the Red Kettle Campaign has grown into one of the most recognizable and important charitable campaigns in the United States – providing toys for kids, coats for the homeless, food for the hungry and countless social service programs year-round." (from the Salvation Army website)

A sign-up sheet for Montezuma's day to ring the Salvation Army bell is coming soon, and we will need volunteers to fill all the time slots!

Friend-to-Friend 2017 Event

The Witness Commission is excited to announce our 2017 Friend-to-Friend event. This year's event will be held on Wednesday, December 13th from 3:30-6:00pm at the Hall.

We welcome your participation in the event; please see someone on the Witness Commission if you have questions and/or want to get involved.

The idea of Friend-to-Friend is to give "no strings attached" grocery vouchers to folks in our community who are struggling. Figuring out who could use some help was an issue so we went to the community service board and they agreed to invite some clients. Because of confidentiality, we do not know personal information (phone numbers or addresses). During the Friend-to-Friend event, we have the opportunity to meet and talk informally with these individuals while enjoying light refreshments. We give them a voucher for Sharp Shopper (\$50 or \$100 – no alcohol or tobacco is sold there).

We do not preach or evangelize, but we do tell them about our services and welcome them – we basically show them that we care. We are trying to live out the gospel and live out what Jesus has called us to do – simply, peacefully and together.

Salvation Army Meal

Montezuma will be serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, December 14th. The following people are signed up to help prepare and serve this meal:

- Marsha Shank
- Marty Barlow
- J O Good
- Sam Rohrer
- Helen Shickel

Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events: December & January 2018

See the church's website for more details about these events: www.montezumacob.org

Pizza Party/Christmas Caroling/Service Project

December 17th, 4:30-8:00pm at Bridgewater Retirement Community Chapel

This year, we will meet in Bridgewater for a pizza party, and then head to BRC to help with the vespers service. Location of pizza party is Francesco's. After dinner, youth will go to Bridgewater Retirement Community to help residents get to vespers. During the Vespers Service, our church is leading them in a Christmas Carol Hymn Sing. Let Pastor Gabe know if you can come!

NYC Lock-in

Jan 19th at 6:00pm – Jan 20th - 7:00pm

For those going to NYC, come register! Registration is open, and we are making that big commitment! In this lock-in, there will be time for board games, movies, registering for conference, and making your NYC pillow.

Youth Auction Success

Montezuma's youth raised over \$3,000 at the November 17th auction at Montezuma Hall. We are thankful to the many helpers that made this event a success, including the youth and all of their parents. We are grateful to all who contributed items, goods, and food to the auction.

Survey

Pastor Gabe invites you to participate in a survey about spiritual formation. This survey is part of a large research project, and he needs your help! You must be at least 18 to complete the survey.

The survey can be completed online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVZDD8R

Montezuma Handbell Choir at CrossRoads on December 9th

Join the festivities at CrossRoads on December 9th from 2pm-6pm, and experience Advent preparations as they might have taken place 100 years ago.

In addition to the traditional candlelight tour, this year's celebration includes hands-on family crafts, live music and singing, and holiday refreshments. Montezuma's handbell choir will be performing a Christmas program at 2:30pm.

Admission fees support the ongoing work of the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center: adults-\$10, students-\$5, children 5 and under-free).

CrossRoads is located on Garber's Church Road in Harrisonburg. More information may be found at www.vbmhc.org.

December & January Birthdays/Anniversaries

December Birthdays:

1	Debbie Albers Elvert Black Daniel Lambert Danny Tumer Wayne Waggy	13	John Coffman Gordon Driver Dinah Puffenbarger	28	Buck Brown Sherry Shull Roy Waggy
3	Rick Knott Joseph Miller	14	Jeff Berry Carolyn Mohler	29	Andrea Black Dorita Webster Augusta Wenger
4	Walker Shull Jessica Strawderman	16	Dennis Huffman	30	Jennifer Payne
5	Mary Lou Glick Autumn Pequignot	17	Gene Sheffer Oliver Wood	31	Diana Havener Kyle Symons Chelsea Tumer Jackson Will
6	Della McNett	18	Norman Harper Louise Howdyshell		
7	David Skelton	19	Joel Fulwider Carole Hoover		
8	Jim Mason Andi Riley	20	Brooke Pennybacker Charlie Rhodes Bonnie Ryan		
9	Bob Michael	21	Toviah Shipe		
10	Sheila Skelton	22	Guy Lee Clark		
11	Stephanie Diehl	25	Don Paston		
12	Lauren Harper Brad Miller	26	Sharon Embres Cora Kiser		

December Anniversaries:

4	Jeff & Brenda Wine
14	Ian & Kari Ostlund
17	Roger & Barbara Moyer
18	Keith & Sharon Weaver
19	Rick & Libby Kiser
21	Adrian & Orva Lambert
28	Matthew & Danelle Ross
30	Russell & Janice Shank

January Birthdays:

2	Wilamena Harback	15	Sharon Northrop Russell Shank Edna Shickel	27	Meredith Durham Finn Richard Wilhelmina Shank
3	Kathleen Michael	17	Robert Albers Jonas Miller	28	Addison Fulton Drake Mandeville
5	Cheryl Martin Tom Miller	19	Morgan Dakin	29	Daniel Shickel
6	Wendy Rhodes Tanner Showalter	20	John Miller	30	Phil Evans Greg Losh Eli Moyer Kathryn Roche
7	Parker Fulton Paula Rhodes	22	Linda Harpine Brad Showalter	31	Dawn Miller
10	Betty Miller Elaine Sherwin	23	Connie Stiles		
11	Adam Brunk Craig Payne	24	Nellie Black Derek Shickel		
12	Braelyn Skelton Caroline Young	25	Edith Allman Earl Hartman Zandra Miller		
14	Brian Weaver	26	Wayne Huffman		

January Anniversaries:

6	Walter & Cathy Coceano
20	Wayne & Sandra Huffman
23	Isaac & Amber Shank

Staff Notes

Pastor David will be on vacation December 8-9 and 26-28.

Pastor Gabe will be on vacation from December 11-15, and December 29-January 2.

Montezuma Today is a monthly publication of Montezuma Church of the Brethren. Articles and information for publication are appreciated by the 20th of each month.

Email: montezuma.cob@gmail.com or mail to: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

Fall Business Meeting

The fall congregational business meeting was held on Sunday, November 5th after Sunday School with Paul Roth as moderator.

A slate of officers was prepared by the congregation's Nominating Committee. Mary Frances Heishman was selected to serve as a Trustee. The following were called to serve on the Church Board: Mary Jackson, Ann Monger, Bobby Jo Ross, and Aaron Will. The church is still in need of Annual Conference delegates; if you are interested, please see Pastor David. District Conference delegates are Marty Barlow, David Richard, and Barbara Moyer (alternate). Vince Rhodes and Marty Barlow were selected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Fonda Harper was selected to serve on the Auditing Committee. The list of appointments was approved and the church also approved the 2018 budget of \$309,140, after voting to remove On Earth Peace from the witness budget in the amount of \$200.

Tenderloin Feast

Montezuma's annual Tenderloin Feast will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Seating times are: 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm and 6:30pm. Tickets are \$14 for adults, and \$7 for children ages 3-12. Meals are also available to purchase for take-out. You can purchase tickets after church in the entry way or by contacting Stephanie Diehl.

The proceeds from the meal will go to the Montezuma Building Improvement Fund.

Morgan Dakin's Christmas Album

Morgan Dakin's Christmas CD "Noel" is now available. If you would like to purchase a CD (\$12), please contact Morgan at dakinme@gmail.com or 540-908-8847. For more information see Morgan Dakin Music on Facebook.

Church Directory & Prayer Chain

It is time to update the church directory. Please look over the current directory carefully. If you have any changes, additions, etc. please let Linnette know. We would appreciate receiving all of this information by January 7th.

Also, if you would like to join the phone prayer chain or the email prayer list, please call the church office (540-879-2246) to add your name and/or email address.

2018 Offering Envelopes

The 2018 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the entrance area. If you are not already signed up for offering envelopes, extras are available. Pick a set that has no name and put your name and envelope number on the form provided. This allows the financial secretary to have your number so he can mail the confidential statement to you.

Afternoon at the Movies

Montezuma Young Fellowship is planning to see *The Star* in Harrisonburg on Saturday afternoon, December 9th (show times have not been published yet). *The Star* is an animated story of a small but brave donkey and his animal friends who become the unsung heroes of the first Christmas.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Please see Pastor Gabe if you are interested.

MYF Christmas Party

Montezuma Young Fellowship will be holding a Christmas Party on Friday, December 8th at 6:15pm at the hall. We will enjoy a meal together, followed by a craft. If you would like to attend, please see Wendy Rhodes or Linnette Coaker.

Our Stewardship for November 2017

		Attendance		
		Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
November	5	188	100	\$8,722.16
	12	164	82	\$4,151.05
	19	180	95	\$4,421.97
	26	177	77	\$3,741.94
November average per Sunday		177	89	\$5,259.28
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		174	82	\$5,246.21

Special Giving for November

2¢ Meal Offering	\$8.07	Messenger Renewal	\$7.25
Apple Butter	\$576	NYC Fund	\$456
Backpack Program	\$35	Poinsettias	\$152.75
CWS Blanket Fund	\$1,115	Youth Cookbooks	\$8
Hall Capital Improvement Fund	\$120		

Serving in December

NURSERY

3 Matt & LeAnne Young
 10 Bobby & Sarah Williams
 17 Becky & Hayley Daubert
 24 No Schedule
 31 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser

WORSHIP CENTER

3
 10
 17 *Worship Center*
 17 *Committee*
 24
 31

SOUND SYSTEM

3 Ben Hiner
 10 Bobby Williams
 17 Chris Payne
 24 Bill Heishman-AM, Ron Shickel-PM
 31 Randy Glick

VALET PARKING

3 Bob Michael
 10 Brad Smith
 17 Ralph Rohrer
 24 Donnie Jackson
 31 Gene Golladay

USHERS: Roger Moyer, Bob Black, Ben Hall, Jim Rusmisl

Christmas Card Tree

If you could have any gift you wish, what would it be? Peace on Earth? An end to hunger? Preservation of the environment? Education for children? You say this is too big to even think about but a gift to Heifer International is an extraordinary opportunity to bring change to the world.

In 1944, Dan West a CoB minister had the idea that to help people you give them tools to work with and teach them how best to produce what is needed and then pass this along to other folks in the community. Heifer Project grew to become independent and is now called Heifer International. Since 1944, Heifer has provided food and income-producing animals and training to 125 million resource-poor families to more than 125 countries.

In order to give you an opportunity to help, the Christmas Card Tree is one way to contribute. Bring a card to place on the tree from you to the church family and contribute the money saved (box will be provided). Checks should be made payable to Upward Way SS Class. Then after Christmas a total check will be sent to Heifer International and a list of all cards sent will be published in the February newsletter

Join with many others into an endless circle of giving that stretches around the world making lasting change possible. The Upward Way SS class appreciates your support of this project.

Montezuma Church of the Brethren
4937 Ottobine Rd. Dayton, VA 22821
540-879-2246
www.montezumacob.org

David R. Miller, Pastor drmiller.cob@gmail.com
Gabriel Dodd, Pastor for Youth and Young Families
dodd.gabriel@gmail.com
Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. montezuma.cob@gmail.com

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 33
HARRISONBURG

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

