

# Montezuma Today

November 2017



## Congregational Business Meeting

Montezuma Church will hold a congregational business meeting on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> immediately following Sunday School.

The church will receive reports from the Board, Deacons, Committees, Treasurer and Pastors. Members will call a trustee, church board members, annual and district conference delegates, nominating committee members and an auditing committee member. Also, the church board has proposed a 2018 budget of \$309,340. Appointments for the coming year will also need to be approved by church members. A full set of reports, financials, budget and leadership recommendations is available in the entry way of the church.

Participation in the church business meeting is vital to the church's life. Your participation in this meeting is requested and desired. Anyone is able to speak or raise questions at the meeting; however, only members of the congregation may vote.

## Open Doors

Montezuma is excited to be hosting the Open Doors community again this year. Throughout the winter months, Open Doors provides shelter to the homeless at local churches. This year, we will be hosting the event with Beaver Creek, Sangerville and Mt. Bethel Churches. Beaver Creek will provide the evening meal on Monday and Tuesday, Sangerville on Wednesday and Friday, and Mt. Bethel on Thursday. Montezuma will provide the meal on Saturday and Sunday. We will host guests at Montezuma from November 13<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup> (guests arriving on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> and leaving the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>). We are excited and appreciative to have Carol Lena Miller and Jordan Sites & Katya Sites leading this year's event. We look forward to another successful event with lots of engagement by our congregation; sign-up sheets are available in the entryway.

## Church Events: November

- 1: Choir – 7pm
- 3: MYF – 6:15pm
- 5: Jr. High Sunday
- 6: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 7: Golden Lunch Bunch/Fish Fry at the church – 11:30am
- 8: Choir – 8pm
- 9: Salvation Army Meal
- 12: 3-in-1 Concert – 6:00pm
- 12: Sunday Night Live Youth Event at Hall – 6-8:00pm
- 13-20: Open Doors at Montezuma
- 13: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 13: Bell Choir – 7:00pm
- 14: Executive Committee – 7:00pm
- 15: Choir – 7:00pm
- 17: Youth Auction at Hall – 6-9:00pm
- 20: Bell Choir – 7:00pm
- 21: Women's Prayer Group – 6:30pm
- 22: Choir – 7:00pm
- 23: Thanksgiving
- 27: Bell Choir – 7:00pm
- 28: Dorcas Circle – 1:00pm
- 29: Choir – 7:00pm

## What's Inside:

- 2 Worship Topics  
Peace of my mind
- 3 News
- 4 Youth Events  
Youth Auction
- 5-6 Newline Digest
- 7 Stewardship  
Financial Report
- 8 Birthdays & Anniversaries

## WORSHIP – November 2017

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

### 5: Junior High Sunday

*Music by the adult choir*  
*International S.S. Lesson: Faithful God, Unfaithful People*

### 12: Are you ready for “The End”? Pastor David

Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Have you heard of “preppers”? People who are planning for the end of civilization as we know it by setting back food, water, medicine, and guns. Some Silicone Valley types are doing it. So are regular folks like us. I guess that’s one way to interpret keeping “oil in your lamps” in Jesus’ parable. And 1 Thessalonians 5? Is that about escape from it all? We remember Amos, who instead of hoarding food, wants to get it out there where it is needed.

*International S.S. Lesson: Promise of a New Covenant*

### 19: Belong to the Day Pastor David

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Amidst all the talk of the end, Paul doesn’t emphasize “times and the seasons.” He wants us to live our lives by “faith and love and ... the hope of salvation.” We don’t run for the hills or hide in a closet. We “build up” each other with encouragement.

*Music by the adult choir*  
*International S.S. Lesson: Mediator of the New Covenant*

### 26: I Will Seek the Lost Pastor Gabe

Matthew 25:31-46, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Is salvation something we achieve, or is something we discover? This week we will talk about God as shepherd, and how we are called to say ‘yes’ to discipleship, and to accept all the implications that come with it!

*Music by the bell choir*  
*International S.S. Lesson: Remembering the Covenant*

Peace of my mind

We enter the holiday season in November. In fact, the first day of November is All Saints Day. We normally pay more attention to Halloween – “all hallows eve” – than to the more liturgically significant All Hallows Day.

Who are these “saints”? The New Testament calls Christians saints. Paul opens several of his letters by speaking to “all those called to be saints” or simply “saints” (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1). A saint is a person called to be set apart, separate. And that is what all Christians are: a holy work of God, not so much because we are good, or better than others, because, in fact, we may not be better than some others. Rather, we have been called by God into the life of Jesus Christ and his beloved community.

Saints. Do you feel like a saint? I sure don’t most days. In fact, if I were to characterize this society in which we live, I would describe it as dedicated to the “de-saint-ification” of the world (there’s a word for you!).

In this commercial world, we are not called to be set apart, but to be readily involved as consumers. Eat this, buy that, go here or there, experience this or that. Be all that you can be. Just do it. Just buy it.

All Saints Day follows Halloween where we have gorged on zombies, horror shows, and candy. Actually, the zombie theme is apropos to All Saints Day since worship on All Saints Day is especially alert to departed saints – those who have died and are now in paradise. Pity the poor zombies who are dead but still roaming the earth in a pointless effort to find and destroy those who remain alive. But what are the still-living in these stories reduced to? Hiding and relentless violence against predatory zombies.

Yikes! What a metaphorical description of our world.

The kingdom of saints called forth by Jesus Christ is to live differently. We have hope that’s based on more than our own power or desperate quest for more of this or that. We are taught by Jesus to be saints and to see others, even those who are zombie-like, as potential saints, or at least as souls. When you read this, All Saints Day will be past, but the message of that day is always good.

Peace to you, and to our world – Pastor David

## November Special Offering:

### CWS Blanket Fund

The special offering for the month of November will be the Church World Service Blankets. CWS Blankets help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). God has blessed us with so much, and we have much to share. Share this love by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10, but these blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement.

### Christmas Poinsettias

Montezuma will be using our poinsettia tree to decorate for the Christmas season. The cost is \$7.50 each, and order envelopes are available in the entryway. The last day to order flowers is Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Morgan Dakin's Christmas Album

Morgan Dakin's Christmas CD "Noel" will be released in early November. If you would like to reserve a CD, please contact Morgan at [dakinme@gmail.com](mailto:dakinme@gmail.com) or 540-908-8847. The cost is \$12. For more information see Morgan Dakin Music on Facebook.

### 3-in-1 Concert

Mark your calendar! The 3-in-1 Quartet will be performing gospel music at Montezuma Church of the Brethren on Sunday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Tell your friends!!

## Thank you

Dear Montezuma,

How do I say thanks for all you have done? You basically adopted Mom, you showed her love, caring about someone you hardly knew, prayed for her, visited her, painted her bedroom window, sent her cards, and asked about her.

Your ministers visited many times over the years. You even hosted her memorial meal.

My heart is full with the love you shared, yet sad too. Thank you for taking some of that pain and wrapping it in love, with all the hugs, hugs and more hugs when words couldn't be spoken.

For all the cards, notes, flowers, emails and food, we've felt so gratefully overwhelmed with your love. You have made this a little easier.

How do I say thanks? It doesn't seem to say enough. But thanks is what I'll say.

God Bless, and thank you,  
Pat Miller's Family

## Salvation Army

Montezuma is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The following people are signed up to help prepare and serve this meal:

- Brenda Wine
- Karen Fleishman
- Bill Rohrer
- Barbara Ross
- Jordan & Katya Sites

## Fish Fry

The Golden Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the church (not the Hall due to Election Day) on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for a trout fish fry. Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish to share.

## **Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events: November 2017**

See the church's website for more details about these events:

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

### **Jr High Sunday**

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Sunday Night Live**

at Montezuma Hall

Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

### **Youth Auction**

at Montezuma Hall

Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm

## **Youth Auction**

This year's Youth Auction will be on Friday November 17<sup>th</sup>. We have already started to collect treasures that will be available to bid on, including a handmade Nativity set made by Tom Womble. We are excited to see what else people will donate to the auction. The auction is only successful if many good things are donated, AND if many many people attend. Proceeds will benefit the youth fund.

## **Jr. High Sunday**

Jr. High Sunday is on November 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Generations Celebrating Faith" based on Psalm 145:4 and Acts 2:42-47.

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

Email: [montezuma.cob@gmail.com](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)  
Mail: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

## **#EternalReward**

*"...But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well..."* Matthew 6:25-34

As established in previous sermons, the way of the world is not equal to the way of the Lord. Sometimes the world requires us in ways the Lord does not. Sometimes the world asks us to participate in ways that conflict with God's desires. Perhaps the world has motives that the Lord does not have. For example, the "American dream" is for people to be successful in life if you work hard enough. This success is measured by self-happiness. The conflict here is that the bible does not teach followers of Christ to do things that make us happy. Jesus does not even promise that we will be happy on earth. What Jesus does promise is an eternal reward (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

One reason why I am reflecting on this is because I sometimes struggle with the idea that I must benefit directly in the things I invest in. I have caught myself thinking things like, "if I spend a weekend at this youth event, what's in it for me?" or "I will go help you move in. . . unless something better comes up!" or "Why would I raise money for something that will not support me?" Have you ever thought like this? I need the reminder from time to time that God provides for our needs. God requires our childlike faith to follow our commitments, to answer our callings, and to trust in God as we travel together through life.

When we serve others, we should not think about reward. We should just think about following God (Matthew 25:37-40). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that following him is not a leisurely or instantly rewarding journey (Matthew 5-7). Jesus does teach that when we follow God, we support others with a servant's heart. We will act out of full humility regardless of whether we receive the money for the fundraiser, if we will be 'giving away' our time, or if we will be successful in the eyes of our neighbors. Jesus loves us unconditionally, and we must serve others unconditionally. When we follow God, God will provide for our needs.

- Pastor Gabe

## CDS team serves in Las Vegas after mass shooting

**C**hildren's Disaster Services (CDS) deployed a team of **Critical Response** Childcare volunteers to Las Vegas, Nev., following the mass shooting. The team was requested by the American Red Cross, and served in a Family Assistance Center.

Team member Patty Henry reported that "this center is expecting up to 27,000 people who have been affected by this tragedy." Her report noted the privacy regulations in place. The CDS team was only able to take photos of the center before people arrived, and photos of

the team itself, and cell phones were silenced out of respect.

To help in their work, the CDS team received donations of play-dough, paint, and other supplies from Child Life Specialists at a Las Vegas hospital, and Save the Children.

The Critical Response Childcare team receives specialized training to care for children following situations of extreme trauma, or mass casualty events. Since 1997, the team has responded to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, 8 aviation incidents, 1 train incident, the Boston Marathon bombing, and the mass shooting in Orlando.



Don Narsen

*Children's Disaster Services' Critical Response Childcare team in Las Vegas.*

## Brethren response in Puerto Rico

**B**rethren Disaster Ministries is responding in Puerto Rico, after the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria. Planning included—in the short term—the shipping of a container of disaster relief supplies and a visit by Roy Winter, associate executive director of Brethren Disaster Ministries and Global Mission and Service. In the long-term, plans include relief and long-term recovery programs, and home repair.

Supplies were gathered at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., where Material Resources staff filled the container. It included canned chicken from Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts, generators, tarpaulins, flashlights, batteries, and chain saws.

"Our resources, support, and programs will be much more effective when we can gather the church leadership," Winter said. In late September, he was able to talk by phone with Puerto Rico District executive Jose Calleja Otero, for the first time since the hurricane. Otero was working to assess the situation and to connect with pastors in the district.



Andrea Victoria

## Brethren in DR Congo threatened by violence

**Global Mission and Service in late September requested prayer** for the Church of the Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Word was received from Lubungo Ron, leading minister for the Congolese Brethren, that violence was "on a high level" in areas where church members live. He reported by e-mail that violence was affecting "South Kivu province, especially in Fizi and Uvira territories" and that "people are killed day by day, it is like a massacre." Mai-Mai rebels had moved close to towns, and the military forces of the government had begun to flee.

## Venezuela church gains official recognition

**"Praise God for the official government recognition of the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela!"** said an announcement from Global Mission and Service. The Venezuelan government has approved incorporation under the name Asociación Iglesia de los Hermanos (ASIGLEH). The board of the Venezuelan Brethren will visit each congregation to officially register them. More than 60 congregations have expressed interest in joining the church.

## Leadership Team issues statement to the denomination

**T**he following statement was issued by the Leadership Team on Sept. 21. The group includes the Annual Conference officers—moderator Samuel Kefas Sarpiya, moderator-elect Donita J. Keister, secretary James M. Beckwith—with general secretary David A. Steele, district executive representative David D. Shetler, and Conference director Chris Douglas.

“The Leadership Team is aware that a district in the Church of the Brethren has made the decision to license to the ministry an individual who lives in an openly committed homosexual relationship. A new fellowship pastored by that individual was recognized by its district conference and was introduced at Annual Conference 2017. Since that time many questions have been raised regarding the accountability of districts. The Leadership Team has sought to clarify that in Church of the Brethren polity, the authority to credential ministers and to establish new congregations and fellowships belongs to the districts. At the same time, the Leadership Team is certainly aware that the intention of our polity is that districts will work within the covenant of our life together and abide by the decisions of Annual Conference.

“The 2002 Annual Conference action established the policy that the Church of the Brethren will ‘consider it inappropriate to license or ordain to Christian ministry any persons who are known to be engaging in homosexual practices, and will not recognize the licensing and ordination of such persons in the Church of the Brethren.’ It is the intent of denominational leadership to act in accordance with all the policies established by Annual Conference.

“The Leadership Team has been studying our polity to discern what actions might be taken when districts choose to act outside the covenant of Annual Conference decisions, and

we find that our polity does not specify how the larger church should respond to this particular circumstance. We continue, however, to research Annual Conference minutes and plan to discuss the results of our research with Standing Committee at its next meeting. In the meantime, the moderator and moderator-elect are seeking opportunity to visit with the district that has made this decision, in order to discuss the various expressions of concern we have heard and to seek mutual understanding with district leadership as to why the district has made a decision in apparent contradiction to the 2002 Annual Conference decision, which was adopted by the church as a whole as a part of the covenant for our life together.

“Regarding the introduction of new fellowships at Annual Conference, our polity calls us to respect the district’s authority to grant fellowship and congregation status. And at the same time, our polity calls us to abide by the policies established by Annual Conference. Our best way of responding to the introduction of this fellowship in light of its pastoral leadership is Brother David Steele’s response as general secretary:

“As staff, we are carefully evaluating our practices of recognizing new fellowships at Annual Conference and will make adjustments to make certain that any recognition at a future Annual Conference more closely aligns with our Annual Conference statements.’

“In the face of these conflicts, it is our deep desire to continue to strive for common ground that can lead us to a compelling vision for our life together. We hold in tension the need for a unified purpose in the midst of diverse points of view. We pray that we all will continue to strive together, seeking peace through love and grace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

## Personnel notes

**Pete Kontra** begins Jan. 1, 2018, as district executive in Atlantic Northeast District. He has been in pastoral ministry for more than 20 years, currently is senior pastor at Hempfield (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, and has served as chair of the district board for the past two years. He holds a master of divinity degree from Bethany Seminary.

**Debbie Roberts** has resigned as assistant professor of reconciliation studies at Bethany Seminary, as of Dec. 31, in order to pastor Sunnyslope Church of the Brethren in Wenatchee, Wash. Hired in July 2013, she was the first to hold this faculty position and developed the seminary’s academic program in reconciliation studies. Her

courses in conflict transformation, mediation, and restorative justice showed strong enrollment, and in fall 2016 became the core of a new certificate in conflict transformation.

**Melissa Fritz** began Oct. 2 as a packer for Material Resources, working at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.



### Post this page

You are welcome to photocopy this page. For more Newsline stories and to subscribe to Newsline’s free e-mail news service go to [www.brethren.org/news](http://www.brethren.org/news)

## Our Stewardship for October 2017

	Attendance		For Budget
	Worship	Sunday School	
October 1	120	73	\$6,668.55
8	171	84	\$4,081.00
15	172	106	\$6,900.92
22	167	93	\$3,973.05
29	137	112	\$3,399.00
October average per Sunday	153	93	\$5,004.50
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	175	83	\$5,253.38

### **Special Giving for October**

2¢ Meal Offering	\$39.03	Heritage Festival	\$17,352.70
Apple Butter	\$460	Hygiene Kits-Postage	\$36
Backpack Program	\$100	Open Doors	\$100
Disaster Fund	\$100	Pat Miller Memorial	\$100
Gideon's International	\$15	Salvation Army Meals	\$100
Global Food Initiative	\$610	Youth Cookbooks	\$30
Heritage Festival Booth Rentals	\$180		

## Serving in November

### NURSERY

- 5 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 12 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 19 John & Amy Knott
- 26 Stephanie Diehl & Fonda Harper

### WORSHIP CENTER

- 5 Wanda Hollen
- 12 Rose Miller
- 19 Dawn Kiser
- 26 Lisa Shickel

### SOUND SYSTEM

- 5 Ron Shickel
- 12 Randy Glick
- 19 Jim Rusmisl
- 26 John Layman

### VALET PARKING

- 5 Gene Golladay
- 12 Melvin Burger
- 19 Weldon Good
- 26 Wade Showalter

**USHERS:** Jim Rusmisl, Guy Lee Clark, JO Good, Roger Moyer

# November Birthdays & Anniversaries

## November Birthdays:

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Angela Andrews<br>Katie Brill<br>Garrett Cash<br>Arleigh Mason | 14 | Jill Brashears<br>Shari Payne                                |
| 2  | Cortland Andrews<br>Scott Showalter                            | 15 | William Grady<br>Corey Shull                                 |
| 4  | Larry Carpenter<br>Calvin Lokey<br>Ezra Barnhart               | 16 | Delmas Harper  |
| 6  | Lucille Cox<br>Jeff Harper                                     | 19 | Cody Airey<br>Edith Burger<br>David Harback<br>Denise Harper |
| 9  | Gloria Horne<br>Sam Rohrer<br>Doug Tumer                       | 21 | Barbara Keller   |
| 10 | April Payne<br>Drew Richard                                    | 22 | Patsy Puffenbarger<br>Jordan Smiley                          |
| 11 | Chris Click<br>Katie Richard                                   | 24 | Yolanda Waggy<br>Katelyn Will                                |
| 13 | Jennifer Prawdzik  | 25 | Lisa Moran   |
|    |  | 26 | Mason Shull  |
|    |  | 27 | Austin Shifflett<br>Rick Kiser                               |

- |    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 28 | Sarah Craun                |
| 30 | Jared Ross<br>Carter Young |

## November Anniversaries:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | William & Louise Grady                    |
| 9  | Roy & Juanita Swartz                      |
| 10 | Delmas & Denise Harper                    |
| 11 | Gene & Joyce Sheffer                      |
| 14 | David & Shelby Click                      |
| 18 | Thomas & Jill Brashears                   |
| 21 | David & Carol Lena Miller                 |
| 25 | Ken & Sue Miller                          |
| 26 | Scott & Heidi Mason<br>Ray & Marsha Shank |

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

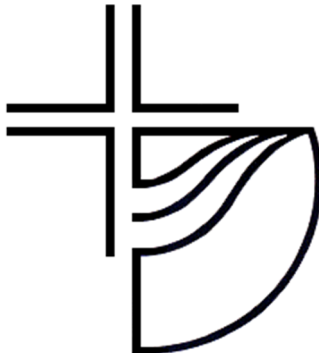
[www.montezumacob.org](http://www.montezumacob.org)

David R. Miller, Pastor [drmiller.cob@gmail.com](mailto:drmiller.cob@gmail.com)  
Gabriel Dodd, Pastor for Youth and Young Families  
[dodd.gabriel@gmail.com](mailto:dodd.gabriel@gmail.com)

Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. [montezuma.cob@gmail.com](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 33  
HARRISONBURG  
VA 22801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



---

---