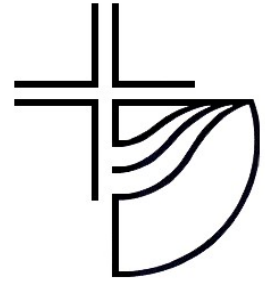


Montezuma Today

April 2018



Spring Fest at Brethren Woods

Once again Montezuma Church will be serving breakfast at the Spring Fest Saturday, April 28th. All proceeds will benefit the camp. This is our way of supporting the services they offer to our church family. Marsha Shank will be heading up Montezuma's participation in this event and will be in need for food donations, volunteers to help prepare the food on Thursday evening, April 26th and volunteers to help serve the breakfast on Saturday morning starting 6:30am. Look for sign-up sheets to see where you can help.

Other activities at Spring Fest include door prizes, hay wagon rides, children's games, zip line rides, climbing tower & challenge course, paddle boat rides, mini-golf, Dunk the Dunkard, a fishing contest, a plant and flower sale, a hike-a-thon, live music, kiss the cow, an auction, and don't forget about all of the delicious food! You won't want to miss out on this

Spring Fest Schedule

Yard Sale	7am
Fishing Contest	7-9:30am
Breakfast	7:30-10am
Hike-a-thon	8:30am
Dunk the Dunkard	9-11am
Mini Golf	10am-2pm
Kiss the Cow	11am
Auction	11:30am-2pm

5th Sunday: April 29th

On Sunday, April 29th, Montezuma will enjoy a presentation by Peter Barlow and a meal following morning worship. The presentation will be an informative discussion of the Church of the Brethren's work through Global Food Initiative (GFI) to provide food security and nutrition to urban and rural Haitian communities with aquaponics systems. Everyone will be welcome to ask questions as we talk about these low-waste, high yield systems that occupy small (35 ft x 25 ft) areas and can feed several families for long periods of time. The meal will be a taco bar, provided and prepared by our youth.

Congregational Business Meeting: May 6th

Montezuma's spring Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6th after Sunday School (11:45 am).

Church Events: April 2018

- 1: Easter Sunday
- 2: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 3: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 4: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 6-8: Youth Roundtable Conference at Bridgewater College
- 6: MYF – 6:15pm
- 8: Jr. High Youth Night – 6-8pm
- 9: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 10: Church Board Meeting – 7pm
- 11: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 12: Salvation Army Meals
- 15: Sr. High Youth Night – 6-8pm
- 16: Vacation Bible School Meeting – 6:30pm
- 16: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 18: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 20-21: Jr. High Lock-in at church
- 20-21: Sr. High Cabin Trip
- 20: MYF – 6:15pm
- 23: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 24: Dorcas Circle – 1pm
- 24: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 28: Springfest at Brethren Woods
- 29: 5th Sunday Meal
- 30: Bell Choir Practice

What's Inside:

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

WORSHIP – April 2018

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

1: Easter Sunday *Pastor David*
Psalm 118:14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

It was no easier to believe in the resurrection two thousand years ago than today. Our science, our technology – these have not made us more resistant to the resurrection faith. In every age, in every place, in every person, confession of the resurrection is equally risky. But there are witnesses. There are people who live the resurrection in Christ.

*Children's Choir & Handbell Choir
International S.S. Lesson: He Has Risen

8: 2nd Sunday of Easter: *Pastor David*
Dealing with Doubt

Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31

We know that people doubt the resurrection. We can doubt it ourselves. Thomas wanted to see it for himself. We get it. What about those disciples in Acts 4, though? They didn't see the resurrected Lord and yet look how they lived?

*Adult Choir
International S.S. Lesson: The Risen Lord Appears

15: 3rd Sunday of Easter: *Pastor David*
Pondering Anger

Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48

We continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after Easter, and yet we also deal with difficulties, disturbances in our soul, like anger. Psalm 4 speaks to that. Jesus speaks to that. Anger is a reality which the resurrection doesn't ignore.

International S.S. Lesson: Follow Me

22: 4th Sunday of Easter: *Pastor Gabe*
God Meets Us

Acts 9:1-22

This week we are lucky to have TWO sermons! First, special guest, "Ananias," will be visiting Montezuma to share his witness of the conversion of Saul - from persecutor to Apostle. Then, pastor Gabe will share a message about the thin spaces where God meets us and helps us refocus our attention towards Jesus.

*Adult Choir
International S.S. Lesson: The Lord God the Almighty

29: 5th Sunday of Easter: *Pastor David*
The Connection

John 15:1-8

I've seen trees – big trees – growing on rocks (big rocks!). It's odd. The tree is completely exposed – roots and all. But these gnarly, uncovered, twisted roots follow the rock to the end where, through crack and crevasse, the earth is found. That connection is all the tree needs to grow on the rock.

International S.S. Lesson: Blessing, Glory, Honor Forever

Peace of my mind:

The weekend you receive this newsletter is the highpoint of the church's calendar. Emotions run the gamut of ABC's old Wide World of Sports – "the agony of defeat" and the "thrill of victory." At least that's how it looks to us as we hear the story. Agony and thrilling victory.

When we read the gospels, the dividing line isn't that neat. The agony part is clear enough. Jesus's humiliation and death on a cross is bad news on the face of it. The first three gospels describe Jesus's friends either standing at a distance or absent altogether. John's description has the Beloved Disciple bringing Jesus's mother to the foot of the cross along with two Marys (Jesus's aunt and Mary Magdalene – interestingly, Jesus's mother is never called by name in John's Gospel).

The intensity of this suffering cannot be underestimated. Neither should we diminish the suffering of others in the world who have been publicly tortured to death in front of their families. This is not something exceptional – there are people around us who have watched innocent family members killed before their eyes.

The good news of Jesus's victory over death, his being raised by the Father, is the well-spring of the revolution that became the church. At Easter we are right to raise our *alleluias* and rejoice. But it is worth a lot for us to allow the Easter readings to guide our own experience of agony and ecstasy. The clarity of agony is rarely, if ever, rivaled by ecstasy in this life. Pain is not thoroughly washed away. Jesus's disciples are extraordinarily cautious in their response to the risen Jesus: they fail to recognize him, to believe him, to know what to do with him.

Their eyes and their hearts are not aligned. Are not in sync. Our lives, in digesting agony and recovery, joy and gratitude, are often the same. Can it be? Is it really so? Has my grief really been defeated? Can I rejoice in truth? Dare I trust again? These are not simple, straight-forward steps. But they are legitimate signs of Easter. Of life for those who trust a risen Lord. The distance between agony and ecstasy is very rarely three days. All the same, resurrection is real. Alleluia! He is risen, indeed!

Peace to you – and to our world, David

April Special Offering

April's special offering is the New Community Project's program in South Sudan, "Give a Girl a Chance". Give a Girl a Chance aims to help Sudanese girls and women get the education and skills training they need to live happy, healthy and productive lives. Education is the key to later marriage, fewer children, and life opportunities. Yet millions either never attend school or withdrawal at an early age.

Give a Girl a Chance works with grassroots groups to address the challenges families face. NCP has helped 300 girls go to school and even helped build a school. Below is a chart of how money can be used.

\$6	1 year's supply of hygiene kits
\$10	School uniform
\$55	1 year's tuition (elementary)
\$250	1 year's boarding for secondary school
\$750	1 year's cost of completing secondary education

The NCP is helping to build a new community of justice and peace for our neighbors and respect for the earth. Through our support of NCP initiatives we too become a part of helping our neighbors and our planet.

Bridgewater Home Auxiliary

The Bridgewater Home Auxiliary Luncheon be held on Wednesday, April 4, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The menu is Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Rolls, Dessert, and Tea or Coffee. The cost is \$6, and carry-outs are available. All proceeds benefit Bridgewater Home Auxiliary Projects. In conjunction with this luncheon, a Community Volunteer Fair is also being held from 11 am – 2 pm.

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
Mail to: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

District Disaster Auction: May 18-19

It is time to get prepared for the upcoming Disaster Ministries Auction! This year's auction will be held on May 18th and 19th at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds to benefit Brethren Disaster Ministries. Montezuma Church always has many volunteers to support this event and we hope many of you will be able to participate again this year.

A Brethren Prayer & Worship Summit

A Brethren Prayer & Worship Summit will be held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds on April 20-21. The theme of this event is found in II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (KJV)

Julian Rittenhouse, a pastor in Pocahontas County, WV, will speak on Friday evening; his theme is "Repentance and Confession." Stafford Frederick, retired pastor of the Summerdean COB in Virlina District, will speak Saturday morning. His theme is "Grace and Forgiveness." Joel Billi, president of EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), will speak on Saturday afternoon on "Healing and Hope."

Brochures with additional information and registration forms are available on the stands in the back hallway and in the Narthex. There is no registration fee, but seating is limited. You may register by mail or online at brethrenprayersummit.com.

BRC Volunteer Reception

The Bridgewater Retirement Community Volunteer Reception will be held on April 11 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse, 261 University Blvd., Harrisonburg. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be provided. Join us for a celebration in your honor for the contributions you have made to Bridgewater Retirement Community. Please RSVP to Diane Metzler at 828-2550 by April 6.

Youth Events: April 2018

Roundtable Conference

April 6th at 6pm – April 8th at 12pm
Bridgewater College

Jr. High Youth Night

Sunday, April 8th from 6-8pm

Sr. High Youth Night

Sunday, April 15th from 6-8pm

Jr. High Lock-In at church

April 20th – 21st

Sr. High Cabin Trip

April 20th – 21st

5th Sunday Meal (taco bar)

Sunday, April 29th after Sunday School

Vacation Bible School: Shipwrecked

Plans are already underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School! This year the theme will be, "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus". During VBS, children will have an opportunity to venture onto an uncharted island and learn how Jesus carries them through life's storms.

This year, we will be joining Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren and Dayton Church of the Brethren. VBS will be held at Montezuma Church of the Brethren from June 25th-28th. Dinner will be served each evening at 5:30pm. Following dinner, students will attend a variety of stations including Bible Discovery, KidVid Cinema, Game Makers, Snack Factory, and Imagination Station. The evening will conclude at 8:30 pm.

VBS is for children who will be 4 years old by September 30th through rising 5th graders. A week of service, bible study, and fellowship will also be planned for students who will be in the Junior High Group this fall. If you would like to volunteer to help with Bible School or have further questions, please contact Linnette Coaker in the church office. (540) 879-2246

Discovering God

by Pastor Gabe

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

Have you ever lost your keys or your phone, and you just couldn't find it anywhere? You check the bathroom, your bed, the kitchen table - perhaps even in the refrigerator - before realizing that they were in your hands the whole time? I have had plenty of moments like that. Usually my reactions to things happens too soon. When I get lost, it's because I turned too soon. When I get into an argument with Pam - it takes me a while to understand that I act out of reaction - instead of taking time to notice the situation. When I respond out of my first reaction, I am usually not showcasing my best self. 9 times out of 10, if I take some moments to pause before I respond - I respond with more grace.

This is why it has been important for me to practice patience, and the spiritual gift of observation. It is hard work to change from the ordinary! When I take time to observe, I am able to appreciate the moment, to realize my part in a disagreement, and to find God in ways I was not able to before. The truth of 'God's Love' is always present. We just need to notice it. When money is tight, God is there. When you or someone you love is suffering, God is there. When you get agitated from a post on social media, God is there. God is present to us when we are thriving, and God is present to us when we are failing. Know that when we fail, or when we experience unwanted feelings, God wants us to take notice of the power of patience. Perhaps when we look everywhere for God, we are being too hurried to realize that God is right there, in your own hands.

Not only should we practice 'paying attention', but as we do that, we will discover more about God that was also always there, but was not revealed to us yet. God wants to show us the wonder and splendor of the Kingdom, all we need to do is knock, seek, and ask.

‘Compelling vision’ process to be central at Annual Conferences next two years

Annual Conference in 2017 called the Leadership Team

of the denomination, along with the Council of District Executives, to develop a process through which the church will engage in conversations leading to a “compelling vision” for the church’s life together.

A Compelling Vision Working Group has been formed, comprising general secretary David Steele, 2018 Annual Conference moderator Samuel Sarpiya, 2019 moderator Donita Keister, Conference director Chris Douglas, and two district executives chosen by the council, Colleen Michael and John Janzi. The 2020 moderator will join this group following this year’s Annual Conference.

This working group has set in place a process by which the church will be led through a time of envisioning beginning with Annual Conference 2018 and continuing through the 2019 Conference. The process is intended to move beyond conversations, debates, and official statements to living out

the steps that will move the denomination forward “with vision and purpose as we proclaim and serve Christ together.”

A Compelling Vision Process Team of seven individuals from across the denomination, with Sarpiya, Keister, and Douglas, will work during Annual Conference 2018 and 2019 and also alongside district gatherings to engage the church in conversations that will generate themes leading to a vision with a distinctive direction for the Church of the Brethren. During the 2018 Conference, one full business session and a portion of a second will be structured to begin the envisioning process. Following the 2018 Conference, district gatherings will provide input to the development of a denominational vision statement. Annual Conference 2019 will be primarily dedicated, including most of the business sessions, to the development of a compelling vision for the Church of the Brethren.

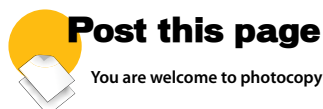
The Leadership Team and Council of District Executives are encourag-

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



ing all congregations “to be present in these conversations bringing your unique contributions and sharing in the hard work of discovering God’s plan for how we will continue to be the body of Christ in this broken world.”

“Confessing Jesus Christ as teacher, redeemer, and Lord, we desire to serve him by proclaiming, professing, and walking in his way together bringing his peace to our broken world. Join us in reclaiming a new passion for Christ and helping set a course for our future as the Church of the Brethren serving him in our communities and in the world!” —GUIDING STATEMENT FROM COMPELLING VISION WORKING GROUP



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Paul Munday and Pam Reist top AC ballot

Topping the ballot for the 2018 Annual Conference

are two nominees for moderator-elect: Paul Munday and Pam Reist.

Munday is an ordained minister who is retired from a long-term pastorate at Frederick (Md.) Church of the Brethren, and previously served on the denominational staff in the areas of evangelism and church growth. Reist is an ordained minister and pastor at Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren who has



Paul Munday



Pam Reist



served on the denomination's Mission and Ministry Board, where she was a member of the executive committee.

Following are additional nominees, listed by position:

Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee: Emily Shonk Edwards of Nellysford, Va.; Del Keeney of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: Jeremy Driver of Harrisonburg, Va.; Deb Oskin of Columbus, Ohio.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 2: LaDonna Sanders Nkosi of Chicago,

Ill.; Paul Schrock of Indianapolis, Ind.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 3: Sue Ann Overman of Morgantown, W. Va.; Carol Yeazell of Asheville, N.C.

Bethany Seminary board of trustees, representing clergy: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey of Hagerstown, Md.; Brandy Fix Liepelt of Annville, Pa.

Bethany Seminary board of trustees, representing laity: Ronald D. Flory of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Louis Harrell (incumbent) of Manassas, Va.

Brethren Benefit Trust board of directors: Nancy L. Bowman of Fishersville, Va.; Shelley Kontra of Lancaster, Pa.

On Earth Peace board: Jennifer Keeney Scarr of Trotwood, Ohio; Naomi Sollenberger of New Enterprise, Pa.

For more information about Annual Conference go to www.brethren.org/ac.

Personnel notes

Roxanne Aguirre started Jan. 16 as part-time coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training at the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, working from her home in California. Aguirre holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and a bachelor's in psychology from California State University Fresno.

Tammy Glenn began March 1 as executive director of finance and administration at Bethany Seminary. As controller, she will oversee financial planning and accounting operations and will manage

seminary investments in consultation with a consultant firm. Additional responsibilities include overseeing human resources, buildings and grounds, and Bethany housing. She will serve as treasurer for the board of trustees, enabling her to act in legal capacities for the seminary. Previously, she has been controller for the city of Richmond, Ind., among other work for area organizations.

John M. Loop began Jan. 8 as CEO of Timbercrest Retirement Community in North Manchester, Ind. He is a former administrator of Asbury Methodist Village in

Gaithersburg, Md., and holds degrees from Ohio State University and Valparaiso University. He succeeds David Lawrenz, who retired after 45 years at Timbercrest.

Amy Gall Ritchie is resigning as director of student development and alumni/ae relations for Bethany Theological Seminary, effective May 15. She has worked there since August 2003. Her work for Bethany has included leading spiritual direction as part of ministry formation, helping with a research project interviewing congregations to better prepare students for ministry, and, in

2016, serving as interim director of admissions and student services. She is a graduate of Bethany and Columbia Theological Seminary.

Beth Sollenberger is serving quarter-time as interim district executive for Michigan District, while she continues as executive for South/Central Indiana District.

Rick Villalobos started Jan. 29 as production coordinator for Brethren Benefit Trust. He holds a bachelor's in communications with a minor in graphic design from DePaul University.

Our Stewardship for March 2018

Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
4	164	89	\$7,831.35
11	172	85	\$4,462.70
18	188	120	\$4,386.00
25	184	82	\$3,736.56
<hr/>			
March average per Sunday	177	81	\$5,104.15
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	172	84	

Special Giving for March 2018

Easter Lilies	\$298.50	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$555
Memorial Meals	\$100	Warren & June Weger Memorial	\$1,000
Montezuma Mugs	\$5	Youth Cookbooks	\$20

Serving in April 2018

NURSERY

- 1 No schedule: Easter
- 8 Becky & Hayley Daubert
- 15 Stephanie Diehl & Dawn Kiser
- 22 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 29 John & Amy Knott

WORSHIP CENTER

- 1 Linda Waggy
- 8 Jill Sease
- 15 Lisa Shickel
- 22 Dawn Kiser
- 29 Rose Miller

SOUND SYSTEM

- 1 Chris Payne
- 8 Bill Heishman
- 15 Ron Shickel
- 22 Randy Glick
- 29 Jim Rusmiser

VALET PARKING

- 1 Brad Smith
- 8 Ralph Rohrer
- 15 Donnie Jackson
- 22 Jeff Wine
- 29 Melvin Burger

USHERS

Bob Black, David Skelton, Matt Young, Randy Glick

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, April 12th. The following people will help prepare and serve the meal: Bill Rohrer, Donnie McNett, Karen Fleishman, Vicki Richard & Jill Sease.

Age limits for the Worship Nursery

Montezuma is eager to provide nursery care during the 9:30 a.m. worship for small children. Some have asked if the current nursery might not be limited to children three and under since we use one room. If you have concerns about this restriction, please talk with Pastor David. A firm decision has not been made.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Danny Hollen | 11 | Jackson Williams |
| | Nancy Keplinger | 12 | Madison DePoy |
| | Rebecca Mason | | Scott McNett |
| | Eric Payne | | Leslie Mohler |
| | Ron Shickel | 13 | Ronnie Fulton |
| 3 | Heather Knott | 14 | Matt Young |
| | Jerold Sager | 15 | Lois Black |
| 4 | Montana Showalter | | John Layman |
| | Richard Smith | 16 | Joy Monger |
| | Kenneth Wenger | 17 | Mary Jackson |
| 5 | Dolores Cline | 18 | Donnie Fulton |
| 6 | Tina Knott | | Ann Miller |
| | Myla Showalter | | Gary Myers |
| 7 | Christopher Floyd | | Kristin Nocolai |
| | Weldon Good | | Doris Riggelman |
| | Edith Hartman | 20 | Billy Eaver |
| | Josh Payne | | Clint Harpine |
| | Holly Wood | 21 | Jack Layne |
| 8 | Bill Heishman | | Frances Shenk |
| 9 | Rose Miller | 22 | Kirk Kuster |
| 10 | Harold McNett | 23 | Billy Myers |

April Anniversaries:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 24 | Emmalin Barnhart | 1 | Scott & Michelle Airey |
| | Ronnie Shirkey | 3 | Cory & Jennifer Payne |
| 25 | David Miller | | David & Vicki Richard |
| | Marilyn Miller | 4 | Chris & Ann Click |
| 26 | Amy Knott | | John & Cathleen Coffman |
| | Howard Smiley | | Dwayne & Dawn Kiser |
| 27 | Lynn McNett | 8 | Wendell & Betty Chandler |
| | Craig Sease | | Bill & Joyce Jackameit |
| | Missy Vandevander | 11 | Rick & Tina Knott |
| 28 | Diane McNett | 14 | Norlyn & Betty Miller |
| | Josh Richard | 16 | Charles & Janice Rhodes |
| | Michelle Airey | 20 | Eric & April Payne |
| | Dwayne Kiser | 21 | John & Linnette Coaker |
| | Adam Richard | 22 | Bill & Barbara Eavers |
| | Jerry Shank | 24 | Daniel & Naomi Lambert |
| | Keith Weaver | | Doug & Lisa Tumer |
| | Sarah Williams | 25 | Charles & Fay Airey |
| | Kyle Brown | 26 | Bob & Carol Martin |
| | Danny Lilly | 30 | Howard & Debbie Smiley |
| | Rosemary Taylor | | |
| | Russell Wenger | | |

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