

Montezuma Today

March 2018



Holy Week & Easter March 25-April 1

Our journey through Lent continues throughout March and culminates with Holy Week and Easter Sunday, April 1. All of us are encouraged to remain strong in our faith, to build our hope by answering God through our prayers, weekly community worship, and daily living. Holy Week, beginning Palm Sunday, March 25, is a sacred time for the church. The following services are planned and open to everyone:

- Palm Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m. featuring The Last Week drama
- Maundy Thursday, Love Feast, March 29, 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday, Bridgewater Area Ministries Crosswalk, beginning at noon, Bridgewater Presbyterian
- Easter Morning Worship, April 1, 9:30 a.m.

These services are a central part of our life together as the church. They specifically lead us through Jesus's last week, including the conflict he faced and the faith he exhibited, but conclude not with an emphasis on personal power, but on what God does in our midst, even when all hope appears lost. Join us for this week together. In this way, we answer God.

Happy Birthday, Montezuma Church Folks!!

Mark your calendar for our annual church birthday celebration on Sunday, March 18th! We will be having the birthday dinner downstairs in the fellowship hall.

We are still seeking talent for the Talent Show entertainment for this event! Please consider either playing an instrument, reciting a poem, reading a passage of prose, singing, juggling, or even performing as a mime! If you are interested, please contact Neva Clayton at 830-5339.

Families and/or individuals are invited to choose a table representing one of the 12 months of the year to decorate in a fashion which reflects a special aspect of that month. A sign-up sheet is available in the entryway for table decorating. Keep watch in the bulletin for more information.

Church Events: March

- 2: MYF – 6:15pm
- 4: Bell Choir at VMRC – 3:30pm
- 4: Jr. High Pool Party at Westover
- 5: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 6: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 6: Commission Meetings – 7pm
- 7: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 8: Salvation Army Meal
- 11: Deacon Meeting – 11:30am
- 11: Sunday Night Live at Bridgewater COB – 6pm
- 12: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 12: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 13: Executive Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 14: Choir Practice -7pm
- 16: MYF – 6:15pm
- 17: Sr. High Caving Trip
- 18: Church Birthday Banquet
- 19: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 21: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 24: Jr. High trip to Charlottesville Jump
- 26: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 28: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 29: Love Feast
- 30: Bridgewater Area Ministries Crosswalk

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WORSHIP – March 2018

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

4: 3rd Sunday of Lent: *Pastor David*

Mysteries both high and low

Psalm 19; John 2:13-22

Psalm 19 opens with a declaration that “the heavens are telling the glory of God.” From the wonders of the physical world, the Psalmist turns to the mysteries of our inner world – “who can detect their errors?” Biblical faith addresses the big and the little; the obvious, and the hidden.

International S.S. Lesson: The Lord Will Provide

11: 4th Sunday of Lent: *Pastor Gabe*

Faith of our Friends

Mark 2:1-12; Psalm 41

Have you ever needed the help of your friends to pick you up and put you on your feet? What is amazing about this story is that Jesus sees the faith of the friends, and uses it as a teaching point for how we are to trust in Jesus.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: There Is No God like You

18: 5th Sunday of Lent: *Pastor David*

Meditating on God's Ways

Psalm 119:9-16; John 12:20-33

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm: 176 verses (we are only reading eight of those). It is a love song to God's Torah, the law. In our section, the psalmist says, “I will meditate on your commandments.” What is that meditation? And how does it guide us in answering God?

*Bell Choir

International S.S. Lesson: The People Gave Thanks to God

25: 6th Sunday of Lent: *Pastor David* **The Last Week**

Psalm 118:1-2; Mark 11

Morning worship will unfold as a drama portraying Jesus's last week, from his triumphal entry through his trial before Pilate. The events of this week show why some people resisted Jesus so completely, and why others loved him dearly.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: Keep My Statutes and Ordinances

29: Love Feast: 7:00pm

Matthew 18:15-22; John 13:1-17;

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Isaiah 53:1-6

Peace of my mind:

Recently I finished James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, a very large one volume history of the American Civil War. What a book! It startles me how much there is to know about this country, and how little any one person can know.

The book describes battles, strategy and tactics; dips into the personalities of leaders and generals; reviews the conflicts over liberty, property, and government. That's what we expect. But what about the nurses? The women who showed up at numerous field hospitals and convalescence centers that resulted from every single major battle? What about the administrators who organized supply chains when railroad tracks were regularly upended, bridges blown-up, and roads reduced to mud during heavy rains and winter storms? What about the people who didn't want to fight – and there were many who found ways to avoid conscription? All of that and much, much more is part of this story.

The Civil War is a wound in our national soul. It's been more than 150 years, yet the contours of that war – what is liberty? What is the proper role of government? Who shares in full participation in our society? – are still being played out in our politics.

The church was as divided by this war as the rest of society. The Gospel of Jesus Christ did not create a united church. Some churches fought to retain slaves; others passionately worked to free them; and many – perhaps most – could see both sides of the argument. Slavery couldn't be right, but slaves were property and they were not the same as white people.

It is a painful history. It is a still living history. It is a cross that we bear – chaotic, conflictual, bloody, and destructive. Many people were heroic. But heroic toward what end?

Brothers and sisters, we are in Lent: on the road to Good Friday. That Friday represents the truth about us. Not just Pilate and the Romans, or Caiaphas and Jewish leaders. It is our truth. We do crucify our Lord. We who pray to the same God too often fight one another to the death in the name of that God. This is not right. We know it is wrong. And yet Friday comes.

The resurrection we await is bigger than personal salvation. It resulted in something beyond the personal – the raised Jesus was the catalyst for the church. We carry this raised Jesus in our own lives and in the body called church. If we don't live that, why should anyone believe the Gospel?

Peace to you, and to our world – Pastor David

Special Offering for March

"Just as you did it to one of the least of them... you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in our own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet, but who are in need of our compassion.

God provides the resources so that we can give back. It is not the size of the gift that matters; it's that we give of what we have. We're simply giving back to God what is already God's and that means everyone has a gift to bring.

This special offering empowers ministries of the Church of the Brethren to reach many people. Water projects, human relief, disaster relief and empowerment are the broad areas where One Great Hour of Sharing reaches. Give prayerful consideration to this special offering during March.

Brethren Woods Camp Sign-Up

It is camp sign-up time again! To get the best selection of camp times and the best discount, register by March 31st. Brethren Woods has an online registration platform at www.brethrenwoods.org. Just click "Summer Camp" and "Register Online" and follow the instructions. Printable forms are also available online and must be signed by Pastor David or Jenifer Hiner, Camp Representative, to get the discount.

Pictorial Directories are here!

One Directory for each household pictured in the directory is available in the boxes organized alphabetically in the entryway. Those who did not have pictures taken may pick up a directory from the box designated for that purpose. Please remember to take only one per household.

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: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

Easter Lilies

Lilies for Easter will be available to order in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$8, and order envelopes are available in the entryway.

Vacation Bible School June 25-28

Summer is not far off and that means Vacation Bible School. This year's VBS at Montezuma is a special one. Three congregations – Beaver Creek, Dayton, and Montezuma – are making it a joint effort. Montezuma will host the event. The theme is "Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus." We plan a full program, including supper, which will be served at 5:30 this year, on each night. VBS is for students four years through rising 5th graders, and a program for Junior high and possible senior high youth is included as well. Save these dates and make plans to join us!

Brethren Woods Women's Retreat

Our retreat theme will be "Claiming the peace of Christ," based on John 14:25-27. Our weekend will be led by Donna Ritchey Martin, who is co-pastor at Grossnickle C.O.B. in Myersville, MD. We'll enjoy moving worship, music, intentional time with God, and times of craftiness and service! Come, be blessed!

When: March 9-10, 2018

Where: Woodland Retreat Center

Cost: \$75 (includes lodging, meals, supplies, snacks, and more!)

Ages: Women ages 16 and up!

Registration Check-In begins at 4:00pm on Friday, March 9th. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm. The retreat will end around 4:00pm on Saturday.

Birthday Wishes for John Clayton

On Monday, March 5th, John Clayton will turn 99 years old. Please feel free to send him birthday greetings at Bridgewater Retirement Community Gardner Wing
302 North Second Street
Bridgewater, VA 22812

On Sunday, March 4th, we will have a small reception with cookies after worship. I hope you can join us to celebrate my father's birthday.

Thank you, Neva Clayton

Caring for each other with the comfort of Christ

by Pastor Gabe

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

~ John 14:26-27

Sometimes, late at night, I am summoned to the nursery by my 13 month old son, Elias. He is at the age, and has been for some time, that he does not like to be alone in his room. He can play with his toys by himself only if you are in the room with him. He will eat his dinner by himself only if you are sitting nearby. He is able to go on a long car ride only if one of us acknowledges him by holding his hand every hour or so. And at night he can sleep soundly only if he knows you are near. Usually Pam or I will come into the room and quietly observe. Sometimes I will sit outside his crib to let him know, "I am here. I see you. I know you are in need. Everything is fine." Sometimes Elias will lay back down in his crib, and fall back asleep. There is something about the presence of a familiar voice or face that brings a sense of peace into his life.

In some research I have been reading, apparently the same is true for our young people of the church. Although their ways of seeking comfort are via media and technology, experts say that the technology is not the driving factor of social media. The messages young people are sending are the same basic human needs of any person that has lived in any era; "Where are you? Do you see me? I have needs. Will everything be okay?" Think of any young person. The person you are thinking of might seek attention by acting goofy in school. Maybe they go the extra mile for their favorite teacher. Perhaps the young person you are thinking of is someone who is bullied and responds in inappropriate ways by harming others back. The message they are sending is the same.

Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events: March 2018

Jr. High Pool Party at Westover Pool

*Sunday, March 4th
11:30am – 3:00pm*

Sunday Night Live at Bridgewater COB

*Sunday, March 11th
6:00 – 8:00pm*

Jr. High trip to see the Pence Middle School Musical

Thursday, March 15th

Sr. High Caving Trip

Saturday, March 17th

Jr. High trip to Charlottesville Jump

Saturday, March 24th

Beyond our young people, I bet any aged person in our congregation seeks the comfort of God in these ways. In reflecting on this for myself, I know that through the journey of my dying father, I am dependent on God to know: where God is, if I am seen, if my needs are acknowledged, and if things will be okay. I have been blessed in our congregation with prayers and conversations with individuals. If the needs that we have are to be comforted by the love and grace of God, what would happen if everybody in our church was met with these conversations of care and support? Could the church be more unified if we were focused on caring for each other by this type of care? Maybe the more we do this, the more we are able to know peace in our hearts because we will be spreading the love of Jesus to one another. When I am cared for by a church member, I know Jesus is reaching out to me. Jesus is saying; "I am here. I see you. I know you are in need. Everything is fine."



Brethren from the DR, Spain start churches in Europe

In the 1990s, a wave of Dominicans began leaving their home country to look for a better life in Spain. Members of Iglesia de los Hermanos (the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic) were among them. In time they established the Church of the Brethren in Spain.

As the economy sputtered in Spain, some members were on the move again. Several moved to London some years ago and started a house church. This preaching point was recognized in 2016 by the Asamblea or Annual Conference of Iglesia Evangelica de los Hermanos (the Church of the Brethren in Spain).

Last fall, on the way to the 2017

Asamblea, Global Food Initiative manager Jeff Boshart and Fausto Carrasco, pastor of Nuevo Comienzo, St. Cloud, Fla., stopped in London. They visited Karen Meriguete, founder of Roca Viva Church of the Brethren, and several other members. She recently turned over leadership of the new fellowship to her brother, Edward De La Torres, and has begun a second plant in a different neighborhood of London.

Meriguete and most of the other house church members are of Dominican heritage but are Spanish citizens, which allows them to move freely across the European Union. House churches are starting in Holland and Germany as well—all springing from the Brethren in Spain. —Jeff Boshart

Grants support disaster work, hunger relief, seminary in India

Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative, to develop new project sites, and to assist families displaced by violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Global Food Initiative (GFI) has given grants to a Going to the Garden retreat, an aquaponics system in Haiti, community gardens in Spain, and a feeding ministry in Mexico.

In addition, a grant of \$15,000 has been given by Global Mission and Service to Gujarat United School of Theology in India, for repairs to classrooms and other facilities. GUST is a seminary of the Church of North India, a long-standing ecumenical partner.

An EDF grant of \$50,000 funds work in the US Virgin Islands by the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. DRSI is a partnership with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

An EDF grant of \$25,000 funds development of new project sites for Brethren Disaster Ministries, related to last fall's hurricanes and fires.

An EDF grant of \$10,000 to Shalom Ministry for

Reconciliation and Development in the DRC follows two grants totaling \$15,000, which have distributed food to 950 households or nearly 7,500 people.

A GFI grant of \$4,892.50 funds an aquaponics system requested by the community development staff of Eglise des Freres Haitiens (Church of the Brethren in Haiti). It is a prototype to be replicated elsewhere in conjunction with the Haiti Medical Project. The project is a cooperative effort of Eglise des Freres, Capstone 118, and GFI.

GFI grants of \$4,455 and \$3,850 support community gardens of Iglesia Evangelica de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in Spain). The projects are sponsored by the Gijon and Aviles congregations, and the Lanzarote congregation in the Canary Islands.

A GFI grant of \$4,450 funds a second Going to the Garden retreat for community gardeners, to be held in New Orleans, La., hosted by GFI partner Capstone 118. It will focus on the role of the church in local advocacy for healthier food systems, hands-on advanced gardening, and social entrepreneurship.

A GFI grant of \$1,000 purchases a stove and refrigerator for a Bittersweet Ministries feeding program in Tijuana, Mexico.

BVS volunteers work across US, N. Ireland, Japan

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) units 316 and 318 trained in the summer and fall of 2017. Unit 317, offered jointly with the Brethren Revival Fellowship, was canceled due to lack of participants.



BVS Unit 316

Front, from left: **Katie Hiscock** of Kalamazoo, Mich., is placed at Casa de Esperanza de los Niños, Houston, Texas; **Kyrie Branaman**, Wheat Ridge, Colo., is at Quaker Cottage, Belfast, Northern Ireland; **Bev O'Neal**, Memorial Church of the Brethren, Martinsburg, Pa., is at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, Ark.; **Maya Davis**, La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren, is at Quaker Cottage; **Sam Farley**, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind., is at Camp Mardela, Denton, Md.; **Tori Bateman**, Indian Creek Church of the Brethren, Harleysville, Pa., is at Office of Public Witness, Washington, D.C.; **Verena Jauss**, Weil im Schoenbuch, Germany, is at Heifer Ranch. *Second row, kneeling:* **Dannie Otto**, Urbana, Ill., is at World Friendship Center, Hiroshima, Japan; **Frieden Gresh**, Fairview (Md.) Church of the Brethren, is at ABODE Services, Fremont, Calif.; **Joan Huston**, Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren, Lebanon, Pa., is at Brethren Disaster Ministries. *Third row, standing:* **Kelsey Murray**, Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, is at Youth and Young Adult Office, Elgin, Ill.; **Barb Shenk**, Urbana, Ill., is at World Friendship Center; **Lea Herres**, Wittlich, Germany, is at ABODE; **Megan Wiens**, McPherson, Kan., is at Creation Justice Ministries, Washington, D.C.; **Erv Huston**, Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren, is at Brethren Disaster Ministries; **Hannah Tutwiler**, Pleasant Valley (Va.) Church of the Brethren, is at Human Solutions, Portland, Ore.; **Justin Domingos**, Lakeside, Calif., is at San Diego (Calif.) Peace Campus; **Lisa Hoesel**, Herrnhut, Germany, is at Habitat for Humanity, Lancaster, Pa.; **Deborah Mowry**, Loysburg, Pa., is at Sisters of the Road, Portland, Ore.; **Stephen Miller**, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren, is at Asian Rural Institute, Japan; **Bob O'Neal**, Memorial Church of the Brethren, is at Heifer Ranch; **Eske Hicken**, Offenbach, Germany, is at Sisters of the Road.

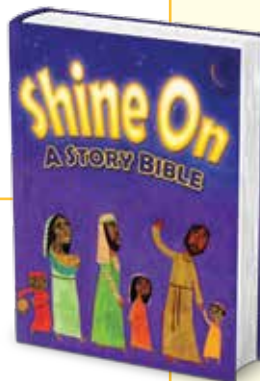


BVS Unit 318

Front, from left: **Chloe Soliday**, Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa., is at Creation Justice Ministries, Washington D.C.; **Grey Robinson**, Glade Spring, Va., is at the Workcamp Ministry, Elgin, Ill.; **Justyna Krumpholz**, Wiesloch, Germany, is at Project PLASE, Baltimore, Md.; **Hannah Hernley**, New Paris, Pa., is at Capstone 118, New Orleans, La.; **Jan Kock**, Wesel, Germany, is at Deep Roots, Earleville, Md. *Back:* **Katinka Kalusche**, Hamburg, Germany, is at Highland Park Elementary, Roanoke, Va.; **Marvin Best**, Hohn-Grenshausen, Germany, is at ABODE Services, Fremont, Calif.; **Tyrese Taylor**, North Manchester (Ind.) Church of the Brethren, is at ABODE; **Jonathan Faust**, Bad Feilnbach, Germany, is at SnowCap, Portland, Ore.; **Daylon Frye**, Goshen, Ind., is at Habitat for Humanity, Lancaster, Pa.

Brethren Press sends story Bible to churches

Brethren Press has sent 425 copies of *Shine On: A Story Bible*, including 5 copies of the Spanish version, to Church of the Brethren congregations across the country. The gifts were funded by an offering taken at the 2017 Annual Conference. Shine is a curriculum of Brethren Press and MennoMedia. "The good news we all share with children transforms their lives. Annual Conference shares this vision and has partnered with Brethren Press for a special initiative aimed at growing faith in children," said the cover letter. "Please accept this gift from all of us."



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Our Stewardship for February 2018

Attendance

		Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
February	4	94	no SS	\$3,725.29
	12	150	73	\$6,431.02
	18	167	no SS	\$7,290.80
	25	182	69	\$3,479.62
February average per Sunday		148	71	\$5,231.68
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		172	81	\$5,278.42

Special Giving for February

Apple Butter	\$25	Rodrigue Makelele Fund	\$30
Backpack Program	\$145	Tenderloin Feast	\$4,868
Ministry of Hope	\$295	Youth Cook Books	\$20

NURSERY

4 John & Amy Knott
 11 Stephanie Diehl & Fonda Harper
 18 Matt & LeAnne Young
 25 Bobby & Sarah Williams

WORSHIP CENTER

4 Rose Miller
 11 Wanda Hollen
 18 Dawn Kiser
 25 Linda Waggy

SOUND SYSTEM

4 Jim Rusmisel
 11 John Layman
 18 Ben Hiner
 25 Bobby Williams

VALET PARKING

4 Melvin Burger
 11 Weldon Good
 18 Wade Showalter
 25 Bob Michael

USHERS

Roger Moyer, Bob Black, Ben Hall, Jim Rusmisel

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, March 8th. The following people have signed up to help: **Tom & Ann Miller, Pansy Auville, Dawn Kiser, Sam Rohrer, and Helen Shickel**

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays:

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Donna Brunk | 14 | Susan Kinkead | 27 | Brent Burkholder |
| | Marian Layman | 16 | Josh Kinkead | | Shirley Dameron |
| | Orva Showalter | | Carol Lena Miller | | Chloe Eye |
| | Amanda Trent | 17 | Adrian Lambert | | Fred Shank |
| 2 | Andrew Skelton | 18 | Carol Martin | 28 | Alanah Brashears |
| 3 | Claire Williams | | Avery Andrews | | Paula Brown |
| 4 | Gretel Layne | | Eleanor Payne | | Scott Yelverton |
| | Alexander Shank | | Tanner Shifflett | 29 | Anne Marie Depoy |
| 5 | Julia Rohrer | | Jeff Wine | | |
| | Jared Smith | 21 | Pansy Auville | | |
| | John Clayton | 22 | Charles Airey | | |
| 7 | Steve Glick | | John Coaker | | |
| 8 | Sue Miller | | Judy Hill | | |
| | Owen Strawderman | 23 | Vincent Cash | | |
| 11 | Paige Eavers | 26 | David Mason | | |
| 12 | Lori Good | | Vince Rhodes | | |
| 13 | Shevonne Fulton | | | | |
| | Lindsey Richard | | | | |

March Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 2 | Gordon & Wanda Driver |
| 9 | Bobby & Elaine Shank |
| 28 | David & Wilamena Harback |

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