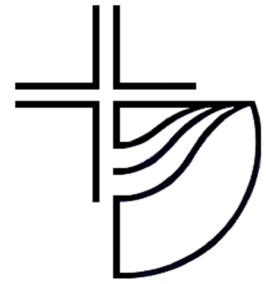


Montezuma Today

May 2018



Disaster Ministries Auction: May 18th - 19^h

The Annual Disaster Ministries Auction is at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Once again, our church will be assisting in several areas and volunteers are needed! If you are interested in helping with the Saturday morning breakfast, chicken barbeque, or the plant tent, please talk to Fred Shank.

Friday, May 18

- 7:30am Golf Tournament Registration at Lakeview
- 1pm Main exhibit building opens
Outdoor and indoor silent auctions
Assemble school kits under tent
Sale booths open (baked goods, plants, etc.)
- 3-7pm Oyster/country ham dinner
(\$18/adults; \$8/age 10 and under)
Food trailer open for sandwiches, drinks, fries
- 6:15pm Livestock auction
Auction of art, furniture, handwork

Saturday, May 19

- 7-10am Breakfast (pancakes and sausage gravy or made-to-order omelets)
- 8 am Sale booths open (baked goods, plants, etc.)
- 8:30-11am Silent auction
- 8:30am-1pm Blood drive
- 8:45am Worship service
- 9am Main auction of art, crafts, furniture, quilts
- 10am-2pm Children's activities
- 11am Outside auction of large items
- 11am Lunch (plate lunch: barbecued chicken or pulled pork; also a la carte menu)
- 1pm Theme basket auction

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: May 2018

- 1: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 1: Commission Meetings – 7pm
- 2: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 3: Youth Sustainability Committee – 6:30pm
- 4: MYF – 6:15pm
- 6: Congregational Business Meeting – 11:40am
- 7: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 8: Executive Committee – 7pm
- 9: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 10: Salvation Army Meal
- 14: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 14: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 16: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 18: MYF – 6:15pm
- 20: Deacon Lunch meeting after church
- 20: Sunday Night Live! – 6-8pm
- 21: VBS Meeting – 6:30pm
- 21: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 22: Dorcas Circle – 1pm
- 22: Constitution Revision Committee – 6:30pm
- 23: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 30: Choir Practice – 7pm

What's Inside:

- 2 Worship Topics
Peace of my mind
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- 4 Changing the World
Youth Events
- 5-6 Newline Digest
- 7 Stewardship
Financial Report
- 8 Birthdays & Anniversaries

WORSHIP – May 2018

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

6: Friends

Pastor David

John 15:9-17

The word friend seems an especially inadequate one to talk about our relationship with our Lord Jesus. How can we be his friend? Jesus is inconceivably greater than we are. Yet this is the word that he uses. He uses the words love, commandments, joy, laying down one's life, making known, appointing, loving one another. This is a revolution. Jesus calls us friends.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: Giving from a generous heart

13: Then They Prayed

Pastor Gabe

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, 1 John 5:9-13

After the Ascension, there is vacancy, and need. How do the first disciples handle their decision making? This week we will look at Judas, and how God lives and works in our process for making decisions.

International S.S. Lesson: Bringing first fruits

20: Pentecost: A Groaning World

Pastor David

Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-35; Romans 8:18-27

Pentecost Sunday. We give thanks. The Spirit of God, the holy wind, makes new things happen. But not easy things. This is a groaning world. A woman writhing, crying out in childbirth. That is the work of the Spirit. At the basis of the Gospel is a fundamental honesty. It is costly. It is a struggle. But out of that struggle and pain ... life, hope, partnership with the Spirit.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: Remembering with joy

27: Trinity Sunday: Children of God

Pastor David

Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17

You notice, we are reading the texts out of order. Last week Romans 8:18-27; this week, Romans 12-17. First the struggle, then the promise fulfilled. The imagery used by scripture is generative. We are like branches connected to a vine (John 15); we are friends of God (John 15); we are like a woman in child-birth (Romans 8); and now, we are God's children. To be a child of God is to be like God. Oh.

International S.S. Lesson: Rejoicing in Restoration

Peace of my mind:

Each year Pastors for Peace in the Shenandoah District recognizes individuals who through their vocation or advocacy have contributed to peacemaking in the name and way of Jesus. For example, last year we recognized people who minister in local jails with inmates. Among those recognized were Montezuma's own Elaine Shank and Roma Holloway for their thirteen years of chaplaincy work in the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Jail. Several years ago, we acknowledged the peacemaking implications of the seagoing cowboys, which included Harold McNett. We've recognized a farm family from Broadway, a realtor for her work with the Boys and Girls Club in Harrisonburg, and a college professor who wrote letters to youth in the Shenandoah District each year for forty years.

You can see, I hope, that being a peacemaker can take different forms, either by doing what we sometimes think of as "regular" Church of the Brethren, "all war is sin" types of things, or by how you treat your neighbors or the good earth in your own back yard.

This year, on May 1, Pastors for Peace recognized the district's Disaster Response Ministries and the many hundreds of volunteers who have contributed to that work, especially those who travel on disaster response week-long projects to places like New Jersey, Michigan, West Virginia and many other places. No shortage of people like that at Montezuma either.

One thing for sure, being a peacemaker doesn't mean you must be an activist or an in the street protestor. From what I can see it does involve effort, time, and commitment – along with faith, hope, and love. This is the Jesus way. The call to be a Living Peace Church for the Church of the Brethren doesn't mean we think only about war and the army. It means we commit to making a peaceful, just difference in our homes, neighborhoods, and bigger world. That's what disaster response ministries do. And it's been happening in the Shenandoah District for fifty years.

Did you miss the Living Peace Award Banquet this year? That's okay. Just don't miss the chance to contribute to the living peace work that disaster ministries practice week-in and week-out. You can start by participating in the Disaster Auction May 18-19 at the fairgrounds or helping with the projects here at the church that contribute to it. Hey, and maybe a few more of us can do a week of disaster ministry. That's how we continue the work of Jesus ... and practice his peace.

Peace to you, and to our world – Pastor David

May Special Offering: Brethren Disaster Ministries

Faith is an action word. There is an old saying, "put your money where your mouth is". The Brethren Disaster Ministries, inspired by Jesus, speaks to this old saying and the definition of faith.

Brethren Disaster Ministries, a part of the General Board Church of the Brethren program, restarts hope for the most vulnerable disaster-stricken communities by engaging volunteers to repair and rebuild damaged homes.

The special collections for May for Brethren Disaster Ministries helps to rebuild and repair. Districts and individual volunteers go to places in the US and abroad. The Shenandoah District regularly sends out volunteers. A number of people of this congregation have gone as disaster volunteers to places in Virginia, West Virginia, North Dakota, South Carolina, Michigan, Colorado and Haiti.

Another program is child care. When there is a disaster, children are often overlooked. Brethren Disaster Ministries goes into the area immediately after a disaster to offer child care to help children deal with the trauma and to give their parents opportunity to reestablish a home for their family. Also, health care kits and cleaning kits are assembled and taken to Church World Service.

Brethren Disaster Ministries is devoted to the inspiration of Jesus's care of all people. Consider giving generously to the special offering for May. It will help to put your faith into action.

Special Dates Need Updating!

Birthdays and anniversaries are important events in our lives, as our annual birthday luncheon signifies. It is special for us to celebrate our families, friends and the church people around us. Please give us your individual birthday information (month/day/year), or that of a friend or family member in the church.

We have some gaps in this information and wish to include everyone whenever possible. Also important are anniversaries dates (month/day/year). Also let us know if there is a divorce and the couple is no longer celebrating, as we do not wish to send them greetings when they are no longer together. Please contact the church office by phone or email: (540) 879-2246 or montezuma.cob@gmail.com.

VBS: Shipwrecked

Monday, June 25th – Thursday, June 28th
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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 the Jr. High Youth.

Please contact Linnette Coaker in the church office if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Birthday Luncheon Thank You

Thank you to all who helped make the Annual Birthday Luncheon such a success! The tables were inspirational, the food was delicious, the singing delightful and stirring, and the hum of conversation gratifying! Special thanks to those who helped to set up the room, prepare the food, and clean up after the event! God blessed us with a lovely social event!!

- Neva Clayton, Chair, Nurture Commission

Thank You

Dear brothers & sisters at Montezuma Church of the Brethren,

I want to send my heart-felt thanks for all the love, donations, and attendees at Paul's service and over the course of his illness. I have felt so much love during this difficult time. I know Paul is in a better place but our family is going to miss him so much!

God bless all of you!

Love, Phyllis Dodd

Changing the world: one step at a time

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Elias is my (almost) 16 month old boy. He is now at the walking and exploring stage. If you have heard a baby crying during worship lately, its probably him. Now that he knows that he can get around with ease, he wants to. He does not want to be held unless he is going to sleep. At church, he does not want to sleep. At church, he wants to explore. Before this stage, he crawled. In that stage, he would pull himself up, and push things around if he could. He pushed his walker, he pushed chairs, and he even pushed the trashcan! Elias was amazed that his efforts could change the world around him. For better or worse, Elias knew that he had an effect on his surrounding by moving light furniture.

Much like a baby who realized that his voice and strength can change the scenery around him, I wonder how much we realize how we impact our scenery. As Christians in this community, are we "moving things?" We sure do have a large affect on the world. Don't be a consumer of the media/marketing. We get to decide how to treat our neighbors, how to respond to people on Facebook, and how we encourage those we encounter. Those actions are Christian actions that change the world! Sometimes I try to get perspective and try to look at my community in new eyes. Am I bringing my community closer to Christ or further from Christ or the same? I have no doubt that if I include Christ in my journey, I can move mountains (Mt. 17:20), walk on water (Mt. 14:29), and feed the multitude (Mt. 14:19-21). I am sure we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Philippians 4:13 is a pretty popular scripture. On the wall of my office, I have a wooden cross, where I have asked graduating seniors to contribute their signature and their favorite scripture verse. Philippians 4:13 appears twice so far, and it intrigues me. Are people drawn to this verse because they long to have the courage to know that God can do wonderful things through us? Or do people perhaps love this scripture because of a past experience that lays testimony to the living God that has already done something powerful in us? Knowing that we can do great things through Christ, how do you think you can change the world? I bet we are all itching to get up, and move things around as to better the world.

- Pastor Gabe

Youth Events: May 2018

Sunday Night Live

Sunday, May 20th: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Emmanuel Church of the Brethren

Sunday Night Live! is a local church youth event. All are welcome! This month's activity is Escape Room, followed by snack!

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

Mission and Ministry Board approves grants, adopts statement to act against gun violence

A large Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) allocation for long-term hurricane recovery in Puerto Rico, a statement on gun violence, Wieand Trust grants, and new names for some denominational ministries were on the agenda of the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board. The board held spring meetings March 9-12 at the General Offices, led by chair Connie Davis and chair-elect Patrick Starkey.

Davis reported as board chair on correspondence leadership has received from a variety of church members since Annual Conference, revealing some troubling aspects that depart from long-standing Brethren beliefs and practices. Her report was followed by presentations by staff about Church of the Brethren structure related to the authority of church leadership, and the significance of the Anabaptist and Pietist heritage.

In-depth conversations were held on race and issues related to international mission. Among numerous

reports, the board received a positive financial year-end review for 2017, initial information from the new “Stewardship of Property 2” group carrying out assessment of stewardship of the General Offices, and an update on work toward a “compelling vision.”

‘Lukewarm no more’

The board adopted a statement on gun violence calling the denomination to repentance and action. The statement was initiated by staff of Global Mission and Service. It quotes from the Bible and previous church statements in its call to recommit to the work of peacemaking, suggesting four action steps for church members, congregations, and ministries.

“Our sister churches pray for us as an American church in a time of violence, as we undergo repeated acts of mass shootings, and they express love and concern for us,” said Jay Wittmeyer, executive director of Global Mission and Service, explaining some background to the statement. He had recently returned from a trip to the

emerging Brethren body in Venezuela.

Wittmeyer noted the scripture’s call for Christians not to lose their “saltiness.” In Venezuela, that may mean considering how the church may be “salt of the earth” in that country’s economic crisis. Here in the US, he commented, “if we have continued gun violence and we have ready access to guns, and mass shootings, and children are unsafe in schools, don’t we have to ask the question whether the church has lost its saltiness?”

The statement adopted by the board says, in part, “In the wake of repeated mass shootings and the proliferation of gun violence, we are called to remind and recommit ourselves to the work of peacemaking.” It suggests four action steps for church members, congregations, and ministries:

1. Pursue discipleship that is biblical, risk-taking, and confirms the baptismal vows that place Christ before all other loyalties.

2. Refocus on our Church of the Brethren history of peacemaking in order to discern our present ministry of reconciliation.

3. Consider ways in which our personal and institutional decisions—in the economic, social, and community spheres—provide a creative means to decrease the prevalence and ease of access to guns designed to destroy human life.

4. Join with larger efforts to change policies that favor or inadequately oppose access and use of weapons that do not further the incarnate healing of Christ.

Find the full statement at www.brethren.org/news/2018/lukewarm-no-more-statement-gun-violence.html.



Cheryl Bumbaugh-Coyford

Board member Luci Landes presents general secretary David Steele with a quiver given by members of EYN. She brought it back from her workcamp experience in Nigeria.

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Ministry name changes

Staff reported name changes for three denominational ministries:

- The Office of Public Witness is now the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy: A Witness of the Church of the Brethren.
- Donor Relations and Donor Communications are now Mission Advancement.
- Congregational Life Ministries is now Discipleship Ministries.

Along with a new name, staff of Discipleship Ministries are articulating a new vision adopting a change of strategy for carrying out the work. Three new strategic emphases will connect and inform the work of the team: make and grow disciples, form and develop leaders, and transform communities. These emphases will shape events, resources, and relationships. To facilitate this work, the team will include director-level staff alongside two administrative support staff. Discipleship Ministries will develop a team of contractors who will provide leadership in congregations and districts related to specific ministries such as evangelism, conflict transformation, and Christian education.

Allocations and grants

An EDF allocation of \$200,000 was approved for work by Brethren Disaster Ministries and Puerto Rico District. The

money will fund long-term recovery on the island, following the 2017 hurricanes.

A Global Food Initiative allocation of \$15,440 was approved to fund expansion of the gardening program of Lybrook Community Ministries in Cuba, N.M. The goal is to expand the gardening program to include more Navajo families in six communities in the area.

The board approved grants from the Wieand Trust for two projects of Illinois and Wisconsin District in the Chicago area: the Parables Community, hosted at York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill., and the Gathering Chicago, which meets in a high-rise in the Hyde Park neighborhood. The Parables Community will receive \$34,135 for the rest of this year, 2018, and \$46,288 for 2019. The Gathering Chicago will receive \$85,100 for the rest of this year, 2018, and \$87,000 for 2019.

In other business

- The board approved updates to the denomination's financial policies representing clarifications, changes of nomenclature and titles, or revisions to bring policies up to date with current practice.
- Kelley Brenneman was appointed to the Brethren Historical Committee. She is archivist at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, and a member of Agape Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Personnel notes

Tara Hornbacker will retire from Bethany Seminary July 1, after guiding a generation of students through the master of divinity program. She began as assistant professor of ministry formation in 1998 and was given the assignment of reconceiving and reformulating the program. When Bethany launched its Connections distance education program in 2003, Hornbacker adapted the ministry formation program to this new learning environment. Hornbacker completed a master of divinity degree from Earlham School of Religion in 1994 and a doctor

of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2003. She was granted tenure at Bethany in 2005 and promoted to full professor of ministry formation, missional leadership, and evangelism in 2013. Previously she served nine years as a pastor.

Terri McDonough of Lebanon, Ohio, has been hired as financial aid and enrollment assistant at Bethany Seminary. She brings experience in banking as a customer service representative, universal banker, and loan servicer to the position.

Peacebuilding and Policy director signs letter on militarization of Middle East

Nathan Hosler, director of the Church of the Brethren

Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, was one of the ecumenical leaders to sign a letter on the militarization of the Middle East. Some 15 Christian leaders signed the letter, dated March 14, that was sent to members of Congress.

The letter expressed concern about increasing US arms sales and military aid to Middle Eastern nations, citing a record-high amount of arms sales approved in 2017, doubling that of the previous year.

“Of these approved sales, \$52 billion were to countries in the Middle East,” the letter said, in part. “We know all too well the price that the people—especially civilians—have paid and continue to pay for the ongoing conflicts that are fueled by these arms sales. In Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine and Israel, Libya, and elsewhere, thousands of civilians have died with countless more wounded.”

The letter recommended immediate suspension of US arms sales to countries not in compliance with international humanitarian law; full enforcement of existing human rights conditions (“Leahy law”) for US military assistance to recipient governments; strengthening and expansion of end-use monitoring; opposition of the transfer of oversight of the export of small arms and ammunition from the US Munitions List to the less-restrictive Commerce Control List; that the US ratify and fully abide by the terms of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Our Stewardship for April 2018

		Attendance		
		Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
April	1	238	70	\$6,765.00
	8	168	74	\$5,298.50
	15	161	78	\$5,588.69
	22	147	68	\$2,740.83
	29	185	108	\$3,091.00
April average per Sunday		180	80	\$4,696.80
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		170	81	\$5,252.09

Special Giving for April 2018

2¢ Meal Offering	\$31.15	Poinsettias	\$15
Apple Butter	\$33	Stanley Evers Memorial	\$115
Basement Wall Repairs	\$1,000	Stock Gift	\$3,400
Easter Lilies	\$130	Youth Cookbooks	\$16
NCP Give a Girl a Chance	\$1,295		

Serving in May 2018

NURSERY

- 6 Stephanie Diehl & Fonda Harper
- 13 Pam Dodd & Brittany Hammer
- 20 Bobby & Sarah Williams
- 27 Becky & Hayley Daubert

WORSHIP CENTER

- 6 Wanda Hollen
- 13 Linda Waggy
- 20 Jill Sease
- 27 Lisa Shickel

SOUND SYSTEM

- 6 John Layman
- 13 Ben Hiner
- 20 Bobby Williams
- 27 Chris Payne

VALET PARKING

- 6 Weldon Good
- 13 Wade Showalter
- 20 Bob Michael
- 27 Brad Smith

USHERS: Jim Rusmisl, Guy Lee Clark, J.O. Good, Roger Moyer

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, May 10th. This month, the following people are signed up to help with the meal: Tom Miller, Melvin & Edith Burger, Judy Lokey

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Olivia Mandeville | 14 | Ronnie Brunk |
| 3 | Laurie Carpenter | | Kenley Rhodes |
| | Austin McNett | | Jon Shickel |
| 4 | Sheryl Northrop | 15 | Faith Showalter |
| 6 | Clay Knott | 20 | Charlann Johns |
| 7 | Emily Coaker | | Charles Miller |
| | Kendal Payne | | Vicki Richard |
| 8 | Betty Chandler | 21 | Joyce Jackameit |
| 10 | Wesley Kuykendall | 22 | LeAnne Young |
| 11 | Mary Lee Ewing | 23 | Bobby Shank |
| | Mason Knott | | Dena Symons |
| | Bonnie Miller | 24 | Cathy Roadcap |
| | Walter Rhodes | | Corey Wilhelm |
| 12 | Randy Glick | 25 | Aaron Barnhart |
| | Chris Moran | | Ashley Knott |
| | Doris Smith | 27 | Rachel Craun |
| 13 | Lindsey Harper | 29 | Mike Diehl |
| | Roy Keller | | Rhonda Mandeville |
| | Erika Kinkead | 30 | Troy Payne |
| | Marshall Kiser | | |
| | Shannon Airey | | |

May Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Steve & Charlann Johns |
| 2 | Gene & Wanda Wampler |
| 4 | Brad & Huong Showalter |
| 6 | Sam & Mary Jane Cox |
| 10 | Mark & Katie Brill |
| 10 | Mike & Sharon Embres |
| 15 | Greg & Rosemary Taylor |
| 16 | Eric & Anna Shank |
| 17 | Ethan & Sallie Hunter |
| 18 | Chad & Jessica Shipe |
| 19 | Drew & Lindsey Richard |
| | Logan & Jessica Strawderman |
| 21 | Cory & Amy Brown |
| 21 | Mike & Laura Healy |
| 24 | Danny & Wanda Hollen |
| | Craig & Jill Sease |
| 25 | Ben & Jenifer Hiner |

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