

# Montezuma Today

September 2018



## Montezuma considers new Plan of Organization this fall

A new Plan of Organization to replace the congregation's constitution is now available for review. A series of interpretive meetings will be offered in September for the congregation to hear rationale for proposed changes and to ask questions. A letter introducing the process and outlining a list of proposed changes is available alongside the proposed Plan of Organization.

A Plan of Organization is the same thing as a constitution; the new wording conforms more closely to language used by the Church of the Brethren at this time. In many respects, the current constitution and the proposed Plan of Organization agree and there has been little more than an up-dating of language and new formatting. There are, however, some important changes. The explanatory letter has a list of eight changes. A careful review of these changes is recommended.

Three listening meetings are scheduled for the convenience of the congregation: each of these meetings will follow a similar format of introducing the Plan and listening to feedback. These meetings are: **Tuesday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m.**; **Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m.**; and **Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.** All meetings are at the church meeting house. A fourth, larger, meeting is offered on **Sunday, September 30**, following the fifth Sunday format where there is no Sunday School but an all-church meeting, followed by a meal in the fellowship room. The constitution revision committee hopes to have incorporated changes recommended from the three listening meetings by the 30th.

The church board will need to approve the new Plan of Organization at its October meeting and the congregation is required to approve the plan by a two-thirds vote of members present at the Congregational Business Meeting, Sunday, November 4. Lay members of the Revision Committee are David Richard, Stephanie Diehl, and Helen Shickel. See one of them if you have questions.

## Calling of Deacons

Montezuma Church will hold a brief service to call or renew the call of deacons for the congregation on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, during morning worship.

Montezuma Deacons are asking each member of the congregation to give prayerful consideration to individuals or married couples who would serve with mature faith and sound judgment. Please come prepared to offer 5 names for this time of calling on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Church Events: September

- 2: Back to School Blessing & Dedication of Sunday School teachers
- 4: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 4: Commission meetings – 7pm
- 5: Choir practice – 7pm
- 9: Sunday Night Live at CrossRoads
- 10: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 10: Bell choir practice – 7pm
- 10: Worship Center Committee – 7pm
- 11: Constitution meeting – 10am
- 11: Executive Committee – 7pm
- 12: Choir practice – 7pm
- 13: Salvation Army Meal
- 16: Deacon Calling during worship
- 17: Bell choir practice – 7pm
- 19: Constitution meeting – 6pm
- 19: Choir practice – 7pm
- 20: Constitution meeting – 7pm
- 24: Bell choir practice – 7pm
- 25: Dorcas Circle – 1pm
- 25: First Aid Training – 6-9:30pm
- 26: Choir practice – 7pm
- 29: First Aid Training – 9am-12:30pm
- 29: Youth corn maze
- 30: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Constitution discussion during Sunday School

## What's Inside:

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# WORSHIP – September 2018

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

**2:** The Secret of Joy *Pastor David*

James 1:1-16

Back to School Blessing & Dedication of  
Sunday School teachers

The opening words of James emphasize joy, even amidst trials and hardship. How can New Testament writers speak this way? James doesn't define joy, but he opens his letter with a discussion of what detracts from joy and mature faith. There is something of Jesus's beatitudes in this section of James.

*Special Music: Harmony 4 Him*

*International S.S. Lesson: God Created the Heavens & Earth*

**9:** Philosophers – of deeds *Pastor David*

James 1:17-27

It's a big word, "philosophy." We don't talk about it much in church or anywhere else in our society. But the early Christians didn't shy away from that word. They simply re-purposed it. The Bishop Cyprian said: "Beloved brethren, we are philosophers not in words but in deeds."

*Music by the adult choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: God Created Plants & Animals*

**16:** The Corruption of Favoritism *Pastor David*

James 2:1-13

Corruption is in the news. It's a problem in government and business. It's a problem everywhere. It's deadly for the church. James draws our attention to the importance of our neighbor. What God deems important, we deem important. The church's way of life aims to alter our habits of perception and standards of judgment.

*International S.S. Lesson: God Created People*

**23:** International Day of Peace Sunday

Walking the Talk

*Pastor David*

James 2:14-26

For the first Christians, and for us today, it is not primarily what we say that carries weight with others and communicates who we are; it's what we do and embody. This is our living faith. It's not works righteousness, but discipleship.

*Music by the adult choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: God Created the Family*

**30:** Deep change comes from within *Pastor Gabe*

James 3:1-12

Outward appearances and polite gestures don't necessarily speak to our true character. This week we will explore how to look past temporary changes and focus on transformational character.

*Music by the handbell choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: God Creates Humans Sin*

Peace of my mind

I want to ask all of us to make a deeper commitment to Jesus. That is the central question before us as a congregation and as Christians. Each of us face different issues, pressures, worries, and obligations, but our baptism unites us: Jesus is Lord. We have Jesus in common.

But having Jesus in common is not the end of our life together. It's the beginning. After our affirmation, questions arise. Who is Jesus for us today? What does it mean for me to follow Jesus? What do I do? Why is the church important for me? How do I grow closer to God? What if being a Christian causes discomfort for me? Does being a Christian change my relationship with others, with other institutions, with my work?

Once we start to ask questions, it becomes clear why we often avoid asking questions. I remember the words of an anonymous British monk. In giving instructions on how to pray, he forthrightly tells his student: "God is not asking for help; God is asking for you."

These are the implications of the questions we ask at baptism. Baptism is not an end. It is always a beginning.

And that's the thing I want to emphasize. This is a beginning. Sure, Montezuma has been around for 140 years. Of course, we're a traditional church. Yes, we have our particular ways of doing things.

Nevertheless, God is always calling us to something new. If we are bored with faith and religion, then that says something about us. The Spirit is always in our midst. Will we pay attention?

This fall, worship services at Montezuma will focus on the letter of James in the New Testament. James is a practical book. He doesn't shy away from specifics. He's the guy who says: "Faith without works is dead." This is a clarion call for Christians. James is not saying – as sometimes supposed – that we earn our salvation by the works we do. He is saying that if our faith is living, then that faith will be evident in the way we live. Let's reflect on that together these next two months.

I invite you to begin, again! To enter the waters with Jesus. There's no better place or time to start than during our morning worship each Sunday. That's a beginning. Come and see.

Peace to you – and to our world, Pastor David

## **Special Offering for September: Open Doors**

Open Doors is a homeless shelter that began in 2007 to serve homeless people in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham area. The shelter is hosted by area churches, and provides meals and shelter from November through March for homeless people over the age of 18. Montezuma, in partnership with Sangerville, Mt. Bethel and Beaver Creek, will be hosting Open Doors November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Upcoming Heritage Festival**

The annual Heritage Festival is an exciting event for our church and the local community and it is quickly approaching; it will be held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Soon, there will be sign-up sheets out for participation and items that need to be donated. It takes a lot to make this event successful each year and we are grateful for those that will be able to lend a helping hand in one way or another.

There will be five kettles of apple butter made the Saturday before the festival, October 13<sup>th</sup> and one kettle of apple butter made the day of the festival. Canning jars are always needed for this event; specifically pint jars, wide mouth or regular. Please be sure you have thoroughly washed the jars before donating them. If you are able to donate any jars, please talk to Vince Rhodes.

The profit from this year's Heritage Festival will go to the Montezuma Building Improvement Fund.

## **Salvation Army**

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The following people are signed up to help prepare and serve this meal:

- Tom & Ann Miller
- Bonnie Guyer
- Libby Kiser
- Judy Lokey
- Vicki Richard

## **Fall Bible Study - Colossians**

The fall Bible study at Montezuma will focus on the New Testament letter of Colossians. This is scheduled to be a six-week study led by the pastors. Pastor Gabe Dodd will lead the study that meets Monday evenings, 7 p.m., beginning September 17. Pastor David Miller convenes the Tuesday morning study group meeting at 10 a.m. beginning September 18. There are no resource books for this study. We encourage you to join one of the two groups and simply read scripture together. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

## **Love Feast – October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Montezuma will gather for the sacred service of Love Feast on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, here at Montezuma. The Love Feast has guided and fired Brethren worship and discipleship from the church's beginning over 300 years ago. If you participate regularly in these semi-annual services than we welcome you again; if you have not visited these tables before or in a long time, now is the time to return to them. It is not we who invite you, but Christ. Childcare will be provided.

## **Calling All Choir Members: Past, Present, Future!**

Montezuma's music ministry needs you! Weekly choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The choir will sing for the 9:30 a.m. service of worship two Sundays per month. You do not need to come to every practice in order to participate!

All interested singers from middle and high school, and adults, are welcome to come check out the choir. Please contact Katie Grant with questions:

Phone: (757) 374-9649

Email: [mamatommy@gmail.com](mailto:mamatommy@gmail.com)

**Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events:  
September 2018**

*See the church's website for more details  
about these events:  
[www.montezumacob.org](http://www.montezumacob.org)*

**Sunday Night Live**

Sunday, September 9  
4pm – 8pm

Valley Brethren/Mennonite Heritage Center

**Corn Maze**

Saturday, September 29  
6pm – 10pm

## Crop Walk at Bridgewater College

On Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm, members of local churches are invited to the Bridgewater College CROP Meal where they can purchase meals surrendered by Bridgewater College students in the college's dining hall. All proceeds go to Church World Service's hunger education and relief programs in 80 countries around the world.

The Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, November 4 at 2pm. Prior to that day, members of area churches and Bridgewater College students will ask others to sponsor them for every kilometer of the 6K (3.7 mile) route they will walk.

More information about signing up for the CROP meal or the CROP walk is coming soon.

**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](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)

Mail: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

## Youth Sunday School Classes

Pastor David will teach Senior High Sunday School classes September and October. Individual classes will use discussion, Bible reading, and a variety of media to learn about following Jesus. Some of the topics will include information about how early members of the Church of the Brethren lived their lives, but most attention will be given to what it means for us to be Jesus's disciples. We often think that our world is very different from the past. In some ways it is. But in crucial ways, there are similarities. It is never easy to commit ourselves to God and the gospel of Jesus. It wasn't for early Christians. It wasn't for early Brethren. It's not for us, either. This class will be a membership class for youth that desire that.

## First Aid Training

The church will be hosting two first aid training classes with Wanda Driver. Participants will receive a certification card issued by the American National Safety Institute. The church will cover the cost for this class for anyone who registers before Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is available in the entryway.

**Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

**Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am - 12:30pm

## Office Administrator Maternity Leave

Montezuma's Office Administrator Linnette Coaker is scheduled to be on maternity leave beginning early in December. She expects to be off for 12-13 weeks. The Montezuma Church office needs to be staffed during that time for at least 16 hours a week. If you have interest in this limited, part-time position, please talk to Pastor David Miller.

## CDS goes to the border

**C**hildren's Disaster Services (CDS) sent a team of volunteers to help care for immigrant children and families on the border in McAllen, Texas. Working at the Catholic Charities Rio Grande Valley Humanitarian Respite Center, the team served 684 children in the first week and a half.

The families at the center have all been released on deferred adjudication, a legal status whereby the immigrants are allowed to travel to other cities and reunite with family members as long as they promise to appear for their scheduled immigration court dates. Many are women with children, some of whom have trekked for weeks or months with little food or clothing.

The children cared for were from Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala,

Cuba, El Salvador, Russia, and Mexico.

This is not the first time CDS has responded to the humanitarian crisis of people displaced by vio-

lence in their countries. CDS served Kosovo refugees in 1999, Lebanese Americans in 2006, and internally displaced people in Nigeria, beginning in 2016.



John Kinsey



Kelsey Murray

## Ministry interns serve the church

Ministry Summer Service interns and mentors this year were (from left) Ron Tilley, mentor, and Jamie-Claire Chau of Philadelphia, serving at Harrisburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; Zakaria Bulus of Michika, Nigeria, serving with mentor Nate Hosler (not pictured) at the Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Washington, D.C.; and April Wells of Huntingdon, Pa., serving at Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren with mentor Rachel Witkovsky. Laura Hay (not pictured) of Modesto, Calif., served as the Youth Peace Advocate.

## Personnel notes

**Mark Flory Steury** retired Aug. 31 as donor relations representative for the Church of the Brethren. He began in April 2016, after having worked on several projects for the General Secretary's Office. His responsibilities included strengthening congregational and individual stewardship, direct gifts, planned giving, and enlistment programs of the Church of the Brethren. In his more than 30 years of church ministry, he served as district executive minister in Southern Ohio and as a pastor, most recently in Illinois.

**Karen Duhai** began Aug. 1 as director of student development at Bethany Theological Seminary. She has two recent degrees from Bethany, a master of divinity with an emphasis in peace studies and a master of arts with a concentration in theological studies. She brings experience in mentoring and relationship-building, program development, event planning, worship leadership, speaking and writing, and volunteer training.

**Shaye Isaacs** resigned effective Aug. 31 as executive assistant to the president at Bethany Theological Seminary. She has held this position since August 2011, serving with current president Jeff Carter and former president Ruthann Knechel Johansen.

**Everett Teetor** began July 23 as accounting assistant for Brethren Benefit Trust, following a one-year internship in the finance department. He graduated in 2017 from Beloit College with a degree in business economics.

**Sherry Crowe** began Aug. 6 as client manager for the Brethren Foundation, part of Brethren Benefit Trust. She has worked as an investment advisor associate for more than eight years and holds multiple designations and licenses pertinent to the field.



*Hosted by the World Council of Churches, Pope Francis greets Dr. Agnes Abuom, moderator of the Central Committee, and general secretary Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit.*

## Carter reflects on Pope's visit to WCC

**T**he Pope's visit to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches is a visible sign and symbol of the church's yearning for unity and the growing cooperation between Christians throughout the world," said Jeff Carter, Church of the Brethren representative to the Central Committee, which met in June in Geneva, Switzerland. The day-long visit from Pope Francis I was a highlight of the biennial meeting.

"In the morning worship, Pope Francis stressed our relationship as companions on the pilgrimage of justice and peace," said Carter, who is president of Bethany Theological Seminary. "In the afternoon he stressed the evangelical nature of our witness related to unity: 'Christians do not witness to the gospel when we are divided.'"

Carter added, "Personally it was an uplifting experience to have Pope Francis travel to Geneva to share in the morning prayer service and afternoon lectures." He also noted the significance of the Pope's visit for the Church of the Brethren "as a charter member of the World Council of Churches and more importantly, a partner known for service to those most in need."

"Pope Francis' visit is an encouragement to all Christians who seek collaboration and partnership in service to the gospel which calls us to live lives of compassion, grace, and peace."

This year's Central Committee meetings also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the WCC.

## Brethren Press releases wide range of books

**Brethren Press has released** four new books in recent months:

*25 Days to Jesus*, an illustrated Advent devotional for children by Christy Waltersdorff and Mitch Miller, invites children and their families to meet the people whose lives were changed by the birth of Jesus.

*Inglenook Desserts* is the newest in the Inglenook cookbook series, with more than 175 recipes from Brethren kitchens, along with essays and reflections.

*A Poetry of the Soul*, by Ken Gibble, is a collection of stories heard in the lives of the people he served as pastor.

*Joseph*, by Eugene F. Roop, is the latest volume in the Covenant Bible Studies series.



## Our Stewardship for July 2018

### Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
July 1	185	63	\$7,973.75
8	147	71	\$5,040.34
15	169	83	\$3,761.00
22	167	80	\$4,173.82
29	137	66	\$2,750.50
July average per Sunday	151	84	\$4,739.88
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	165	82	\$5,196.88

### Special Giving for July

Bridgewater Food Pantry	\$145	Messenger Subscriptions	\$72.50
Hall Donations	\$76	Richi Yowell Memorial	\$1,204
Heritage Festival Booth Rental	\$90	Stanley Evers Memorial	\$20
Lucille Cox Memorial	\$1,205	VBS Mission Fund	\$461.73
Memorial Meals	\$132.36	Youth Cookbooks	\$10

## Our Stewardship for August 2018

### Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
August 5	140	90	\$7,340.00
12	161	84	\$4,865.80
19	150	79	\$5,933.41
26	154	<i>no SS</i>	\$1,429.00
August average per Sunday	151	84	\$4,892.30
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	165	82	\$5,175.81

### Special Giving for August

2¢ Meal Offering	\$22.75	Heritage Fest. Booth Rental	\$70
Backpack Program	\$50	Lucille Cox Memorial	\$570
Basement Wall Repair	\$50	Rich Yowell Rund	\$381
Bridge of Hope	\$295	Youth Cookbooks	\$10

## Serving in September

### NURSERY

- 2 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 9 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 16 Sarah & Bobby Williams
- 23 Stephanie Diehl & Kenzy Hiner
- 30 Becky & Hayley Daubert

### SOUND SYSTEM

- 2 Chris Payne
- 9 Bill Heishman
- 16 Ron Shickel
- 23 Randy Glick
- 30 Jim Rusmiser

### WORSHIP CENTER

- 2 Rose Miller
- 9 Ann Monger
- 16 Jill Sease
- 23 Dawn Kiser
- 30 Lisa Shickel

### VALET PARKING

- 2 Wade Showalter
- 9 Bob Michael
- 16 Brad Smith
- 23 Ralph Rohrer
- 30 Donnie Jackson

**PROJECTION:** Ethan Dakin

**USHERS:** Roger Moyer, Bob Black, Ben Hall, Jim Rusmiser

# September Birthdays & Anniversaries

## September Birthdays:

- |    |                   |    |                     |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Katie Grant       | 18 | Helen Shank         |
| 2  | Donna Chandler    |    | Jessica Shipe       |
|    | Charles Cline Jr. | 19 | Liam Hunter         |
|    | Cathy Fisher      | 21 | Ben Barlow          |
| 3  | Jimmy Dove        |    | Danelle Ross        |
|    | Wanda Hollen      |    | Brenda Wine         |
|    | Tom Womble        | 22 | Sammy Cox           |
|    | Dean Wood         |    | Laurie Anne Serrell |
| 4  | Allie Coffman     |    | Cheryl Simmers      |
|    | Carson Patterson  | 23 | Wendell Chandler    |
|    | Carolyn Wenger    | 24 | Jordan Sites        |
| 4  | Ralph Rohrer      | 25 | Jennifer Shreiber   |
| 6  | Patty Black       |    | Tasha Hoover        |
|    | Donnie Simmons    | 26 | Juanita Sayers      |
| 7  | Betty Click       |    | Molly Shickel       |
|    | Steve Keplinger   | 27 | Devon Kuster        |
|    | David Shickel     |    | Meagan Miller       |
| 13 | Carolyn Cline     | 28 | Lillian Howdyshell  |
|    | Marsha Shank      |    | Libby Kiser         |
| 14 | Susan Kuykendall  | 29 | Janice Rhodes       |
| 15 | Debbie Smiley     | 30 | Susan Floyd         |
|    | Uriah Smiley      |    | Donnie Jackson      |
| 16 | Isaac Shank       |    | Acklene Knott       |
| 17 | Melody Cash       |    |                     |
|    | Kathy Ringgold    |    |                     |

## September Anniversaries:

- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1  | Vincent & Melody Cash    |
| 3  | Scott & Diana McNett     |
| 4  | Robert & Andrea Black    |
|    | Nelson & Frances Shenk   |
| 6  | Matt & LeAnne Young      |
|    | Jeremy & Becky Daubert   |
| 8  | Steve & Connie Stiles    |
| 10 | Ron & Donna Lou Shickel  |
| 11 | Gordon & Gail Miller     |
| 13 | Mike & Beth Bazzle       |
| 16 | Ken & Cindy McNett       |
| 17 | Donald & Lynn McNett     |
| 19 | Robert & Patty Black     |
|    | Dennis & Leslie Huffman  |
|    | Kirk & Chris Kuster      |
| 20 | David & Lisa Shickel     |
| 25 | David & Susan Kuykendall |
| 26 | Fred & Helen Shank       |
| 28 | Weldon & Lori Good       |
| 29 | Roy & Margaret Waggy     |

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