

# Montezuma Today

December 2018 – January 2019



## Advent and Christmas at Montezuma

Below are the Advent and Christmas events at Montezuma Church. We hope you will join in as many of these events as you can.

- **December 2:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, morning worship, 9:30 a.m. Adult choir singing.
- **December 9:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, morning worship, 9:30 a.m. Children's choir singing.
- **December 16:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, morning worship, 9:30 a.m. Adult choir singing.
- **December 23:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, morning worship, 9:30 a.m. Music by the Bell choir.
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve Service, 8:00 p.m. Adult choir will perform the Cantata, "Promise of Light", by Joel Raney and directed by Katie Grant.

## Deacon Bible Studies Begin in New Year

The Deacon Winter Bible Studies will focus on the Gospel of Mark. Plans are being made for studies to be held at both the church and in homes, both during daylight hours and in the evenings. Pastors Gabe Dodd and David Miller will lead several studies, but the deacons are eager to have additional leaders for these studies. Previously the deacons drew on licensed ministers Kathleen Michael and Linda Waggy, but they are active in new ministries in the new year. For that reason, we are eager to invite other leaders to teach or lead group discussions. We will use a resource from the Covenant Bible Studies series on Mark; meetings will take place across ten weeks, beginning the first week of February and ending the week before Palm Sunday, April 14. Contact David Miller or Gabe Dodd if you have interest in teaching or hosting a Bible Study.

### What's Inside:

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## Church Events

### December 2018

- 3: Bell choir – 7pm
- 4: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 7: MYF – 6:15pm
- 9: Jr. High Christmas Party
- 10: Bell choir – 7pm
- 10: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 11: Church Board Meeting – 7pm
- 12: Friend-to-Friend – 3:30-5:30pm
- 12: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 13: Salvation Army Meal
- 16: Deacon Meeting – 11:40am
- 17: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 18: Safety Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 19: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 21: MYF – 6:15pm
- 23: Youth at BRCC
- 24: Christmas Eve Service – 8pm
- 30: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hot Chocolate Reception – between worship & Sunday school

### January 2019

- 1: New Year's Day
- 4: MYF – 6:15pm
- 7: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 8: Executive Committee – 7pm
- 9: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 10: Salvation Army Meal
- 13: Sunday Night Light – 6pm
- 14: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 14: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 16: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 18: MYF – 6:15pm
- 21: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 23: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 28: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 30: Choir Practice – 7pm

## WORSHIP – December 2018

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

**2: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent** Pastor David  
**Do not be Afraid**

Luke 1:5-25; Luke 1:67-79; Daniel 8:15-17; Ps 25:1-10

During this Advent season, Sunday worship will focus on characters from Matthew and Luke's story of Jesus's birth. This week is the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist.

*Music by the adult choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: Love and Devotion*

**9: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** Pastor Gabe  
**The light of Faith**

Matt 2:1-10

The wisemen are on a path to worship their king. Along the journey they are interrupted with an anxious decision that would just change the whole narrative of the Gospel. Might these magi be the first and most faithful Christ seekers of the New Testament? What light will we choose to follow as we approach Christmas?

*Music by the Children's Choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: Choose to Love and Serve God*

**16: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** Pastor David  
**How can this be?**

Luke 1:26-55; Psalm 80:1-7

Luke tells us the story of Mary. Matthew focuses on Joseph. Before Jesus is born, his parents take risks for their child ... and for the world.

*Music by the adult choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: Love and Worship God*

**23: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent** Pastor David  
**I am bringing you good news**

Luke 2:8-20; Psalm 96

Shepherds were not beloved rural figures in times gone by. They were at the bottom of the social order. That didn't matter to God – or, do we see that it didn't matter to God when it came to announcing the good news?

*Music by the bell choir*

*International S.S. Lesson: God's Loving Promise*

**24: 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service**

*Adult choir will perform the Cantata, "Promise of Light", by Joel Raney and directed by Katie Grant.*

**30: What Christmas Means** Pastor Ron Wyrick

Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 2:21-40

*International S.S. Lesson: Modeling God's Love*

## WORSHIP – January 2019

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

**6: Epiphany** Pastor David  
**Epiphany ... Ah ha!**

Ephesians 3:1-12

This Sunday – January 6 – is Epiphany. Usually we read about the Magi, or wise men, in the Gospel of Matthew. They followed a star and it changed their lives. Most of us have experienced epiphanies of our own. We've seen something in a new way; a way that changes how we see everything else. It happened that way to the Apostle Paul.

*International S.S. Lesson: Hold Fast to God's Love*

**13: Baptism of Christ** Pastor David

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Acts 8:14-17

The story of Jesus's baptism is not simply a story about him. It is our story. We are included in this baptism and it's more than feeling different. It's becoming part of a society of believers and disciples. Even today ... even for us.

*International S.S. Lesson: Submit to God's Love*

**20: Gifts to live by** Pastor David

Psalm 36; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Paul describes "spiritual gifts" – the greatest of which is "love" as seen in 1 Corinthians 13. Before he gets there, however, he speaks about specific gifts that enable the church to carry out its mission as a baptized community. These gifts are for us.

*International S.S. Lesson: Submit to God in Christ*

**27: One Body, Many Members** Pastor David

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

"You are," Paul says, "the body of Christ and individually members of it." Baptism by water and by Spirit creates a community in which all of us are related through Christ. These are the words Paul used to describe the church just being born. It's important for our church to be described by these words, too.

*International S.S. Lesson: Devote All to Christ*

## **December Special Offering: Bridgewater Food Pantry**

The special offering for the month of December is the Bridgewater Food Pantry.

The mission of the Bridgewater Food Pantry is to distribute food to local needy families. The Food Pantry is housed at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, and is open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month.

Monetary contributions will be given to People Helping People, which works with the Bridgewater Food Pantry to assist clients with rent, heat, etc.

Montezuma will be collecting non-perishable food items on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, for the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Please be sure the food does not expire for at least 6 months (July 2019). They have plenty of canned vegetables right now, and are most in need of canned meat, canned fruit, cereal, canned soup and peanut butter. They also accept donations of paper products such as toilet paper and tissues.

Share your blessings with folks in our community!

## **2019 Offering Envelopes**

The 2019 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the entrance area. If you are not already signed up for offering envelopes, extras are available. Pick a set that has no name and put your name and envelope number on the form provided. This allows the financial secretary to have your number so he can mail the confidential statement to you.

## **Youth Auction Success**

Montezuma's youth raised over \$2,123 at the November 9<sup>th</sup> auction at Montezuma Hall. We are thankful to the many helpers that made this event a success, including the youth and all of their parents. We are grateful to all who contributed items, goods, and food to the auction.

## **Friend-to-Friend 2018 Event**

The Witness Commission is excited to announce our 2018 Friend-to-Friend event. This year's event will be held on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30-5:30pm at the Hall.

We welcome your participation in the event; please see someone on the Witness Commission if you have questions and/or want to get involved.

The idea of Friend-to-Friend is to give "no strings attached" grocery vouchers to folks in our community who are struggling. Figuring out who could use some help was an issue so we went to the community service board and they agreed to invite some clients. Because of confidentiality, we do not know personal information (phone numbers or addresses). During the Friend-to-Friend event, we have the opportunity to meet and talk informally with these individuals while enjoying light refreshments. We give them a voucher for Sharp Shopper (\$50 or \$100 – no alcohol or tobacco is sold there).

We do not preach or evangelize, but we do tell them about our services and welcome them – we basically show them that we care. We are trying to live out the gospel and live out what Jesus has called us to do – simply, peacefully and together.

## **Salvation Army Meal**

Montezuma will be serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The following people are signed up to help prepare and serve this meal:

- Melvin & Edith Burger
- Dawn Kiser
- Helen Shickel

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. The youth will be providing a hot chocolate reception between worship and Sunday School. We hope everyone enjoys this time of fellowship together.

## Paradise Community, CA, COB Update

Brethren Disaster Ministries has issued a report on the devastating wildfire that has destroyed the town of Paradise, Calif., and claimed many lives. Funds have been established to assist the recovery. Here are excerpts from the report:

"Within the Church of the Brethren, many have been concerned about the fate of residents in Paradise, Calif., and its surrounding areas. Special concern has been expressed for Pastor Melvin Campbell and the members of Paradise Church of the Brethren, [whose meeting house] was completely destroyed by the wildfire which rushed through town. Pastor Campbell and his wife, Jane, were able to evacuate just ahead of the fire but left everything behind when they fled.

"Brethren Disaster Ministries is working closely with the Pacific Southwest District to respond to the fire. PSWD is collecting funds to provide direct support to Pastor Campbell and members of the Paradise Church of the Brethren. Contributions, noted as for the 'Paradise Fire', can be sent to Pacific SW District Church of the Brethren (PSWD COB), PO Box 219, La Verne, CA 91750.

"BDM's Children's Disaster Services has deployed volunteers to serve in a Disaster Recovery Center in Chico, Calif., providing childcare to families seeking assistance. BDM is communicating with PSWD and other partner agencies to determine how it can respond in the long-term in Paradise and surrounding areas affected by the Camp Fire. Donations to support CDS' deployment and BDM's response can be made, noting that it is for the 'Camp Fire Response', to Emergency Disaster Fund, Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120."

## Young Adult Ministry

About two years ago Montezuma attempted a young adult Sunday school class - which was fruitful for a short time, but was overall released due to a number of reasons. Although the class was 'let go of,' I have not 'let go of' my passion for young adult ministry. Through the Bible there are plenty of references to the faithfulness and spiritual commitment of young people. In fact, most of the twelve disciples themselves were arguably young adults, if not under the age of 20! Regardless, research shows that young adults today attend traditional style churches least, but are still as curious and hungry for spiritual and faith formation as any other generation. In fact, young adults who choose to be active in church are even more likely than older adults to be interested in Bible study, prayer, and spiritual growth (*Ministry with Young Adults*, Steve Clapp, p. 57). So what is Montezuma doing about this?

I am excited for a young adult Sunday school class to start again. In December, Pastor David will be hosting conversation, Bible study, etc. for young adults who choose to come after worship. This is not all that is happening. Like we learned two years ago, there needs to be more available. After all, young adults are not just looking for a 'class.' They are looking for ways the church is investing in them, and making sure the church cares. A small group ministry is being planned for interested young adults, and so is a monthly contemporary service.

These are opportunities for our church, and will need support from all generations if we want to reach out to this age group. A small group ministry will help young adults connect to one another, give one another accountability and support, and help one another in their personal, spiritual, and faith formation. The contemporary service will meet some more needs that came out of a conversation I had with young adults. The service will not replace Sunday morning worship. This service will be open to anyone who is interested for a relaxed atmosphere, engaging discussion around scripture, and perhaps even some new styles of worship music. You can be on the lookout for information regarding these things in the new year.

-Gabe

## December & January Birthdays/Anniversaries

### December Birthdays:

- |    |                     |    |                    |    |                |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Debbie Albers       | 14 | Jeff Berry         | 29 | Andrea Black   |
|    | Elvert Black        |    | Carolyn Mohler     |    | Dorita Webster |
|    | Daniel Lambert      | 16 | Dennis Huffman     |    | Augusta Reel   |
|    | Danny Tumer         | 17 | Gene Sheffer       | 30 | Jennifer Payne |
|    | Wayne Waggy         |    | Oliver Wood        | 31 | Diana Havener  |
| 3  | Rick Knott          | 18 | Norman Harper      |    | Kyle Symons    |
|    | Joseph Miller       |    | Louise Howdysshell |    | Chelsea Tumer  |
| 4  | Walker Shull        | 19 | Joel Fulwider      |    | Jackson Will   |
|    | Jessica Strawderman |    | Carole Hoover      |    |                |
| 5  | Mary Lou Glick      |    | Brooke Pennybacker |    |                |
|    | Autumn Pequignot    |    | Charlie Rhodes     |    |                |
| 7  | David Skelton       |    | Bonnie Ryan        |    |                |
| 8  | Jim Mason           | 20 | Bob Black          |    |                |
|    | Andi Riley          |    | George Watts       |    |                |
| 9  | Bob Michael         | 21 | Toviah Shipe       |    |                |
| 10 | Sheila Skelton      | 22 | Guy Lee Clark      |    |                |
| 11 | Stephanie Diehl     | 25 | Don Paston         |    |                |
| 12 | Lauren Harper       | 26 | Sharon Embres      |    |                |
|    | Brad Miller         |    | Cora Kiser         |    |                |
| 13 | John Coffman        | 28 | Buck Brown         |    |                |
|    | Gordon Driver       |    | Sherry Shull       |    |                |
|    | Dinah Puffenbarger  |    | Roy Waggy          |    |                |
|    |                     |    | Jeremy Daubert     |    |                |

### December Anniversaries:

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 4  | Jeff & Brenda Wine     |
| 14 | Ian & Kari Ostlund     |
| 17 | Roger & Barbara Moyer  |
| 18 | Keith & Sharon Weaver  |
| 19 | Rick & Libby Kiser     |
| 21 | Adrian & Orva Lambert  |
| 28 | Matthew & Danelle Ross |
| 30 | Russell & Janice Shank |

### January Birthdays:

- |    |                  |    |                  |    |               |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|----|---------------|
| 2  | Wilamena Harback | 17 | Robert Albers    | 30 | Phil Evans    |
| 3  | Kathleen Michael |    | Jonas Miller     |    | Greg Losh     |
| 5  | Cheryl Martin    | 19 | Morgan Dakin     |    | Eli Moyer     |
|    | Tom Miller       | 20 | John Miller      |    | Kathryn Roche |
| 6  | Wendy Rhodes     | 22 | Linda Harpine    | 31 | Dawn Miller   |
|    | Tanner Showalter | 23 | Connie Stiles    |    |               |
| 7  | Parker Fulton    | 24 | Nellie Black     |    |               |
|    | Paula Rhodes     |    | Derek Shickel    |    |               |
| 10 | Betty Miller     |    | Justin Hottinger |    |               |
|    | Elaine Sherwin   | 25 | Edith Allman     |    |               |
| 11 | Adam Brunk       |    | Zandra Miller    |    |               |
|    | Craig Payne      | 26 | Wayne Huffman    |    |               |
| 12 | Braelyn Skelton  | 27 | Meredith Durham  |    |               |
|    | Caroline Young   |    | Finn Richard     |    |               |
|    | Elias Dodd       |    | Wilhelmina Shank |    |               |
| 14 | Brian Weaver     | 28 | Addison Fulton   |    |               |
| 15 | Sharon Northrop  |    | Drake Mandeville |    |               |
|    | Russell Shank    | 29 | Daniel Shickel   |    |               |
|    | Edna Shickel     |    |                  |    |               |

### January Anniversaries:

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 6  | Walter & Cathy Coceano |
| 20 | Wayne & Sandra Huffman |
| 22 | John & Ann Monger      |
| 23 | Isaac & Amber Shank    |

## Tenderloin Feast

Montezuma's annual Tenderloin Feast, coordinated by Tom Miller, will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019. Seating times are: 12:00pm, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm and 6:30pm. Please note that the 12:00pm and 1:30pm are different times than in past years. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$7.50 for children ages 3-12. Meals are also available to purchase for take-out. You can purchase tickets after church in the entry way or by contacting Stephanie Diehl.

The meal includes pork tenderloin & gravy, sweet potatoes, macaroni & cheese, beans, fresh spinach salad, cranberry salad, pickled eggs, pickles, assorted homemade breads and desserts, coffee and tea.

The proceeds from the meal will go to the Montezuma Building Improvement Fund.

## Fall Business Meeting

Montezuma's Fall congregational business meeting met Sunday, November 4, following morning services. Congregational leaders provided reports and answered questions. Concerning items of business, the congregation did not approve a new plan of organization or constitution and so we continue under the current constitution approved in 2004. The following were called to leadership roles: Trustee: Jeff Wine; Church Board: Ethan Dakin, Stephanie Diehl, Peter Barlow, Sara Atkins, and Donnie McNett; Annual Conference Delegates: Vince and Wendy Rhodes; District Conference delegates: Mary Frances Heishman (2019) and Dorita Webster (2020). The 2019 church budget of \$311,244.00 was approved. The church also acted to re-approve its three licensed ministers: Gabe Dodd, Kathleen Michael, and Linda Waggy.

## Thank you

Thanks so much for everything everyone has done for us over this long journey. We couldn't have made it this far without your support and help. My balance problem is better, but still have some issues with my nerves, and grandma is still struggling with the aging process. There isn't much more the doctors can do at this point except comfort care. It's been a long rough road with lots of bumps and hurdles, but have found a small blessing in each day to keep me strong and positive, and can feel the love around me in so many ways. Thanks again for all you have done for us and continue to do for us. We appreciate it so much. I love my job, and couldn't ask for a better group of people to work for. You all are the best!!! Please continue to pray for us as we travel down the unknown road.

-Crystal Smith, church cleaner

### **Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events: December 2018 & January 2019**

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

#### **Jr. High Christmas Party**

Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm at the Dakin's home

#### **Service Project at BRCC**

Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Sunday Night Live**

Sunday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Bridgewater COB

**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) or mail to: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

## Our Stewardship for November 2018

		<b>Attendance</b>		
		<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>For Budget</b>
November	4	182	89	\$11,042.86
	11	151	71	\$3,802.00
	18	183	95	\$4,118.25
	25	139	72	\$3,373.80
November average per Sunday		164	82	\$5,584.23
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		162	79	\$5,176.28

### **Special Giving for November**

CWS Blankets	\$540	NYC Fund	\$140.26
Friend to Friend	\$30	Open Doors	\$80
Heritage Festival/Apple Butter	\$971.70	Salvation Army Meals	\$15

## Serving in December

### NURSERY

2 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser  
 9 Sarah & Bobby Williams  
 16 Stephanie Diehl & Kenzy Hiner  
 23 No Schedule  
 30 Becky & Hayley Daubert

### WORSHIP CENTER

2  
 9  
 16 *Worship Center*  
 23 *Committee*  
 30

### SOUND SYSTEM

2 Ben Hiner  
 9 Bobby Williams  
 16 Jim Rusmisl  
 23 Bill Heishman  
 30 Jim Rusmisl

### VALET PARKING

2 Jeff Wine  
 9 Melvin Burger  
 16 Weldon Good  
 23 Wade Showalter  
 30 Bob Michael

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

## Christmas Card Tree

If you could have any gift you wish, what would it be? Peace on Earth? An end to hunger? Preservation of the environment? Education for children? You say this is too big to even think about but a gift to Heifer International is an extraordinary opportunity to bring change to the world.

In 1944, Dan West a CoB minister had the idea that to help people you give them tools to work with and teach them how best to produce what is needed and then pass this along to other folks in the community. Heifer Project grew to become independent and is now called Heifer International. Since 1944, Heifer has provided food and income-producing animals and training to 125 million resource-poor families to more than 125 countries.

In order to give you an opportunity to help, the Christmas Card Tree is one way to contribute. Bring a card to place on the tree from you to the church family and contribute the money saved (box will be provided). Checks should be made payable to Upward Way SS Class. Then after Christmas a total check will be sent to Heifer International and a list of all cards sent will be published in the February newsletter.

Join with many others into an endless circle of giving that stretches around the world making lasting change possible. The Upward Way SS class appreciates your support of this project.

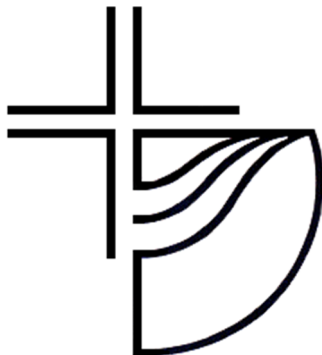
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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