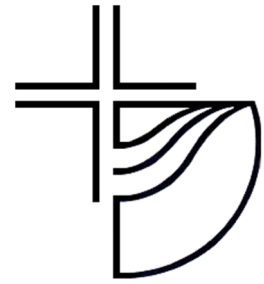


Montezuma Today

April 2019



Holy Week & Easter at Montezuma

The Montezuma congregation invites you to prepare for and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is the biggest day of our faith! Holy week begins Sunday, April 14th and Easter is the 21st. Join us for these worship experiences:

- ❖ **Palm Sunday**, 9:30 a.m. morning worship
- ❖ **Maundy Thursday**, Love Feast & Holy Communion, 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Good Friday**, Bridgewater Cross Walk, noon, beginning at Bridgewater Presbyterian
- ❖ **Easter Sunrise Service**, 6:15 a.m., hosted by the Don and Ron Shickel families on their hill. More details will be provided.
- ❖ **Easter Morning Worship**, 9:30 a.m.

Spring Fest at Brethren Woods

Once again Montezuma Church will be serving breakfast at the Spring Fest Saturday, April 27th. All proceeds will benefit the camp. This is our way of supporting the services they offer to our church family. Marsha Shank will be heading up Montezuma's participation in this event and will be in need for food donations, volunteers to help prepare the food on Thursday evening, April 25th and volunteers to help serve the breakfast on Saturday morning starting 6:30am. Look for sign-up sheets to see where you can help.

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

See page 3 for more details.

Congregational Business Meeting: May 5th

Montezuma's spring Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5th after Sunday School (11:45 am).

Church Events: April 2019

- 1: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 2: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 2: Commission Meetings – 7pm
- 3: Bridgewater Home Auxiliary Luncheon – 11am-1pm
- 3: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 7: Bell Choir at VMRC – 3:30pm
- 8: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 8: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 9: Church Board Meeting – 7pm
- 10: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 11: Salvation Army Meal
- 12: Sr. High Youth: Drive-in Movie
- 13: All Church Game Night – 5:30pm
- 14: Palm Sunday
- 15: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 17: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 18: Love Feast – 7:00pm
- 19: Bridgewater Cross Walk – noon
- 21: Easter Sunday
- 22: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 24: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 27: Brethren Woods Spring Festival
- 27: Youth leave for CCS
- 29: Mosaic – 6:30pm
- 29: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm

What's Inside:

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- 8 Birthdays & Anniversaries

WORSHIP – April 2019

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

7: Fifth Sunday of Lent: The Time is Now *Pastor David* Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

Investor Warren Buffett said, "Writing a check separates a commitment from a conversation." That conviction is biblical. The stories we remember are the ones that go beyond conversation to commitment. That's what Mary does in this story. She bathes Jesus's feet with precious perfume. She doesn't wait for the funeral – she does it when Jesus needs it most.

* Music by the Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
International S.S. Lesson: Call and Mission

14: Palm Sunday: False Hopes *Pastor David* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

We talk about hope a great deal. Easter is the ultimate hope holiday. We know that we overcome our bleakest moments by hope. There is also such a thing as false hope. The story of Jesus includes that, too. There is no better illustration than the "triumphal entry" of Jesus.

*Music by the Children's Choir
International S.S. Lesson: Called to Remember

18: Love Feast, 7pm

21: Easter Sunday: He is Risen! *Pastor Gabe* Matthew 28:1-10, Colossians 3:1-4

Jesus was dead. Now he has risen. How will we receive Jesus as his life is revealed to us anew? Let us celebrate the life of Jesus by recognizing his death and naming his resurrection. His resurrection is our resurrection, and his glory is our glory.

*Music by the Adult Choir
International S.S. Lesson: Called to Proclaim the Resurrection

28: First Sunday of Easter: On the Road *Pastor David* Luke 24:13-35

Here are some dejected, hang-dog disciples. Leaving town, feeling the agony of defeat. Though they don't know it, Jesus meets them right where they are. Then he "opens" the scripture to them; and then he shares a meal with them, during which they recognize him, only to have him disappear. Yet their hearts are filled with joy and they go back out into the world, on their way to tell others. It's a picture of the church's life.

International S.S. Lesson: Call and Commissioning

Peace of my mind:

Most of us don't sleep like we used to. Children – most of the time – sleep well. They wear themselves out and sleep "like the dead." Some of them may stay up later than we want them to; others, rise and shine earlier than we like. But at least they sleep.

As we grow older, as – how do we say it now? – "our bodies change," a good night's sleep is less common, or at least no certainty. We may wear ourselves out, too, but sleeping like "the dead" is rare. In dark morning hours we wait for sleep.

April is the "cruellest" month T. S. Eliot famously said in a disturbing poem. From deep sleep, we are awakened ... rudely. April being the month in northern climes when seeds awaken and grow in the still cold nights, pushing toward the Sun ... and the rain and wind and possible frost.

We don't think of Easter in these terms. Usually, we think of glory. And it is glory. Like a Red Bud in beautiful flower against a still gray mountainside. Forsythia, audaciously yellow, defy freezing temperatures. Yes, glory. Yes, here is life again. This is the way of God's creation – awakening, great beauty, followed by fruitfulness, then decline, then sleep.

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not to discredit this world. This is, after all, our world. We live it bodily; in our changing, sometimes sleepless bodies. What the gospel desires is that our wakefulness not be wasted. That we not be satisfied by platitudes or convention. We take things for granted – one day, one season, one cycle after another.

But the present is diverse, uncertain. And we need not wait for Gabriel's horn to sound before we experience it. Jesus was constantly telling his followers to see. Look and see at what is happening around you. God is present. Sleeping children arise one morning and we discover they are tall. We read our Bibles time after time, noticing very little, only to discover that we are part of this story, playing many parts.

God is present in the midst of us. It will be cruel and sleepless before we see. And yet ...resurrection.

Peace to you, and to our world – David

April Special Offering

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

Below is a chart of how money can be used.

- \$30 = one year's tuition in DR Congo/ Nepal/South Sudan
- \$60 = one year's tuition in Narus, South Sudan
- \$300 = one year's tuition in Myanmar (boarding)
- \$5 = shoes/uniform/food: DR Congo

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

Baptism Classes offered this Spring

Jesus calls us. His simple words, "follow me," are the basis of our discipleship. That faith and discipleship is observed publicly for us at our baptism. Montezuma will offer preparation for baptism classes this spring in anticipation of summer baptisms. If you desire to be baptized, please speak to Pastors David Miller or Gabe Dodd.

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

Spring Fest at Brethren Woods

Kiss the Cow: If our congregation raises \$100, Pastor Gabe will get to kiss a cow at Spring Fest! The congregation that raises the most money will have their nominee's picture in the next camp newsletter. To make a donation, make sure to write "Kiss the Cow" on your envelope.

Spring Fest Schedule

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

District Disaster Auction: May 17-18

It is time to get prepared for the upcoming Disaster Ministries Auction! This year's auction will be held on May 17th and 18th at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds to benefit Brethren Disaster Ministries. Montezuma Church always has many volunteers to support this event and we hope many of you will be able to participate again this year.

Handbell Choir to lead Chapel Service at VMRC

Montezuma's handbell choir will lead an afternoon worship service in the Strite Chapel, second floor Crestwood, at VMRC, Sunday, April 7, at 3:30 p.m. The choir will play a series of gospel hymn favorites like *In the garden*, *The Old Rugged Cross*, *Whiter than Snow*, and so on. You are welcome to join us.

Bible Sunday – April 14

Each year Montezuma gives full Bibles to third-graders in the congregation. This year these gifts will be given during the Palm Sunday worship, April 14.

Vacation Bible School: Roar

This year's Vacation Bible Theme will be, "Roar: Life is Wild Life is Good". This epic African adventure will help kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.

This year, we will be joining Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren and Dayton Church of the Brethren. VBS will be held at Dayton Church of the Brethren from June 17th-20th. Dinner will be served each evening at 5:30pm. Following dinner, students will attend a variety of stations, and the evening will conclude at 8:00 pm.

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

Living Peace Award Banquet is May 9 at Brethren Woods

Shenandoah District Pastors' for Peace invite you to their annual Living Peace Award Banquet, Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., at Camp Brethren Woods, the Pine Grove building. The Living Peace Award acknowledges individuals or groups who are answering Jesus's call to be peacemakers in a variety of ways. In the past we have honored service to the Boys and Girls club in Harrisonburg, a farmer, jail chaplains, Sea Going Cowboys, missionaries, activists, and disaster response ministries. Speaker for the 2019 banquet is David Radcliff, executive director of New Community Project. Montezuma has contributed to that organization's Give a Girl A Chance program which promotes formal education for girls in countries where the education of girls is not a priority. Cost of the meal is \$17 for adults and \$10 for students, including college and graduate students. Registration forms, due by May 1, are available in the entry way or at the church office.

Easter Thoughts

This month we approach the death and resurrection of Jesus, and will continue to celebrate Easter for 50 days. To me, the resurrection is God's ultimate victory, and an invitation for our resurrection. How do we pay attention to our own resurrection? How do we defeat our own deaths with new life? In order to do that, we must recognize our deaths, and name them for what they are. Our deaths are not just personal, but they are communal.

Sure, there have been times when I have failed my family, the church, and God. I am sure we can all share in that shame. When I look back on my previous behavior and actions, I recognize times when I was not loving; times when I did not show empathy; and times when I did not sacrifice my own ways. There have been times when I have assumed the worst from people. There have been times when I have refused help. You could almost say that I have tried, at times, to keep the possibility of life and peace closed up in a dark tomb. Mostly these "efforts" are completely unintentional. For this, my prayer is for forgiveness and for an earthquake to burst open the tomb and reveal a resurrection and revival of sorts.

As we arrive in a season of resurrection, let us think of ways to be open and honest. Our invitation this Easter is to revive the life of the church. Our challenge is to be receptive to the revealing of God's thriving spirit that grows inside of us. This may happen through individual acceptance of Jesus as Lord, answering God's call to leadership, or active church participation. This may happen through compassion for others and relationship building. However we experience Easter, let us focus on the hope of new life, not the fear of death!

-Pastor Gabe

Youth Events: April 2019

Sr. High Drive-in Movie Night

Friday, April 12th

All Church Game Night

Saturday, April 13th, 5:30 - 8:30pm

Christian Citizenship Seminar

April 27th - May 2nd

Letter opposes drone strikes, Brethren invited to rally

The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in February signed an interfaith letter about CIA drone strikes. The letter from 25 faith-based organizations asked Congress to end the CIA's use of armed drones to carry out lethal attacks.

“There must be transparency and accountability regarding the use of lethal force undertaken on our behalf,” the letter said, in part. “The CIA’s program of drone strikes has expanded in the past two years to include strikes in Libya and Afghanistan. This is in addition to the CIA’s long-term program of carrying out strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, and pos-

sibly other countries. . . . By refusing to acknowledge most of its strikes, the CIA prevents civilian victims from receiving justice and conveys moral responsibility for killing on to an American people who have never been informed about this secret war, nor had their members of Congress vote on it.”

The office invites Brethren to a rally against drone warfare on May 3 in Washington, D.C. The rally will call for an end to CIA drone strikes and for General Atomics, the company responsible for development of Predator and Reaper drones, to sign the “Future of Life” pledge on lethal autonomous weapons.

GFI visits Brethren-founded groups in Ecuador



Jeff Boshart

Although Church of the Brethren mission work in Ecuador ended in the 1970s, the name lives on in Fundación Brethren y Unida (FBU, Brethren and United Foundation) and Unidad Educativa “Brethren” (Brethren Educational Unit). FBU is a non-governmental organization in Picalqui, about an hour north of the capital Quito, focused on environmental education for youth and teaching organic food production to women’s groups. Unidad Educativa “Brethren” is in Llano Grande, in the greater Quito metropolitan area.

In 2017, Dale Minnich, a former Brethren mission worker in Ecuador and the first executive director of FBU, revisited Ecuador and the Global Food Initiative (GFI) began collaborating with

FBU. Two GFI grants supported FBU work with women and youth. This January, GFI manager Jeff Boshart visited to see FBU’s work and attend a meeting as a newly appointed board member.

FBU is repairing and upgrading its facilities to attract more international volunteers and visitors. Boshart observed a cooking class and made several field visits. One morning was spent hiking near Lagunas de Mojanda, a crater lake in a protected biological reserve. Although deforestation is extreme in the area, the road to the lake was lined with more than 500,000 native trees planted over 15 years by school children with direction from FBU.

FBU maintains a tree nursery, a small dairy herd of 12 cows, plots of blackberries, tree tomatoes (tomarillo), and vegetables. Larger fields produce

wheat, alfalfa, and corn. FBU is seeking those with farming or gardening experience to spend time working on the farm and in community programs. Contact JBoshart@brethren.org.

In Llano Grande, Boshart was greeted warmly by elders who remember the US mission and asked about many mission workers by name. These elders were educated in the Brethren school and remain fiercely proud of the formation they received in both school and church many years ago. Although the church is now United Methodist, Brethren values of service, peacemaking, and concern for the most vulnerable members of society have become embedded in the community. In parting, the elders sent their greetings and hopes for more news and communication from old friends.

A photo album is at www.blue-melon.com/churchofthebrethren/globalfoodinitiativeecuadorvisit.



Jeff Boshart

Detrick and Sollenberger top ballot for moderator

Topping the ballot for the 2019 Annual Conference are nominees for moderator-elect **Joe A. Detrick** of Seven Valleys, Pa., an ordained minister and retired district executive; and **David Sollenberger** of Annville, Pa., a videographer who has documented Brethren conferences and ministries.

Other positions and nominees:

Program and Arrangements Committee: **Carol Higgs Elmore**, Salem, Va.; **Seth Hendricks**, North Manchester, Ind.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 4: **Jess Hoffert**, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; **J. Roger Schrock**, McPherson, Kan.; *Area 5:* **Lauren Seganos Cohen**, Pasadena, Calif.; **Don Morrison**, Nampa, Idaho.

Bethany Seminary board representing Brethren colleges: **Kurt DeGoede**, Mount Joy, Pa.; **Monica Rice**, McPherson, Kan.

Brethren Benefit Trust board: **Audrey Myer**, Elizabethtown, Pa.; **Derrick Petry**, Beaver Creek, Ohio.

On Earth Peace board: **Catherine K. Carson**, Fairfax, Va.; **Carla L. Gillespie**, Tipp City, Ohio.

Elections will be held during Annual Conference July 3-7 in Greensboro, N.C. For more information and to register go to www.brethren.org/ac.



Joe A. Detrick



David Sollenberger

Dikaiois pilgrimage will visit Cherokee

Intercultural Ministries offers a Dikaiois and Discipleship

Pre-Conference Pilgrimage on July 2-3. The bus trip will start in Greensboro, N.C., make an overnight stay in Cherokee, and visit the Museum of the Cherokee and Oconaluftee Living Village.

Themes for the tour include righteousness and justice, a history of faith, land and lament, and doctrine of discovery. An announcement described Cherokee as “a place that is at once a sacred homeland for the Cherokee tribe, a place of modern cultural rebirth, and a tourist destination . . . where layers of history and a modern American dream collide. Join us on a scripture-inspired tour of a region to reflect on how our values—and those of our ancestors—have shaped the lives of Native Americans.”

For more information and to register go to www.brethren.org/dikaiois.

Personnel notes

Dana Cassell is managing Thriving in Ministry, a grant-funded initiative of the Office of Ministry offering support for multivocational pastors. She started half-time on Jan. 7 while continuing to pastor Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren, Durham, N.C. Three-fourths of Brethren pastors are multivocational. Recognizing one challenge for them is less time and availability to travel for education, conferences, and fellowship with other pastors, Thriving in Ministry will offer resources and support in their own context.

Shannon McNeil began March 4 as a Mission Advancement advocate working out of the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She and Nancy Timbrook McCrickard are a team of advocates working at relationship-building with donors. She most recently was manager of human resources and constituent

affairs in the Office of the Governor, in Chicago. She holds degrees from Bridgewater (Va.) College and the University of Chicago. She is a member of Neighborhood Church of the Brethren in Montgomery, Ill.

Emily Tyler started as director of Brethren Volunteer Service on Feb. 4. She continues to work out of the General Offices where she had coordinated BVS recruitment and Workcamp Ministry since June 27, 2012. In 2006, as a BVSer, she co-coordinated National Youth Conference and Young Adult Conference. As coordinator of the Workcamp Ministry she supervised BVSErs each year as the ministry offered workcamps for junior and senior highs, young adults, multi-generational groups, and We Are Able.

Steve Van Houten started March 6 as interim coordinator of the

Workcamp Ministry, working out of the General Offices. He coordinated the ministry July 2006 through January 2008 after serving as temporary coordinator beginning January 2005. He is retired as senior pastor of Pine Creek (Ind.) Church of the Brethren.

National Youth Cabinet members have been named for 2019-2020: **Eric Finet**, Nokesville congregation, Mid-Atlantic District; **Grace VanAsselt**, McPherson, Western Plains District; **Lucas Musselman**, Oak Grove, Virgina District; **Madison Creps**, Mechanisburg, Southern Pennsylvania District; **Rachel Johnson**, Mechanic Grove, Atlantic Northeast District; **Tristen Craighead**, Manassas, Mid-Atlantic District; adult advisors **Leslie Lake**, Illinois and Wisconsin District, and **Dennis Beckner**, Northern Indiana District.

Our Stewardship for March 2019

	Attendance		For Budget
	Worship	Sunday School	
March 3	116	67	\$5,105.00
10	143	65	\$5,892.41
17	168	83	\$5,880.97
24	145	99	\$2,751.00
31	118	85	\$3,140.00
March average per Sunday	136	80	\$4,553.88
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	156	78	

Special Giving for March 2019

Backpack Program	\$50	Tenderloin Feast	\$222.50
Doris Smith Memorial	\$100	Youth Cookbooks	\$8
Easter Flowers	\$393	Youth Fund	\$50
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$510		

Serving in April 2019

Nursery

- 7 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 14 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 21 No Schedule
- 28 Sarah & Bobby Williams

Worship Center

- 7 Wanda Hollen
- 14 Committee
- 21 Committee
- 28 Dawn Kiser

Sound System / Projection

- 7 John Layman / Jared Smith
- 14 Randy Glick / Jared Smith
- 21 Ben Hiner / Dustin Atkins
- 28 Bobby Williams / Hayley Daubert

Valet Parking

- 7 Weldon Good
- 14 Wade Showalter
- 21 John Monger
- 28 Brad Smith

USHERS

Bob Black, David Skelton, Matt Young, Randy Glick

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays:

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

- | | |
|----|---|
| 24 | Emmalin Barnhart
Ronnie Shirkey |
| 25 | David Miller
Marilyn Miller |
| 26 | Amy Knott
Howard Smiley
Joe McNett |
| 27 | Lynn McNett
Craig Sease
Missy Vandevander |
| 28 | Diane McNett
Josh Richard |
| 29 | Dwayne Kiser
Adam Richard
Jerry Shank
Keith Weaver
Sarah Williams
Michelle Airey |
| 30 | Kyle Brown
Danny Lilly
Rosemary Taylor
Russell Wenger
Malachi Moyer |

April Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Scott & Michelle Airey |
| 3 | Cory & Jennifer Payne
David & Vicki Richard |
| 4 | Chris & Ann Click
John & Cathleen Coffman
Dwayne & Dawn Kiser |
| 8 | Wendell & Betty Chandler
Bill & Joyce Jackameit |
| 11 | Rick & Tina Knott |
| 14 | Norlyn & Betty Miller |
| 16 | Charles & Janice Rhodes |
| 20 | Eric & April Payne |
| 21 | John & Linnette Coaker |
| 22 | Bill & Barbara Eavers |
| 24 | Daniel & Naomi Lambert
Doug & Lisa Tumer |
| 25 | Charles & Fay Airey |
| 26 | Bob & Carol Martin |
| 30 | Howard & Debbie Smiley |

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