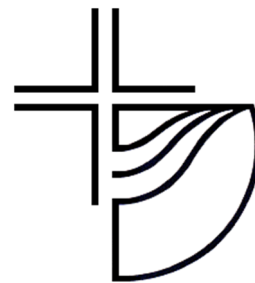


# Montezuma Today

June 2019



## Vacation Bible School: Roar

Monday, June 17 – Thursday, June 20  
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
Dayton COB

This year's Vacation Bible Theme is, "Roar: Life is Wild, God 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 are joining Beaver Creek COB and Dayton COB. VBS will be held at Dayton Church of the Brethren from June 17 - 20. 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 30<sup>th</sup> through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders. A week of service, bible study, and fellowship will also be planned for rising 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Online registration is available at [www.montezumacob.org/vbs-registration](http://www.montezumacob.org/vbs-registration). Paper forms are available in the church office. Please plan to complete your registration forms in by Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 2019 Graduates

We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lane Bazzle** – Lane will be graduating from Broadway High School on June 8<sup>th</sup>. He plans to study collision repair either at MTC or Lincoln Tech School in Nashville, TN.

**Heather Knott** – Heather will be graduating from Turner Ashby High school on June 8<sup>th</sup>. She plans to attend Bridgewater College in the fall.

**Hunter Hilbert** – Hunter graduated from Blue Ridge Community College on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall.

**Mary McNett** – Mary graduated from Blue Ridge Community College on May 4<sup>th</sup> with an Associate's Degree in Art & Science. She plans to enroll in radiology school.

**Kellie Serrell** – Kellie graduated from Eastern Mennonite University on May 5<sup>th</sup> with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. She plans to pursue training as an EMT.

**Laurie Anne Serrell** – Laurie Anne graduated from Eastern Mennonite University on May 5<sup>th</sup> with a B.S. in Nursing and a major in Spanish. She plans to stay in this area for a little and then work as an international travel nurse.

## Church Events: June 2019

- 2: Graduation Sunday
- 3: Worship Center Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 4: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 9: Deacon Lunch Meeting – 11:30am
- 10: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 11: Church Board Meeting – 7pm
- 13: Salvation Army Meal
- 13-16: National Jr. High Conference
- 17-20: Vacation Bible School
- 23: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday program
- 25: Dorcas Circle – 1pm

## What's Inside:

- 2** Worship Topics  
Peace of my mind
- 3-4** News
- 4** Youth News
- 5-6** Newline Digest
- 7** Stewardship  
Financial Report
- 8** Birthdays & Anniversaries

# WORSHIP – June 2019

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

## 2: Graduation Sunday

### Partisans of God

Pastor David

Psalms 114

Today we recognize our graduates. It is a happy day. All that hard work and perseverance is recognized; but our graduates are not finished. Instead, there is a beginning, a commencing! Psalm 114 opens with Israel's liberation from slavery; but it is not the end of the story. It is "God's sanctuary" – not a place: but a people.

\*Adult Choir & Handbell Choir

*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Institutes the New Covenant*

## 9: Pentecost: Led by the Spirit

Pastor David

Psalms 104:24-35; Romans 8:14-17

Paul says, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God" (Rom. 8:14). One characteristic of "leading" this life of the Spirit is praising God. We continue our theme of asking how praise shapes our lives.

*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Seals the New Covenant*

## 16: Why do you care about us?

Pastor David

Psalms 8; Romans 5:1-5

Before the majesty of God and the wonder of the heavens and stars, who are human beings that God should care? You see, it's not only modern people looking through telescopes into the vast universe who ask the question. It's an old struggle. And yet ... we do matter. That is the biblical affirmation. Psalm 8 gives its own answer.

*International S.S. Lesson: The New Covenant's Sacrifice*

## 23: National Junior High Youth Conference Sunday: Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1:9; Galatians 3:23-29

Junior High Youth plan to report on their trip to National Youth Conference in Elizabethtown, PA, during the Sunday School hour, and will also lead worship. The theme for the conference is "Strong and Courageous." It's good for all seasons of life.

*International S.S. Lesson: Hearts United in Love*

## 30: Learning to see

Pastor Gabe

John 9:1-17, 34-41; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Paul writes to an early church community that does not exhibit spiritual leadership and are being divided by differing loyalties. Meanwhile, Jesus heals a blind man, bringing sight to the blind and those who long to see. Let us listen to ways we can discern with God.

*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Teaches about Right Attitudes*

Peace of my mind:

Most of us know famous stories of conversion: Saint Augustine lived the good life of fame and leisure. What need of religion did he have? The moment of truth comes when Augustine, at ease in a garden, hears a child's voice say: "Take up and read." He looks around and there is a New Testament, left for him by a friend. The volume falls open to Romans in his hand. The movement to faith had started before that moment through the Spirit's work and the attention of friends, but from this moment, Augustine began to think of himself as a Christian.

Centuries later, John Wesley, having returned to London from an unhappy time as a pastor in Georgia and a failed love life, found his way to a reading of Martin Luther's introduction to his commentary on Romans. Doesn't that sound exciting? Obviously, Wesley was religious enough and knew his Bible. But that night at Aldersgate, John Wesley felt himself "strangely warmed" by God's Spirit and the church renewal movement we now call Methodism was born.

When I was a boy, David Wilkerson wrote a book about Nicky Cruz, *The Cross and the Switchblade*. It was the story of how Jesus changed the life of a violent gangbanger in New York City.

Do you have a story like one of these? I know that some of you do. Most of us do not. And this would put us in the majority – even the great majority. The lack of a dramatic conversion story doesn't make us less Christian. The value of great conversion stories is that we like to tell them. But I'm not convinced that they are templates for the rest of us. The experience of failure or emotional distress can be an opening to new awareness, new insight. All of us have this experience. Still, everyone doesn't find Jesus in those moments.

God works in our lives in mysterious ways ... and sometimes those mysteries are not very exciting. But they matter. Look around the room at Montezuma. There are a few Nicky Cruz's in the building. But most are like Timothy, raised by a faithful mother and grandmother in the faith. We may not feel like we've had conversion experiences, but choosing to be here, and to remain loyal to the gospel of Jesus is itself a life-altering experience. We could always do something else. But choosing this life does make a difference. Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts. He wants us to join him. Let's do it.

Peace to you – and to our world. David

## June Special Offering: Brethren Woods Adopt a Staff Fund

This month's special offering is to benefit a specific aspect of our Brethren Woods camp. It's the Adopt a Summer Staff fund. Each year Brethren Woods hires young adults to work with our children during the camping season. Over the years the camp has seen that better qualified staff are being lured toward higher paying jobs even though they would prefer working for the camp or they are being hired by other camps that pay more. To attract better qualified summer staff Brethren Woods is asking congregations to adopt a summer staff person and contribute extra money to pay a fair and competitive wage. Montezuma has helped before and we want to do it again this year. We would expect to meet the staff person we adopt at some point during the summer. All funds for this offering may be given during the offering time; please designate the check for Brethren Woods.

## CBM Summary

The regular May Montezuma Congregational Business meeting was largely informational this year. Following reports from the church board, treasurer, and pastors, the congregation approved the recommended appointments of the Nurture Commission. The congregation was informed that we need two people to fill open church board positions.

## Summer Music

Anyone who would like to provide special music for worship during the summer months, June to August, please contact Marsha Shank or Ralph Rohrer.

**Montezuma Today** is a monthly publication of Montezuma Church of the Brethren. Articles and information for publication are appreciated by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Email:** [montezuma.cob@gmail.com](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)  
**Mail to:** 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

## Fifth Sunday on the Fourth Sunday, June 23, this month!!

Montezuma's Fifth Sunday – which occurs during those months that have a fifth Sunday – will not be held on the fifth Sunday this month. No, it will happen on the fourth Sunday. Pardon our confusion, but this month it just works to do the fifth on the fourth.

The Fifth Sunday (on the fourth) program in June will feature Montezuma's own Junior High youth leading worship and reporting on the National Junior High Conference in Elizabethtown, PA, during the Sunday School hour (10:45 a.m.). Their theme will be "Strong and Courageous."

Like all Fifth Sundays (except on the fourth Sunday this month), Sunday School classes are cancelled so that everyone may gather in the sanctuary for a special program. Following that, everyone goes downstairs to the fellowship room for a wonderful meal and time together. No need to go home and cook! Or go out to eat! You're already where the food is! A love offering to support the youth is always appreciated. Make your plans now to be here for Montezuma's Fifth Sunday on the Fourth Sunday this June 23.

## Board to Consider Raising Hall Rates

On a recommendation from the Stewards Commission, the Executive Committee will ask the Church Board to raise Hall use rates effective after the Board's June meeting. The proposed rate is \$150. The current rate for Hall use is \$100. The rates are being raised due to the expense of maintaining the hall and its utilities. Stewards believe that the current fee for using the hall is undervalued. The Board will consider the issue at its June 11 meeting. No decision has been made at this time. Some important things to know should the Board approve the recommendation:

- Current reservations made at the \$100 rate will be honored at that rate.
- Members of the Montezuma congregation use the hall without charge.
- The Montezuma Ruritan Club rate is unaffected.

If you have questions, please contact Stewards chairman Ethan Dakin or Board chairman Calvin Lokey.

## Call and Response

It's beginning to look a lot like summer! I associate summer with camping. Not just family camping, but church camp. Walking in the woods from activity to activity; preparing meals from scratch with our friends; singing around the campfire. My favorite campfire songs are the ones where a leader starts singing, and the rest of us respond to the singing, usually like an echo. It is called a call-and-response type of song. Some popular ones are: Down by the Bay, the Moose Song, and Boom Chicka Boom. These types of songs are easy to sing along to because we have a model for how to sing, and we have others to sing with!

The call-and-response songs model to us the call and response of our faith. God calls us, and we respond. Responding to God as our leader is not like paving a new path in the wilderness of life. Nor is responding to God's calling for us a solitary journey. When we respond to God's call, we might just find harmony with other weird kids, and a satisfaction that is not based on our ability to "sing." Our response in following God is not based on our skills or our 'success.' Our response is like belting, "Boom Chicka Boom!" from the top of our lungs, knowing that God is there to support us.

How is God calling you this summer? Better yet, how are you responding to God's call this summer? I know one youth who is responding to God's call by volunteering at Brethren Woods for two weeks. I know six youth who are responding to God's call by attending a conference. I know seven youth that are responding to God's call by serving others via work camp. If you are not sure what you are being called to do this summer, one short prayer you might consider praying constantly is: "Lord God, what more do you want from me? I am ready. AMEN."

## Nursery Schedule

If you are interested in helping with nursery care during worship September 2019 through August 2020 or you would like your name deleted from the current list, please contact Frances Shenk at 540-879-9257 by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If your name is already on the list, it will remain there unless notified otherwise.

## Staff Notes: Looking Ahead

Please note that the staff will be out of the office on the following dates this summer:

### Pastor David

June 10 – 12: Brethren Woods  
June 25 – July 2: Vacation  
July 3 – July 7: Annual Conference  
July 17 – July 21: Jr. High Work Camp

### Pastor Gabe

June 13 – 16: National Jr. High Conference  
June 17 – 20: Brethren Woods Day Camp  
July 3 – 7: Annual Conference  
July 8 – 13: Vacation  
July 14 – 20: Sr. High work camp

### Linnette

June 25 – June 28: Vacation

## Crossroads Summer Worship

The Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center has scheduled Worship in the Woods each Sunday at 7 p.m. beginning June 16 through August 11 in the amphitheater at the CrossRoads campus at 1921 Heritage Center Way, Harrisonburg. Bring a lawn chair and worship in this serene setting. Golf cart service will be available to assist those needing help moving from the parking area to the amphitheater.

### **Youth Events: June 2019**

#### **Graduation Sunday**

Sunday, June 2

#### **National Jr. High Conference**

June 13 – 16 • Elizabethtown College, PA

#### **Sr. High Work Camp**

July 24 – 20 • Boston, MA

#### **Junior High VBS Service Week**

June 17 – June 20

## Emergency Disaster Fund supports Africa cyclone relief

**E**mergency Disaster Fund grants support relief efforts in southern Africa following Cyclone Idai. Two large grants have gone to longterm partner organizations: \$40,000 to ACT Alliance, and \$30,000 jointly to IMA World Health and Lutheran World Relief.

The allocation to IMA World Health and Lutheran World Relief supports the Chipinge and Chimanimani regions of Zimbabwe, providing funding for temporary shelters, distribution of relief kits, and water filters. In Mozambique, the organizations are sending school kits to support safe spaces for children living in temporary camps.

The grant to ACT Alliance supports its country-level organizing bodies in the affected nations. A combination of local and international organizations will implement a comprehensive response supporting basic human needs of water, food, shelter, and sanitation for the most vulnerable people.

Also, a grant of \$45,000 will continue the Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding project in the Carolinas, aiding homeowners recovering from hurricanes Matthew and Florence. The grant will enable recovery efforts to continue in North and South Carolina through the summer as a double site, and then as a single site through at least April 2020.



Ed Hendrickson

*Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers from Bethany Church of the Brethren in Northern Indiana District, and volunteers from Pacific Southwest District enjoy spending time with a homeowner (center, in black) and her daughter, and their dog, while working on her Hurricane Matthew-damaged house in the Carolinas.*

## Church renews agreement with Selective Service

**T**he Church of the Brethren has renewed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Selective Service System, the federal department responsible for the nation's preparation for a military draft and draft registration. Selective Service has worked with the historic peace churches to plan for alternative service for conscientious objectors in the event of a draft.

The renewed MOU was signed by general secretary David A. Steele and Global Mission and Service executive Jay Wittmeyer on March 4. The previous MOU was signed in 2010.

The denomination has a long-standing agreement with Selective Service as

a result of work by the historic peace churches (Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers). Brethren Volunteer Service is recognized as an agency through which conscientious objectors may do alternative service.

In the event of a draft, conscientious objectors would make a claim for such classification, likely on a case-by-case basis. Church members would provide documentation demonstrating an objection to serving in the military, how they arrived at that belief, and how that belief has influenced their life. Denominational staff recommend that, at the time of registering with the Selective Service, young people file a "statement of conscience" with the

Church of the Brethren to be kept in case it is required.

"By signing this MOU with Selective Service and by maintaining the Brethren Volunteer Service program, the Church of the Brethren demonstrates that it is committed to its historical position as a peace church," said Wittmeyer. "While membership in the church does not guarantee a drafted individual would qualify for alternative service, we do believe it makes a strong case to demonstrate one's belief in nonresistance."

Find the *Call of Conscience* curriculum with instructions for the statement of conscience at [www.brethren.org/CO](http://www.brethren.org/CO).



## On Earth Peace adopts new values, vision, and mission

**O**n Earth Peace at a board meeting on April 4-6 approved a new set of core values and new vision and mission statements. For more effective governance, a major board reorganization plan was affirmed.

### The new set of core values:

- **Jesus-centered spirituality.** *We follow Jesus into the work of justice and peace. We share in spiritual practices and develop faith resources to help undergird our programs.*

- **Positive peace.** *We learn, teach and practice dynamic forms of peacemaking which see conflict as an important tool to meet needs, address injustice, correct imbalances of power, and seek healing and reconciliation.*

- **Anti-racism/anti-oppression.** *We commit to name and undo barriers to participation in our programs based on identi-*

*ty, and to work for full inclusion and equity for all who wish to join in our work. We commit to the long-term transformation of On Earth Peace, the church, and society.*

- **Intergenerational leadership.** *We nurture peacemakers and leaders, and honor the wisdom, skill, and experience of all generations.*

- **Beloved community.** *We commit to raising the levels of relationships until justice and peace prevail, and all people attain their full human potential.*

### The new vision statement:

*A world in Beloved Community, liberated from oppression, violence, and war.*

### The new mission statement:

*We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.*

The new organizational design calls for a board of 8 to 10 members that will function with a structure of 3 committees: executive committee, resource management committee, and board governance and development committee. The Anti-Racism Transformation Team will continue to function, with its integration into the structure of the organization more clearly defined.



## New degree at Bethany

**In fall 2019, Bethany Theological Seminary will offer its first new graduate degree in 50 years**—the Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing. The MATW is the only degree available in theopoetics. In 2016, Bethany launched the specialized graduate certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination, also the first of its kind.

The new degree, which is a collaboration with the seminary's neighbor on the campus in Richmond, Ind.—Earlham School of Religion—is a major feature of the comprehensive curriculum revision that faculty have been undertaking. Bethany's newly revised master of divinity was launched in fall 2018, and the revised master of arts will be offered in fall 2019. The certificate in theology and science was launched this academic year, and the certificate in biblical peacemaking will be offered in fall 2019.

## Personnel notes

**Gimbiya Kettering** resigned as director of Intercultural Ministries on May 31, after serving in the position since Jan. 7, 2013. She was on the staff of Discipleship Ministries and worked closely with the Intercultural Ministries Advisory Committee. She focused the work on the Annual Conference mandates in the 2007 statement “Separate No More: Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church.” With her leadership the ministry continued the Revelation 7:9 Award, initiated the Dikaos and Discipleship study tours focused on racial justice, worked on “Continuing Together” conversations including a Native American Heritage Month project with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, led workshops in vari-

ous settings, and contributed articles to MESSENGER. Going forward, Discipleship Ministries will be “partnering with the Intercultural Ministries Advisory Committee to envision the strategy and staffing needed to live into the vision of Revelation 7:9,” said co-coordinator Joshua Brockway.

**Jason and Nicole Hoover** on April 30 concluded their work with Global Mission and Service as church liaison officers with Iglesia de los Hermanos (the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic). They began in the DR on Aug. 1, 2016. The couple, along with children Ethan and Miriam, are remaining in the DR to work with Solid Rock International.

## Our Stewardship for May 2019

	Attendance		For Budget
	Worship	Sunday School	
<b>May 5</b>	143	86	\$5,787.00
12	139	63	\$5,485.42
19	149	65	\$4,086.00
26	143	67	\$1,834.00
May average per Sunday	144	70	\$4,298.10
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	154	77	\$5,377.38

### **Special Giving for May 2019**

Building Repairs	\$200	Worship Center Fund	\$215.64
Brethren Disaster Ministries	\$550	Youth Cookbooks	\$20

## Serving in June

### NURSERY

- 2 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 9 Sarah & Bobby Williams
- 16 Stephanie Diehl & Kenzy Hiner
- 23 Becky & Hayley Daubert
- 30 Pam Dodd & Brittany Hammer

### SOUND SYSTEM

- 2 Ben Hiner
- 9 Jim Rusmiser
- 16 Bobby Williams
- 23 Ron Shickel
- 30 John Layman

### WORSHIP CENTER

- 2 Dawn Kiser
- 9 Wanda Hollen
- 16 Ann Monger
- 23 Lisa Shickel
- 30 Kathy Veal

### VALET PARKING

- 2 Weldon Good
- 9 Wade Showalter
- 16 John Monger
- 23 Brad Smith
- 30 Ralph Rohrer

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

## **Salvation Army**

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye on the bulletin insert or see Brenda Wine for a list of who will be preparing and serving this meal.

# June Birthdays & Anniversaries

## June Birthdays:

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Clayton Adams      | 14 Gary Payne     |
| Rachel Coffman       | 15 Marty Barlow   |
| Drew Shull           | 16 John Coffman   |
| 2 Fay Airey          | 17 Skyler Shank   |
| 3 Brandi Harpine     | 18 Mike Healy     |
| LeAnne Kendall       | Jonathan Northrop |
| 4 Sandra Huffman     | Samuel Sites      |
| Curt Kendall         | 20 Troy Knott     |
| 6 Ramona Evans       | Linda Waggy       |
| 7 Bradley Glick      | 21 Liam Harback   |
| Alannah Harback      | Yvonne Miller     |
| Bob Jerome           | Kennedy Brooks    |
| 8 Ernie Havener      | 22 Tammy Hall     |
| 9 Beth Bazzle        | Cory Payne        |
| Nicolas Huffman      | 24 Mason Payne    |
| Matthew Ross         | Lavonne Rusmiser  |
| 10 Anderson DePoy    | 26 Ann Click      |
| 11 Faye McNett       | 27 Tom Ross       |
| 12 Mason Black       | 29 Jared Diehl    |
| John Serrell         | Judy Lokey        |
| 13 Robert Black, Jr. | 30 Andrea Adams   |
| Eric Shank           | Becky Daubert     |

## June Anniversaries:

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Jonathan & Bobbi Jo Ross    |
| 9 Bryan & Jaime Embres        |
| 12 John & Marian Layman       |
| Brian & Janelle Weaver        |
| 13 Phil & Ramona Evans        |
| 14 Adam & Katie Richard       |
| 15 David & Kathy Lilly        |
| 16 Melvin & Edith Burger      |
| 17 Aaron & Heather Barnhart   |
| Harold & Faye McNett          |
| 18 Brent & Monica Burkholder  |
| Tom & Ann Miller              |
| 21 Don Poston & Cheryl Martin |
| 24 Bobby & Bonnie Guyer       |
| Charles & Bonnie Miller       |
| 25 Donnie & Mary Jackson      |
| Lynn & Carolyn Mohler         |
| Dean & Holly Wood             |
| 27 Austin & Nikita McNett     |
| 28 Randy & Mary Lou Glick     |
| 29 John & Amy Knott           |

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