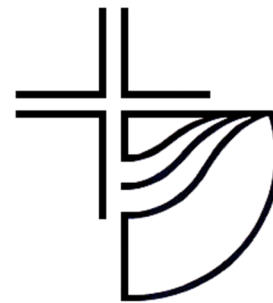


Montezuma Today

September 2019



Fall Bible Study – “In the Wilderness”

This fall's Montezuma Bible Study focuses on the Old Testament book of Numbers, which in Hebrew is titled, “In the Wilderness.” This is not a dry study of rules and regulations but a series of stories involving Moses and those who would challenge him for leadership. Numbers is full of stories where the children of Israel face challenging moments and risks. When we read the book of Numbers carefully, we sense the courage required to follow God. Six classes are planned this fall at two different times: Tuesday mornings, 10 a.m., beginning September 17 through October 22; and Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m., beginning September 19 through October 24. Pastor David is teaching Tuesday mornings; Pastor Gabe is leading Thursday evenings. We hope you join us!

Church Picnic

The church picnic will be held on September 22nd at Oakdale Park in Bridgewater, Shelter #3. Worship and Sunday School will take place at the church and the picnic meal will start at 12:30pm. We will share in a potluck picnic with fried chicken, paper and table products, and drinks provided. Following the meal, have fun with games, activities and fellowship for all ages! Please bring yard games to share and your lawn chair.

If you would like to help the Nurture Commission with the picnic and set up please call Karen Fleishman (828-2044) or Mary Jackson (879-9592). We hope to see everyone there!

Calling of Deacons

Montezuma Church will hold a brief service to call or renew the call of deacons for the congregation on Sunday, September 22nd, 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 15th.

Church Events: September

- 1: Baptism – following Sunday School
- 3: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 3: Stewards & Nurture Commission Meetings – 7pm
- 4: Witness Commission Meeting – 7pm
- 4: Choir Practice
- 8: Youth Swimming Party – 11:40am
- 9: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 9: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 10: Executive Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 11: Special Events Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 11: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 12: Salvation Army Meal
- 15: Deacon Meeting – 11:40am
- 16: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 17: Fall Bible Studies begin
- 20-21: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Lock-in
- 22: Deacon Calling during Worship
- 22: Church Picnic – after Sunday School
- 23: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 25: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 29: 5th Sunday program and meal
- 29: Sunday Night Live Youth Event – 4-8pm

What's Inside:

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

WORSHIP – September 2018

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

1: Face to Face *Pastor David*
Exodus 33:7-11a; Numbers 12:7-8

We begin a three-month series on Moses and how Moses' life serves as a guide for our own relationship with God. In Moses we find a person whose life becomes grounded in God; who does what he does and is who he is because of his relationship with God. Moses doesn't start out this way. Rather, God calls Moses to servant leadership - often with significant personal resistance. The work of writer Ruth Haley Barton contributes to this series.

Special Music: Harmony 4 Him

International S.S. Lesson: God Remembers God's Promises

8: Origins *Pastor David*
Exodus 1:1-2:17; Psalm 1

We begin the story of Moses by learning about the oppression of his people. But who exactly are Moses' people? He is Hebrew. But he's raised Egyptian in the king's palace. That two-ness and tension is the source of personal frustration and dangerous anger for Moses. He will need to face and deal with these powerful forces in his life.

Music by the adult choir

International S.S. Lesson: God Answers Prayer

15: The Place of Our Conversion *Pastor David*
Exodus 2:15b-25

Moses does not begin as a leader or liberator of his people. First, he must be freed from his own bondage. By recognizing the reality of his own situation, he is more prepared to receive the leadership that he needs: to be led to freedom himself.

Music by the handbell choir

International S.S. Lesson: God Provides for our Needs

22: Paying Attention, hearing our Call *Pastor Gabe*
Exodus 3:1-6

The burning bush was a startling phenomenon. Moses was only able to notice the burning bush for one reason: he pays attention and makes himself available. Because of this, Moses saw something unpredictable, and heard a call, which was even more unpredictable. This morning we will practice paying attention.

Music by the adult choir

International S.S. Lesson: God Hears our Cry

29: Confronting Pharaoh *Pastor David*
Exodus 5:1-6:1

Moses answers the call of God. He confronts the king of Egypt. But the king has no interest in cooperating and, in fact, makes life even harder for the people Moses wants to help. Life with God meets resistance. Amidst suffering and turmoil, Moses must continue to rely on God and learn to trust God anew each day.

International S.S. Lesson: God Forgives

Peace of my mind

September is going to be an active time. We are changing our Sunday School classes; we are starting choir practices; we have Bible studies planned and points of focus for worship; we have some good fellowship activities like the church picnic and the Fifth Sunday focus and meal; committees are meeting; service groups continue to plan for big events and fellowship groups from the youth to older adults have activities planned; the church is calling deacons and we are baptizing three young people.

Lots to do. But at the heart of everything we do – our reason for being – is our commitment to God through Jesus Christ. If life is busy at church, then it's busy everywhere: for our families, at schools, at work, harvesting the fruit of the earth.

Let's not forget the need to rest and stop all that hectic coming and going. The last Sunday of August we focused on Sabbath. God wove the Sabbath day right into the creation of the world; wove it into every week. Take time to rest and reflect. Rest and be refreshed is the way it's described in Exodus 31:17. In Hebrew, the root word for "refreshed" in our English Bibles is nefesh – soul. The Greek word is psyche, like psychology. It means soul, or more basically: life. Taking time to observe Sabbath and rest is not just a commandment; it's a way of recovering life.

That's good for us – and it's good for others. It's good for our neighbors, good for the animals, good for the world. When we are just go, go, go, the result is frustration, irritation, anger. We get tired of others. "What's wrong with them!"

Jesus saw the Sabbath not as a day off, but as a day to be released from bondage (see Luke 17). That release is not only for our bodies; it's for our minds and hearts; our relationships.

The Sabbath is not small. It is big. It's woven throughout all of scripture. So instead of getting worked up about all we have to do. Let's plan to observe Sabbath.

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 18th – 25th.

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 19th 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 12th and one kettle of apple butter made the day of the festival. Cider for the apple butter will be made on Friday, October 11th. Canning jars are always needed for this event. 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.

Fall Worship at Montezuma: Encountering God

For the next three months Montezuma will read the story of Moses as a way of exploring our own faith and relationship to God. Moses was a great prophet and leader of his people, but that didn't happen through his own ambition. He was who he was because he paid attention to God. The work of writer Ruth Haley Barton contributes to this series. We hope you will accept this invitation to grow in your own faith through worship and study.

New Love Feast Opportunity coming in the Fall

Montezuma Deacons want more people to come to Love Feast. Jesus is the host of this meal based on the Last Supper, but congregations implement Jesus's invitation. To that end Deacons are changing the time and style of the Sunday, October 6, Love Feast to make it more accessible to individuals and families. This Love Feast will begin at 11:45 a.m. in the church fellowship room. The meal will be expanded and hopefully more child-friendly. More information will be forth coming in September. The Love Feast is a powerful expression of Jesus's love for his disciples and his desire for us to love one another. The Deacons hope you join them.

September 1 Baptisms

Three youth will be baptized Sunday, September 1, in Beaver Creek. Kyle Brown, Julia Eye and Zeb Miller will affirm their faith in Jesus Christ during the morning worship service and proceed to be baptized outdoors following Sunday School classes. This service is open to everyone.

Calling All Choir Members: Past, Present, Future!

Montezuma's music ministry needs you! Weekly choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 29th 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

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, September 12th. Please see Brenda Wine if you have any questions.

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

See the church's website for more details about these events: www.montezumacob.org

Youth Swimming Party

Sunday, September 8: 11:40am

Sunday Night Live

Sunday, September 29: 4pm – 8pm
Valley Brethren/Mennonite Heritage Center

Lock-in

Saturday-Sunday, September 20-21

Crop Walk and Meal

On Thursday, October 31st 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 3rd 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.

5th Sunday Meal & Presentation

During the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 29th, we will be hosting a special guest from the Sadie Rose Foundation in Dayton. Regina Cyzick Harlow will be sharing a presentation with our congregation about her organization, which is a ministry to families that have experienced infant/children loss. Regina is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, and will be talking to our congregation about grief. This presentation is appropriate for all ages. Our October special offering will be given to the Sadie Rose Foundation to support families with financial assistance, food assistance, support meetings, and medical & funeral assistance. Our meal this month will be a baked potato bar. All are welcome!

Sunday Night Live

This month, we have a special opportunity for our youth. Area youth groups from BOTH Church of the Brethren and Mennonite Churches will be meeting together at the Brethren Mennonite Heritage Center on Sunday, September 29, from 4-8PM. The extra time at this event will allow the youth to do a service project, eat dinner, worship in the woods, and play a large group game across the property. There will also be a very short talk about why we are meeting with the Mennonite youth, and why our Heritage Center is about both Mennonites and Church of the Brethren. This event will be different from any SNL event that we have had in the past, and we pray for good attendance. 6th-12th graders are welcome!

Sunday School

Peer support; intercessory prayer; sermon processing; Bible study; discipleship; relationship building; asking questions; hearing God's story; learning how to be a Christian in today's world; outreach. These are some reasons why our church invests a great deal of attention in Sunday School. We invite you to consider attending Sunday School this year. There are classes for every age group, and flexibility for those who cannot commit to coming every week. We believe that Sunday School is a place to process our weeks in a fellowship of other Christians, study the Bible with more interaction, and a place where children start to create their faith foundation. A new brochure was created to inform the congregation and visitors of what is offered, and to allow people to find the class rooms. It is never too late to walk into a class for the first time, and don't feel bad for "shopping" for the right class for you. Sunday School begins roughly 10 minutes after the end of worship, and generally continues until 11:30. Blessings to you for this new year of discovering God, together.

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: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

Standing Committee revises appeal process

The **Standing Committee of district delegates** revised the appeal process during pre-Conference meetings in Greensboro, N.C. It also approved a two-thirds majority vote requirement as part of a new *Standing Committee Manual*, among other business. An attempt to continue discussions that have taken up much time in recent years—about Michigan District and On Earth Peace—failed when the committee voted against adding them to the agenda.

The **revised appeal process** was proposed by a three-member committee: Loren Rhodes of Middle Pennsylvania District, Susan Chapman Starkey of Virgina District, and John Willoughby of Michigan District, who worked closely with the Conference officers. The document combined two existing documents on appeals with revisions to the process. Willoughby explained that the group attempted to consider how Standing Committee might work beyond the scope of the existing process.

Significant changes included a call to exhaust other options before initiating an appeal, addition of a section on conflict of interest and recusal, clarification of the time frame for initiating an appeal, and limiting Standing Committee to one appeal each year unless required by polity. A change that garnered questions and conversation was insertion of the word “fair” as a consideration in an appeal, in addition to polity considerations. The section as approved reads: “Issues on appeal shall be limited to questions of whether the process and reasoning by which the district or denominational entity made this decision were fair and consistent with Annual Conference polity.”

Another year was granted to work on other aspects of the judicial role of Standing Committee.

A **new Standing Committee Manual** compiling existing policies, procedures, and guidelines into one document was used for the first time. A revision that “any recommendations from Standing Committee to the full delegate body will require a two-thirds majority vote of Standing Committee” was made. An amendment added language to the effect that should a two-thirds majority not be reached options for moving forward



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Susan Chapman Starkey, John Willoughby, and Loren Rhodes propose revisions to the Standing Committee appeal process.

would include appointing a task team to work on refinements to achieve a two-thirds majority, recommending deferring to a future Conference, or suspending the two-thirds requirement to permit forwarding an item of business to the full delegate body by a simple majority.

Two district boundary changes were affirmed. Pacific Southwest District incorporated the state of Nevada into its geographic boundaries. Virgina District has negotiated with the districts of West Marva and Southern Ohio/Kentucky to rearrange boundaries.

Elected to the **Nominating Committee** were Michaela Alphonse of Atlantic Southeast District, Kurt Borgmann of South Central Indiana District, Becky Maurer of Southern Ohio/Kentucky District, and Dennis Webb of Illinois and Wisconsin District.

Elected to the **Appeals Committee** were Stafford Frederick of Virgina District, Kim Ream of Atlantic Northeast District, John Willoughby of Michigan District, Timothy Vaughn of Western Pennsylvania District as first alternate, Phil Miller of Missouri and Arkansas District as second alternate.

Named to the **Program Feasibility Study Committee** was Janet Elsea of Shenandoah District.



Sandy Hall

Children's Disaster Services has announced fall training workshops

Go to www.brethren.org/cds for more information and to register.

Sept. 20-21 in Fort Lupton, Colo., at Fourway Baptist Church

Sept. 20-21 in Roanoke, Va., at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

Oct. 11-12 in Tampa, Fla., at Hyde Park Presbyterian Church

Oct. 11-12 in Portland, Ore., at Fruit and Flower

Oct. 18-19 in Omaha, Neb., at Omaha Rapid Response

Mission and Ministry Board approves budget parameter

A budget parameter for core ministries of the Church of the Brethren in 2020 was on the agenda of the Mission and Ministry Board in pre-Conference meetings. This was the final board meeting presided by chair Connie Burk Davis, who has concluded her term.

The board approved a parameter of \$4,969,000 for the core ministries next year. Treasurer Brian Bultman and assistant treasurer Ed Woolf reported that the parameter reflects work to create a balanced budget. It also reflects a \$220,000 expense reduction. Finance staff said that while reductions are not yet finalized they could include removal of campaign expenses, restructuring, and employees making personal changes in their health insurance coverage. More details will be presented in October. The parameter includes the use of \$121,000 in designated funds.

Additional financial projections for next year include expectation that a decades-long slide in congregational giving will continue, a one-percent increase in salary and benefits, a four-percent increase in medical insurance cost, and a planned decrease in the “draw” from the Brethren Service Center quasi-endowment.

In other business

The board approved \$325,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to continue the **Nigeria Crisis Response** through 2019 and into March 2020. A budget of \$275,000 is planned for 2020 and a budget of \$135,000 for 2021.

Three congregations were welcomed into the **Open Roof Fellowship**: Center Church of the Brethren in Northern Ohio



President Joel S. Billi of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) addresses the Mission and Ministry Board in pre-Conference meetings. At left is Global Mission and Service executive Jay Wittmeyer.

District, Polo Church of the Brethren in Illinois and Wisconsin District, and J.H. Moore Memorial Church of the Brethren (Sebring Church of the Brethren) in Atlantic Southeast District.

The annual **Rev. 7:9 recognition** from the Intercultural Ministry was awarded to René Calderón. Originally from Ecuador, he was a member of the denominational staff in former decades and worked on intercultural ministries including support for sanctuary churches and translation of resources into Spanish, among other efforts. He worked in Puerto Rico for a time, and served as a co-pastor with his wife, Karen. The award was given in absentia.

Named to continue the Annual Conference assignment **“Living Together as Christ Calls”** were Thomas Dowdy, John Hoffman, and Carol Yeazell.

Named to a new **Strategic Design Team** were Carl Fike, Lois Grove, Paul Schrock, and Colin Scott.

Recognized for completing their terms of service were board chair Connie Burk Davis, Mark Bausman, Luci Landes, and Susan Liller.

Named to the **executive committee for 2019-2020** were Lois Grove, Paul Liepelt, and Colin Scott, joining the new chair, Patrick Starkey, and chair-elect, Carl Fike.

Personnel notes

Brian Bultman resigned as chief financial officer and executive director of organizational resources for the Church of the Brethren as of Aug. 2, to become vice president of finance and CFO at Central Credit Union of Illinois. He was CFO of the denomination since Feb. 9, 2015. He oversaw the finance office, made regular financial reporting to the board, held responsibility for annual financial and audit reports, oversaw sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.; and made initial preparation for the sale of excess vacant land at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill.

Gabriela Carillo Chacón began as admissions recruiter at Bethany Seminary on June 26. She is a 2019 graduate of Earlham College.

Kendra Harbeck has resigned as manager of the office of Global Mission and Service effective Aug. 31, to pursue a graduate degree in teaching students with visual impairments. She worked in the position for six years, since Sept. 1, 2013. She produced the Global Mission email prayer guide, helped host international guests, provided logistics for visits of Brethren to international venues, helped organize Mission Alive, related with staff working internationally,

maintained communication with international church leaders, and more.

Dylan Higgs began July 8 as director of instructional design at Bethany Seminary. Higgs will support faculty and students in the use of technology.

Hannah Shultz began Aug. 5 in a staff position as coordinator of short-term service for Brethren Volunteer Service. Earlier, she was volunteer assistant workcamp coordinator for the 2015 season.

Nikifor Sosna has begun as BVS orientation assistant, serving as a second-year volunteer. His first year of BVS was with Brethren Disaster Ministries.

Our Stewardship for July 2019

Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
July 7	122	31	\$5,823.00
14	129	86	\$5,002.76
21	139	63	\$3,184.00
28	151	79	\$6,098.75
July average per Sunday	135	65	\$5,027.13
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	151	75	\$5,451.85

Special Giving for July

Bridgewater Food Pantry	\$220	Memorial Meals	\$200
Building Repairs	\$200	Messenger Subscriptions	\$14.50
Heritage Festival Booth Rentals	\$60	Youth Cookbooks	\$20

Our Stewardship for August 2019

Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
August 4	184	95	\$7,806.00
11	114	52	\$4,590.88
18	178	82	\$3,778.00
25	152	73	\$3,551.83
August average per Sunday	157	76	\$4,931.67
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	151	74	\$5,455.13

Special Giving for August

Bridge of Hope	\$295	Memorial Meals	\$382
Bridgewater Food Pantry	\$200	Messenger Subscriptions	\$43.50
Building Repairs	\$100	Youth Auction Donation	\$25
Heritage Festival Booth Rentals	\$60	Youth Cookbooks	\$30

Serving in September

NURSERY

- 1 Sarah & Bobby Williams
- 8 Stephanie Diehl & Sarah Craun
- 15 Becky & Hayley Daubert
- 22 Pam Dodd & Kenzy Hiner
- 29 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway

SOUND SYSTEM

- 1 Jim Rusmisel
- 8 Bobby Williams
- 15 Ron Shickel
- 22 John Layman
- 29 Randy Glick

WORSHIP CENTER

- 1 Kathy Veal
- 8 Lisa Shickel
- 15 Jill Sease
- 22 Dawn Kiser
- 29 Ann Monger

VALET PARKING

- 1 Donnie Jackson
- 8 Jeff Wine
- 15 Melvin Burger
- 22 Weldon Good
- 29 Wade Showalter

USHERS: Roger Moyer, Bob Black, Ben Hall, Jim Rusmisel

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays:

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

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 | Donnie & Lynn McNett |
| 19 | Robert & Patty Black
Dennis & Leslie Huffman
Kirk & Chris Kuster |
| 20 | David & Lisa Shickel |
| 25 | David & Susan Kuykendall |
| 26 | Fred & Helen Shank |
| 27 | Josh & Crystal Richard |
| 28 | Weldon & Lori Good |

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