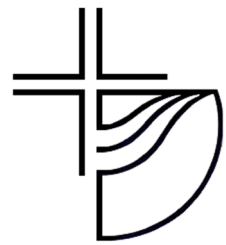


# Montezuma Today



April 2020

## Preparing for Easter During Pandemic

Montezuma, like everyone else, is facing the hard reality of missing Love Feast and Easter worship. During a time of anticipated joy, we grieve. Of course, Easter is only too familiar with grief. That's what Easter is: God's answer to our sorrow; to our "no way out." In several places I have said to you that we are not postponing, much less cancelling, Easter this year. Easter comes. It is God's work. We are all too aware of sadness and hurt; we know them like the back of our hand. What we do not know without God's help is resurrection. So, this Easter we look forward in a new way to God's revelation. This year there will not be a big Easter worship with crowded pews and greetings and hugs for one another. This year we are truly relying on God to make Easter manifest in our midst. During this Good Friday of COVID-19, and the long Holy Saturday where we wait and sorrow, it is my prayer and expectation that God will not be absent from us; instead, we will worship with new eyes and receive with truly thirsty hearts. In Christ, David.

Montezuma hopes to offer a live **Maundy Thursday service** via a video platform April 9. We will offer this service at 6:30. If you would like to receive a link for this service, please contact the church office via email.

## Staff Arrangements and Outreach

When we don't have regular Sunday worship services, offerings that support congregational ministries suffer. In addition, many of us face economic stress during this time. As result, the church's Executive Committee regrets that it must make the following staff adjustments effective April 1: both pastors will have salary cuts of 20%; the office administrator's hours will be cut by a quarter (she will work Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday each week); the custodian will continue under regular hours and do some deep cleaning at the church; the Choir Director is off until live worship services resume. The Executive Committee will review these arrangements on a monthly basis. Montezuma did make first quarter outreach offerings totaling \$9,141 to four Church of the Brethren and Shenandoah District partners. No further outreach will be made until the fourth quarter. The Executive Committee encourages regular giving to support church ministries as you are able through the mail or using an online giving option.

## April Special Offering

April's special offering is the New Community Project's program "Give a Girl a Chance". Give a Girl a Chance aims to help girls and women in developing countries get the education and skills training they need to live happy, healthy and productive lives. Education is the key to later marriage and life opportunities.



ONLINE  
GIVING

### Online Giving now an option at Montezuma

The Executive Committee has approved the use of online giving to support Montezuma ministries using American Church Giving (the company we use for offering envelopes). This giving option – via bank draft – is available now. The process is straightforward and educational materials are available on the church website: [www.montezumacob.org](http://www.montezumacob.org). Visit the website to learn more, and, by following the directions there, set-up your online giving to the church if you choose that option for yourself. Questions? Contact the church office, the pastors, or Stewards chairperson, Ethan Dakin.

## Video Options to Stay Connected

[www.montezumacob.org](http://www.montezumacob.org)  
[www.facebook.com/MontezumaCOB](https://www.facebook.com/MontezumaCOB)

Montezuma is striving to remain connected during this time of social distancing. This means lots of phone calls just to check in. Deacons are doing this as are pastors and others. Each Sunday a **worship video** is posted on the church website, [Montezumacob.org](http://Montezumacob.org). That's about 30 minutes of music, scripture, reflection and prayer. Past videos are available on the website under "worship videos." **Pastor Gabe** is reaching out daily (M-F) with a 1 p.m. youth zoom video. He is also reading a live bedtime story via his Facebook page which young families (and old ones, too) can join every night at 7 (M-F). The **Footsteppers Sunday School** class is meeting by zoom each Sunday morning at 10. Other Sunday School classes can try this as well. The church office will consult with you on that. **Bible Study** is coming. Pastor David will host a Bible study beginning Wednesday, April 8, at 10 a.m. This will be by zoom; if you have online capability, contact him and he'll send you a link that will help you join the video Bible Study. An evening Bible study is next if there is interest. Either Wednesday or Thursday nights. Let Pastor David know if you have interest. The **Executive Committee** has met twice via video conference and plans to hold its meetings using that format in the weeks ahead. Other committees will use similar platforms for meetings.

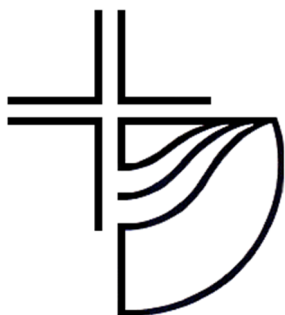
This is a new world. One area of struggle for the pastors is the many members who don't have online access. We are striving to be in contact with you via phones and this newsletter. If you want to talk, please don't wait for us to call you. You call us – we'll be here (pastors' cell phones may be the best bet for now). Stay strong in Christ! Grace and peace.

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[www.montezumacob.org](http://www.montezumacob.org)

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 Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. [montezuma.cob@gmail.com](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED




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**April Birthdays:**

- |                     |                     |                     |                   |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Margaret Waggy    | 7 Holly Wood        | 18 Ann Miller       | 26 Joe McNett     |
| 2 Danny Hollen      | Ann Monger          | Gary Myers          | 27 Lynn McNett    |
| Nancy Keplinger     | 8 Bill Heishman     | Kristin Nocolai     | Craig Sease       |
| Rebecca Mason       | 9 Rose Miller       | Doris Riggleman     | Missy Vandevander |
| Eric Payne          | 10 Harold McNett    | Averie Shank        | 28 Diane McNett   |
| Ron Shickel         | 11 Jackson Williams | 20 Billy Eavers     | Josh Richard      |
| 3 Heather Knott     | Ava Rhodes          | Clint Harpine       | 29 Dwayne Kiser   |
| Jerold Sager        | 12 Madison DePoy    | 21 Jack Layne       | Adam Richard      |
| 4 Montana Showalter | Scott McNett        | Frances Shenk       | Jerry Shank       |
| Richard Smith       | Leslie Mohler       | 22 Kirk Kuster      | Keith Weaver      |
| Kenneth Wenger      | 13 Ronnie Fulton    | 23 Billy Myers      | Sarah Williams    |
| 5 Dolores Cline     | 14 Matt Young       | 24 Emmalin Barnhart | Michelle Airey    |
| 6 Tina Knott        | 15 Lois Black       | Ronnie Shirkey      | 30 Kyle Brown     |
| Myla Eye            | John Layman         | 25 David Miller     | Danny Lilly       |
| 7 Christopher Floyd | 16 Joy Monger       | Marilyn Miller      | Rosemary Taylor   |
| Weldon Good         | 17 Mary Jackson     | 26 Amy Knott        | Russell Wenger    |
| Josh Payne          | 18 Donnie Fulton    | Howard Smiley       | Malachi Moyer     |

**April Anniversaries:**

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

<b><u>Our Stewardship for March 2020</u></b>			
<b>Attendance</b>			
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>For Budget</b>
March 1	173	69	\$7,661
8	127	75	\$3,752
		Other Giving	\$8,600
		Total	\$20,013
<b>Special Giving for March 2020</b>			
Bridge of Hope	\$50	Sam Flora Memorial	\$39
Building Repairs	\$100	Tenderloin Feast	\$100
Easter flowers	\$184	Youth Cookbooks	\$104
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$255		