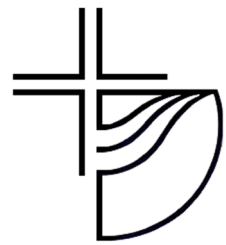


Montezuma Today



May 2020

www.montezumacob.org
www.facebook.com/MontezumaCOB

Covid-19 Continues to Impact World, Congregation

Only a few months ago our lives were rather predictable and ordinary. There's still plenty of ordinary to go around, but the uncertainty generated by the novel coronavirus and Covid-19 has disrupted life for many of us. The pandemic forces most of us to spend more time at home, isolated from others. As we meditate on the future, impatience can build. We want to get back to "normal." We laugh at that word now, don't we? What will normal be? Even so, I've been impressed by the attitudes of people I'm talking to. No one likes to be restricted, and yet we know how important it is. We will need to take some risks, but we also need to weigh the impact of those risks on others. What does it mean to love our neighbor during these times? New Testament words for patience come in two forms: endurance and forbearance. We need both! We ask the Spirit to strengthen us.

We continue to pray for one another, call, text and video one another, and look for ways to make positive differences. Montezuma Deacons are faithfully reaching out to you. Pray for your deacons. They are praying for you. Pastor Gabe and I are calling and reaching out, too. We would rather join you in person for worship every Sunday morning, but until we can do that, we joyfully prepare weekly worship videos that are available each Sunday morning. So many of you contribute to the well-being of this church community even when we can't meet. Don't forget that your faith makes a difference. *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles ...*

Grace and Peace: David

Our Graduates

Montezuma is recognizing five graduates this spring. While the pandemic has disrupted the normal patterns of this graduate season and caused much disappointment, we honor the accomplishments of our young people.

- Jacob Ross is graduating from Spotswood High School and from Massanutten Technical Center. He is working for Excel Heating and Cooling as a certified HVAC technician.
- Jared Ross is graduating from Spotswood High School and completed the two-year program at Massanutten Technical Center where he received his Certificate in Electricity. Jared will be attending Blue Ridge Community College in the fall to further his education in Electricity.
- Ethan Ross is graduating from Blue Ridge Community college with an Associate of Science degree with a specialization in Engineering. Ethan will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall to work towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering.
- Lydia Erbaugh is graduating from the University of Virginia in May. She will begin her work with the National Institute of Health in a research laboratory in Baltimore by the end of the summer.
- Peter Barlow is finishing a Masters in Nursing at UVa this month. He is considering several options at this time.

Executive Committee News

At the April 20 Executive Committee meeting, the following decisions were made:

- Apply for a loan, which should transfer to a grant, via the government's Payroll Protection Plan using our bank, PVFCU. The Executive Committee acknowledges that reaching out for federal dollars is unprecedented for Montezuma as a Church of the Brethren congregation. It was done after consultation with the Shenandoah District (which is also participating in the program) and is not done lightly. The Executive Committee believes this program offers the best option now to protect the congregation's staff.
- Continue current staff work and pay arrangements for the month of May: both pastors are working at 80% of their salary; the office administrator will continue at three days per week; the choir director is off until services resume; the custodian will continue to fulfill her contract doing a deep cleaning of the church building. These arrangements will be evaluated each month or until any PPP money is received.
- Postpone the congregational business meeting scheduled for May 3. A new meeting date will be determined later.
- Place a banner to thank frontline and public workers and offer encouragement to our community in the front yard of the meeting house. Pastor Gabe managed this project.

Note: On April 29, MCOB received \$32,900 from the PPP loan/grant program for staff salaries.

Online Giving

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). Instructions are available on the church website: 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.

Church Outreach

Montezuma arranged for meals in two shelters in April and plans to do the same during May. In April, Brenda Wine managed the Salvation Army meal and Tom Miller, with help from David Skelton, prepared a meal for Open Doors, which is located at JMU's Godwin Hall during the pandemic. In May, Marsha Shank is organizing for Salvation Army and a group of people are preparing a meal for May 5 at Open Doors. There may be a second meal in May for Open Doors if there is interest. Contact Carol Lena Miller. These meals are much appreciated.

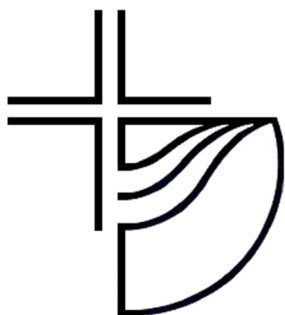
Church Parsonage

The church parsonage has been rented. Adam and Megan Hostetler, and their son, moved into the parsonage in late March. The Hostetler's signed a 24-month lease and because of that got a monthly rent of \$800.00. We welcome them to our neighborhood.

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May Birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Olivia Shifflett | 14 Ronnie Brunk |
| 3 Laurie Carpenter | Kenley Rhodes |
| Austin McNett | Jon Shickel |
| 4 Sheryl Northrop | 20 Charlann Johns |
| 6 Clay Knott | Erin Brooks |
| 7 Emily Coaker | Charles Miller |
| Kendal Payne | Vicki Richard |
| 8 Betty Chandler | 21 Joyce Jackameit |
| 10 Wesley Kuykendall | 22 LeAnne Young |
| Presley Trent | 23 Bobby Shank |
| 11 Mary Lee Ewing | Dena Symons |
| Mason Knott | 24 Cathy Roadcap |
| Bonnie Miller | Corey Wilhelm |
| Walter Rhodes | 25 Aaron Barnhart |
| 12 Randy Glick | Ashley Knott |
| Chris Moran | 27 Rachel Craun |
| Brielle Embres | 29 Mike Diehl |
| 13 Lindsey Harper | Rhonda Mandeville |
| Roy Keller | 30 Troy Payne |
| Erika Kinkead | |
| Marshall Kiser | |
| Shannon Airey | |

May Anniversaries:

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1 Steve & Charlann Johns |
| 2 Gene & Wanda Wampler |
| 4 Brad & Huong Showalter |
| 6 Sam & Mary Jane Cox |
| 10 Mike & Sharon Embres |
| 15 Greg & Rosemary Taylor |
| 16 Eric & Anna Shank |
| 17 Ethan & Sallie Hunter |
| 18 Chad & Jessica Shipe |
| 19 Drew & Lindsey Richard |
| Logan & Jessica Strawderman |
| 21 Cory & Amy Brown |
| 21 Mike & Laura Healy |
| 24 Danny & Wanda Hollen |
| Craig & Jill Sease |

Our Stewardship for April 2020

Regular Offering

April 5	\$11,135	April 19	\$9,905
April 12	\$6,745	April 26	\$6,400
April total	\$34,185		
April average per Sunday	\$8,546.25		

Special Giving for April 2020

Easter Flowers	\$16	Tenderloin Feast	\$45
New Community Project	\$290	Youth Cookbooks	\$20
Open Doors	\$100		

May Special Offering to benefit Brethren Woods

This month our special offerings are being devoted to Brethren Woods. The camp had to cancel its Spring fundraiser and has lost many reservations. Because of that, help from congregations like Montezuma is important. There's a challenge for us to raise \$1,000 for Brethren Woods during the month of May. If we meet that goal, Pastor David will get rebaptized with a five-gallon bucket of water! Here's hoping he is.