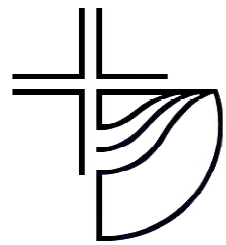


Montezuma Today



October 2020

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

Well Wishes for Pastor Gabe & Family

As Pastor Gabriel Dodd and his family prepare to move to a new congregation in Maryland, Montezuma wants to thank the Dodd's for their service at Montezuma and to wish them Godspeed as they begin a new chapter in life. Two responses are planned. First, a *drop-in reception* on Sunday October 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Montezuma Hall. Because of Covid-19, a large inside gathering is not possible. Still, the Hall provides a setting in which we can meet outside, under clover while still having access to inside space. The reception will include pre-wrapped treats and people can either drive by, or park and get out of their cars for a short visit. Inside the hall we plan to project a slideshow of pictures from Gabe's time at Montezuma.

Second, Montezuma is asking each family to prepare a Best Wishes card for the Dodd family. We ask that you allow the congregation to collect these cards. The card will include a personal note from you and perhaps a cash gift for the Dodd's as they relocate to a new setting. These cards may be mailed or brought to the church or worship service any time leading up to Gabe's last Sunday, November 1. On that day we will present the cards to Gabe, Pam and Elias plus a special, handcrafted gift for the family that will help them remember Montezuma.

Deacon Calling This Month

The important act of calling deacons is taking place during October. A ballot to call deacons is enclosed in this newsletter for your use. It will also be possible to vote via email; an electronic ballot will be sent to your email inbox on Friday, October 9, or may be found at www.montezumacob.org/ballot. Paper ballots may be mailed to the church and should be postmarked by October 17. Or you may drop off a ballot(s) at worship services or the church office between October 11-18. The ballot gives direction for its use. If your family needs more than one ballot, you may copy this one or fill out a separate piece of paper. Prayerfully participate in this important calling process.

Apple Butter, BBQ Chicken, Sandwiches

Montezuma will make apple butter Saturday, October 10, at Montezuma Hall. We will need volunteers to prepare apples beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday and Friday (if needed) of that week and many helpers on Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. If you can help, please contact Vince Rhodes (540-476-0385). We especially need rings for wide-mouth jars. BBQ chicken will be prepared on Saturday, October 17. We need helpers to cook and sell that. Ham sandwiches will be ready to sell on the 17th, also, for \$4 each. White beans may be available. We will need helpers for all of these activities.

Weekly Religious Education

A bake sale and silent auction to benefit the Weekly Religious Education program will be held at Weaver's Mennonite Church on Friday, Oct. 23 from 5:00-7:30pm and Saturday Oc. 24 beginning at 9:00am. Breakfast biscuits and lunch will be available on Saturday.

Following Jesus' Way

by Gabe Dodd

Following the way of Jesus is not easy. Most times, I am drawn to the mystery of God, seeking any wisdom that helps me understand the almighty. This curiosity has helped me to be patient in the wonder of God. This journey has led me alongside people in desperate times of need and during emotional struggles. I have grieved death alongside you. I have celebrated new life here in this community. My curiosity in following Jesus has prepared me in how I minister to others, preached, and prepared young people for baptism. I am glad I am not on this journey alone. Side by side, we have served distant communities, served the local community, raised funds, played games, taught the Bible, led meetings, traveled, made opportunities to pray, and stayed up long nights with this wonderful congregation. It has not always been easy, but I couldn't be happier for how God provides a way. When God calls, we must answer, and I believe Montezuma continues to be a community that is attuned to the voice of God in this way.

It is easy to get lost while trying to find your way toward Jesus. There are many temptations and distractions. Long ago I thought that following Jesus was only about proclamation and acceptance. For many years now, I understand my baptism to mean not just joining the life of Christ, but joining Christ in his life, death, and resurrection, and allowing that pattern to shape my life. This requires me to be a disciple of the Lord by being open to change, and flexible so that I can best serve. As I continue my journey at another congregation, please know that I love you all, despite my departure. As I continue following Jesus, I pray for your own journey to be energized by faith, forward looking, seeking God's direction, facing the cost of change, cooperating as a community, making room for all, and honing in on your particular gifts.

My largest lament in this part of my journey is leaving behind relationships that I have built with the young people in the church. May they not feel abandoned as they journey to discover the way towards Jesus. Our young people should be a trusted voice in the church. Their faith is strong, and they need your love more than ever. The best way to show them the way, is to embody the life of Jesus. Now is the time to be a guiding presence of Christ in their lives, helping them discern the way, the truth, and the life.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life..." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?" -John 14:5-9

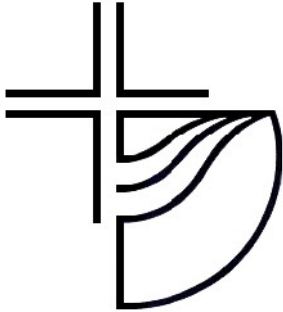
2021 Church Budget and Slate

The 2021 Church budget and a slate of officers and delegates will be available Sunday morning, October 18 and via email following that. The church board will announce a congregational business meeting format following its October 13 meeting.

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 Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. montezuma.cob@gmail.com



October Birthdays:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Robert Harmon
Weston Mandeville
Ethan Ross | 12 Bobby Williams
13 Rodney Branum
Linnette Coaker |
| 2 John Butzler
Clint DePoy
Katelyn Hiner
Camden Skelton | 15 Chris Airey
Dustin Atkins
16 Sherri Guyer
Jim Rusmiser |
| 4 Beth Farley
5 Nathan Wine
6 Aden Bazzle
Mary Frances Heishman
Russ Veal
Bryan Embres | 17 J.O. Good
19 Charles Cline
Trajan Brown
20 Sara Atkins
Rhett Nelson
21 Leah Harper |
| 7 Dale Eavers
Crystal Richard
Johnnie Shickel | 22 Betty Jo Glick
Sharon Layman
Kellie Nelson |
| 8 Ben Hiner
9 Michael Embres
Adam Ross | 23 Carolyn Rohrer
24 Ava Richard
25 Wade Showalter
Brad Smith |
| 10 Kitra Coffman
Lisa Shickel | |

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|------------------------------------|
| 26 Cathy Jo Hinkle
Ricky Hinkle |
| 27 John Carpenter |
| 28 Melvin Burger
Julia Eye |
| 29 Josiah Moyer |
| 31 Jill Sease |

October Anniversaries:

- | |
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| 1 Mike & Dorita Webster |
| 2 John & Susan Butzler |
| 3 Clint & Anne Marie Depoy |
| 7 Austin & Olivia Shifflett |
| 9 Joe & Rose Miller |
| 10 Buck & Paula Brown |
| 17 John & Marilyn Miller
Brad & Julie Smith |
| 26 Wayne & Linda Waggy |
| 30 Dennis & Judy Hill |

**Outreach Offering in October:
 Sadie Rose Foundation**

The Sadie Rose Foundation is a resource and support to those who have experienced a miscarriage, stillborn, or death of infant/child. Our special offering will help this organization with its outreach via financial assistance, donations of food, monthly support meetings, and medical/funeral assistance.

Worship and Communion

Sunday morning worship (9:30) will continue at the ballpark through Sunday, November 1. On October 4, a communion service using pre-packaged bread and juice will be offered during worship.

Our Stewardship for September 2020

	Attendance	Regular Offering
Sept 6	118	\$8,160.00
Sept 13	108	\$10,220.00
Sept 20	100	\$4,175.00
Sept 27	112	\$4,039.89
Sept average per Sunday		\$6,648.72
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		\$5,699.51

Special Giving for April 2020

Carpet for Library	\$100	Open Doors	\$815
Church Maintenance & Repair	\$300	Youth Cookbooks	\$20
Food Bank	\$100		