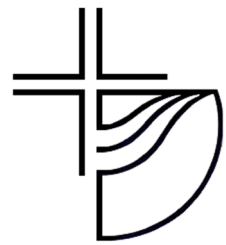


# Montezuma Today



September 2020

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

## Gabriel Dodd Accepts New Pastoral Call

Montezuma has benefited from the caring and creative ministry of Pastor Gabe Dodd for five years. Now we prepare to wish Gabe, his wife Pam and son Elias, blessings as they move to the Hagerstown, Maryland, community where Gabe will pastor the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren. Gabe's last Sunday at Montezuma is November 1.

During the course of these next two months, Pastor Gabe plans to reach out to us for farewell conversations. These types of conversations are an important part of ministry. They allow us to express our appreciation to Gabe for his ministry at Montezuma and to remember our interactions with him and the specific ways that he's touched our lives. They will also be important conversations for Gabe. He wants to talk with us and share his own reflections on his time here at Montezuma and the lasting relationships he's formed with us. Sadly, the reality of Covid-19 cramps our lives and relationships. What would have been a series of home visits for Gabe will most likely be many phone conversations. But Gabe is creative so who knows how these conversations will develop. Just remember that these conversations are important for us and they are important for Gabe. His ministry with us isn't finished.

The church is planning a farewell reception for the Dodd family. That will come in October and details will be communicated to you as we put them into place.

## Worship to Continue at the Ballpark

Montezuma will continue 9:30 Sunday morning worship services at the ballpark at least through the month of September. Ballpark services may continue beyond September if weather remains pleasant. In the event of rain on Sunday morning, we will gather in the picnic pavilion on the grounds of the Ruritan Park.

## Outreach offering in September – Open Doors

Montezuma will not host the Open Doors Thermal Shelter in our meeting house this fall as in previous years, but we still want to support that ministry financially; and, we hope, through the preparing of meals and some volunteering. This month our outreach offering supports this crucial ministry in our community.

## Youth Sunday School

Jr. & Sr. High youth are invited to join a Sunday School class outside at the Montezuma Hall pavilion following worship at the ballfield. This outside environment will help keep kids connected, transformed, active, and grounded in teachings from the Bible.

## Bible Study Groups This Fall available on Zoom

Two study groups are meeting beginning this month using zoom. A Wednesday morning group (starting Sept. 9) will meet at 10 and will read *Trouble I've Seen* by Drew Hart. Hart is a minister and teacher who often worships with a Church of the Brethren congregation in Harrisburg, PA. Hart reflects on his life experience as a Christian and a black person to talk about race and the church. The book is available at the church for no cost. On Thursday evening a Bible study group (Sept. 10) meets at 7. Barbara Moyer and David Miller will lead this study based on *A Guide for Biblical Studies*, which is typically used in our adult Sunday School classes and that resource is likewise available at the church. That study begins with the story of Joseph in Genesis. Please contact David Miller if you want to participate in either study.

## MYF Gathering

Young families are invited for popsicles and a devotion at 6:30pm on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Wildwood Park in Bridgewater

## Heritage Festival Cancelled: Apple butter and more planned

Due to the coronavirus, Montezuma's run of 15 consecutive Heritage Festivals is coming to an end. Nevertheless, we are planning to make apple butter, barbeque chicken, and maybe a few other things. Arranging for volunteers is especially important this year – we want to make sure we have the help we need to do even these limited events. Keep an eye out for email communications or call the church office for details. We plan to boil apple butter Saturday, October 10, and BBQ chicken the 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll sell apple butter, chicken and other items on the morning and noon of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

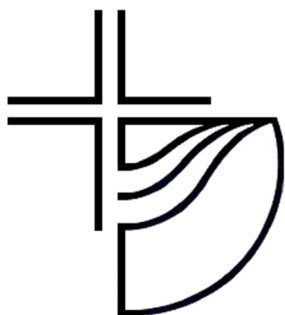
## Communion, calling deacons, the fall business meeting

Everything is challenged by the limitations placed on us by Covid-19. Each September we call deacons during Sunday morning services; we look forward to Love Feast the first Sunday of October, and the congregational business meeting the first Sunday of November. These important practices will take place in some form. Details will be forthcoming. While Love Feast is unlikely, we do plan communion October 4.

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**September Birthdays:**

**September Anniversaries:**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Katie Grant       | 16 Isaac Shank         |
| 2 Donna Chandler    | 17 Melody Cash         |
| Charles Cline Jr.   | Kathy Ringgold         |
| Cathy Fisher        | 18 Helen Shank         |
| 3 Jimmy Dove        | Jessica Shipe          |
| Wanda Hollen        | 19 Liam Hunter         |
| Tom Womble          | 21 Ben Barlow          |
| Dean Wood           | Danelle Ross           |
| 4 Allee Coffman     | Brenda Wine            |
| Carson Patterson    | 22 Sammy Cox           |
| Carolyn Wenger      | Laurie Anne Serrell    |
| Ralph Rohrer        | Cheryl Simmers         |
| Arlie McNett        | 23 Wendell Chandler    |
| 6 Patty Black       | 24 Jordan Sites        |
| Donnie Simmons      | 25 Jennifer Shreiber   |
| 7 Betty Click       | Tasha Hoover           |
| Steve Keplinger     | 26 Molly Shickel       |
| David Shickel       | 27 Devon Kuster        |
| 9 Charlie Monger    | 28 Lillian Howdysshell |
| 13 Carolyn Cline    | Libby Kiser            |
| Marsha Shank        | 29 Janice Rhodes       |
| 14 Susan Kuykendall | 30 Susan Floyd         |
| Wanda Flora         | Donnie Jackson         |
| 15 Debbie Smiley    |                        |
| Uriah Smiley        |                        |

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 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       |

**Our Stewardship for July/August 2020**

Attendance		Regular Offering		Attendance		Regular Offering	
July 5	61	\$6,275.00		Aug 2	55	\$4,200.00	
July 12	48	\$4,645.00		Aug 9	56	\$8,790.00	
July 19	44	\$1,515.00		Aug 16	37	\$2,415.00	
July 26	49	\$4,396.94		Aug 23	101	\$9,298.21	
				Aug 30	n/a	\$1,080.00	
July Average	50	\$4,207.99		Aug average	62	\$5,156.64	

**Special Giving for July 2020**

Church Maint. & Repair	\$300.00
Food Bank	\$50.00
Honoraria Fund	\$150.00
Messenger Subscriptions	\$65.25
People Helping People	\$95.00
Work Camp (refund)	\$1,750.00
Youth Cookbooks	\$35.00

**Special Giving for August 2020**

Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$340.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00
In Honor of Patty Black for	\$200.00
Making Masks	
Library Carpet	\$100.00
Messenger Subscriptions	\$21.75
Youth Cookbooks	\$30.00