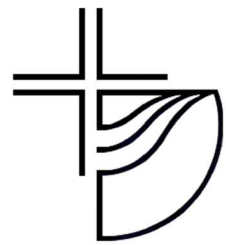


# Montezuma Today



December 2022 - January 2023

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

*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

Hope, peace, love, and joy. We hear these words over and over during Advent. In different years, I find myself particularly drawn to one or another of these concepts. This year, it is hope. The challenges of the last three years have exhausted us. We see the possibility that Covid is starting to fade into our past, and yet almost all of life is still directly or indirectly impacted by the pandemic. Some of our members were lost to Covid and some people are still not comfortable attending worship in person. Businesses struggle to find employees, and we all must accept the resulting shortages and delays. Many people now work from home—for better or for worse! It feels a bit as if life will never quite be “normal” again. It is important to hold on to the realization that our hope and our strength come from our Lord, Jesus Christ. No matter what the world throws at us, His love endures forever and He is with us. In that knowledge, we can find hope.

In the words of Romans 15:13, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Merry Christmas to you all and may 2023 be filled with a sense of renewed strength and hope.

In Christ's service,  
Terri

## December Worship Schedule

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 4  | Matthew 3:1-12   |
| December 11 | Matthew 11:2-11  |
| December 18 | Matthew 1:18-25  |
| December 24 | <b>8:00 p.m.</b> – Christmas Eve service of lessons & carols, and candle lighting<br>Luke 2:1-20 |
| December 25 | John 1:1-14  |

## November 6 CBM results

Montezuma approved a 2023 budget of \$231,788 at its November 6<sup>th</sup> CBM. The congregation called Leslie Mohler, Chris Click, Katie Jackson, Dustin Atkins, and Diana Havener to the church board, Mary Frances Heishman and Ramona Evans as district conference delegates, Leslie Mohler and Kimberly Wyrick as annual conference delegates, and Jordon Sites to the auditing committee. Members of a newly formed Pastoral Advisory Committee were also called: Judy Lokey, Roger Moyer, Marty Barlow, and Vince Rhodes.

## Church Board Meeting

The Church Board will meet and re-organize for the 2023 year at its December meeting on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Card Tree

Bring a card to place on the tree from you to the church family and contribute the money saved (a box is provided). Checks should be made payable to Agape SS Class. After Christmas a total check will be sent to Heifer International and a list of all cards given will be published in the February newsletter.

## Youth Christmas Party

The youth will be having their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 11 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. We will have lunch following Sunday School and will have a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a \$5 wrapped gift. We will then head to Funky's Skate Center to skate from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. We will be back at church around 3:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Morgan or Ethan by Thursday, December 8.

## December/January Special Offerings

**December's** special offering is the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Food donations of canned vegetables, meats, and fruit, cereal, soup and peanut butter, etc., will go directly to the Pantry and must be at the church by Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure expiration dates on all food items are June 2023 or later. Cash donations support People Helping People. **January's** special offering will be used to support Montezuma's backpack program, which provides weekend food for several children at Ottobine Elementary School.

## Deacon Bible Studies

Each winter season Montezuma deacons sponsor a 10-week Bible Study leading up to Easter. We will begin during the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will offer a Thursday morning study at 10:00am at the church, and a Wednesday evening study at 6:30pm at Gordon & Wanda Driver's garage each week. We will be using *Prayers of Jesus*, by Galem Hackman, from the Covenant Bible Study Series. Please let us know if you wish to participate. See Melvin Burger or Vince Rhodes if you are interested in leading a class.

## 2023 Directory

The church office will prepare a new directory for 2023. Please help us make the necessary updates, changes, and corrections. Contact the church with this information by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

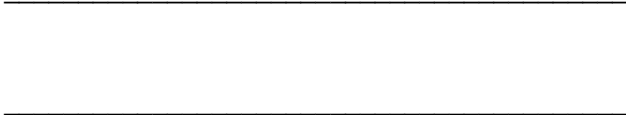
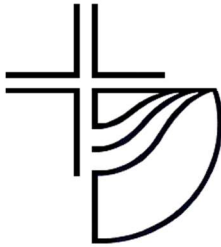
## Offering Envelopes

2023 offering envelopes are available at the meeting house. If you can't make it to the church and want to use envelopes, please contact the church and we'll help you get them.

Montezuma Church of the Brethren  
 4937 Ottobine Rd. Dayton, VA 22821  
 540-879-2246  
[www.montezumacob.org](http://www.montezumacob.org)

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Terri Luzynski, Pastor [PastorTerri@montezumacob.org](mailto:PastorTerri@montezumacob.org)  
 Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. [montezuma.cob@gmail.com](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)



**December Birthdays:**

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Debbie Albers<br>Elvert Black<br>Daniel Lambert<br>Danny Tumer<br>Wayne Waggy | 14 | Jeff Berry<br>Carolyn Mohler  |
| 3  | Rick Knott<br>Joseph Miller   | 16 | Dennis Huffman  |
| 4  | Walker Shull<br>Jessica Strawderman   | 17 | Gene Sheffer<br>Oliver Wood   |
| 5  | Mary Lou Glick<br>Autumn Pequignot  | 18 | Louise Howdysshell  |
| 7  | David Skelton   | 19 | Joel Fulwider<br>Carole Hoover<br>Brooke Pennybacker<br>Charlie Rhodes<br>Bonnie Ryan |
| 8  | Jim Mason<br>Andi Riley   | 20 | Bob Black<br>George Watts   |
| 9  | Bob Michael   | 21 | Toviah Shipe  |
| 10 | Sheila Skelton  | 23 | Holly Coaker  |
| 11 | Stephanie Diehl   | 25 | Don Paston  |
| 12 | Lauren Harper<br>Brad Miller  | 26 | Sharon Embres<br>Cora Kiser   |
| 13 | Gordon Driver<br>Dinah Puffenbarger   | 28 | Buck Brown<br>Sherry Shull<br>Jeremy Daubert  |

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 29 | Andrea Black<br>Dorita Webster<br>Augusta Reel                |
| 30 | Jennifer Payne  |
| 31 | Diana Havener<br>Kyle Symons<br>Chelsea Tumer<br>Jackson Will |

**December Anniversaries:**

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 4  | Jeff & Brenda Wine     |
| 14 | Ian & Kari Ostlund     |
| 17 | Roger & Barbara Moyer  |
| 18 | Keith & Sharon Weaver  |
| 19 | Rick & Libby Kiser     |
| 21 | Adrian & Orva Lambert  |
| 28 | Matthew & Danelle Ross |
| 30 | Russell & Janice Shank |

**January Birthdays:**

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 2  | Wilamena Harback                                | 15 | Sharon Northrop<br>Russell Shank                  |
| 3  | Kathleen Michael                                |    | Edna Shickel                                      |
| 5  | Cheryl Martin                                   | 17 | Robert Albers<br>Jonas Miller                     |
| 6  | Wendy Rhodes<br>Tanner Showalter                | 19 | Morgan Dakin                                      |
| 7  | Parker Fulton<br>Paula Rhodes                   | 20 | John Miller                                       |
| 10 | Betty Miller<br>Elaine Sherwin                  | 22 | Linda Harpine                                     |
| 11 | Adam Brunk<br>Craig Payne                       | 23 | Connie Stiles                                     |
| 12 | Braelyn Skelton<br>Caroline Young<br>Elias Dodd | 24 | Nellie Black<br>Derek Shickel<br>Justin Hottinger |
| 14 | Brian Weaver                                    | 25 | Zandra Miller                                     |
|    |   | 26 | Wayne Huffman                                     |
|    |   | 27 | Meredith Durham                                   |

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 27 | Finn Richard<br>Wilhelmina Shank                      |
| 28 | Addison Fulton<br>Drake Mandeville                    |
| 29 | Daniel Shickel  |
| 30 | Phil Evans<br>Greg Losh<br>Eli Moyer<br>Kathryn Roche |
| 31 | Dawn Miller   |

**January Anniversaries:**

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 20 | Wayne & Sandra Huffman |
| 22 | John & Ann Monger      |

**Our Stewardship for November 2022**

**Attendance**

	Worship	Sunday School	Regular Offering
Nov 6	163	n/a	\$8,291.00
Nov 13	112	47	\$6,732.00
Nov 20	105	54	\$2,283.25
Nov 27	100	31	\$6,050.00
Oct average per Sun.	120	44	\$5,841.31
Last 12 mos. average per Sun.	103	42	

**Special Giving for November 2022**

Building Repairs	\$200	Sadie Rose Foundation	\$100
CWS Blankets	\$775	Sanctuary Window Fund	\$270
Fall Festival – Apple Butter	\$254		