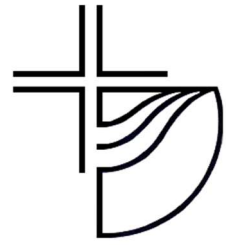


# Montezuma Today



February 2023

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

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights . . .*

Matthew 4:1-2a

It's February. Love is in the air in many light-hearted ways, but the love of Jesus will soon be in the shadow of the cross. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) and continues for forty days and forty nights (not including Sundays) before ending with the celebration of Easter. Traditionally, Lent has been a time of reflection and contemplation—a time to consider who we are (sinful people) and who Jesus is (the Son of God and our Savior from our sin.)

Many people choose to give up something for the forty days of Lent (chocolate, Facebook, complaining) to demonstrate a willingness to sacrifice in gratitude to God. This year, I encourage all of us to “give up” some of our most precious commodity: our time. In gratitude to Jesus for the sacrifice he made for us, devote an extra hour a week to your relationship with Jesus. Here are some suggestions for using that hour:

--If you do not already attend Sunday School, do so. We have engaging and enlightening Sunday School classes for all ages and they would all welcome new participants. You are already here for worship; just stay an extra hour. (Classes conclude promptly at 11:30, so you still get to beat the lunch crowd!)

--Spend an extra hour a week in prayer. If the thought of a solid hour of prayer sounds daunting, break it down. An hour a week is the equivalent of roughly nine minutes a day, or three extra minutes morning, noon, and night. Any additional time spent in prayer is time spent in the presence of God.

--Commit an extra hour a week to service to others. “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40

I assure you that an extra hour devoted to our Lord will be way more of a blessing than a sacrifice.

In Christ's service,  
Terri

## Lenten Devotionals

Lenten Devotional books from Brethren Press entitled *My Soul, My Life, My All* will be available in the entryway. *The Cross & Me Daily Devotions For Lent* will be available for families with young children.

## Deacon Bible Studies Continue

Montezuma Deacons are sponsoring a study of the *Prayers of Jesus* during the winter months. Classes have begun, but it's not too late to join! Vince Rhodes is leading a group on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Gordon & Wanda Driver's home. Pastor Terri is leading a group in the choir room on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.. Both groups are also available via zoom. If you have interest in joining a group, please talk to Vince or Terri.

## Ash Wednesday Service

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with a simple meal at 5:30pm, and the service at 6:15pm. The service will conclude in time for choir practice at 7:00pm.

## February Outreach Offering – Gideons International

In February 2023, Montezuma's special offering supports the Gideons International, an organization dedicated to making Bibles available to everyone and, together with local churches, reaching souls for Christ.

## Spaghetti Dinner & Auction at Clover Hill UMC

Clover Hill United Methodist Church has invited us to a Spaghetti Dinner & Auction on Feb. 18, 2023 to benefit Rebuilding Hope, a home improvement and repair ministry of that church. Dinner will be served from 4-6 pm. From 5-6 pm, there will be music by The Brothers Cramer and Russell Shank, and the live auction will begin at 7:00 pm.

## Graduate Recognition

Montezuma will be recognizing our graduates on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> during worship. If you or someone you know has graduated high school, college, or trade school within the last year, please let the Nurture Commission know so we can include all graduates. Members of that commission are Stephanie Diehl (chair), Brad Smith, Ramona Evans, Diana Havener, and Dustin Atkins.

## Christmas Card Project

Christmas card greetings were received from the below list of people. Heifer Project International has been sent a check for \$800 from this project, which was sponsored by the Agape & Upward Way Sunday School classes.

Pansy Auville	Tom & Terri Luzynski
Bob & Patty Black	Kenny & Sue Miller
Melvin & Edith Burger	John & Ann Monger
Betty Click	Roger & Barbara Moyer
Mike & Stephanie Diehl	Gary & Eleanor Payne
Phil & Ramona Evans	Joyce Rhodes
John & Karen Fleishman	Tom & Barbara Ross
Wanda Flora	Dick & Bonnie Ryan
Bill & Gloria Heishman	Gene & Joyce Sheffer
Mary Frances Heishman	Helen Shickel
Danny & Wanda Hollen	Wade & Katherine Showalter
Gloria Horne	David & Sheila Skelton
Donnie & Mary Jackson	Brad & Julie Smith
Lee & Sandy Kinsey	Gary, Missy & Amy Vandevander
John & Amy Knott	
Sharon Layman	

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



**February Birthdays:**

1 Nathan Smith	9 Kim Wyrick	16 Justin Berry	25 John Knott
Noah Smith	10 Amy Vandevander	17 Kayla Kuster	Lisa Tumer
Kathy Veal	11 Peter Barlow	18 Ricky Shull	27 Gordon Miller
3 Helen Shickel	Katy Roche	19 Joel Hottel	Juanita Swartz
Patty Skelton	Sam Shickel	Norlyn Miller	Elaine Fike
4 Trey Daubert	12 Aaron Brunk	21 Mary Jane Cox	28 John Monger
Jacob Ross	Damian Hinkle	Bonnie Guyer	
5 Piper Brown	13 Kenny Miller	22 Quinn Rhodes	
Mac Rhodes	Annie Wilhelm	Wanda Wampler	
6 Louise Grady	14 Trevor Barnhart	23 Don Click	
Barbara Ross	15 Ron Black	24 Ray Coffman	
Hunter Shipe	Dawn Guillo	Janelle Weaver	
7 Kari Ostlund	Kenzy Hiner		
8 Monica Burkholder	Nelson Shenk		
Ben Hall	Penelope Smiley		

**February Anniversaries:**

2 Robbie & Dena Symons
27 Dick & Bonnie Ryan

**Our Stewardship for December 2022**

**Attendance**

	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Regular Offering</b>
Dec 4	121	56	\$5,425.75
Dec 11	141	65	\$5,346.00
Dec 18	132	38	\$5,545.00
Christmas Eve	183	-	-
Dec 25	110	-	\$3,874.00
Dec average per Sun.	137	41	\$5,047.69
Last 12 mos. average per	109	44	\$5,214.58

**Special Giving for December 2022**

Backpack Program	\$100	Parsonage Repairs	\$9,389.90
Church Building Repairs	\$100	Playground Improvements	\$3,100
CWS Blanket Fund	\$165	People Helping People	\$70
Fall Festival – Apple Butter	\$117	Window Fund	\$8,120
Food Pantry	\$30	Window Fund in Memory of	\$100
Heifer International	\$10	Glenna Rhodes	

**Our Stewardship for January 2023**

**Attendance**

	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Regular Offering</b>
Jan 1	73	27	\$6,430.00
Jan 8	124	49	\$5,380.00
Jan 15	119	41	\$4,905.00
Jan 22	146	55	\$8,512.00
Jan 29	111	45	\$5,793.00
Jan average per Sun.	115	43	\$6,204.00
Last 12 mos. average per	106	43	\$5,316.95

**Special Giving for January 2023**

Backpack Program	\$1,190	Window Fund	\$9,620
In Memory of Harold McNett	\$145	Window Fund in Memory of Harold McNett	\$50
People Helping People	\$100	Youth Cookbooks	\$20
Playground Improvements	\$100		