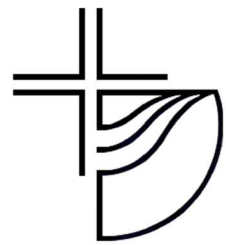


Montezuma Today



December 2023 - January 2024

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

“Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.”
Isaiah 2:5b

With the arrival of the first Sunday of Advent, the official wait for Christmas begins. We find many ways to fill the wait: decorating, shopping, parties, etc. It is easy to become distracted from reflection on the true significance of the season. To help focus our attention on Christ during this Advent season, there are two types of devotional materials being provided this year. The Brethren Press 2023 Advent Devotional *All Things New*, by Kevin Kessler, is available in the entryway in both regular and large print. In addition, the Nurture Commission has prepared Advent and Christmas Family Activity Bags for families with younger children or grandchildren. For each week of Advent and for Christmas Day, there is a devotion and an activity to share. The activity bag includes all but the most basic of supplies for the craft or activity. All you need to add is approximately 30-45 minutes of uninterrupted family time and hearts open to the Holy Spirit! These bags will be distributed to the children on December 3rd --just in time to begin the Advent season!

May our hearts stay focused on the light of Christ as we journey through this Advent season.

In Christ's service,
Terri

Christmas Eve Evening Service

Please join us on Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m. for our traditional Christmas Eve Service. This year, the choir will share the cantata, *The Promise of Light* by Joel Raney.

Deacon Bible Study

Each winter, Montezuma deacons sponsor a 10-week Bible Study leading up to Easter. The tentative starting date for these studies will be the week of January 7th. More information about the Bible Studies will be provided after the Deacons meet on December 3rd.

Church Board Meeting

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, December 12th and re-organize for the 2024 year. All 2024 board members are asked to attend.

November 5 Congregational Business Meeting results

Montezuma approved a 2024 budget of \$270,314 at the November 5th CBM. The congregation called Calvin Lokey, Ramona Evans, Neva Clayton, Jeff Wine, Dwynn Stovall and Mary Lou Glick to the church board, Mary Frances Heishman as a Trustee, Leslie Mohler as a district conference delegate, Stephanie Diehl and Kimberly Wyrick as annual conference delegates, Jeff Wine and Bobbi Jo Ross to the auditing committee, and Cindy McNett and Bill Heishman to the nominating committee.

Twelfth Night Celebration

We tend to think of Christmas Day as the grand finale of the season, but Christmas Day is actually the first day of the Christmas Season. The 12th night of Christmas is the day before Epiphany and is the official end of Christmas. This year, the Nurture Commission has scheduled a 12th Night Celebration for January 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm. The evening will include a “pot-luck chili” dinner (bring your favorite chili to add to the mix!), some Christmas fun, and a last singing of Christmas carols. We will then close out the Christmas season by undecorating the church. Please plan to join us!

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 Montezuma Youth will have their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10th! We will have lunch following Sunday School in the church basement. Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift for a white elephant gift exchange. You are also welcome to bring your favorite holiday food to share! We will play Christmas games and enjoy the new game room. Please RSVP to Tessa or Dustin by Friday, 12/8. We hope to see you there!

December/January Special Offerings

December's special offering supports People Helping People. People Helping People focuses their efforts on providing utility assistance for residents of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They also help with other basic needs such as medicine, eyeglasses, and items to maintain employment. **January's** special offering will be used to support Montezuma's backpack program, which provides weekend food for several children at Ottobine Elementary School.

2024 Directory

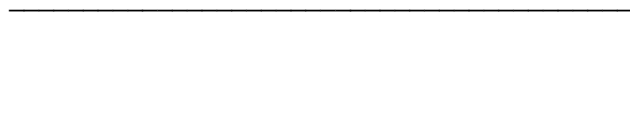
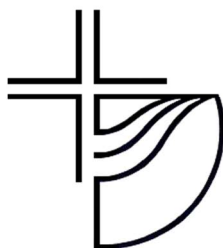
The church office will prepare a new directory for 2024. Please help us make the necessary updates, changes, and corrections. Contact the church with this information by January 12th.

Offering Envelopes

2024 offering envelopes are available at the church. 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

Terri Luzynski, Pastor PastorTerri@montezumacob.org
 Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. montezuma.cob@gmail.com



December Birthdays:

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

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

December Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 4 | Jeff & Brenda Wine |
| 14 | Ian & Kari Ostlund |
| 17 | Roger & Barbara Moyer |
| 18 | Keith & Sharon Weaver |
| 19 | Rick & Libby Kiser |
| 28 | Matthew & Danelle Ross |

January Birthdays:

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

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

January Anniversaries:

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

Our Stewardship for November 2023

Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Regular Offering
Nov 5	113	51	\$6,806.00
Nov 12	129	74	\$4,932.00
Nov 19	124	62	\$5,007.00
Nov 26	110	52	\$6,659.00
Nov. average per Sun.	119	60	\$5,851.00
Last 12 mos. average per Sun.	121	51	\$5,779.59

Special Giving for November 2023

2 Cent Meal Offering	\$123.01	Deacon Fund	\$40
Backpack Program	\$100	Fall Festival – Apple Butter	\$693
Bellfest Registration	\$480	Playground Improvements	\$150
CWS Blankets	\$835	Youth Cookbooks	\$10