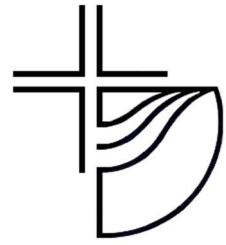


# Montezuma Today



February 2024

www.montezumacob.org  
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*God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

1 John 4:9-10

As a result of the ecclesiastical and astronomical rules used to calculate the date of Easter each year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year—Valentine's Day. One could say that this is purely coincidental, but I think it is a coincidence with significance. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter—the celebration of God's ultimate act of love for us. 1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. God's very essence is love—he cannot help but to love. That love is shown in so many ways:

--God created us. Colossians 1:16 tells us that "All things have been created through him and for him.

--God sustains us. Colossians 1:17 teaches, "He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

--God saves us. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your doing; it is the gift of God."

--God has prepared an eternal home for us with him. "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am there you may be also."

The season of Lent is a time to reflect on God's love for us and to respond to that love by examining our own hearts and lives. It is a time to allow God's grace and forgiveness to cleanse us of any sin so that we might come before our God with pure hearts; hearts ready to receive the fullness of God's love. Anointing for the forgiveness of sins will be offered at our Ash Wednesday service. May we all take seriously the preparation for the celebration of Easter.

In Christ's service,  
Terri

## Lenten Devotionals

Lenten Devotional books from Brethren Press entitled *Through Thick and Thin* will be available in the entryway.

## Tenderloin Feast

We will be having a Tenderloin Drive Thru Meal on Feb. 24, 2024. Tickets will be sold for \$15 for 3 serving times; 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Help will be needed on Feb. 23rd and 24th. Please contact Stephanie Diehl to purchase tickets: (540) 908-8075

## Easter Flowers

Order envelopes for Easter flowers are available in the entryway. Flowers are \$9.50 each and can be purchased in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. The deadline to order flowers is Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Ash Wednesday Service

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 14<sup>th</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.

## Birthday Banquet

The Montezuma Church Birthday Banquet will be Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> after Sunday School at approximately 11:45 am. This will be a carry in meal, and you are invited to bring both main dishes and/or side dishes to share. Drinks and table service will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

## February Outreach Offering – Gideons International

In February 2024, 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.

## Graduate Recognition

Montezuma will be recognizing our graduates on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</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 Brad Smith (chair), Stephanie Diehl, 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 \$974 from this project, which was sponsored by the Agape & Upward Way Sunday School classes.

Dustin & Tessa Atkins

Sara Atkins

Pansy Auville

Bob & Patty Black

Edith & Melvin Burger

Billy & Debbie

Burkholder

Betty Click

Mike & Stephanie Diehl

Gordon & Wanda Driver

Phil & Ramona Evans

John & Karen Fleishman

Wanda Flora

Randy & Mary Lou Glick

Weldon & Lori Good

Gloria & Bill Heishman

Mary Frances Heishman

Carole Hoover

Gloria Horne

Mary & Donnie Jackson

Sandy, Lee & Lillian

Kinsey

John, Amy, Heather and

Ashley Knott

Sharon Layman

Terri & Tom Luzynski

Kenny & Sue Miller

Leslie Mohler

John & Ann Monger

Roger & Barbara Moyer

Gary & Eleanor Payne

Charles & Janice Rhodes

Joyce Rhodes

Tom & Barbara Ross

Bonnie & Dick Ryan

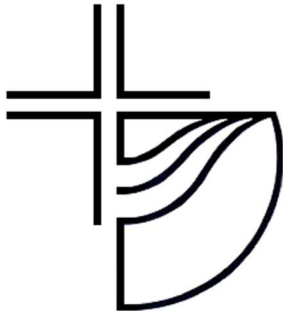
Nelson & Frances Shenk

Helen Shickel

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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    | 19 Joel Hottel   | 27 Gordon Miller |
| 3 Helen Shickel     | Katy Roche         | Norlyn Miller    | Juanita Swartz   |
| Patty Skelton       | Sam Shickel        | 21 Mary Jane Cox | Elaine Fike      |
| 4 Trey Daubert      | 12 Aaron Brunk     | Bonnie Guyer     | 28 John Monger   |
| Jacob Ross          | Damian Hinkle      | 22 Quinn Rhodes  |                  |
| 5 Piper Brown       | 13 Kenny Miller    | Wanda Wampler    |                  |
| Mac Rhodes          | Annie Wilhelm      | 23 Don Click     |                  |
| 6 Louise Grady      | 14 Trevor Barnhart | 24 Ray Coffman   |                  |
| Barbara Ross        | 15 Ron Black       | Janelle Weaver   |                  |
| Hunter Shipe        | Dawn Guillo        |                  |                  |
| 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 2023**

Attendance			
	Worship	Sunday School	Regular Offering
Dec 3	135	65	\$9,031.00
Dec 10	143	65	\$5,431.00
Dec 17	138	62	\$10,686.00
Dec 24	147	63	\$11,870.00
Christmas Eve	177		
Dec 25	98	56	\$2,475.61
Dec average per Sun.	140	62	\$7,898.72
Last 12 mos. average per	123	53	\$6,017.17

**Special Giving for December 2023**

Backpack Program	\$200	People Helping People	\$555
2¢ Meal Offering	\$129.97	Playground Improvements	\$100
CWS Blanket Fund	\$100	Salvation Army	\$50
Deacon Fund	\$30	Youth Cookbooks	\$70
Fall Festival – Apple Butter	\$404		

**Our Stewardship for January 2024**

Attendance			
	Worship	Sunday School	Regular Offering
Jan 7	80	47	\$5,395.21
Jan 14	107	60	\$5,685.00
Jan 21	129	58	\$8,360.00
Jan 28	133	62	\$3,501.00
Jan average per Sun.	112	57	\$5,735.30
Last 12 mos. average per	120	54	\$5,978.11

**Special Giving for January 2024**

Backpack Program	\$1,015	In Memory of Rick Kiser - carpet fund	\$50
Fall Festival – Apple Butter	\$64	In Memory of Rick Kiser-playground improvements	\$50
Deacon Fund	\$10	Playground Improvements	\$100
In Memory of Rick Kiser	\$285	Salvation Army Meals	\$100