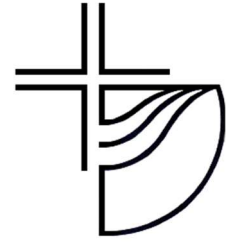


# Montezuma Today

December 2024 - January 2025

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



*“For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.”*

- Psalm 62:5

Anticipation. Preparation. Rejoicing. Celebration. Love. These are the words of this special season of Advent. The excitement and joy surround us and have most of us humming Christmas carols long before the arrival of Christmas day. Yet, the season can also bring exhaustion and dashed expectations of the perfect Christmas, if we allow the commercialism and festivities to drain us. It is important to take at least a few minutes each day to re-focus ourselves on the true significance of the season: waiting for the arrival of Christ. This year we have two devotionals to remind us to make time for our Lord. The Brethren Press 2024 Advent Devotional *Sing Gloria*, by Laura Stone, is available in both regular and large print. Each day of the devotional provides not only scripture and devotion, but also a hymn or carol to enrich the day’s devotion. For our children, *Time for a Savior* offers daily Advent devotions that walk us through the scriptures leading to the fullness of time when God sent his Son. These devotionals (as well as *The Upper Room*) are available in the entryway to the sanctuary.

Have a blessed and peaceful time of waiting for our Savior.

In Christ’s service,  
Terri

## Christmas Card Tree

Instead of mailing Christmas cards to members of our church family, please consider placing your card on the Christmas tree in the entryway, and contributing 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.

## Children’s Christmas Program

Montezuma’s children will present *Twas the Evening of Christmas*, based on the book by Glenys Nellist, during the morning worship on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Youth Christmas Party

The Montezuma Youth will have their Christmas Party on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm. Please RSVP to Tessa or Dustin if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

## Christmas Eve Evening Service

Please join us on Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m. for our traditional Christmas Eve Service.

## Offering Envelopes

2025 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.

## Twelfth Night Celebration

Christmas Day is the first day of the 12 days of Christmas. The 12<sup>th</sup> night of Christmas is the day before Epiphany and is the official end of the Christmas season. The Nurture Commission has scheduled a 12<sup>th</sup> Night Celebration for January 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Hall. 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. Please plan to join us!

## November 3 Congregational Business Meeting Decisions

Montezuma approved a 2025 budget of \$286,310 at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> CBM. The congregation called the following people to leadership roles:

- Moderator: Wayne Pence
- Clerk: Sally Jane Conner
- Trustee: Jeff Wine
- Board Members: Daniel Fleishman, David Glick, Danelle Ross, Ed Johnson, Ben Hiner
- Annual Conf. Delegates: Tony & Dwyann Stovall
- Treasurer: Sandy Kinsey
- Financial Secretary: Sara Atkins
- Pastoral Advisory Committee: Roger Moyer

The congregation also approved the purchase of a lift to access the chancel area. The congregation also voted to move forward with the replacement of the pews and carpet in the sanctuary at a cost of approximately \$150,000.

## December/January Special Offerings

**December’s** special offering supports the Bridgewater Food Pantry. The Bridgewater Area Inter-Church Food Pantry is run by volunteers from several local churches. The Pantry offers curbside service on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

**January’s** special offering will be used to support Montezuma’s backpack program, which provides weekend food for 14 children at Ottobine Elementary School.

## Church Board Meeting

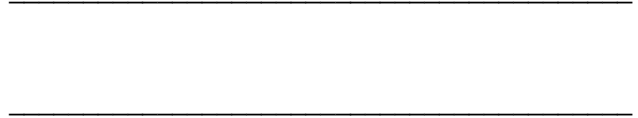
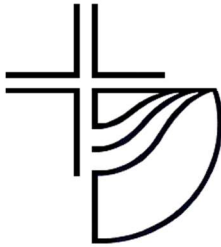
The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and re-organize for the 2025 year. All 2024 and 2025 board members are asked to attend.

## 2025 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 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

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



**December Birthdays:**

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Debbie Albers     | 14 Carolyn Mohler    |
| Elvert Black        | 15 Doris Whitmore    |
| Danny Tumer         | 16 Dennis Huffman    |
| Wayne Waggy         | 17 Gene Sheffer      |
| 3 Rick Knott        | Oliver Wood          |
| 4 Walker Shull      | 18 Louise Howdyshell |
| Jessica Strawderman | 19 Joel Fulwider     |
| 5 Mary Lou Glick    | Carole Hoover        |
| Autumn Pequignot    | Brooke Pennybacker   |
| 7 David Skelton     | Charlie Rhodes       |
| 8 Jim Mason         | Bonnie Ryan          |
| Andi Riley          | 20 Bob Black         |
| 9 Bob Michael       | 21 Tovia Shipe       |
| 10 Sheila Skelton   | 22 Asher Shifflett   |
| 11 Stephanie Diehl  | 23 Holly Coaker      |
| 12 Lauren Harper    | 25 Don Poston        |
| Brad Miller         | 26 Sharon Embres     |
| 13 Gordon Driver    | Cora Kiser           |
| Dinah Puffenbarger  |                      |

- |                   |
|-------------------|
| 28 Buck Brown     |
| Sherry Shull      |
| Jeremy Daubert    |
| 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      |
| 17 Roger & Barbara Moyer  |
| 18 Keith & Sharon Weaver  |
| 28 Matthew & Danelle Ross |

**January Birthdays:**

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Gary Gray        | 17 Robert Albers |
| 2 Wilamena Harback | Jonas Miller     |
| 3 Kathleen Michael | 19 Morgan Dakin  |
| 6 Wendy Rhodes     | 22 Linda Harpine |
| Tanner Showalter   | 23 Connie Stiles |
| 10 Betty Miller    | 24 Nellie Black  |
| Elaine Sherwin     | Derek Shickel    |
| 11 Adam Brunk      | Justin Hottinger |
| Craig Payne        | 25 Zandra Miller |
| 12 Braelyn Skelton | 26 Wayne Huffman |
| Elias Dodd         | 27 Finn Richard  |
| 14 Brian Weaver    | Wilhelmina Shank |
| 15 Russell Shank   |                  |
| Edna Shickel       |                  |

**January Anniversaries:**

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

**Our Stewardship for November 2024**

**Attendance**

	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Regular Offering</b>
Nov 3	128	n/a	\$7,312.00
Nov 10	125	64	\$4,063.06
Nov 17	109	57	\$5,111.00
Nov 24	123	58	\$3,743.00
Nov. average per Sun.	121	60	\$5,057.27
Last 12 mos. average per Sun.	127	60	\$6,034.38

**Special Giving for November 2024**

2 Cent Meal Offering	\$82.64	Hurricane Relief	\$9,185.00
CWS Blankets	\$1,420.00	In Memory of Kathy Veal	\$175.00
Donation for Youth Auctioneer	\$100.00	Jr. High Project	\$25.00
Carpet & Pews	\$500.00	Playground Improvements	\$550.00
Fall Festival – Apple Butter	\$208.00	Youth Auction: NYC	\$3,804.30