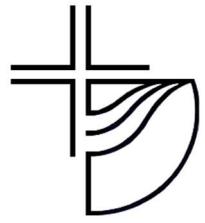


# Montezuma Today

September 2025



*[L]ike living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 2:5

Although most of us are no longer school-aged, the Fall still feels like a time of new beginnings. As life settles back into the routine and schedule of the academic year, we have the opportunity to re-commit ourselves to spiritual growth through Sunday School. We have classes for all ages. There are four classes for our young people: PreK/K, grades 1-5, Jr. High, and Sr. High Youth. There has also been the recent addition of a young adult class, “The Young Leaders,” for college age through 30. Our other four adult classes are no longer as “age specific” as they once were and adults are welcome to attend any of them. For those who have not found a Sunday School home, these classes are: Cornerstone: This class uses “The Wired Word,” and looks at contemporary issues through a faith lens. The class is taught by Vince Rhodes and meets upstairs in the room behind the elevator. Upper Room: Joyce Rhodes teaches this class and they are currently using the Standard Lesson Quarterly. The class meets on the first floor, next to the Nursery. Footsteppers: The Footsteppers are currently meeting on the first floor, across from the Treasurer’s Office. They are using the Standard Lesson Quarterly for the Fall. There are several co-teachers for this class, including Julie Smith, Sandy Kinsey, and Mary Frances Heishman. Agape: The Agape class uses “A Guide for Biblical Studies” as their curriculum. The class meets in the Gathering Room (first floor) and is taught by Barbara Moyer, Abe Evans, and Tony Stovall.

Come, let us grow in Christ together!

In Christ’s Service,  
Terri

## September Outreach Offering: Open Doors

Open Doors is a homeless shelter serving Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They work to provide shelter, compassionate support, and access to services for people who are homeless. Open Doors provides food and shelter for up to 40 homeless persons in our local community through the winter months.

## Deacon Calling

The office of deacon dates from the New Testament period and is one of the most important offices in the church. Deacons provide care and support to all participants in the congregation, offer spiritual guidance to the church, practice ministries of hospitality, and oversee baptisms, Love Feast, and communion. Each September, Montezuma Deacons arrange for the calling of new Deacons. This year the calling service will take place on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. During this service deacons are called, without nomination, via open paper ballots. A sample ballot will be available for the congregation to receive on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Choir & Handbells

The choir and the handbell choir will begin practicing the first week of September.

## Church Birthday Dinner

Nurture has planned the Church Birthday Dinner for September 21<sup>st</sup> after Sunday School in the church basement. Sign-up sheets to decorate tables and to provide “desserts of the month” will be available on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Please make plans to attend this fun event!

## Love Feast: October 5

Our Fall Love Feast is scheduled for World Communion Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> after Sunday School in the fellowship hall. We will have a family style meal of sandwiches, fruit, and cold cuts.

## Heritage Festival and Apple Butter

Montezuma’s Fall Heritage Festival will be on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. A full festival with breakfast, doughnuts, country ham and white beans, BBQ chicken, and a bake sale is planned. Vendors selling their goods will be on site and we look forward to live music, too. We will make cider on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Gordon and Wanda Driver and boil apple butter on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed in all these areas and sign-up sheets will be available soon. We look forward to continuing with this beloved event. Keep on the lookout for updates and information.

## Fall Bible Study

The Fall Deacon's Bible study will begin the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will study *Sabbath: God's Call to Peace* by Angela Finet. This study is part of the Covenant Series from Brethren Press. The morning study will be on Thursdays at 10:00 am and will be taught by Pastor Terri. If there is sufficient interest, there will be an evening study, likely on Mondays. Libby Kiser will co-teach, but we are still in need of someone to share this responsibility with her. Sign-up sheets are available in the entryway. Please contact Vince Rhodes or Karen Fleishman if you are willing to co-teach the evening class.

## Youth Auction

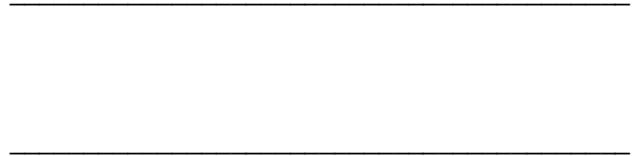
Mark your calendars! Our Youth Auction will be held Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the National Youth Conference. We are seeking donations of items or services such as: Handmade crafts, artwork, or gift baskets, household items, professional services (photography, cooking classes, etc.), experiences like vacation rentals or special outings. Every contribution—big or small—helps make this event a success! If you would like to donate, please contact Dustin and Tessa Atkins by November 1<sup>st</sup>. We can arrange pickup if needed. Items should be delivered to Montezuma Hall by November 8<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you on November 14<sup>th</sup> as we come together to encourage and uplift our youth.

## Membership

If you have been visiting with us at Montezuma and are ready to join our family officially through membership by letter of transfer, affirmation of faith, or baptism, please contact Pastor Terri.

Montezuma Church of the Brethren  
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 Avery Andrews, Office Admin. [montezuma.cob@gmail.com](mailto:montezuma.cob@gmail.com)



**September Birthdays:**

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Katie Grant             | 15 Debbie Smiley     |
| 2 Donna Chandler          | Uriah Smiley         |
| Charles Cline Jr.         | 16 Isaac Shank       |
| Cathy Fisher              | 18 Jessica Shipe     |
| 3 Wanda Hollen            | 19 Dwynn Stovall     |
| Tom Womble                | 21 Ben Barlow        |
| Dean Wood                 | Danelle Ross         |
| 4 Allee Coffman           | Brenda Wine          |
| Carolyn Wenger            | 22 Sammy Cox         |
| Ralph Rohrer              | Laurie Anne Serrell  |
| Arlie McNett              | Cheryl Simmers       |
| 6 Patty Black             | 24 Jordan Sites      |
| Donnie Simmons            | 25 Jennifer Shreiber |
| Sebastian Fuentes-Serrell | Tasha Hoover         |
| 7 Betty Click             | 26 Molly Shickel     |
| David Shickel             | 27 Devon Kuster      |
| Naomi Skelton             | 28 Libby Kiser       |
| 9 Charlie Monger          | Lee Kinsey           |
| 13 Carolyn Cline          | 29 Janice Rhodes     |
| Marsha Shank              | 30 Donnie Jackson    |
| 14 Susan Kuykendall       |                      |
| Wanda Flora               |                      |

**September Anniversaries:**

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 3 Scott & Diana McNett      |
| 4 Robert & Andrea Black     |
| Nelson & Frances Shenk      |
| 6 Jeremy & Becky Daubert    |
| 8 Steve & Connie Stiles     |
| 10 Ron & Donna Lou Shickel  |
| 13 Mike & Beth Bazzle       |
| 16 Ken & Cindy McNett       |
| 17 Donnie & Lynn McNett     |
| 19 Robert & Patty Black     |
| Dennis & Leslie Huffman     |
| Kirk & Chris Kuster         |
| 20 David & Lisa Shickel     |
| 25 David & Susan Kuykendall |
| 27 Josh & Crystal Richard   |
| 28 Weldon & Lori Good       |

**Our Stewardship for July 2025**

<u>Attendance</u>			<u>Regular Offering</u>
	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	
July 6	96	51	\$8,182.25
July 13	141	58	\$4,429.00
July 20	140	46	\$3,845.00
July 27	145	52	\$5,768.00
July Avg	131	52	\$5,556.06
Last 12 mos. average	135	61	\$6,225.12

**Special Giving for July 2025**

Weekday Religious Education	\$620.00
2¢ Meal Offering	\$224.51
Brethren Woods	\$100.00
Messenger Renewal	\$14.50
NC Flood Relief – Hurricane Helene	\$1,000.00
Salvation Army	\$70.00
Playground Improvements	\$100.00
Vacation Bible School	\$100.00
NYC – Cookbook Money	\$10.00

**(August stewardship will be included in Oct. Newsletter)**