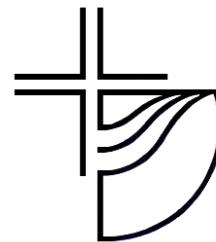


Montezuma Today

December 2025–January 2026

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



“For unto us a child is born ...”
Isaiah 9:6a

Probably the most common question in December is, “What do you want for Christmas?” When asked that question, consider these words of Ann Weems in her poem/prayer *Kneeling in Bethlehem*:

What do I want for Christmas?
I want to kneel in Bethlehem,
the air thick with alleluias,
the angels singing
that God is born among us.
In the light of the Star,
I want to see them come,
the wise ones and the humble.
I want to see them come
bearing whatever they treasure
to lay at the feet
of him who gives his life.

What do I want for Christmas?
To see in that stable
the whole world kneeling in thanks
for a promise kept:
new life.
For in his nativity
we find ours.

May we each cherish the gift of the Christ child during this holy season and always.

In Christ’s service,
Terri

Advent Devotionals

Our 2025 Advent Devotional is *Word Among Us*, written by John Fillmore and published by The Brethren Press. The devotional focuses on the borders Jesus crossed—and continues to cross—to be among us. Devotionals are available (in regular and large print) in the entryway. The *Silent Night*, *Holy Night* devotionals for children have been distributed. If your child did not receive one, please contact Mary Jackson or Karen Fleishman.

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 12 children at Ottobine Elementary.

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 the 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.

Church Board Meeting

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 9, and reorganize for the 2026 year. All 2025 and 2026 board members are asked to attend.

Children’s Choir

Montezuma’s children will share songs and scripture during the morning worship on Dec. 14.

National Youth Conference Meeting

The 2026 NYC will be at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, from July 18–23. All youth who will have completed ninth grade through the first year of college by the time of NYC, and their parents, are invited to attend an informational meeting in the sanctuary on Dec. 14, immediately following Sunday School. Registration will open on Jan. 5 at a discounted price.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Christmas Party

The Montezuma Youth will have their annual Christmas party from approximately 12:15–2:30 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 14. The party will begin immediately following the NYC meeting. Participants are asked to bring a \$10–\$15 gift for the gift exchange, and their favorite Christmas snack or dessert to share. Lunch will be provided. Please let Tessa or Dustin Atkins know if you can attend.

Christmas Eve Evening Service

Please join us on Wed., Dec. 24 at 8:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Cantata.

2026 Directory

The church office will prepare a new directory for 2026. Please send updates or corrections by Jan. 12.

Pictorial Directory

A new (and long-awaited!) pictorial directory will be prepared in 2026. Photography sessions are scheduled for Feb. 20 (1:00–8:00 p.m.) & 21 (10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.). Please keep those dates available as we want to see your smiling faces!

November 2 Congregational Business Meeting Decisions

Montezuma approved a 2026 budget of \$287,866 at the Nov. 2 CBM. The congregation called the following people to leadership roles:

Clerk: Libby Kiser

Trustee: Helen Shickel

Auditing Committee: Jordan Sites

Board Members: Diana Havener, Katie Jackson, Dustin Atkins, Rhonda Mandeville, Dan Smoker

Annual Conf. Delegates: Tony & Dwynn Stovall

District Conf. Delegates: Mary Frances Heishman & Marty Barlow

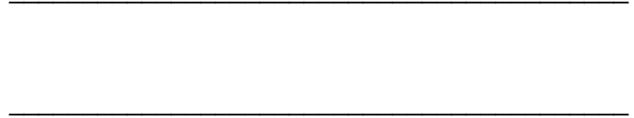
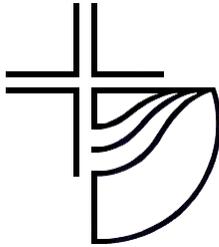
Financial Secretary: David Shickel

Pastoral Advisory Committee: Marty Barlow

Numerous commission appointments were also approved.

Montezuma Church of the Brethren
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 Beth Tyler, Office Admin. montezuma.cob@gmail.com



December Birthdays:

1 Debbie Albers	15 Ryan Skelton	28 Sherry Shull
Danny Tumer	Doris Whitmore	Jeremy Daubert
Wayne Waggy	16 Dennis Huffman	29 Andrea Black
3 Rick Knott	Travis Tumer	Dorita Webster
4 Walker Shull	17 Gene Sheffer	Augusta Graham
Jessica Strawderman	Oliver Wood	30 Jennifer Payne
5 Don Farley	18 Louise Howdyshell	31 Diana Havener
Mary Lou Glick	19 Joel Fulwider	Kyle Symons
Autumn Pequignot	Carole Hoover	Chelsea Tumer
7 David Skelton	Brooke Pennybacker	
8 Andi Riley	Charlie Rhodes	December Anniversaries:
9 Bob Michael	Bonnie Ryan	4 Jeff & Brenda Wine
10 Sheila Skelton	20 Bob Black	17 Roger & Barbara Moyer
11 Stephanie Diehl	21 Tovia Shipe	18 Keith & Sharon Weaver
12 Lauren Harper	22 Asher Shifflett	28 Matthew & Danelle Ross
Brad Miller	23 Holly Coaker	
13 Gordon Driver	25 Don Poston	
Dinah Puffenbarger	26 Sharon Embres	
14 Carolyn Mohler	Cora Kiser	

January Birthdays:

1 Gary Gray	14 Robert Airey	28 Wilhelmina Shank
2 Wilamena Harback	Brian Weaver	29 Drake Mandeville
3 Kathleen Michael	15 Sharon Northrop	30 Daniel Shickel
5 Cheryl Martin	Russell Shank	Phil Evans
6 Wendy Rhodes	19 Morgan Dakin	Greg Losh
Tanner Showalter	22 Linda Harpine	Eli Moyer
7 Paula Rhodes	23 Connie Stiles	Kathryn Roche
Paul Andrews	24 Nellie Black	31 Dawn Miller
10 Betty Miller	Derek Shickel	
11 Adam Brunk	Justin Hottinger	January Anniversaries:
Craig Payne	25 Zandra Miller	7 Blaine & Kathryn Riley
12 Braelyn Skelton	26 Wayne Huffman	20 Wayne & Sandra Huffman
	27 Dylan Airey	22 John & Ann Monger

Our Stewardship for November 2025

Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Regular Offering	
Nov 2	148	n/a	\$6,690.06	
Nov 9	133	62	\$7,410.00	
Nov 16	137	69	\$4,983.00	
Nov 23	151	62	\$8,569.00	
Nov 30	138	77	\$5,469.00	
Nov. average per Sun.	141	68	\$6,624.21	(reg. offering)
Last 12 mo. avg. per Sun.	138	60	\$6,510.22	

Special Giving for November 2025

CWS Blankets	\$955.00	Heritage Festival	\$23.00
2-Cent Meal Offering	\$114.89	Hurricane Relief	\$500.00
Sadie Rose Foundation	\$100.00	Bellfest	\$425.00
Playground Improvements	\$150.00	Vendor Fee—Fall Festival	\$20.00
Backpack Program	\$20.00	National Youth Conference	
Youth Auction: NYC	\$3,655.00	(transfer from line item)	\$500.00