

Montezuma Today

April 2017



Holy Week & Easter at Montezuma

The Montezuma congregation invites you to prepare for and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the second week of April. The life of Jesus is the center of our faith and it remains that way because Jesus conquers death when God raised him from the grave. Holy week begins Sunday, April 9th and Easter is the 16th. Join us for these worship experiences:

- ❖ **Palm Sunday**, 9:30 a.m. morning worship
- ❖ **Maundy Thursday**, Love Feast & Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
- ❖ **Good Friday**, Bridgewater Cross Walk, noon, beginning at Bridgewater Presbyterian
- ❖ **Easter Sunrise Service**, 6:25 a.m., at church
- ❖ **Easter Morning Worship**, 9:30 a.m.

The Prayer Room (located upstairs next to the Footsteppers class) will be available to everyone through Easter.

Pictorial Directory

You can sign up for your session online at www.montezumacob.org or after church on Sunday mornings.

We need YOU to make our directory complete! To celebrate our church family and strengthen the bond within our congregation, we welcome you to be a part of our upcoming new directory.

We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary directory and an 8×10 portrait.

Photography Dates

Thursday, May 4th: 1pm – 8pm

Friday, May 5th: 1pm – 8pm

Saturday, May 6th: 10am – 5pm

Make-up date: Tuesday 16 from 1pm – 8pm

* Your photography session will take about an hour, during which time you will check-in, be photographed and view your portraits.

For your convenience, all photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with NO sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken. One pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8×10, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. Lifetouch's portrait price lists are available in the church office for those would like them prior to photography.

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory!

Church Events: April 2017

- 1: Jr. & Sr. High Youth – Concert in Charlottesville
- 2: 8th graders & Sr. High Youth at Roundtable Worship – 9:30am
- 2: Bell choir at VMRC – 3:30pm
- 3: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 4: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:45am
- 5: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 7: Congregational Business Meeting – 11:45am
- 8: Sr. High Caving Trip
- 9: Palm Sunday
- 16: Easter Sunrise Service – 6:25am
- 10: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 10: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 11: Church Board Meeting – 7pm
- 12: Salvation Army Meal
- 12: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 13: Love Feast – 7pm
- 14: Good Friday Cross Walk - noon
- 16: Easter Sunrise Service – 6:45am
- 17: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 19: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 24: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 25: Dorcas Circle – 1pm
- 26: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 29: Brethren Woods Festival
- 30: Carol Sheppard, Annual Conference Moderator preaching

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WORSHIP – April 2017

Sunday mornings – 9:10 a.m. Gathering Time,
9:30 a.m. Worship Hour, 10:40 a.m. Classes

2: Fifth Sunday of Lent: The Wise Builder

Psalms 130; Matthew 7:24-29; John 11:39-41

It all begins with foundation. A house stands or falls depending not only on how it's built, but on what it is built. As each one of us builds our lives, often without any notion of what the future holds, we want to follow the lead of the wise builder, Jesus.

*Adult Choir & Handbell Choir

International S.S. Lesson: God as Our Shepherd

9: Palm Sunday: Who is this?

Matthew 21:1-11

People in the first century celebrated in the hope of Jesus in the beginning of the week, but were disappointed in that hope towards the end of the week. Join us to celebrate who Christ is.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: God's Saving Love in Christ

13: Maundy Thursday

Love Feast, 7 p.m.

16: Easter Sunday: Meeting Jesus

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Matthew 28:1-10

After brutal chaos and palpable uncertainty, amidst confusion, the women meet Jesus. "Do not be afraid," he tells them. Here is the place for us to stand. The beginning of a new future. Jeremiah says, "You shall be built ... you shall plant..."

*Adult Choir & Children's Choir

International S.S. Lesson: God's Love as Victory over Death

23: A Sanctuary Called Earth

Genesis 2:4a-15; Psalm 139:13-16; John 20:19-31

Christians are right to ask if "Earth Day" is a legitimate observance for the church. Every Christian worship service is devoted to God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. That's our commitment ... always! Once we make that commitment, we are then able to see how, with "the Bible in one hand, and the newspaper in the other" (or the computer), the everyday questions and issues of our life pertain to our discipleship. Join us for the worship of God, the maker and giver of heaven and earth.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: God's Reconciling Love

30: Annual Conference Moderator Carol Sheppard preaching

Talk back with Carol during the Sunday School hour in Sanctuary

*Adult Choir & Children's Choir

International S.S. Lesson: God's Preserving Love

Peace of my mind:

Easter is an affirmation. It is many other things as well, including the story of God raising Jesus from the dead; including doctrine about what that story means for us and for the world; including large worship services; including family traditions like hot cross buns or orange biscuits at breakfast, hunting for colorful eggs, and big parties celebrating the resurrection in the wee hours of Easter morning.

Along with these things, Easter is the affirmation that life is bigger than we can see, can control, or know. In our winter Bible study groups, we read the story of Job. He complains ... a lot. He has reason. Job especially wants God to answer him; to explain his massive suffering, and (honestly) to tell his friends to take a hike.

Out of the whirlwind, God speaks to Job. God asks a series of questions about the beginning of the universe, the heavens and meteorological phenomena, and finally wild animals. Have you "entered," God asks, "into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep" (38:16)?

Many commentators treat this tour de force as God telling Job to be quiet. In our Bible studies this winter we've entertained other ideas about God's response to Job in chapters 38-41. For sure, only God sees the totality of creation and the universe. We see and understand from our human perspective, but we want to see like God. To have God's answer for the chaos that can engulf our lives.

In this story Job seeks an answer, a justification. What God gives is not an answer but an affirmation: if I am with all the wildness of this world, all that is beyond your control and comprehension, then I am also with you, too, during your wild, uncontrolled experiences.

Easter is our affirmation of that. We tend to make it into a transactional event: Jesus had to suffer because, etc. But someone's suffering is a justification of nothing we want any part of. We don't want a better world on the back of an innocent person's suffering. There's plenty of suffering already. Easter is our affirmation that even beyond our control, our plans ... life is precious, it is a gift, and we are in God's hands.

Peace to you – and to our world, David

April Special Offering

April's special offering is the New Community Project's program in South Sudan, "Give a Girl a Chance". Give a Girl a Chance aims to help Sudanese girls and women get the education and skills training they need to live happy, healthy and productive lives. Education is the key to later marriage, fewer children, and life opportunities. Yet millions either never attend school or withdrawal at an early age.

Give a Girl a Chance works with grassroots groups to address the challenges families face. NCP has helped 300 girls go to school and even helped build a school. Below is a chart of how money can be used.

\$6	1 year's supply of hygiene kits
\$10	School uniform
\$55	1 year's tuition (elementary)
\$250	1 year's boarding for secondary school
\$750	1 year's cost of completing secondary education

The NCP is helping to build a new community of justice and peace for our neighbors and respect for the earth. Through our support of NCP initiatives we too become a part of helping our neighbors and our planet.

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on **Wednesday**, April 12th. This month, the youth will be preparing and serving the meal. *Please see the youth section on page 4 for more details.*

Montezuma Today is a monthly publication of Montezuma Church of the Brethren. Articles and information for publication are appreciated by the 20th of each month.

Email: montezuma.cob@gmail.com
Mail to: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

Spring Fest at Brethren Woods

Once again Montezuma Church will be serving breakfast at the Spring Fest Saturday, April 29th. All proceeds will benefit the camp. This is our way of supporting the services they offer to our church family. Marsha Shank will be heading this event and will be in need for food donations, volunteers to help prepare the food and volunteers to help serve at the Brethren Woods Spring Fest. Look for sign-up sheets to see where you can help. This is a great time to bring your family and friends to enjoy a great breakfast and fun for all. Additional information about the event is available at www.brethrenwoods.org

District Disaster Auction: May 19-20

It is time to get prepared for the upcoming Disaster Ministries Auction! This year's auction will be held on May 19th and 20th at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds to benefit Brethren Disaster Ministries. Montezuma Church always has many volunteers to support this event and we hope many of you will be able to participate again this year.

Congregational Business Meeting: May 7th

Montezuma's spring Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 7th after Sunday School (11:45 am).

Easter Lilies

Envelopes are available in the entry way to order Easter lilies in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$7.00 per lily and all orders must be turned in by Palm Sunday (April 9th).

Flower Fund

Additional donations are needed to replenish the flower fund. This fund provides the money for flowers in the large outdoor planters.

Maker Fun Factory VBS

Plans are already underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School! This year the theme will be, "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God- Built for a Purpose!" During VBS, children will have an opportunity to become hands-on inventors who discover that they are lovingly crafted by God.

We will once again be joining Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren for VBS. This summer, VBS will be held at Montezuma Church of the Brethren during the week of July 16th. Dinner will be served each evening from 5:00-5:30 pm. Following dinner, students will attend Sound Wave Sing & Play as well as a variety of stations including Bible Discovery, KidVid Cinema, Game Makers, Snack Factory, and Imagination Station. The evening will conclude at 8:15 pm.

VBS is for children who will be 4 years old by September 30th through rising 5th graders. A week of service, bible study, and fellowship will also be planned for students who will be in the Junior High Group this fall. If you would like to volunteer to help with Bible School or have further questions, please feel free to contact Julie Smith at 879-9559.

7th Annual Living Peace Award Banquet

The Shenandoah District Pastors for Peace will host the 7th annual Living Peace Recognition Banquet (also known as the Peace Feast) on Tuesday, May 2, at Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren (91 Valley Church Road, Weyers Cave). Church of the Brethren members who have worked in jail and/or prison ministries will be recognized. Among those being recognized for jail ministry are Elaine Shank and Roma Holloway. Harvey Yoder, a counselor, pastor and social justice advocate, will be the speaker on "Remember those in prison as though you were bound to them." The cost is \$15 for adults; \$10 for students. Registration forms are available in the church office, and are due by April 25.

Youth Events: April 2017

Jr. & Sr. High Christian Rock Concert:

Saturday, April 1: meet at the church at 2:15pm

The Jr. & Sr. Highs are going to Charlottesville to hear The Rock & Worship Roadshow. The church will cover the cost; all you need to bring is money for food, or a bagged dinner. We will meet at the church at 2:15 to head to Charlottesville. Please let Pastor Gabe or Ethan Dakin know if you are coming.

Roundtable Worship Service

Sunday, April 2: meet at the church at 9:30am

8th graders and Sr. High youth are attending the worship service at the Roundtable conference at Bridgewater College.

Sr. High Caving Trip

Saturday, April 8: 8:00am – 1:00pm

This caving adventure includes mud, exploration, and hide & seek. Derek Young of Harrisonburg First COB is taking us on this caving adventure. Reduced cost is \$20 for Sr. High youth at Montezuma, plus a bagged lunch or money for lunch on the way back. Let pastor Gabe know if you are able to come.

Jr. & Sr. High Salvation Army Meal:

Wednesday, April 12: 12:00am – 7:00pm

Instead of preparing the Salvation Army meal in the middle of the summer, we decided to have this service project during Holy Week. We will meet Braithwaite Studios to do glass etching, play ultimate frisbee, prepare dinner, and serve the meal. Make use of this day off of school to spend time with church friends, and to help people in our community!

Intercultural Ministry connects with churches in ‘sanctuary’ jurisdictions

A letter from the Intercultural Ministry, signed by director Gimbiya Kettering, is part of a new effort to connect with congregations located in areas considered to be “sanctuary” jurisdictions across the country.

Opening with Matthew 25:34-35, the letter invited prayerful discernment of “how we are called to witness, as members of the Church of the Brethren, how we feel called to stand with those who come to our communities seeking refuge.”

The letter invited congregations to join a denominational conversation about what it means to be a congregation in a sanctuary jurisdiction, to consider how congregations can articulate and act upon their convictions, and to share resources, stories, and experiences with one another.

The letter noted ways Brethren have connected to the biblical vision of sanctuary and safety for those who are endangered, including a post-World War II effort to encourage each congregation to welcome and care for a refugee family, and more recent efforts to support those affected by conflicts in Haiti, South and Central America, and Nigeria.

“We, too, sought sanctuary when the Brethren of the 1700s fled religious persecution in Germany,” the letter noted.

Among foundational statements, the letter referenced Annual Conference documents of 1986, “Making the Connection”; 1983, “Providing Sanctuary for Latin American and Haitian Refugees”; 1982, “Undocumented Persons and Refugees in the United States”; 1979, “Action in the Refugee Crisis of Southeast Asia”; and 1969, “Obedience to God and Civil Disobedience.”

For more information, contact the Intercultural Ministry at 800-323-8039 ext. 387 or gkettering@brethren.org.

Nursing scholarships announced

Six nursing students are recipients of the Church of the Brethren Nursing Scholarship for 2016. This scholarship, made possible by the Health Education and Research Endowment, is available to church members enrolled in LPN, RN, or nursing graduate programs.

The recipients are Logan Fultz of Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.; Amanda Gible and Cassidy McFadden of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.; Malinda Heisey and Brooke Myer of Chiques Church of the Brethren, Manheim, Pa.; and Abby Maples of Panther Creek Church of the Brethren, Adel, Iowa.

Scholarships of up to \$2,000 for RN and graduate nurse candidates and up to \$1,000 for LPN candidates are awarded to a limited number of applicants each year. Applications for 2017 are due by May 1. www.brethren.org/congregationallife/nursingscholarships.html



AC business items available online

The nine items of new and unfinished business coming to the 2017 Annual Conference are available online. The Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Mich., on June 28-July 2 (registration is at www.brethren.org/ac/2017/registration).

The four new business items:

- “Polity for Agencies: A Recommendation from On Earth Peace”
- “Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience: A Recommendation from On Earth Peace”
- “Brethren Values Investing”
- “Polity for Electing Brethren Benefit Trust Board Directors”

The five unfinished business items:

- “The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts” responding to “Query: Same Sex Weddings”
- “A Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century”
- A report and recommendations from the Review and Evaluation Committee
- An interim report from the Vitality and Viability Committee, with a request for an additional year to bring a final report to the 2018 Conference
- An interim report from a study committee on “Creation Care,” with a request for one more year to complete the work

For links to these business items go to www.brethren.org/ac/2017/business.

Disaster Recovery Support Initiative launches

When disaster strikes a community, beginning the process of long-term recovery quickly is essential. Yet, it can be a daunting task for local leaders who may not have experience in disaster recovery and may have suffered damage and loss themselves.

The ecumenical Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI) is working to help communities shorten the time between the immediate disaster response and long-term recovery by encouraging, modeling, mentoring, and supporting the development of local Long-term Recovery Groups through the sustained on-site presence of a Disaster Recovery Support Team. DRSI is a joint endeavor of Brethren Disaster Ministries with the disaster ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The initiative builds on the partners' year-long collaboration in Columbia, S.C., responding to flooding that occurred in October 2015. By December 2015, denominational long-term disaster recovery volunteers were on the ground.

In the coming year, the DRSI will seek to build on what was learned in South Carolina to help other communities access, leverage, and account for resources following disasters. Disaster Recovery Support Teams will stay with selected communities for 2-6 months, as needed, to resource the local recovery effort and offer training, mentoring, and assistance.

In disasters where unmet construction needs exist, the team may help recruit work teams to begin repairs in an effort to expedite recovery and model long-term recovery in collaboration with local leadership.

The DRSI has hired two staff to guide this next phase in the project's development:

Rachel Larratt, long-term recovery group formation advisor, has led recovery efforts in Columbia. Her experience includes serving as the chair of an LTRG; forming and running her own community relief foundation; and, as a flood-affected individual, navigating her own recovery process.

Tim Sheaffer, construction management advisor, is a

long-term Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteer who has served in recovering communities for eight years, leading rebuild sites and working with local partners. He most recently assisted



Rachel Larratt



Tim Sheaffer

ecumenical recovery support in Columbia, and helped UCC Disaster Ministries and Brethren Disaster Ministries assess next steps in West Virginia.

Londonderry Village is new name for retirement community

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home in Palmyra, Pa., has changed its public name to Londonderry Village, according to an announcement from president and CEO Jeff Shireman. The legal name of the corporation remains the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home. "Londonderry Village is more appropriately known as a 'doing business as' or DBA name," he said. "Other than the name change, everything else is staying the same. Our mission of service to the elderly, our commitment to providing benevolent care when needed, our affiliation with the Church of the Brethren, our nonprofit status . . . everything will remain exactly as it has been for the past 38 years." See www.lvbh.org.



Personnel notes

Deborah Brehm has resigned as manager of human resources for the Church of the Brethren. Her experience in human resources at the denomination's General Offices began in October 2008 when she started as an intern, and continued as human resources assistant on a temporary basis until she accepted the position of manager.

Eric Thompson has resigned as director of operations for Information Technology for Brethren Benefit Trust, to accept a position with the United Methodist Church. He worked for BBT for 16 years, first hired in 2001, as Information Services support technician. He was promoted in 2008.

In 2011, his department grew to two people, providing in-house programming. He is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill.

Jeremiah Thompson has begun as director of Insurance Operations for BBT. Previously he provided oversight for personnel and payroll administration at Judson University in Elgin, Ill. He holds a bachelor's degree in religion with a Christian ministry concentration from Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Ill., and a master's degree in business administration from Judson. He also has served a bivocational role as associate pastor of Elgin Church of the Nazarene.

Our Stewardship for March 2017

		Attendance		
		Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
March	5	190	91	\$8,079.56
	12	141	84	\$4,055.55
	19	181	89	\$5,223.22
	26	191	101	\$4,403.46
March average per Sunday		176	91	\$5,440.52
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		173	87	\$5,243.19

Special Giving for March 2017

2 nd Meal Offering	\$13	Memorial Meals	\$100
Backpack Program	\$80	Ministry of Hope	\$100
Easter Lilies	\$42	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$590
Lejeune Haiti Well Project	\$200	Tenderloin Feast	\$25
Mem. Fund: Eunice Shull	\$395	Youth Cook Books	\$40
Messenger Subscriptions	\$7.25		

Serving in April:

NURSERY

- 2 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 9 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 16 No schedule: Easter
- 23 Amy & John Knott
- 30 Stephanie Diehl & Olivia Mandeville

WORSHIP CENTER

- 2 Jill Sease
- 9 Worship Center Committee
- 16 Worship Center Committee
- 23 Dawn Kiser
- 30 Lisa Shickel

SOUND SYSTEM

- 2 Bill Heishman
- 9 Ron Shickel
- 16 Randy Glick
- 23 Jim Rusmiser
- 30 John Layman

VALET PARKING

- 2 Melvin Burger
- 9 Weldon Good
- 16 Wade Showalter
- 23 Bob Michael
- 30 Brad Smith

ACOLYTES

- 2 Noah Smith & Walter Rhodes
- 9 No schedule: Palm Sunday
- 16 No schedule: Easter
- 23 Allee Coffman & Carrie Miller
- 30 Lindsey Harper & Sarah Craun

USHERS

- Bob Black
- David Skelton
- Matt Young
- Randy Glick

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Margaret Waggy | 11 Jackson Williams | 24 Emmalin Barnhart |
| 2 Danny Hollen | 12 Madison DePoy | Ronnie Shirkey |
| Nancy Keplinger | Scott McNett | 25 David Miller |
| Rebecca Mason | Leslie Mohler | Marilyn Miller |
| Eric Payne | 13 Ronnie Fulton | 26 Amy Knott |
| Ron Shickel | 14 Matt Young | Howard Smiley |
| 3 Heather Knott | 15 Lois Black | 27 Lynn McNett |
| Jerold Sager | John Layman | Craig Sease |
| 4 Montana Showalter | 16 Joy Monger | Missy Vandevander |
| Richard Smith | 17 Mary Jackson | 28 Diane McNett |
| Kenneth Wenger | 18 Donnie Fulton | Josh Richard |
| 5 Dolores Cline | Ann Miller | Michelle Airey |
| 6 Tina Knott | Gary Myers | Dwayne Kiser |
| Myla Showalter | Kristin Nocolai | Adam Richard |
| 7 Christopher Floyd | Doris Riggelman | Jerry Shank |
| Weldon Good | 20 Billy Eaver | Keith Weaver |
| Edith Hartman | Clint Harpine | Sarah Williams |
| Josh Payne | 21 Jack Layne | Kyle Brown |
| Holly Wood | Frances Shenk | Danny Lilly |
| 8 Bill Heishman | 22 Kirk Kuster | Rosemary Taylor |
| 9 Rose Miller | 23 Billy Myers | Russell Wenger |
| 10 Harold McNett | | |

April Anniversaries:

- | |
|----------------------------|
| 1 Scott & Michelle Airey |
| 3 Cory & Jennifer Payne |
| David & Vicki Richard |
| 4 Chris & Ann Click |
| John & Cathleen Coffman |
| Dwayne & Dawn Kiser |
| 8 Wendell & Betty Chandler |
| Bill & Joyce Jackameit |
| 11 Rick & Tina Knott |
| 14 Norlyn & Betty Miller |
| Joe & Joyce Rhodes |
| 16 Charles & Janice Rhodes |
| 20 Eric & April Payne |
| 21 John & Linnette Coaker |
| 22 Bill & Barbara Eavers |
| 24 Daniel & Naomi Lambert |
| Doug & Lisa Tumer |
| 25 Charles & Fay Airey |
| 26 Bob & Carol Martin |
| 30 Howard & Debbie Smiley |

Montezuma Church of the Brethren
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