

Montezuma Today

May 2017



Disaster Ministries Auction: May 19th - 20th

The Annual Disaster Ministries Auction at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Once again, our church will be assisting in several areas and volunteers are needed! If you are interested in helping with the Saturday morning breakfast, chicken barbeque, or the plant tent, please talk to Brenda Wine. The youth will also be making doughnuts.

Friday, May 19

- 7:30am Golf Tournament Registration at Lakeview
- 1pm Main exhibit building opens
Outdoor and indoor silent auctions
Assemble school kits under tent
Sale booths open (baked goods, plants, etc.)
- 3-7pm Oyster/country ham dinner
(\$18/adults; \$8/age 10 and under)
Food trailer open for sandwiches, drinks, fries
- 6:15pm Livestock auction
Auction of art, furniture, handwork

Saturday, May 20

- 7-10am Breakfast (pancakes and sausage gravy or made-to-order omelets)
- 8 am Sale booths open (baked goods, plants, etc.)
- 8:30-11am Silent auction
- 8:45am Worship service
- 9am Main auction of art, crafts, furniture, quilts
- 9am-1pm Blood drive
- 9:45am Outside auction of large items
- 10am-2pm Children's activities
- 11am Lunch (plate lunch: barbecued chicken or pulled pork; also a la carte menu)
- 1pm Theme basket auction

Pictorial Directory

It's not too late! There are sessions available on Tuesday, May 16th to have your picture taken for the new church directory. To sign up, please call the church office or go to www.montezumacob.org. The directory is a great way for this community to be remembered, and for visitors to know who we are.

Everyone who gets their picture taken for the directory will receive a free 8"x10" picture and a free directory. Otherwise, directories will be available to purchase for \$5 each.

Congregational Business Meeting: May 7th

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

Church Events: May 2017

- 1: Handbell Choir: 7pm
- 2: Golden Lunch Bunch: 11:30am
- 3: Adult Choir: 7pm
- 4-6: Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions
- 7: National Sr. High Youth Sunday
- 7: Congregational Business Meeting: 11:45am
- 8: Montezuma Support Group: 11:30am
- 8: Handbell Choir: 7pm
- 9: Executive Committee: 7pm
- 10: Adult Choir: 7pm
- 11: Salvation Army Meal
- 14: Jr. High Youth Night: 6-8pm
- 15: Handbell Choir: 7pm
- 16: Pictorial Directory Make-up Session
- 17: Adult Choir: 7pm
- 19: MYF: 6:15pm
- 19-20: Disaster Ministries Auction
- 21: Jr. High Hike Day: after worship
- 21: Senior High Youth Night: 6-8pm
- 22: Handbell Choir: 7pm
- 23: Dorcas Circle: 1pm
- 24: Adult Choir: 7pm
- 29: Handbell Choir: 7pm
- 31: Adult Choir: 7pm

What's Inside:

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WORSHIP – May 2017

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

7: Sr. High Youth Sunday: Perfectly Imperfect

Psalms 139:14

I am convinced that God has made us perfect, despite the imperfections we think we have. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Let's celebrate! The Sr. High Youth will be leading an interactive service on a topic they have studied for four weeks.

*Adult Choir

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

14: The Household of God

John 14:1-14; 1 Peter 2:2-10

On Mother's Day our thoughts turn to family. The New Testament does focus on the family, but it places our families in new perspective. That's part of the early power of the church: it offered a new experience of family. Can that way of thinking about family still speak to us now?

*Adult Choir

*International S.S. Lesson: God's Love Preserved
Jonah*

21: You will see me

John 14:15-21; Ps 66:8-20

("But truly God has listened")

In John 14 Jesus continues to reassure the disciples that their relationship to him will persist through conflict, disruption, and even death. He will not leave them "orphaned." Many of us struggle with our faith; life itself is a struggle, yet biblical people remain witnesses to God's presence.

*Adult Choir

International S.S. Lesson: God's Love for Nineveh

28: In the world

John 17:1-11

This reading is a prayer that Jesus offers for his disciples. He sees what lies ahead; that his disciples will soon be in the world without his personal presence available to them. How then do they remain in the world without him in the way that he has been to this point?

*Adult Choir

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

Peace of my mind:

I've just finished a series of discussions on Jesus with Brethren pastors here in the District. Nathan Rittenhouse from the New Hope, West Virginia, congregation, led the conversations and he did a very fine job.

In our last meeting, we talked about discipleship. Disciples learn from someone; from a teacher. More biblically, we would say that a disciple "follows," and I like the word "apprentice." An apprentice learns alongside another, more experienced person. Jesus is our leader, our teacher, the chief-practitioner of our faith. If we are going to be like him, then we will need to do things he did: such as pray, worship, resist temptation, forgive, love our neighbors and love our enemies. Maybe we can't feed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish, but we can help with feeding those who are hungry. We can welcome the stranger and the needy.

Nathan talked about two desires that all human beings have: security and comfort. We do want these things, but Christians can't prioritize security and comfort over hospitality and service. Hospitality always requires that we risk our security and being a servant of Jesus pushes beyond our "comfort-zones."

Hospitality and service trump security and comfort – that's the Jesus way. And as uncomfortable as it can make us, it is our way as Jesus' followers.

We are apprenticed by Jesus and we also apprentice one another. All of us are in this together. Nathan had a friend who told him to pray that God would provide him a Paul, a Barnabas, and a couple of Timothys. What kind of prayer is that? We pray for a Paul who will be a mentor to us in our life. We all need a Paul – at whatever stage of life – who can show us the ropes along the way. We also need a Barnabas to encourage us along our way; plus we need to think of ourselves as mentors to others, to a couple of Timothys who are looking up to us. Every parent raising children in the church is in this category. But it's not just parents. All of us are helpers along the way. We are disciples. Jesus's disciples.

Peace to you, and to our world – Pastor David

May Special Offering: Brethren Disaster Ministries

Faith is an action word. There is an old saying, "put your money where your mouth is". The Brethren Disaster Ministries, inspired by Jesus, speaks to this old saying and the definition of faith.

Brethren Disaster Ministries, a part of the General Board Church of the Brethren program, restarts hope for the most vulnerable disaster-stricken communities by engaging volunteers to repair and rebuild damaged homes.

The special collections for May for Brethren Disaster Ministries helps to rebuild and repair. Districts and individual volunteers go to places in the US and abroad. Our Shenandoah District regularly sends out volunteers. A number of people of this congregation have gone as disaster volunteers to places in Virginia, West Virginia, North Dakota, South Carolina, Michigan, Colorado and Haiti.

In addition, another program is child care. When there is a disaster, children are over overlooked. Brethren Disaster Ministries goes into the area immediately after a disaster to offer child care to help children deal with the trauma and to give their parents opportunity to reestablish a home for their family.

Also, health care kits and cleaning kits are assembled and taken to Church World Service.

Brethren Disaster Ministries is devoted to the inspiration of Jesus's care of all people. Consider giving generously to the special offering for May. It will help to put your faith into action.

InMotion Presents "Creation" Ballet

You are invited to InMotion School of Dance's spring recital on June 3rd & 4th at Spotswood High School! They will be sharing the ballet "Creation," based on the first chapter of Genesis. Tickets can be reserved through Gail Erbaugh, or will be available at the door. The ballet will be performed on Saturday, June 3rd at 4:00, and on Sunday, June 4th at 3:00 will be the "Creation" ballet in the middle of the general recital.

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

Monday, July 17th – Thursday, July 20th
5:00 pm – 8:15 pm

This year's Bible School 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.

Dinner will be served each evening from 5:00-5:30 pm. Following dinner, students will attend a variety of stations including Bible Discovery, KidVid Cinema, Game Makers, Snack Factory, and Imagination Station.

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 the Jr. High Youth.

Please contact Julie Smith at 879-9559 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, May 11th. This month, the following people are signed up to help with the meal:

- Janet Whetzel & Jill Sease
- Marty Barlow
- Dawn Kiser
- Libby Kiser
- Bill Rohrer
- Gene & Joyce Sheffer

Joe & Joyce Rhodes

Joe & Joyce Rhodes have a new phone number: (540) 480-1604. They no longer use the phone number printed in the directory.

Morgan Dakin's Debut Album

CDs of Morgan Dakin's debut album, "Here I Am Lord", are now available.

The album contains old favorites like "How Great Thou Art", contemporary Christian pieces such as "Untitled Hymn" (Come to Jesus) and several hymns such as Ken Medema's "Lord, Listen to Your Children".

CDs are \$10 each. Please see Morgan if you are interested.

Perfectly Imperfect:

"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." (Psalm 139:14 NLT)

- Michael Jordan was cut from his 9th grade Basketball team. If it weren't for that, he would have never been driven to be the most successful player of his time.
- Oprah Winfrey was fired from being a newscaster because she was told that she was not good for television. Now she has her own TV network!
- Walt Disney was fired from a newspaper and was told that he had no imagination. Look at his legacy that is built on creativity!
- We may know James Earl Jones as the voice of Darth Vader, Mufasa on the Lion King, "This is CNN", and widely known as one of the most distinguished voices in TV and film. James has even narrated all books of the New Testament for audio recording. None of us would guess that he grew up with a stuttering problem as a child and refused to speak for an extended time of his childhood. Today, any preacher would love to have a voice like his.

Failures should not set us back, but they should set us free. When we allow the world to determine our identity, we are unable to show the world exactly what God has created us to be.

I have been impressed with our Sr. High youth over the last month as we wrestled with the realities of perfection in their world. The pressures of adolescence is far greater today than ever before. It can be easy for teens to be envious of others, when feeling totally broken themselves. The reality is that everybody has a story, and even if people do not show it on the outside, they may be struggling with something very deep and dark. On Youth Sunday (May 7, 2017), we will talk about these pressures, and how God does not want us to avoid our dark realities, but God wants to guide us through them. God is for us, not against us. God loves us too much, and has called us to do marvelous things in our life that continue God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in heaven.

I am convinced that God has made us perfect, despite the imperfections we think we have. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Let's celebrate! See you on Sunday.

- Pastor Gabe

Youth Events: May 2017

National Sr. High Youth Sunday:

Sunday, May 7:

Perfectly Imperfect: The Sr. High Youth will be leading an interactive service on a topic they have studied for four weeks.

Jr. High Youth Night

Sunday, May 14: 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Church

Jr. & Sr. High Youth – Making Doughnuts

Saturday, May 20: 6:30am – noon

Like last year, youth are invited to help make donuts to support the Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief Ministry at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Jr. High Hike Day

Sunday, May 21: 10:30am - 4:30pm

After worship, we hit the trails! Transportation will be provided to Shenandoah National Park for a hike that will be worth the work! While we take in the beauty of this valley, Pastor Gabe will read the Sermon on the Mount in its entirety. This event is free for youth and their friends! Bring a bag lunch.

Sr. High Youth Night

Sunday, May 21: 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Church

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.

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Mission and Ministry Board approves new areas of global mission

Fledgling mission projects in two areas of the world—Venezuela and the Africa Great Lakes region—were formally approved by the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board in March.

The Africa Great Lakes project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi, follows nine years of conversation and a number of visits by Global Mission and Service executive Jay Witmeyer and other Brethren from the US. The Church of the Brethren has funded agricultural projects, disaster relief efforts, scholarship programs, and church construction in the region. The Brethren also have sponsored a tri-nation Batwa Pygmy conference and ministries in reconciliation and trauma healing.

The Venezuela project began with connections in the Dominican Republic. Since a first visit in 2015, several meetings with American Hispanic leaders and with Alexandre Gonçalves from the Brazilian Church of the Brethren have been held. At a meeting last fall, more than 200 individuals from 64 churches participated. The ministry has focused on teaching and preaching.

The board engaged in a first reading of “Vision for a Global Church of the Brethren,” a document that works at clarifying a global structure of “autonomous Brethren groups in different areas of the world.”

Board members heard an update on sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., which may be completed in May, and decided how to use expected net proceeds of some \$4 million. Up to \$100,000 will be used for repairs and preservation of the historic Germantown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. “It seems fitting,” they said, to use funds “derived from one hallowed property to support the needs of another property of significance to the Brethren.” Thirty percent will create a Brethren Faith in Action Fund that will provide grants to congregational outreach projects, carrying on “the New Windsor legacy of living out the faith.” Remaining proceeds will be invested to promote the long-term sustainability of denominational ministries. “By replenishing and adding to invested funds we help ensure the vitality of all of our ministries, including service ministries like those associated with New Windsor.”

In other business, a board committee received input for its work on last year’s Annual Conference query, “Living Together as Christ Calls.” The board reviewed a proposed statement on a “Vision for Ecumenism for the 21st Century” that is headed to Annual Conference this summer, and approved the appointment of Terrell Barkley to the Brethren Historical Committee.

Finance staff reported that in 2016 congregational giving to core ministries increased for the first time since 2006, although individual giving was at its lowest total in 10 years. Combined giving to core ministries decreased 2.2 percent.



Courtesy CCEPI

Livelihood training graduation in Nigeria.

Large allocation continues Nigeria Crisis Response

The Mission and Ministry Board has approved release of \$500,000 of the Nigeria crisis funds from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support Nigeria Crisis Response programing through the summer.

The Nigeria Crisis Response is a joint effort with Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The 2017 response continues key ministries in Nigeria but at a reduced level of funding because donations toward the effort fell off significantly in 2016. Program priorities are focused on recovery activities to help families become more self-supporting, now that about 70 percent of EYN members who were displaced by violence and the Boko Haram insurgency have returned home.

Working with partners, program ministries totaling \$690,000 are planned during 2017. EYN continues as the primary partner, and will receive some 70 percent of the response funds. Other partners include the Center for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives; Lifeline Compassionate Global Initiative; Favored Sisters Christian Fellowship; and Education Must Continue Initiative.

Haiti Medical Project has new focus on pure water

The Church of the Brethren has begun addressing the need for pure drinking water in Haiti through the work of the Haiti Medical Project in cooperation with l'Eglise des Freres Haitiens (Church of the Brethren in Haiti). Providing better water often is identified as an urgent priority in the 20 communities where the project currently works.

In 2015, project leaders launched a community development team to work with community leaders on a range of issues—especially pure water, food sustainability, and maternal care. Those working directly with water projects include Vildor Archange, Jean Bily Telfort, and Adias Docteur. Global Food Initiative manager Jeff Boshart offers technical expertise.

Where pure water is a goal, a water committee of community leaders is recruited to work with project staff to assess the need, provide local resources, and lead out in selecting a method to address the need. The focus is to provide an excellent source of water for a sector of the community rather than developing individual household systems.

In many cases the most inexpensive way is to harvest rain water from roof tops, move it via guttering and spouting to a cement cistern, clean and purify the water through a sand bio-filter system, and add moderate chlorination as indicated by water testing. Technical assistance in building and main-



Vildor Archange

taining sand bio-filter systems is being given by faculty and graduate students from the University of Maryland and the University of the District of Columbia.

In some cases the project contracts to have a well drilled. However, in areas near the coast well water tends to have a salty taste that makes it less desirable for human use. Where a well has this problem, the best solution is a reverse osmosis purification system. The community development staff has been enrolled in a water purification course that includes learning to use reverse osmosis.

In 2015-16 the Haiti Medical Project partnered with local communities to install pure water projects in St. Louis du Nord, Acajou, La Tortue, Raymonsaint, Morne Boulage, and the Croix des Bouquets guest house of l'Eglise des Freres. The project invested a total of \$45,218 in these six projects, in addition to the cost of materials, labor, and some financial investment contributed by the communities served.

New projects are in view for 2017-18 as funds become available, with hopes to more than double the pure water systems during the next two years at an estimated cost of \$148,000. Find out more at www.brethren.org/haiti-medical-project.

NYC theme is announced

“Bound Together: Clothed in Christ” (Colossians 3:12-15) is the theme for National Youth Conference 2018. The National Youth Cabinet chose the theme in February at a meeting where the group began planning for the next NYC on July 21-26, 2018, in Fort Collins, Colo. NYC is held every four years for youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college (or are age equivalent to this range) and their advisors. See www.brethren.org/nyc.

Personnel notes

Nate Polzin has resigned as district executive minister for Michigan District, effective July 7. He will continue to serve and support the district through Annual Conference. On Sept. 1, he will begin serving as pastor of Midland Church of the Brethren and will continue his ministry with the Church in Drive in Saginaw. He has served as the district’s executive for the last eight years, beginning as an interim district executive in March 2009.

Program assistants **Robin DeYoung** and **Kristen Hoffman** have resigned from Brethren Disaster Ministries. DeYoung has resigned from the Brethren Disaster Ministries domestic rebuilding program, where she has worked since September 2015. She is a recent graduate of McPherson (Kan.) College. Hoffman has resigned from Children’s Disaster Services, where she has worked since September 2015. Previously she volunteered in

the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, through Brethren Volunteer Service.

Shamek Cardona has begun as manager of human resources for the Church of the Brethren. She is a graduate of William Rainey Harper College, with plans to complete a bachelor of science in business with a concentration in human resource management. Most recently she worked with Generations at Oakton Pavilion in Des Plaines, Ill.

German Gongora has been promoted to director of Operations for Information Technology for Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT). He was first hired by BBT in September 2011 as programmer analyst and technology support.

Todd Knight has been hired as administrative assistant for institutional advancement at Bethany Theological Seminary. He has a decade of experience in fundraising management, having worked for nonprofit organizations in the area of Richmond, Ind.

Our Stewardship for April 2017

		Attendance		
		Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
April	2	174	81	\$8,190.13
	9	202	98	\$5,299.50
	16	267	87	\$6,910.92
	23	163	74	\$4,304.45
	30	165	84	\$3,923.39
April average per Sunday		194	84	\$4,676.38
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		180	89	\$5,239.36

Special Giving for April 2017

2 nd Meal Offering	\$19.40	Mem. Fund: Eunice Shull	\$50
Backpack Program	\$125	NCP: "Give a Girl a Chance"	\$550
Easter Lilies	\$313	Special Offerings	\$5,000
Honoraria Fund	\$150		

Serving in May

NURSERY

7 LeAnne & Matt Young
 14 Fonda Harper & Frances Shenk
 21 Sarah & Bobby Williams
 28 Becky & Hayley Daubert

WORSHIP CENTER

7 Jill Sease
 14 Ann Monger
 21 Linda Waggy
 28 Rose Miller

SOUND SYSTEM

7 Ben Hiner
 14 Bobby Williams
 21 Chris Payne
 28 Bill Heishman

VALET PARKING

7 Ralph Rohrer
 14 Donnie Jackson
 21 Gene Golladay
 28 Melvin Burger

ACOLYTES

7 Nathan Smith & Walter Rhodes
 14 Kyle Brown & Noah Smith
 21 Myla & Julia Eye
 28 No schedule

USHERS

Jim Rusmisl
 Guy Lee Clark
 J.O. Good
 Roger Moyer

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Olivia Mandeville | 14 | Ronnie Brunk |
| 3 | Laurie Carpenter
Austin McNett | | Kenley Rhodes
Jon Shickel |
| 4 | Sheryl Northrop | 15 | Faith Showalter |
| 6 | Clay Knott | 20 | Charlann Johns |
| 7 | Emily Coaker
Kendal Payne | | Charles Miller
Vicki Richard |
| 8 | Betty Chandler | 21 | Joyce Jackameit |
| 10 | Wesley Kuykendall | 22 | LeAnne Young |
| 11 | Mary Lee Ewing
Mason Knott
Bonnie Miller
Walter Rhodes | 23 | Bobby Shank
Dena Symons |
| 12 | Randy Glick
Chris Moran
Doris Smith | 24 | Cathy Roadcap
Corey Wilhelm |
| 13 | Shannon Airey
Lindsey Harper
Roy Keller
Erika Kinkead
Marshall Kiser | 25 | Aaron Barnhart
Ashley Knott |
| | | 27 | Rachel Craun |
| | | 29 | Mike Diehl
Rhonda Mandeville |
| | | 30 | Troy Payne |

May Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Steve & Charlann Johns |
| 2 | Gene & Wanda Wampler |
| 4 | Brad & Huong Showalter |
| 6 | Sam & Mary Jane Cox |
| 10 | Mark & Katie Brill |
| 10 | Mike & Sharon Embres |
| 15 | Greg & Rosemary Taylor |
| 16 | Eric & Anna Shank |
| 17 | Ethan & Sallie Hunter |
| 18 | Chad & Jessica Shipe |
| 19 | Drew & Lindsey Richard
Logan & Jessica Strawderman |
| 21 | Cory & Amy Brown |
| 21 | Mike & Laura Healy |
| 24 | Danny & Wanda Hollen
Craig & Jill Sease |
| 25 | Ben & Jenifer Hiner |

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