

Montezuma Today



December 2020 - January 2021

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

Christmas is Coming

We all know this is not like last year or any year we can remember. The virus has disrupted everything. We are discouraged; we question the future. Do not be afraid! The Bible has a story for that – several of them in fact – but I'm thinking about the birth of Jesus. One of our favorite Advent hymns says of him: "dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart." That's us! Now we are the desiring nations, the longing hearts. Amid our discouragement, we lift our faces in expectation. One way for that expectation to flower into fulfillment in our lives is through worship. Here are December worship services which are at 9:30 Sunday mornings, both in person and live streaming:

- December 6 – Guide our feet in the way of peace, Isa. 52:7-10 & Mark 1:1-8
- December 13 – The oil of gladness, Isa. 61 & Psalm 126
- December 13 – **5:00 p.m.** – outdoors lessons and carols service at the meeting house
- December 20 – Steadfast Love, Psalm 89:1-4 & Luke 1
- December 24 – **8:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve and candle lighting service

Youth Outdoor Fellowship, Dec. 19

Montezuma youth plan at outdoor Christmas party December 19 at Gordon and Wanda Drivers. Details will be forthcoming to youth families. Youth are also looking forward to ice skating in Bridgewater on Saturday morning, January 9.

December/January Special Offerings

December's special offering is the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Food donations of canned vegetables, meats, and fruit, cereal, soup and peanut butter, etc., will go directly to the Pantry and must be collected at the church by Sunday the 13th, or Tuesday morning the 15th. Cash donations support People Helping People. **January's** special offering will be used to support Montezuma's backpack program. We support several families at Ottobine School with food each weekend.

Board and Deacon Meetings

The Church Board will meet and re-organize for the 2021 year at its December meeting on Tuesday the 8th. This will be a zoom meeting. Church Deacons will also meet in December and choose new officers for the coming year. Their meeting is set for Sunday, December 13; it will follow the worship service, or at about 10:35. They will meet in the sanctuary

To our Family at Montezuma

Pam, Elias and I want to extend our deepest gratitude to our friends and companions at Montezuma. This is a difficult time to part ways, but I believe you went above and beyond, and made us feel loved over the last few months. Montezuma is such a special place with rich relationships. Anyone who walks through your doors will be blessed by your love. We are settling in here in Maryland, and are enjoying the new venture of ministry already. It turns out that the Brethren up here are pretty awesome too. We hope to visit in the near future as time and circumstances allow. You are blessed to be a blessing. – The Dodds

Deacon Bible Studies

Each winter season Montezuma deacons sponsor a ten-session Bible Study leading up to Easter. We expect that study to begin during the week of January 17. The specific study book will be made available to the church after the first of the year, but we ask that you let us know if you wish to participate. We expect to offer a morning and evening study each week. At this point, it will be a zoom study ... but stay tuned.

November 1 CBM results

Montezuma approved a 2021 budget of \$256,823 at its November 1 CBM. The congregation called Ann Monger, Neva Clayton, Ramona Evans, and Ralph Rohrer to serve on the Church Board, approved conference delegates, a new Audit Committee, and affirmed Kathleen Michael for ordination in the Church of the Brethren.

2021 Directory

The church office will prepare a new directory for 2021. Please help us make the necessary updates, changes, and corrections. Contact the church with this information by January 1.

Offering Envelops

2021 offering envelops are available at the meeting house. You may pick them up on Sundays or during the week. If you can't make it to the church and want to use envelops, please contact the church and we'll help you get the envelops.

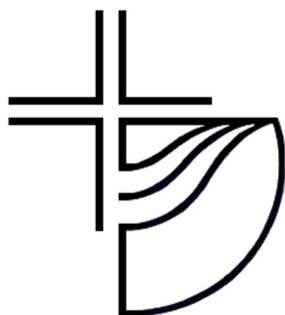
Staff schedule

- Pastor David Miller will take a week of vacation from December 25 – January 1
- The church offices will be closed December 25 – January 1.

Montezuma Church of the Brethren
 4937 Ottobine Rd. Dayton, VA 22821
 540-879-2246
www.montezumacob.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT No. 33
 HARRISONBURG
 VA 22801

David R. Miller, Pastor drmiller.cob@gmail.com
 Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. montezuma.cob@gmail.com



December Birthdays:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Debbie Albers | 14 Jeff Berry | 28 Buck Brown |
| Elvert Black | Carolyn Mohler | Sherry Shull |
| Daniel Lambert | 16 Dennis Huffman | Jeremy Daubert |
| Danny Tumer | 17 Gene Sheffer | 29 Andrea Black |
| Wayne Waggy | Oliver Wood | Dorita Webster |
| 3 Rick Knott | 18 Norman Harper | Augusta Reel |
| Joseph Miller | Louise Howdyshell | 30 Jennifer Payne |
| 4 Walker Shull | 19 Joel Fulwider | 31 Diana Havener |
| Jessica Strawderman | Carole Hoover | Kyle Symons |
| 5 Mary Lou Glick | Brooke Pennybacker | Chelsea Tumer |
| Autumn Pequignot | Charlie Rhodes | Jackson Will |
| 7 David Skelton | Bonnie Ryan | |
| 8 Jim Mason | 20 Bob Black | |
| Andi Riley | George Watts | |
| 9 Bob Michael | 21 Toviah Shipe | |
| 10 Sheila Skelton | 22 Guy Lee Clark | |
| 11 Stephanie Diehl | 23 Holly Coaker | |
| 12 Lauren Harper | 25 Don Paston | |
| Brad Miller | 26 Sharon Embres | |
| 13 Gordon Driver | Cora Kiser | |
| Dinah Puffenbarger | | |

December Anniversaries:

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|---------------------------|
| 4 Jeff & Brenda Wine |
| 14 Ian & Kari Ostlund |
| 17 Roger & Barbara Moyer |
| 18 Keith & Sharon Weaver |
| 19 Rick & Libby Kiser |
| 21 Adrian & Orva Lambert |
| 28 Matthew & Danelle Ross |
| 30 Russell & Janice Shank |

January Birthdays:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Wilamena Harback | 14 Brian Weaver | 27 Meredith Durham |
| 3 Kathleen Michael | 15 Sharon Northrop | Finn Richard |
| 5 Cheryl Martin | Russell Shank | Wilhelmina Shank |
| Tom Miller | Edna Shickel | 28 Addison Fulton |
| 6 Wendy Rhodes | 17 Robert Albers | Drake Mandeville |
| Tanner Showalter | Jonas Miller | 29 Daniel Shickel |
| 7 Parker Fulton | 19 Morgan Dakin | 30 Phil Evans |
| Paula Rhodes | 20 John Miller | Greg Losh |
| 10 Betty Miller | 22 Linda Harpine | Eli Moyer |
| Elaine Sherwin | 23 Connie Stiles | Kathryn Roche |
| 11 Adam Brunk | 24 Nellie Black | 31 Dawn Miller |
| Craig Payne | Derek Shickel | |
| 12 Braelyn Skelton | Justin Hottinger | |
| Caroline Young | 25 Zandra Miller | |
| Elias Dodd | 26 Wayne Huffman | |

January Anniversaries:

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 6 Walter & Cathy Coccano |
| 20 Wayne & Sandra Huffman |
| 22 John & Ann Monger |

Our Stewardship for November 2020

	Attendance	Regular Offering
Nov 1	85	\$5,100.00
Nov 8	28	\$5,790.00
Nov 15	46	\$1,824.00
Nov 22	46	\$4,589.00
Nov 29	59	\$3,059.00

Nov. average per Sunday: \$4,072.40 Last 12 mos. average per Sunday: \$5,483.27

Special Giving for November 2020

Backpack Program	\$200	Heritage Festival	\$705	Sadie Rose Foundation	\$45
Carpet for Library Fund	\$100	Janet Whetzel Memorial	\$50	Youth Cookbooks	\$60
CWS Blankets	\$615				