

# Montezuma Today



February 2021

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[www.facebook.com/MontezumaCOB](https://www.facebook.com/MontezumaCOB)

## Church Initiates Plans for New Sanctuary Windows

At its February meeting, the church board will receive a request from the Stewards to initiate steps to replace the two large Sanctuary windows. Initial work on this project was put on hold in March of 2020 due to uncertainty generated during the early days of the pandemic. The sanctuary windows are in poor condition and because they are fiberglass, are not the type of windows that can be repaired.

Initial steps to be approved include naming a window committee, creation of a capital campaign fund for the windows, and plans for receiving input and ideas from the congregation. At this point the Window Committee will include two members from the Stewards Commission, the three members of the Church Decorating Committee, and one or two others. As reported in the January 29 Friday email, contractors that specialize in sanctuary windows are not numerous, but we are fortunate to have a highly skilled contractor located in the Valley. More information about that contractor will be forthcoming once the church board acts. We hope to have information meetings via zoom and in person later in the Spring.

Once the Board gives its permission to move forward, information concerning design, cost ranges, and timelines can be brought before the congregation as they are developed. No design plans are in place at this time and will not be until the congregation has an opportunity to contribute ideas and ask questions.

## February Outreach Offering – Gideons International

Each month Montezuma has a different outreach or mission offering. In February 2021, this offering supports the Gideons International, an organization dedicated to making Bibles available to everyone and, together with local churches, reaching souls for Christ. Gideon Leon Rhodes will join Montezuma during worship for a brief mission emphasis on Sunday, February 28.

## Deacon Bible Studies Continue

Montezuma Deacons are sponsoring a study of 1 John during the winter months. Two of the ten scheduled classes have been held, but there is still time to jump in if you have interest. Zoom classes are held every Thursday, both at 10 a.m. and at 7 p.m.. Contact David Miller if you want to participate in those. Two Sunday School classes are meeting via zoom: Cornerstone (young families, 1 John) meets at 11 a.m. on Sunday and the Footsteppers (various ages) also meets at 11 am on Sundays; they are working their way through the Sermon on the Mount. If you have interest in either of those classes, talk to David Miller.

## Tenderloin Feast Canceled for 2021

As with so many things, Montezuma will not hold its annual Tenderloin Feast this year. We look ahead to February 2021!

## Lent begins February 17

This year's theme for Lent is Journey with Jesus. From Ash Wednesday on we walk with Jesus on a journey to the cross ... and beyond. Below are ways that Montezuma is focusing on Lent in 2021.

### Email Daily Devotions

Montezuma will commence its Lenten daily devotional email on February 17 and continuing each day – accept Sundays – through April 3, which is Holy Saturday. Each email will contain a short Bible reading and a meditation for the day from someone here at Montezuma. If you want to write one, contact Pastor David asap! The theme is Journey with Jesus. We will send the Lenten emails to everyone. If you would like to opt-out of receiving this email, simply contact the church office.

### Lenten Family Offerings

Before the pandemic Montezuma children contributed small change offerings each week to the Church of the Brethren's Global Food Initiative (GFI). This year we want to re-start supporting GFI through Montezuma's Lent meal offering. We recommend that families with children donate a nickel for every meal during the week. Twenty-one meals equal \$1.05 a week. When Easter arrives, that will be over \$6 each child. But not just children; anyone in the congregation can participate. We plan on providing Lent Meal Offering boxes to families that want them. We start Ash Wednesday, February 17.

More about the Global Food Initiative: The GFI is the primary way the Church of the Brethren assists hungry people in developing food security. Since 1983 the COB has distributed over 8 million dollars through the GFI. Last year GFI supported projects in Haiti, Burundi, Ecuador, Nigeria, the Congo, and right here in the USA. The work varies from field farmer schools to orchard irrigation, to providing seeds for planting. Overseas and in the US, community gardens providing local food are a big focus. Why don't you join us?

### Family & Youth Resources

Families with young children will receive a resource book for Lent. Each day offers a brief thought or occasionally a small project for the family. Parents of children and church youth will receive another resource, Steadfast Love, which highlights our Journey with Jesus using scripture and thoughts from Henri Nouwen.

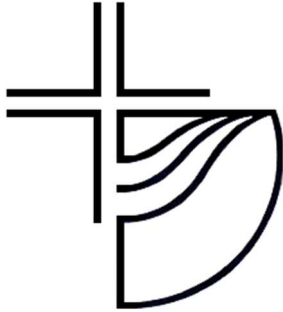
## Open Doors

Montezuma will provide meals to the Open Doors Thermal Shelter the Week of April 5-11. The Open Doors Committee has lined up meals for most nights at this point. We will need teams of four people to help serve meals during the week. Contact Carol Lena Miller, Mary Frances Heishman, or Ralph Rohrer if you have interest.

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**February Birthdays:**

1 Nathan Smith	9 Kim Wyrick	16 Justin Berry	25 John Knott
Noah Smith	10 Amy Vandevander	17 Kayla Kuster	Lisa Turner
Kathy Veal	11 Peter Barlow	18 Garold Shull	27 Gordon Miller
3 Helen Shickel	Katy Roche	Ricky Shull	Juanita Swartz
Patty Skelton	Sam Shickel	19 Rebecca Click	Elaine Fike
4 Trey Daubert	12 Aaron Brunk	Joel Hottel	28 John Monger
Jacob Ross	Damian Hinkle	Norlyn Miller	
5 Piper Brown	13 Kenny Miller	21 Mary Jane Cox	
Mac Rhodes	Annie Wilhelm	Bonnie Guyer	
6 Louise Grady	14 Trevor Barnhart	22 Quinn Rhodes	
Barbara Ross	15 Ron Black	Wanda Wampler	
Hunter Shipe	Dawn Guillooy	23 Don Click	
7 Kari Ostlund	Kenzy Hiner	24 Ray Coffman	
8 Monica Burkholder	Nelson Shenk	Janelle Weaver	
Ben Hall	Penelope Smiley		

**February Anniversaries:**

2 Robbie & Dena
18 Garold & Sherry Shull
27 Dick & Bonnie Ryan

**Our Stewardship for December 2020**

	Attendance	Regular Offering
Dec 6	48	\$9,822.00
Dec 13	56	\$9,760.00
Dec 20	55	\$5,299.27
Dec 27	43	\$9,935.00
Dec. average per Sunday		\$8,704.06
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		\$5,607.89

**Special Giving for December 2020**

CWS Blankets	\$105	Library Carpet	\$200
Food Pantry	\$250	People Helping People	\$225
Heifer Project	\$50	Youth Cookbooks	\$40
Jim Glick Memorial	\$250		

**Our Stewardship for January 2021**

	Attendance	Regular Offering
Jan 3	45	\$3,330.00
Jan 10	42	\$5,480.00
Jan 17	54	\$4,485.00
Jan 24	52	\$3,858.33
Jan 31	n/a	n/a
Jan. average per Sunday		\$3,430.67
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		\$5,519.44

**Special Giving for January 2021**

Ann Click Memorial	\$40	Open Doors	\$225
Backpack Program	\$750	People Helping People	\$20
Brethren Woods	\$400	Youth Cookbooks	\$30
Jim Glick Memorial	\$250		