

Montezuma Today

March 2021

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Maundy Thursday Service Planned for April 1

Montezuma Deacons will hold a Maundy Thursday communion service this spring rather than our traditional Love Feast. Pandemic restrictions make the foot washing ritual and the common meal ill-advised. Still, an observation of Jesus's last meal with the disciples is a necessary part of the church's worship life. The service will be held in the sanctuary at 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday, April 1. It will be available through live stream as well. The usual restrictions for worship gatherings at the meeting house will be observed: face coverings, social distancing, and no singing. These practices place limitations on our worship experience but for the time being are necessary.

The service will contain traditional elements of the Love Feast – including time for self-examination, corporate confession, and bread and cup communion that will be provided in prepackaged containers as worshipers enter the sanctuary. A brief enactment of Jesus washing the disciples' feet will be part of the service. Beyond those familiar elements, we will light candles as selections from the Sermon on the Mount are read; later in the service, these candles will be extinguished as we read portions from the Gospel describing Jesus's arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Church Youth Working with Ruritans

Church youth are partnering with Montezuma Ruritans to provide delicious BBQ chicken the first Saturday of each month, March through November. The Ruritans are looking for some help to provide their signature dish to the public and Montezuma youth are looking for a fundraising activity to help pay for the 2022 NYC trip and National Junior High Conference every other year. When you buy Montezuma chicken, you are supporting two worthy groups!

March Outreach – One Great Hour of Sharing

Outreach offerings for March is One Great Hour of Sharing. Gifts given through this special offering empower ministries like the Church of the Brethren's Brethren Volunteer Service, Discipleship Ministries, Office of Global Mission, Brethren Disaster Ministries, the Global Food Initiative, and many others.

Sanctuary Window Update

The Church Board has approved a committee that will bring specific recommendations and plans for replacing the two large windows on the east and west walls of the sanctuary. Currently, the windowpanes are made of fiberglass and have deteriorated significantly over the last 46 years. The Sanctuary Window Committee is exploring costs and plans to replace the windows with glass and current technology. As plans develop, the congregation will be consulted and no decision to proceed with replacement will be made without congregational approval at a churchwide business meeting.

Still, two things are underway: first, the church board has established a window replacement fund to pay for the windows; second, we need ideas from the congregation for window design. What images, symbols or figures will be on these windows? We have two large windows, so we want to make wise use of that space. Send your ideas or questions to Linnette at montezuma.cob@gmail.com and she will pass them along to the committee.

Lenten Food Drive for West Rockingham Food Pantry

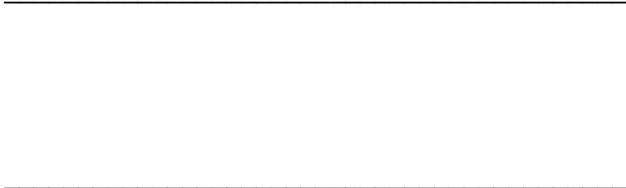
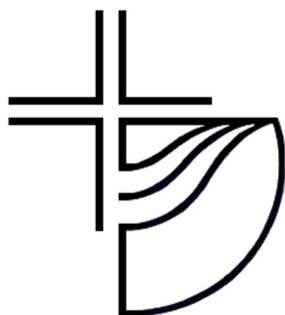
The Witness Commission is sponsoring a special food drive to support the ministry of the West Rockingham Food Pantry. While Montezuma supports the Bridgewater Area Ministries Pantry, that pantry has experienced a significant drop-off in users over the last year. Other area pantries are busy and looking for support. A significant reason for increasing food insecurity is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on jobs in specific sectors of the economy. For that reason, Montezuma will collect food during Lent to help West Rockingham.

This is a food collection offering only. Even a few items are helpful: peanut butter, jelly, cereal, soup, canned veggies & fruit and canned chicken & tuna are popular items. The pantry then supplements these items with bread, venison, beef, and other household staples that it supplies. Simply place your items in the coat nook on the right side of the entry way. Montezuma's food items will be picked up March 10 and April 14 for distribution later in those months at the West Rockingham Pantry. Thank you for your participation.

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March Birthdays:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Donna Brunk | 14 Susan Kinkead | 27 Brent Burkholder |
| Marian Layman | 16 Josh Kinkead | Shirley Dameron |
| Orva Showalter | Carol Lena Miller | Chloe Eye |
| Amanda Trent | 17 Adrian Lambert | Fred Shank |
| 2 Andrew Skelton | 18 Carol Martin | 28 Alanah Brashears |
| 3 Claire Williams | 20 Avery Andrews | Paula Brown |
| 4 Alexander Shank | Eleanor Payne | Scott Yelverton |
| 5 Julia Rohrer | Tanner Shifflett | 29 Anne Marie Depoy |
| Jared Smith | Jeff Wine | |
| 6 Noah Sites | 21 Pansy Auville | |
| 8 Sue Miller | 22 Charles Airey | |
| Owen Strawderman | John Coaker | |
| 11 Paige Eavers | Judy Hill | |
| 12 Lori Good | 23 Vincent Cash | |
| 13 Shevonne Fulton | 24 Sadie Wilhelm | |
| Lindsey Richard | 26 David Mason | |
| | Vince Rhodes | |

March Anniversaries:

- 2 Gordon & Wanda Driver
- 9 Bobby & Elaine Shank
- 28 David & Wilamena Harback

Our Stewardship for February 2021

	Attendance	Regular Offering
Feb 7	n/a	\$10,985.00
Feb 14	n/a	\$1,735.00
Feb 21	55	\$6,963.35
Feb 28	52	\$10,510.20
Feb. average per Sunday		\$7,548.39
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		\$5,629.54

Special Giving for February 2021

Ann Click Memorial (children's choir)	\$50	Jim Glick Memorial (stained glass windows)	\$100
Backpack Program	\$45	Open Doors	\$300
Gideons	\$1,245	Youth Cookbooks	\$20
Handbell Music Fund	\$1,000		