

## Contact Us

*Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 246, East Petersburg PA 17520  
*Physical Location:* 1186 Stevens Street, Manheim PA 17545  
*Website:* [www.hempfieldcob.org](http://www.hempfieldcob.org)

*Our staff members are here to help when you need them. Please feel free to contact them if you have a need.*

**Doug Hinton – Senior Pastor**

Cell: 717-951-5290; E-mail: [doug@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:doug@hempfieldcob.org)  
*Scheduled Day Off: Wednesday*

**Josh Fulmer – Youth Minister**

Cell: 717-723-7732; E-mail: [josh@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:josh@hempfieldcob.org)  
*Scheduled Day Off: Friday*

**Geoff Davis – Associate Pastor**

Home: 717-569-6284; E-mail: [gdavis6320@comcast.net](mailto:gdavis6320@comcast.net)

**Laura Meiser – Music Director & Children's Ministry Co-Coordinator**

Cell: 717-689-0465; E-mail: [laura@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:laura@hempfieldcob.org)

**Emmy Schott – Children's Ministry Co-Coordinator**

Cell: 717-333-8216; E-mail: [emmy@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:emmy@hempfieldcob.org)

**Jaynelle Troxell – Administrator**

Phone: 717-898-0181; E-mail: [office@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:office@hempfieldcob.org)  
*Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.*

*Please submit bulletin information to Jaynelle by Wednesday noon.*

## HCOB Family Facts

**Attendance for December 15, 2019**

Traditional Service:

Blended Service: 174

**General Offering for December 15, 2019 = \$9,802.22**

*Amount needed weekly to meet budget = \$10,900*

**Building Fund for December 15, 2019 = \$2,050.00**

# December 22 10:15

Is  
anything  
too hard  
for the  
**LORD?**

Genesis 18:14

# Hempfield Church of the Brethren Welcomes You!

## *To help you enjoy your visit this morning...*

- ✝ We offer two Sunday AM worship services: a traditional service at 8:00 and a “blended” service at 10:15 with a mix of contemporary and traditional elements.
- ✝ Nursery (ages 0-2) and “Kids Church” (3 years-5<sup>th</sup> grade) are available during the 10:15 worship service.
- ✝ Large print hymnals and bulletins are available in the narthex.
- ✝ Hearing assistive earpieces are available at the sound booth.
- ✝ We have a special gift for you after the service.

Visit us at [www.hempfieldcob.org](http://www.hempfieldcob.org)

## Today's Prayer Requests

- ✝ **Staff:** Josh & Gloria Fulmer
- ✝ **Teams:** Leadership
- ✝ **Ministries and Specials:** Children 3 yrs – 5<sup>th</sup> grade & Discipleship ministry
- ✝ **God Is Calling Me to Be:** merciful (Matthew 5:7)
- ✝ **Individuals with Specific Needs:** Betty Aulhouse, Gloria Brumbaugh, Richard Gingrich, Bob & Sylvia Heffley, the family of Landis Kreider, Clarence Moyer, Jim Musser, Kevin Zurin

## HCOB Family News

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** 18 oz jelly, oatmeal (regular & instant), and pancake mix. HCOB donated 336 pounds of food to the pantry in November!

**CHURCH SAFETY:** For the safety of the church and our children, the doors to the Sunday School wing and John Naas Hall will be locked each Sunday at 10:10 am. If you arrive after 10:10 you will need to enter through the main doors in the Narthex. Please continue to sign your children in at the Children's Ministry table before going into the service.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS, LADIES!** HCOB is hosting a free livestream showing of IF:Gathering, the popular women's conference, and we are hoping you will join us! On February 7-8 we will come together for fellowship, good food but most importantly to connect with one another as we sit under anointed teaching all focused on Jesus. Who He is. What He has done. And what that means to us. More information to follow but you can get a head start by registering at <https://local.ifgathering.com/hempfieldcob/>. If you have any questions, touch base with Laura Meiser ([laura@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:laura@hempfieldcob.org) or 717.689.0465) or Jen Houck. This event is open to women of all ages and there will be something for everyone to take away. Hope to see you there!

**THANK YOU** to all who contributed to the turkey drive the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We collected 40 turkeys and \$1,400 to donate to Water Street Ministries!

**THANK YOU** to the deacons and church family for the visits, cards, and wonderful fruit baskets. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!  
-Betty Aulhouse, Mille Brubaker, Wilda Drake, Vic & Claire Lincoln, Jean May, Jean Musser, Deanna Myers, Faye Rohrer, Hiram Royer, Allegra Stauffer

**THANK YOU** – We express our thanks and appreciation for the get well wishes for Jean and the many beautiful Christmas cards.  
Blessing, Dick & Jean Caldwell

## HCOB Family News

**Service Cancellation Policy:** In the event of inclement weather, you can receive information about service cancellations in a variety of ways:

1. Via text if you have signed up with the church office for this service
2. On our church website at [www.hempfieldcob.org](http://www.hempfieldcob.org)
3. On the radio stations WJTL FM 90.3 and WDAC FM 94.5.

**Please note: the church office follows Hempfield School District.** If the school district is closed due to weather, the church office is officially closed and staff may use their own judgment about coming into the church.

**STEWARD OF THE MONTH SIGNUP SHEET** for 2020 is on the bulletin board in the outer office. If you would be willing to take a turn opening and closing the church on Sunday for one month, please sign up for this important ministry.

**THE WORSHIP TEAM** invites the congregation to take a close-up look at the items displayed in the baptistry area which represent “Generations of Faith”; specifically, the genealogies of Jesus listed in Matthew and Luke. Two women are highlighted: Ruth was a foreigner in Israel, and harvested both barley and wheat in Boaz’s fields, and Rahab was a prostitute who helped Israelite spies escape from Jericho using a rope to lower them from the city wall, and tied a scarlet cord to her window, which identified and protected her household when the Israelite army later stormed the city. David, the shepherd boy who became a king, is alluded to with a shepherd’s crook as well as an instrument to hold sheep still as they are being sheared, in addition to the royal fabrics and kingly crown. The carpenter Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father, probably used tools very similar to the many different ones displayed.

**MANY THANKS** to Rich and Jamie Bushong, Terry and Micki Carper, Dave and Emmy Schott, and others who contributed these unusual items to make this unique display.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FLOWERS** for the altar table in the coming year please sign up for a Sunday on the chart in the outer office.

## This Week At HCOB

December 22 - 29

<b>TODAY</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Church Office Closed 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Church Office Closed Christmas Day
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:00 P.M. Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 P.M. Prayer Experience
<b>FRIDAY</b>	12:00 P.M. Piano Tuning
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00 A.M. Traditional Service 8:50 A.M. Praise Band Practice 9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:15 A.M. Blended Service

## Upcoming Events

January 1 – Church Office Closed  
January 3 – WORDD Worship Expressions of Love & Praise  
January 15 – Herald Deadline  
January 23 – Prayer Experience

## Youth News

★ December 22 – Youth Christmas Party





This year we are supporting the **Church of the Brethren's Haiti Medical Project**, specifically, a clean water initiative.

The Haiti Medical Project grew out of the COB's disaster response to the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Today it meets the needs in communities surrounding 28 Haitian Brethren congregations. The program's main focus is to provide health care through mobile clinics. Beginning with 12 clinics in 2012 the mobile clinic program has grown to serving as many as 48 clinics a year, reaching nearly 40,000 people.

Water-borne diseases are very prevalent. Since **clean water is so vital to health**, sixteen new water projects will be in place by the end of 2019 and eight more projects are planned for 2020.

**Hempfield will help support one of the eight projects in 2020.**



The people in a town called Catiene need our help. It is an impoverished community in a remote mountain area, but with a flourishing Church of the Brethren worship community.

They desperately need pure water.

You can help by making an offering during December. Please make your checks payable to Hempfield Church of the Brethren with the memo line of "**Christmas Love Offering**". Simply place your check in the offering plate during any Sunday in December. There will be a few specially marked envelopes on the narthex table as well. **Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus this Christmas in support of clean water for our sisters and brothers in Haiti!**



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## Nobodies Were the First to Know

Daniel Darling, Christianity Today, December 6, 2019

The work of shepherds was (and still is) extraordinarily difficult. They had to wrangle obstinate sheep. They had to ensure their flocks were well fed. And they had to fend off predators: wolves or even larger animals, like bears or lions. Sometimes unsavory characters would come in and try to steal the sheep. This is why shepherds were awake on this night. Most likely they were sleeping in shifts, ensuring the livestock was not compromised.

And yet there is something significant and powerful about the inclusion of the shepherds in the Jesus story. Luke is reminding us, by mentioning the shepherds, that the kingdom of God isn't just for the insiders, but for outsiders, like shepherds, like the poor classes where Mary and Joseph came from. It reminds us that the kingdom of God is often made up not of the noble and wise, but of the underclass, those people that have no business being near royalty. Immanuel, God with us, means God is truly among all classes of people, not simply the connected or well-resourced.

The presence of the shepherds in the Christmas story also tells us a little bit about just what kind of Messiah Jesus would be. He would come to us as a Savior, as a King, as a Lion, but also as our shepherd. Though this vocation was not viewed with respect by peers, Scripture always portrays shepherding as a high calling, perhaps the most repeated image of leadership in the Bible...

One minute they were watching the flocks, maybe catching a few minutes of sleep after a night shift, and the next minute they were witnesses to salvation history. The display in the heavens must have been spectacular, as the sky around them filled with the host of Heaven praising God and worshiping him. Not even the greatest performance on earth with the most talented musicians could parallel the incredible celebration that unfolded on the big screen of the sky before these shepherds. The plan of God, conceived from time immemorial—the plan of redemption, promised in the Garden—was unfolding before their eyes...

I like how Kent Hughes puts it in his commentary on Luke: “The truth is, even if Christ were born in Bethlehem a thousand times but not within you, you would be eternally lost. The Christ who was born into the world must be born in your heart. Religious sentiment, even at Christmastime, without the living Christ is a yellow brick road to darkness.”

The shepherds left their fields and became the most unlikely of messengers. John Calvin says of them, “Though God had, at his command, many honorable and distinguished witnesses, he passed by them, and chose shepherds, persons of humble rank, and of no account among men.” They became the world's first missionaries, the first in a long line of ordinary, unheralded messengers of the gospel. God is on the move, building his church around the world, mostly through people you will never hear of: folks without significant Twitter followings, with no official titles, and of whom the world is mostly unworthy.

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