

The First Day

Genesis 1:1-5

Pastor Pete Kontra

Did you ever look at a job you have to do, like perhaps a huge mess in your garage, and not even know where to begin?

Can I just say for the record that I never want to move again? At least never out of state again. My family and I could not be more grateful to God for calling us out and leading us here to you, Hempfield. What an awesome opportunity He has blessed us all with as we begin a new life together full of hope and promise of what He is going to do through us. It is wonderful to be here.

But let me tell you, there were more than a few times for my family and I that we felt like everything was complete chaos as we prepared for the move here. Details in selling our house, preparing our house so it was ready to sell, preparing Oakland Church for our departure, preparing ourselves to leave friends and family, transferring utilities, car information, finding a place to live in PA, setting up the movers, cleaning, showing the house to potential buyers, cleaning, movers packing everything up for a weekend, cleaning, packing up our cars, driving here (with a small dog who does not do well in the car), movers unloading all our stuff, and finally standing in the midst of a house that is new to us full of boxes not knowing quite where to begin or where to even go for milk.

I probably have made my point. The physical and emotional drain is immense.

But underneath, above, behind, and before there is God in it all. Because in it all we knew the joy of what God was doing—creating new life for us, a new day for all of us. It just took trusting Him that He would put all the pieces back together. And that He did, and did beautifully.

Genesis 1:2 says it: *“The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.”* Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? There are some days when everything seems to be out of control that all you can do is long for some kind of order.

New life, a new beginning, often begins with chaos. Before there was life, before God’s creative power took over, there was just a formless void, waste, emptiness, darkness.

How much does the world right now feel as if it is in chaos? Wars and rumors of wars, shootings, increasing denial of God, hunger, disease.

Certainly what happens in the world affects us personally. There are times when we get overwhelmed with what is going on in our lives. The darkness which is still a part of the world seems to get a little too intimate with us. But listen. Do you hear it? Do you feel it? *“A wind from God swept over the face of the waters.”* The Spirit of God moved. *“And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”*

Amidst the chaos God does speak.

He is here with us, waiting for us to be still and listen. God speaks to us over and over again the words we need to hear: “I love you.” How? He is right now. A word, an idea, overwhelming peace, the touch of someone who loves you, the light that begins to pierce the darkness. In God’s Word there is power.

He gave us His Son. God came to us, to stand with us, die for us, so that in death He could once again bring new life. That’s the new life we all have in Jesus Christ, no matter how far gone we may feel. And He gave us not only Jesus Christ but also His Body, the church. God’s voice and touch say, “I love you.”

Light in the darkness that nothing can overcome.

The formlessness and chaos is transformed into a new day. *“And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.”*

God’s creative power is still at work in the world. When I see you, Hempfield, love each other as you do, when you do the hard, dirty work of service to someone you barely know, faithfully and constantly pray, celebrate our older generation and lift up the younger, bless those whom we love that are ill, worship our Lord with open joy and praise—yes, I am then reminded again that God is alive and well and in control.

God’s creative power is still at work in the world, perhaps in unexpected ways, but He is still at work. I am living proof. You are living proof—a new beginning for you in your life, and a new beginning for us at Hempfield.

God bless you! -Pastor Pete

Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

Seventy-Five Cents' Worth

Danny Thomas was earning five dollars a week in 1943 as a singer and comedian. Unable to care for his pregnant wife, he prayed to God, "Show me my way in life and I will build you a shrine." Shortly afterward, his act caught on and he had a regular gig for five years. His nightclub act got him roles in film and television, but he never forgot his promise to God.

A devout Catholic, he spoke to a cardinal and asked what sort of shrine would be appropriate. The cardinal said, "This world has plenty of statues but not enough hospitals for children who are sick."

And so St. Jude's Children's Hospital was born.

In 1959 Thomas was touring the country raising funds and a little boy at the Peoria State Hospital began shouting, "Danny Thomas! If you are here, if you're really here, I've got to see you!" The boy was blind from birth, wheelchair-bound and trembling with palsy. Thomas came over to him and the boy pressed an envelope into his hand.

"Take this," the boy said. There's seventy-five cents in here. I saved my candy money. I want you to use this to build that hospital for the kids." Weeping, Thomas thanked him and took the money.

Thomas never spent Billy Johnson's seventy-five cents. He showed people the money and it encouraged them to contribute millions of dollars and the hospital opened its doors in 1962. At that time, only 4 percent of children with acute lymphocytic leukemia survived. By 1991, the survival rate was 73 percent. Pat Williams writes, "Today, a statue of St. Jude stands in front of the hospital and Billy Johnson's seventy-five-cent donation is sealed inside the cornerstone beneath the statue—a fitting shrine to an entertainer and a little boy who were both committed to helping others."

We often hesitate to reach out to others because we think, "What can one person do in the face of such a big problem?" But there are plenty of things you *can* do today to make a real difference. Listen to someone who needs a sympathetic ear. Mow a neighbor's yard. Pack your lunch instead of buying it and give the money you saved to charity. Pray for an enemy.

Little Billy Johnson could never have imagined that God would use his seventy-five cents to raise millions of dollars and save thousands of children's lives. He just gave because he *needed* to. We are far too myopic to see what greatness might come from a simple act of service today. In Ecclesiastes 8:7 we read: *Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come?*

You just never know how God will use what you do today. But He can't use you if you don't try.

You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you. – John Wooden

Messages in September

September 2



Made In Whose Image?—Matthew 17:1-9 ***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

Too often we have remade Jesus Christ in our own image. We must be reminded of who Jesus really is—God on earth, love incarnate, humble radical. And not just talk about it, but honestly and openly take that journey to the mountain with Him and have our minds blown and hearts ripped open all over again.

September 9



The King of Dumpster Diving—Ephesians 4:1-6 ***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

The world will quickly tell you what it thinks you are worth—not much. Jesus has shown us what we are worth to God—His very life.

September 16



Scott Hollinger's Testimony

This morning we will receive a visit from Scott Hollinger who will share with us about his journey with Jesus as he lives with ALS.

September 23



Where Do You Stand?—Colossians 1:19-20 ***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

What it means to be the presence of Christ to one another—To stand with someone without judgment. And why that's important—So that the door to the healing transformation of Christ is opened.

September 30



Who Are You Kidding?—Galatians 2:20 ***Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching***

We often believe that if we live a good life (according to our definition), engage in acts of kindness (random and intentional), live by the rules (the ones we agree with), and attend church services (perfect attendance matters) that we'll be able to actually satisfy the requirements of our faith and still be able to pursue the physical, intellectual, financial, and professional aspirations that occupy so much of our time. But Paul tells the Galatians and the Jewish Christians who opposed him that there's only one requirement to be a Christ follower – die to yourself and let Christ live in you. Who do you choose to live for? Who do you choose to live in you? Who do you choose to live through you? What helps do we all need?

September Ministry Schedules

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30



September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30



September 2
September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

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September 9
September 16
September 23
September 30

NURSERY—SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
Karma & Keith Witmer
Karma & Keith Witmer
Karma & Keith Witmer
TBA

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Rich & Jamie Bushong
Matt Markey
No 8:00 service
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Rich & Jamie Bushong

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Pete Cope
Tom Fritz
No 8:00 service
Janice Haldeman
Randy Ziegler

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Jen & Doug Hinton
Shelley Kontra
Sanctuary Choir
Otis Kitchen
Sanctuary Choir

DEACON GREETERS

Ruth Johnson
Tom Connelly
Millie Hoffman
Lois Killian
Mim Queer

OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum, alternate, Rick Schaidle

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle & Betty Lull
Carol Koser & Ivy & Brooke Davis
Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller
Betty Cox & Lydia/Sarah Fisher
TBA



SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Jaynelle Troxell
Rich Bushong & Jaynelle Troxell
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong
Rich & Jamie Bushong



WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
TBA
Kent Rice
TBA
TBA

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
Derek Witmer
Dave Bendit
Alex Troxell
Dave Bendit

SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Sylvia Heffley

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **September 2**—All classes are combined this week to hear a presentation about Brethren World Mission

† **THE CHRISTIAN PATHFINDERS** class meets in the room across from the nursery, just outside the side door to the sanctuary. We study the International lesson. We have three or four regular teachers who each teach about one Sunday a month. We have several socials a year with the majority of our class participating. Our offerings are used for special needs within our congregation or community. The contact person is Ruth Johnson.

September 9	Faith Calls for Assurance	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
September 16	Faith Empowers Endurance	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
September 23	Faith Inspires Gratitude	Teacher: Pastor Pete Kontra
September 30	Faith Instills Love	Teacher: Tom Fritz

† **THE HOME BUILDERS** class meets in the library. We study the International Lesson each quarter. Millie Hoffman is the contact person.

September 9	Faith Calls for Assurance	Teacher: Dennis Bushong
September 16	Faith Empowers Endurance	Teacher: Pete Cope
September 23	Faith Inspires Gratitude	Teacher: Tom Connelly
September 30	Faith Instills Love	Teacher: Sue Brubaker

† **THE SEEKERS** class is currently meeting upstairs. Starting September 16, join us for a 6 week study of the book: *Can I Really Trust The Bible-Evidence for the Authenticity of God's Word*. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

September 9	Welcome Back to Sunday School
September 16	Introduction: A Different Kind of Book
September 23	Claims For the Bible
September 30	The Bible's Protected Text

† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class meets weekly in Chapel Hall and engages people in posing and answering some of the most important questions of our faith. In September, we'll begin looking at a study, "Frustration and False Gods: Living in a Fallen World." It addresses questions like "Are Christians supposed to be happy all the time? Why is life so unsatisfying? What do I use to fill my heart? My time? My mind? What does the Gospel have to say when I'm disappointed with life? How are we to live in a world filled with God's goodness yet plagued by sin and disappointment?"

HCOB Family News



RALLY DAY AND CHURCH PICNIC!!!! SUNDAY SEPT. 9TH

NO SIGNUP IS NEEDED for the picnic! Just mark your calendar, and bring a pew-full of friends to experience the joy and grace of our Lord as we live it out as family here in this place! Dress casually since following 10:15 worship we will have our church picnic with barbecued chicken and all the trimmings! A peanut scramble will also be held for the children. We will provide chicken, chips, drinks, plates, utensils and cups. **We are asking church families whose last names start with A-O to bring salad, fresh fruit or relish to serve 10 to 12 people. We are asking families with last names from P-Z to bring dessert to serve 10 to 12 people. (No serving utensils are needed; we will provide them.)** We will serve the food

from the Fellowship Hall and provide seating inside and outside, weather permitting. If you plan to sit outside, you may bring chairs and blankets in case all the seating outside is taken.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION and lunch will be held September 30, after church. Everyone's invited! Please sign-up in the narthex. We will have a short program recognizing new members that have joined the church in 2012 and our farmers that have participated in Growing Projects with Foods Resource Bank. A lasagna luncheon with salad and dessert will be provided. The program will include games and fun activities for the whole family.



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY will meet this fall to study a book: *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer (daughter of Tony Evans). The study will meet at Ruth Johnson's home on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 9:15-11:00 AM beginning on September 6. The study will last for 7 sessions. If you are interested in participating please contact Ruth Johnson (569-2430) or Jamie Bushong (664-4395) by September 3 so that they can order you a workbook. The cost for the workbooks is \$10.95.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX PROJECT--Once again this year, the Social Service Committee is teaming up with My Brother's Keeper to send Christmas shoe boxes across the Atlantic Ocean to Romania. Last year the congregation provided 64 shoe boxes. They were very appreciative for the strong support of our congregation. The shoe boxes are given to children in need in the village of Stroiesti, Cighid Orphanage and Children's Hospital in Oradea. The shoe boxes can be filled with items such as small toys, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene items. The boxes are collected early in October due to the process of shipping them by boat.



WHEELCHAIR WALK AT BRETHERN VILLAGE—September 20. Please meet at receptionist area in the Courtyards nursing center at 10:00. Residents look forward to these walks that take them outside weather permitting. Please call Gerrie Hurst or Lois Killian if you can help. Thank you.

CAMP SWATARA FALL FUN NIGHT-Saturday, October 6, 4-8 PM--Bring your family to spend the evening at Camp Swatara fellowshiping with friends, playing games in the ball field and munching on a cookout supper. The evening will conclude with a fun campfire sing-along. A donation to camp is requested to cover the cost of the meal. Please RSVP to the camp office (933-8510) by September 30th.



HCOB Family Olympics



HCOB Families!! Did you enjoy watching the Olympics this summer? Wish you could stand on the medal platform? Well I can't make that dream come true, but grab your family and join us for HCOB Family Olympics! You will go for the gold as you compete in various events as a family. The goal is to have fun. You do NOT need to be an athlete to participate. The games will begin on September 15th at 4:00 and will end with pizza at 5:30 pm. Bring a side dish or a drink to share with the group. Sign your family up in the narthex. Questions? Contact Jen Statler at jen@hempfieldcob.org or 898-9762.

Saturday, September 15th 4:00 pm-6:30 pm

Connections



Beginning September 12th
Wednesday evenings
5:30pm – 7:00pm

Connections

Come as you are and be
part of the family of Christ.

What happened last year?

Sisters made quilt squares for their great-grandmother, women discovered that God uses "bad girls," men served together in the name of Christ, father's and daughters created beautiful things together, many generations learned that God delights in us and rejoices over us with singing, people discovered a safe place to invite their friends, families came together and connections were formed, and so much more...

What will happen THIS year...

Weekly Schedule

5:30-6:00 Dinner Together
\$2 adults \$1 children

6:00-7:00

Connection Groups (recommended age: Grade 1-adult)
Little Connectors (recommended age: 3 years-K)
Child Care (recommended age: infant-3 years)

Signups
begin Sunday,
September 2nd ...

Praying Attention



Keeping Your Spiritual Zeal

Romans 12: 11-13

Verse 11: Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your Spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Verse 12: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Verse 13: Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

WOW, does that first word in verse 11 actually say and mean "NEVER?" I must confess I have lacked zeal in serving the Lord more times than I care to admit.

So, how can we, moment by moment, day by day, keep our spiritual fervor in serving the Lord, be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, sharing with God's people who are in need and practice hospitality?

Well, I truly believe the secret lies in the last 3 words of verse 12 – being "faithful in prayer" and additionally, being faithful in reading and studying God's word. Because it is when we are in prayer and in His Word, the door opens for the Lord to infuse us with His Holy Spirit and the fruit of that Spirit is found in Galatians 5:22 which is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

It is when we are in the presence of the Holy Spirit that revelation comes to us. Revelation first and foremost of who He is, which alone is cause for joy and hope! Many things can be revealed to us during this time of seeking Him in prayer, such as individuals who need our prayers, encouragement, or assistance in a tangible way. It is when we are in His presence that we become more like Him and discover His purpose for our lives. If we ourselves are afflicted in any way, the Holy Spirit brings us compassion and peace.

There is one catch though....we MUST make the time to be in prayer and in His word and yes it IS sacrificial, but the benefits and joy of being in the presence of the God of the Universe far outweigh any small sacrifice we make.

May God richly bless you as you seek Him to sustain your spiritual zeal!

Youth News

Cell Groups!

Cell Groups are a great way to share Christ with a friend who doesn't know Him! There is always lots of fun but some good discussion, too. Think of someone you know who could benefit from being a part of group that cares for him or her. Many youth have become part of our church family because one person invited them to come to Cell Group. Pray about it and then put your faith into action!

Senior High Cell Group (grades 10-12)

Meets Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 at the home of Andy and Sheri Barnes, 2951 Marietta Ave., Lancaster.

Facilitator: Jen Statler

Younger Youth Cell Group (grades 6-9)

Meets Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30 at Millie Hoffman's house, 1398 Nissley Rd., Landisville.

Facilitators: Keith and Karma Witmer

Our Church Teams

Each month we will highlight the work of a different team. This month we are featuring the Fellowship & Hospitality Team.

The purpose of the Fellowship and Hospitality Team is to develop and nurture a “New Testament” kind of love and unity for all people – members (fellowship) and visitors (hospitality).

The Fellowship and Hospitality Team is made up of five or more members:

Bev Moyer (chair), Blaine Garber, Janice Haldeman, Sue Musser, Linda Rannels, and Mary Lou Ruth.

Specific Responsibilities:

- 1. During the past couple years the Hospitality Team has been very busy coordinating meals for many events.***
 - ***Fundraising for the Heifer Project, Alpha and Omega and the Benevolence Fund***
 - ***Good Friday Breakfast and Easter Sunrise Breakfast***
 - ***Christmas Family Workshop***
 - ***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast***
 - ***Farewell meal for John Layman***
 - ***Welcome meal for the Kontra Family***
- 2. We coordinate and make the gift bags to promote hospitality toward visitors and help provide Sunday morning social time with coffee and treats.***
- 3. We are responsible to keep the non-perishable supplies available for meals provided by the church.***
- 4. We make sure the kitchen equipment is working properly.***
- 5. We have a monthly meeting to review previous meals and plan future activities. We also provide minutes and a budget for the leadership team.***
- 6. The team cleans out the refrigerators and freezers of any outdated perishable supplies.***

As members of the hospitality team, we are thankful for the many volunteers who help setup, assist in meal preparation, decoration and tear down during each engagement. On this team we have found many hands make light work. Our team strives to create a welcoming atmosphere at Hempfield COB.

HCOB Calendar

Keep up with what's happening at Hempfield COB by checking out our online calendar.

Please go to

<http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html>

for a full calendar of events.

**Toon of
The Month**



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The Month**

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 246
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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

