

## What to Do with Easter?

Pastor Pete Kontra

I hope you have a blessed Easter, in that you truly encounter the love and grace of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus, in a new and deeper way. Of course, please plan to worship with us at Love Feast, to share in the Good Friday breakfast here at the church, and worship Easter Sunday.

Jesus is alive—exciting and powerful! But now what do we do?

Well, you and I have two options:

1. Go back to life as usual. “Okay! Show’s over. Let’s head home folks.” You can walk back into life, nothing new and nothing changed week after week. OR...
2. Show others with your life what the resurrection is all about.

We know what happened the day Jesus was resurrected. The disciples have been told by the women that Jesus is alive, but they do not believe it yet. They have yet to see Jesus.

So they gather together in a house and lock the doors. They’re probably all talking, trying to come up with some sort of plan for what to do next. Do we split up and go back to our normal lives? Do we try and stay together—what for?

Things had changed. And when plans change like this we don’t always see God in it right away. The disciples hunkered down and locked the doors because they were afraid. Jesus wasn’t there, or so it seemed.

But then He shows up. And not just to comfort them, but to change them, set them on their new mission that would change the rest of their lives. And He is still doing that.

Over and over again Jesus appears behind locked doors. Not even the sealed up tomb could contain Jesus. God has never left things as they are—praise God for that! God’s creative power is always at work—that is Easter and that is the power that gives us life.

Jesus gave His disciples their final instructions—to go into their neighborhoods and all the world as Jesus’ witnesses.

That meant some change. Jesus came and changed the way everyone understood who can receive God’s love—anyone.

Jesus changed the way we see death—as just a new beginning into eternal life. Jesus changed the way we live our lives—to serve others and not ourselves.

And now the resurrection means that God has empowered us by that same power that brought Jesus out of the tomb and into that locked room where the disciples stood frightened.

It’s time. God has brought the extraordinary into our ordinary lives. And that is what we as Hempfield Church of the Brethren are called to go and do for everyone. “*Powerfully Sharing Christ with the World!*”

Are we willing to allow God to unlock the doors that would keep us from being open to others, those doors that may seem impossible to open?

We are sent, to forgive, to bring peace, to restore the lives of others into the wholeness of Jesus Christ. We, the church, the Body of Christ, are to become an embodiment of the hope and new life that Easter offers.

Now that’s an Easter celebration! God bless you. -Pete

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# Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

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## Retreating Forward

I am often a victim of my own expectations. Instead of a mindset that says, “I’m not sure what’s going to happen and I will be content with the result,” I go into just about everything expecting too much. Even in ministry, as people express their desires for things like being happier and more discerning, I usually blurt out something like, “Revival!” Pastor John used to say that I’m always looking for “an explosion of Heaven.”

There isn’t always an explosion. And while I’m learning to be content with less of an “earth-shattering kaboom,” I suppose at some level I will always expect miraculous things to happen and get disappointed when they don’t.

Our annual youth winter retreat did not disappoint. And there *was* an explosion of Heaven!

Twenty-three youth from grades 7-12 and seven advisors went to Montrose Bible Conference and spent three days and three nights together and it’s not an understatement to say that lives were changed. Yes, not everyone connected all the time and some people who we prayed for did not even make the trip, but all in all it was just...beautiful. To say otherwise would be to say, “it was a gorgeous sunset but you know, there wasn’t enough orange.”

The youth went with open minds and open hearts and God showed up. Young and not-so-young alike worshiped like the world was going to end tomorrow. Each session, workshop and game was entered into with whole-hearted enthusiasm and respect. People cared for each other, trusted each other with their pain and shared their joy. This year we were especially impacted with the sincere, prayerful and joyful worship leading of a group of young adults. To call them a “band” seems woefully inadequate—they were ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prayed fervently for God to do amazing and impactful things.

The advisors (Ed Haldeman, Doug Hinton, Brendon Duffy, Erin Duffy, MaryBeth Fisher and Kristin Stauffer) continually sought nothing but the best for the youth and took their responsibilities seriously. What a blessing to see relationships develop and grow!

Thank you to our church family for understanding how important this time of life is for young people. Thank you for praying for Winter Retreat and for supporting us in so many ways. In the storm that is adolescence, it’s good to know that a safe harbor can be found in the Body of Christ.

Sometimes Heaven *does* explode! And when you happen to be in the vicinity...wow. Praise God!  
(For a few highlights about our weekend, check out the Youth page!)

# Messages in March

March 3



**The Beginning and the End—*Luke 18:31-34***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

Jesus said we are going to Jerusalem. From the beginning to the end of time, it's all about God's purpose in Jesus Christ. And now we join Him in living out the fulfillment of it all.

March 10

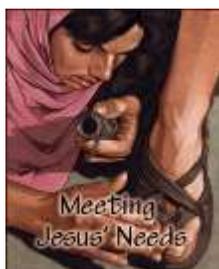


**Prepare—*Mark 10:35-45***

***Pastor Kent Rice Preaching***

The other ten disciples get irritated at the Sons of Thunder for "calling dibs" on the right and left side of Jesus. They didn't understand the price that came with those two seats. How willing are *we* to drink from the cup of suffering? Can we powerfully share the Gospel without tasting it?

March 17



**Meeting Jesus' Needs—*John 12:1-11***

***Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching***

Both the ancient Hebrew form of 'Messiah' and the ancient Greek form of 'Christ' literally mean 'anointed. Jesus is 'the anointed one'. From Jacob anointing a stone pillar, to Moses anointing the articles used in Temple worship, to the kings of Israel being anointed, to David's being anointed three times, this act was used to make an object or person more holy and set apart for the Lord. Visiting and having a meal with friends on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus is anointed by Mary of Bethany with spikenard oil, worth an average laborer's annual wage. What can we learn from this account that helps us more powerfully share Christ with the world?

March 24

Ride On!



**Ride On—*John 12:12-19***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

Jesus is on the move. He is in His glory, but do we understand? He will ride, encroach, with a whip cleanse our corrupted Temple, enrage people in power, both political and religious, unmask our deceit, evoke the violence upon which our culture is created, take the full force upon His back. All for us, and for our salvation. Humbly He was born, humiliated He will die. Ride on.

March 31



**Emptiness Is Full of Promise—*Matthew 28:1-10***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

The world makes a lot of empty promises, which we can try and use to fill the emptiness within ourselves. With God, as He showed through Jesus, the impossible is possible. Death is life. An empty tomb means there is promise, hope. Emptiness is full of promise.

# March Ministry Schedules

March 3  
March 10  
March 17  
March 24  
March 31

## NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy  
Carolyn Gingrich  
Steph Moyer  
Sue Musser  
Jody Kettering

## NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Laura Myer, Morgan Rice  
Carol Koser, Emmy & Dave Schott, Abby Wright  
Sherry, Katie & Lauren Miller, Kensey Rice  
Betty Cox, Lydia & Sarah Fisher, Hilary Hoffman  
Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis, Kelly Moore



Worship Technicians



March 3  
March 10  
March 17  
March 24  
March 31

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell  
Matt Markey  
Rich & Jamie Bushong  
Dave Schott  
Matt Markey

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

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

March 3  
March 10  
March 17  
March 24  
March 31

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Kent Rice  
Tom Fritz  
Janice Haldeman  
Pete Cope  
Randy Ziegler

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Doug Hinton  
Jim Eshleman  
Dana Statler  
Del Kautz  
Tom Cope

SPECIAL MUSIC



March 3  
March 10  
March 17  
March 24  
March 31

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir  
TBA  
Sanctuary Choir  
TBA  
Sanctuary Choir

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard  
Alex Troxell  
Derek Witmer  
Dave Bendit  
Dave Bendit

March 3  
March 10  
March 17  
March 24  
March 31

## DEACON GREETERS

Carl Haas  
Tom Connelly  
Faye Rohrer  
Gladys Metzler  
Paula Connelly

## JNH GREETERS

Gerry Shuman  
Curtis & Jean May  
Jim & Sue Musser  
Roger & Gladys Ulmer  
Earl & Betty Zimmerman

## OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum, alternate, Rick Schaidle

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Faye Rohrer

# HCOB Adult Sunday School

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† **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.

March 3	Daniel's Vision of Change	Teacher: Denny Bushong
March 10	Daniel's Prayer	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
March 17	Gabriel Interprets Daniel's Vision	Teacher: Jim Kettering
March 24	The Lord's Supper	Teacher: Bob Heffley
March 31	The Lord Lives	Teacher: Tom Fritz

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

March 3	Daniel's Vision of Change	Teacher: Todd Basom
March 10	Daniel's Prayer	Teacher: Dennis Bushong
March 17	Gabriel Interprets Daniel's Vision	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
March 24	The Lord's Supper	Teacher: Pete Cope
March 31	The Lord Lives	Teacher: TBA

† **THE SEEKERS** class is studying the book of Ephesians. Warren Wiersbe has titled his study guide for this book "Be Rich." Please join us for this inspiring Bible study. Contact person is Rich Bushong for questions. The class meets upstairs-3<sup>rd</sup> room on the right using the stairs nearest the narthex.

† **CONVERSATIONS**— Conversations Class will be completing a study called, "No Wonder They Crucified Him." Of all the people admired in the world today, Jesus of Nazareth continually ranks at the top of the list. Even those who don't call themselves Christians regard Jesus as one of the wisest teachers and most loving leaders the world has ever known. He is still making the covers of magazines and being talked about in coffee shops with a popularity like no other person who has walked this earth. So why did his contemporaries kill him? This 6-session study examines Jesus as not simply meek and mild, but as a dangerous man because he was and is the God who is dangerously good. Take a fresh look at Jesus' call to action. Please note that our class has relocated to the second floor of the Sunday School wing. Geoff Davis is the facilitator.

# HCOB Family News

## Girls Night Out



**GIRLS NIGHT OUT** will be at the church on Tues April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Mother/Daughter banquet event is being extended to all ladies in the congregation to have a fun evening socializing, eating, and being entertained. Mark your calendars now!

**EASTER CANDY SALE** sponsored by the Brethren Village Auxiliary will be held Friday, March 22 in Wolfe Auditorium 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Candy will be sold at \$4.00 per half pound. Please patronize the sale, as it is a source of raising funds for Village Auxiliary projects.

**DONATIONS OF HOMEMADE CANDY** are needed for the Village sale. Some suggestions for candy- Coconut Cream Eggs, Peanut Butter Eggs, Butter Cream Eggs, Opera Fudge, Fudge, Lollipops, Peanut Clusters, Peanut Butter Cups, Peanut Brittle, any of your favorite kind of candy. Diabetic candies are appreciated. Bring to the church kitchen March 17-20. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CANDY IS LABELED AND MARKED FOR BRETHERN VILLAGE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE CANDY, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS ALTERNATIVE.** Donate money to be used to purchase candy from Linda Rannels' Geneva Bakery. It can be resold at the Village. There will be a table in the narthex to receive your donations. For each multiple of \$8.00 donations, a pound of candy can be purchased. **LET'S DO THIS TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION TO LINDA FOR ALL THE YEARS SHE HAS DIRECTED THE YOUTH EASTER CANDY SALE!!** They will not be selling candy this year.



**ATTENTION POST-HIGH GRADUATES.** If you or anyone you know is graduating from a college or technical school, please contact Steph Moyer (slmoyer@gmail.com) by April 1, to fill out a short questionnaire. We want to celebrate with you as you finish this chapter of your life!

**THE EDUCATION TEAM IS OFFERING A GRANT** to individuals pursuing a career in Christian Ministry or attending a Christian college or university. Inquiring applicants can send a letter to the Education Team. The deadline for the grant is May 1, 2013.



**COBYS BENEFIT BANQUET** Thursday, March 14, 6:30 P.M., Middle Creek COB. See poster in the narthex for more details. The theme is "A Prairie Home Companion." In addition to a great meal, expect some corny humor, lively music and EMazin Grace a Banjo/guitar duo. Reservations needed by March 8. Call Don Fitzkee 717-656-6580 or e-mail don@cobys.org.

**JOIN IN ON THE FUN OF CONNECTIONS!** Come join us on Wednesday evenings at HCOB for Connections during the month of March! Activities for all ages! Child care provided! A delicious meal will be served at 5:30pm and then it is off to groups from 6pm to 7pm. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Prepare yourself for a fun time with great fellowship!



# Easter Season at HCOB



## Love Feast

Please join us for Love Feast March 17 following the 10:15 worship service. There will be no 8:00 worship that day.

Why Love Feast? At the Last Supper Jesus shared communion with His disciples and humbled himself by washing their feet. We follow Jesus' example by gathering together for our Love Feast, where we will wash one another's feet, eat a simple meal together, and share in communion. We will have separate seating for men and women and families that want to participate together. If you want to join us and simply observe, please feel free. If you are physically unable to wash feet, there will be a table for washing hands as a way to participate. It is a time for us to love one another, build our relationships, and open ourselves to God's Holy Presence. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Pete, Pastor Kent, or Pastor Geoff.

## Good Friday Breakfast March 29, 6:00 AM

Join with other Christians in our community for breakfast, a devotional message, music and meditation on the significance of this special day.



## Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 23, 9-10:30 AM

Open to all ages!!! No one is too young or too old! Crafts, prizes, silly guests, lots of eggs and FUN! Invite friends! (sign-up sheet in Narthex)

## Easter Services Sunday, March 31, 8:00 & 10:15 AM

*Pastor Pete Kontra preaching*

The world makes a lot of empty promises, which we can try and use to fill the emptiness within ourselves. With God, as He showed through Jesus, the impossible is possible. Death is life. An empty tomb means there is promise, hope. Emptiness is full of promise!



# Our Church Teams

*This month we are highlighting the work of two teams:  
Fellowship & Hospitality and the Deacons.*

**THE FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY TEAM** will be made up of five or more members: Marcia Root (chair), Blaine Garber, Janice Haldeman, Sue Musser, Linda Rannels, and Mary Lou Ruth.

1. The Hospitality Team has been very busy coordinating meals for many events.
  - Family Christmas Celebration—December 2nd
  - Good Friday Breakfast—March 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Fundraising for the Heifer Project—April 16<sup>th</sup>
2. We continue to coordinate and make the gift bags to promote hospitality to visitors and help provide Sunday morning social time with coffee and treats.
3. We continue 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 received a used warming cabinet donated through Janice. The warming cabinet allowed us to prepare food ahead of time and keep it warm till we serve. This is very helpful if the ovens are being used to bake other items. It will be stored in the closet closest to the narthex.
6. The team continues to clean out the refrigerators and freezers of any outdated perishable supplies.
7. We will be supplying all paper goods for all events.

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.

**THE DEACONS** were formed to help the Pastor stay in touch with the congregation. The Deacons Team is responsible for a number of ministries. However, we do not have to do everything. The back door greeters, the Congregational Health Team, and the visiting teams are examples of this.

We are broken up into four Ministry Teams: Membership Cultivation [Brethren Village Social], Baptism and New Members, Love Feast and Communion, and Physical/Crisis Support [Financial help, emergency assistance].

The last item Shepherd Groups might be one of the most vital. Every member is assigned to a Deacon Shepherd. The Deacons do their best to stay in contact with that member/family. Some examples of this are phone calls, visits to someone's house, e-mail, conversation at church, and a card/letter. The congregation can help us by letting us know about hospital stays, sickness, family matters, or a death in the family. If we do not know about these matters, we are not able to assist as we would like to.

## Praying Attention



HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!

HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

Luke 24:5 & 6 – In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

# Welcome to March with HCOB Kids!!!

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Hooray for March! We are looking forward to Spring and God's amazing creations that "spring" to life during that season!

Join us during the 9am hour on Sundays to have fun creating some of the decorations for this year's VBS!!! We will get to draw, paint, glue...and lots of other sticky things. (Don't worry Moms...we have smocks) 😊

During the 10:15 AM church service, we will continue to talk about how we are all part of God's Big Story! Join us as we herald Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday! On March 31<sup>st</sup> we will joyously celebrate Jesus rising again and His amazing love for us all!

March 23rd will be AWESOME!!! We are going to have an Easter Egg Hunt!!! There will be prizes and a chance for all ages to hunt. No one is too young or too old! Keep an eye in the bulletin for an exact time for the extravaganza to begin.

What a wonderful time of year! So many reasons to celebrate being part of God's Big Picture!!!

## **Sunday School Teachers Needed for the Preschool and Elementary Age Classes!**

There is a strong need for individuals willing to teach or assist in the children's Sunday School classes during the 10:15 AM church hour. Do you enjoy kids? Do you have fun getting excited about all God has to share with us? Do you like to do creative activities? Maybe you enjoy assisting and getting to know the great kids in our congregation. Our Sunday program is in great need of people who are interested in sharing God with the children of our congregation. You are only asked to teach or assist approximately once a month. You can even find a person to share the responsibility or have Karen pair you up with someone. Curriculum is provided. Perhaps you can't commit to every month and would prefer to be a substitute? No problem. Please contact the Children's Ministry Coordinator, Karen Rice, if you are interested. (Adults who are leading or assisting with our children need to have their Child Protection Clearances. Let Karen know if this is something you are interested in pursuing.)

Thank you SO much for considering it. Just a warning...it is hard not to get hooked in by these amazing kids once you start! Huge blessing!

# Youth Page

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## Some mental snapshots from Winter Retreat:

- Spirit-filled worship
- Dancing like crazy people during the Sunday night concert
- BaFa BaFa (cultural awareness game)
- Finding people you've hurt and asking them to forgive you
- Peer-led sessions (thanks Libby Myers and Kensey Rice!)
- First-timers (Doug Hinton, Jordan Hess, Cameron Hess, Sara Kontra)
- Trying to put on balled-up frozen t-shirt contest
- Happy Fun Bag notes
- Extreme Rock-Paper-Scissors
- Sleeping at the ski lodge
- Not having to go outside this year—it was freezing!
- Private bathrooms in the lodge ☺
- The Worship Leaders participating in sessions and games
- Ed Haldeman's loving and consistent enforcing of "lights out" after midnight. Thanks for letting the rest of us go to bed, Ed!
- Praying with the Worship Leaders before Worship and hearing their hearts for the youth
- Brendon and Kristin's solos
- Snowed on the way up but didn't stick to the roads until the end
- Good food
- Quiet Time with Jesus (one hour)
- LOVE



# Tour of Italy with Dana Statler

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY

11 DAYS: OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 9, 2013



Hosted by:

**REV. DANA STATLER**



**\$3099 from PHILADELPHIA**

*(Air/land price is \$2499 plus \$600 government taxes & airline fuel surcharges)*

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

Roundtrip Air from Philadelphia, \$600 Govt. taxes/airline fuel surcharges,  
First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Comprehensive Sightseeing and much more!!

*Visit Venice, Pisa, Florence, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii & Rome*

### FOR A BROCHURE & MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rev. Dana Statler, 269 Prospect Road, Mount Joy, PA 17552

Tel: (717) 475-0239

Email: [destatler@verizon.net](mailto:destatler@verizon.net)

**SPACE IS LIMITED! CALL OR EMAIL TODAY!!**

## Leadership Team Retreat Summary

The Leadership Team participated in a winter retreat on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Glenn and Sue Brubaker's garage. Pastor Geoff facilitated the retreat. We worked on team building, trust, our cares and concerns for the church, and what we feel is working and not working within the Leadership Team. We developed goals for 2013 and made a commitment to our common promise for Jesus this year...to "Put Jesus' purposes before our own."

The Goals we established include:

1. Articulate a vision for and begin living in discipleship.
2. Analyze, design, and develop a prototype model for adult education that supports discipleship.
3. Increase our outreach into the community through the use of our facilities, property, and giftedness.
4. Create new opportunities for brothers and sisters to share their cares and concerns.

We are determined to addressing these goals in a meaningful way during 2013. You will see evidence of progress toward them throughout the next few months. We identified five strategies for accomplishing these goals. They include; sharing the diverse giftedness of our congregation, increasing the commitment level of the congregation, creating opportunities for existing and new small groups to meet, repenting of anything not aligned with God's purpose, and encouraging one another. Since their completion is not solely dependent on the ministry teams, we intend to engage members of the congregation to share in the process. Firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ we commit to become a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world.

# HCOB Calendar

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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**



**Toon of  
The Month**

Hempfield Church of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 246  
East Petersburg, PA 17520

**RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

