

## Because You Say So...

Pastor Pete Kontra

In Luke 5:4-5 there is an interesting interaction between Peter and Jesus: *“When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”*

*“Because you say so...”*

“Because you say so, Jesus, I will let down the net,” Peter replied to Jesus’ instruction. Of course, Peter’s rational mind said that there was nothing there. This was his livelihood. This is what Peter knew. You know, it’s the pastor telling the farmer when, where, and how to plant his crop, or the financial expert which stocks to invest in. Thanks, but no thanks.

But this is Jesus of course. It’s time to start calling out His first disciples, to start shaping the leaders of the church, showing them that despite what logic might say, they have every reason to trust Jesus and listen to His every Word. Because when they do, there’s no telling what Jesus is going to do.

But it all started with the first step—the first act of faith. It’s that choice Jesus gives to each of us. His power is beyond what you and I can imagine, ready to lead us, heal us, transform us, and thereby take us into the world to fish, farm, invest, teach, build, sing for people for Jesus’ sake.

Our season of Lent begins March 5, Ash Wednesday. We so often talk about the “do’s” and “don’ts” of this time of year—give up this or do more of this. But I invite you to take a walk, a journey with Jesus through these coming weeks as we make our way to Easter. Like the first disciples, begin with the trust that He will lead you in the Way, even when your mind and experience says there’s not much more to find.

Because this is really a journey through the wonders of God’s grace. The first disciples weren’t immediately perfect and pure and holy the minute they started following Jesus. Of course, they were never “perfect” people, just a group of ordinary people like you and me who made a decision to follow. And in so doing, encountered a power unlike anything this world could ever offer—God’s transforming grace through Jesus Christ.

Will you take the first step? Are you ready to say, “If you say so, Jesus, I will.”

Join us at Hempfield every Sunday. Invite someone to join you. May you be blessed and be a blessing to everyone around you! -Pastor Pete

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# Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

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## Favorite Quotes!

Here are some of my favorite quotes I've accumulated over the years, in no particular order. I hope they bless you!

“Have none of you ever noticed, in your own lives, that whenever God is going to give you an enlargement, and bring you out to a larger sphere of service, or a higher platform of spiritual life, you always get thrown down? That is His usual way of working: He makes you hungry before He feeds you; He strips you before He robes you; He makes nothing of you before He makes something of you.” --C.H. Spurgeon

“Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.”—Winston Churchill

“We always model something, either positive or negative.” – Brian Dodd

“There are only two things you can control—show up on time and work harder than everyone else.” – Howie Long

“A true and safe leader is likely to be one who has no desire to lead, but is forced into a position by the inward pressure of the Holy Spirit and the press of circumstances. . . . There was hardly a great leader from Paul to the present day but was drafted by the Holy Spirit for the task and commissioned by the Lord to fill a position he had little heart for.” – A.W. Tozer

“A woman is not a problem to be solved. She wants to be known.” – John Eldredge

“Let people feel the weight of who you are. And let them deal with it.” -- Brent (last name unknown)

“You are not an accident.” -- Rick Warren

“Never mistake activity for achievement.” – John Wooden

“If I had to answer the question “Why pray?” in one sentence it would be, “Because Jesus did.” – Philip Yancey

“One of the great things about prayer is that it changes *you*.” – Karen Rice

# Messages in March

March 2



**Into the Desert—*Romans 6:18-23***

***Pastor Kent Rice Preaching***

Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last! But now what? Off we go into uncertain territory where we must trust God. Like the Israelites, will we wish to return to the old slavery when trials come our way--back to Egypt and the oppression of sin? Or will we continue on, trusting that "He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it"?

March 9



**A Love/Hate Relationship—*John 12:20-33***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

When we come to see Jesus, He's going to ask you what you love the most. You can only follow one leader. And if you truly want to see Jesus, you're going to have to follow Him His way.

March 16



**Where Is My Honor?—*Malachi 1:6-14***

***Pastor Kent Rice Preaching***

A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. Now that we're free, can we look to God as a good slave looks to his master? Or are we set upon "doing our own thing"?

March 23



**By What Authority!—*Matthew 21:23-27***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

People questioned Jesus' authority to teach and do what He was doing, and so you too, as a follower of Jesus, will be questioned. But when your walk with Christ clashes with the ways of the world, remember what Jesus said, that "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go..."

March 30



**Unworthy Servants—*Luke 17:7-10***

***Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching***

When you have done everything you were told to do, [you] should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' As human beings, we have a basic need for appreciation and recognition and affirmation for our efforts – we want people to tell us when we do a good job (and increasingly, a "good try"). But Jesus teaches something very different that, if we don't fully understand it and embrace it as a way of living, will limit our spiritual growth and ability to fully contribute to God's work. Are you ready to do everything that Jesus commanded and be satisfied with only having done your duty? Are you ready to throw off the importance of you and pay attention to God's way of living?

# March Ministry Schedules

**March 2**  
**March 9**  
**March 16**  
**March 23**  
**March 30**

## NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy  
 Carolyn Gingrich  
 Butch Nachbar  
 Sue Musser  
 Jody Kettering

## NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Morgan Rice  
 Carol Koser, Abby Wright, Sue Brubaker  
 Jill Stout, Courtney Barry, Kensey Rice  
 Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Morgan Rice  
 Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis



**March 2**  
**March 9**  
**March 16**  
**March 23**  
**March 30**

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

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

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Rich Bushong  
 Matt Markey & Rich Bushong  
 Mitchell Barnes & Rich Bushong  
 Matt Markey & Rich Bushong  
 Dave Dum & Rich Bushong



**March 2**  
**March 9**  
**March 16**  
**March 23**  
**March 30**

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

TBA  
 Ray O'Boyle  
 Pete Cope  
 Tom Fritz  
 Randy Ziegler

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Jason Hoffman  
 TBA  
 Rod Myers  
 Jayne Hutchison  
 Angela Ebersole

## SPECIAL MUSIC



**March 2**  
**March 9**  
**March 16**  
**March 23**  
**March 30**

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir  
 QuintEssentially Brass  
 Sanctuary Choir  
 Ashley Heisey  
 TBA

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit  
 Alex Troxell  
 Doug Howard  
 Nate Polonchak  
 Dave Bendit

**March 2**  
**March 9**  
**March 16**  
**March 23**  
**March 30**

## DEACON GREETERS

Ruth Johnson  
 Dave Fisher  
 Pete Moore  
 Carl Haas  
 Paula Connelly

## JNH GREETERS

Peg Martin  
 Jeff & Bev Moyer  
 Jason & Hilary Hoffman  
 Nicolas & Joanna Huacani  
 Curtis & Jean May



## OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum, alternate, Rick Schaidle

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Faye Rohrer

# HCOB Adult Sunday School

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† **THE CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS** classes will meet in the library. 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 people are Ruth Johnson and Millie Hoffman.

March 2	An Eternal Kingdom	Teacher: Denny Bushong
March 9	Son of David	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
March 16	Peter's Report	Teacher: Jim Kettering
March 23	Worthy Is the Lamb	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
March 30	Triumphant & Victorious	Teacher: Tom Fritz

**THE SEEKERS**— Seekers Class is currently studying the book of Revelation, this challenging book should not be thought of as overwhelming to understand, but one that is a blessing to all who study it. Revelation 1:3 states “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” This is the only time in the Bible that a blessing is mentioned for the one who hears and takes to heart what is written. Feel free to join the class for one lesson or thru the end of the study. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

March 2	Revelation 8	Teacher: Doug Hinton
March 9	Revelation 9	Teacher: Ray O'Boyle
March 16	Revelation 10	Teacher: Todd Basom
March 23	Revelation 11	Teacher: Del Kautz
March 30	Revelation 12	Teacher: Dennis Bushong

† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class will be exploring the Discipleship Team's vision for HCOB: *Learn His Way – Live His Way – Grow His Way – and Go His Way*. We'll be examining some of the basic commands that Jesus gave to his disciples – commands that apply to us all – and how we could put these into action, grow in our love and knowledge of God, and go into all the world and make disciples. Geoff Davis is the facilitator.

## Praying Attention

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“Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven, but getting God's will done on earth.”

--Richard Trent

# HCOB Family News

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## Thank-you from June Lantz

In a few short weeks, I'll be back to play the organ for your Sunday services. I look forward to it! On the first Sunday of the New Year, I fell on the ice at the north entrance to the church. Allen Hurst took a tumble too! I want to thank all of you for your help, especially the 3 men who hoisted me up!!! Also Pastor Kent who followed me home to make sure I was alright. Thank God, no broken bones, just shaken up! Thanks again! See you all soon! From the organ bench warmer, June Lantz

## CONNECTIONS

Join us on Wednesday night for Connections! Our eight weeks of sessions began on February 26th. We meet here at the HCOB church at 5:30pm for a meal together and then groups begin at 6pm and run until 7pm.

The men's and women's book study that began last fall will continue. They are working on the books "Resolution for Men" and "Resolution for Women". New members are always welcome. We have a service project group making scarves to raise money to send to missions in Thailand who are rescuing young girls from sex trafficking. We have a board games group where you can make new friends or visit with old ones during a fun game. We also have a children's choir group. Half of that time will be used for practicing new, fun songs and they will also have time to play some games.

Please consider joining in on the fun. Our sign-up sheets are in the narthex.



# HCOB Kids News

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HCOB Kids have enjoyed the beautiful snow, but are looking ahead to spring! Keep your eyes posted for fun activities to put on the calendar. We have another movie night on March 15—Despicable Me 2! Plan to attend! So much fun!

With the help of our parents and grandparents, we have raised over \$150 to purchase a sheep through Heifer Project to send to a needy family. So proud of our children's loving hearts for others.

Do you enjoy kids? Please contact Karen Rice and see how you can join the HCOB Kids Team! We need teachers and assistants to help with our Sunday Programs. Our children are such an important part of our church family. Please spend time with them and show them God's love.

# HCOB Youth News

## 2014 Winter Retreat

The youth and advisors would like to thank our church family for your support in allowing us to have a truly “mountain-top experience” this year.



There was a Spirit of Unity, honest and open sharing and of course lots of fun too. God bless you!

# 2014 HCOB Ministry Vision

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February 17, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When the Servant Team began considering our recent rich history and the vision statement of our church we came to realize that we have been on a journey. Not one that we created, but one that God has been and is designing for us. We have stepped out of our walls and, together as a Ministry Team, have laid the foundation of a mission that powerfully shares Christ with the world. Through the Outbreak Festival, and additional opportunities for outreach, we feel led to propose going one step further in our journey. In Luke 10, when Jesus sent out the 72 disciples, part of His instructions to them read, “The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask him to send out more workers for his fields.”

The harvest is great, and we are proposing to encourage and support Pastor Kent Rice in becoming our missionary to the community with us, his staff. The Servant Team has collectively discerned this proposal, outlined it, described it, envisioned it, and more importantly, prayed on it. We feel that God has laid this on our hearts to support and be more engaged in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. In our reorganization retreats the last two years we have recognized and confirmed our common purpose as a Servant Team. That has been to “Put Jesus’ purpose before our own.” With that in mind we now feel the season has come to do just that.

God often raises up people to do His ministry among us. This has been evident in what has been happening with Doug Hinton in our church ministry. He has become increasingly involved in a pastoral roll with our congregation and specifically with our youth. He and Jen have added another thread to the fabric of our church. With excitement and joyful anticipation we are led to officially call Doug into the ministry at Hempfield to take over the youth and discipleship ministries.

The Servant Team will be sharing this proposal in many venues over the next several weeks to enlist your help in making this important decision, with the goal being to gain your support at the April Congregational Gathering. Please prayerfully consider this reorganization of the Ministry Team as you read our vision for 2014 and engage in further conversation. Jesus said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Together, let us take up His command.

In Christ’s Love,

The Servant Team

## *Ministry Vision for 2014*

*“Firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ to become a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world.” – John Layman*

*Prepared people, United in Christ, Serving God’s Purpose. – Pete Kontra*

### *Looking Back*

An old saying is, “hindsight is 20/20.” We may not think much about it, but often we have trouble seeing where we’re going because, in looking back, we see so much more clearly. Well, in hindsight, some trends might have seemed like coincidences when we were living them but look so much clearer now than they did at the time.

We have a different perspective in retrospect.

Before Ralph Moyer and Bill Longenecker filled in as our interims several years ago, we recognized the necessity of small groups, prayer, and gifts discernment. Ralph and Bill used their gifts to calm our spirits, ground us, and heal us. They had different gifts but they were so complementary that they initiated the groundwork for our moving in a different direction...one that motivated us to begin looking outward instead of within. John came along and articulated a vision of being more Christ-centered. He wanted us to look outward and take our faith beyond these walls. He encouraged us to recognize, and use our gifts, to become what God had intended. He encouraged us to make God’s will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. He asked with expectation. And when you think of it... this asking with expectation... so does Christ!

As a church, we prayed for God to provide us with a vision and Pastor John received it: “Firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ to become a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world.” He witnessed firsthand the character of Christ that he recognized us demonstrating. But he was looking into the future too. And, when he and Peggie decided it was time to retire, John handled the transition with grace and consideration for the congregation and his replacement. And the faith he had in us was so convincing - that we could continue and flourish in the purposes the Spirit was leading. We were part of a bigger plan – bigger than John and bigger than any one of us individually. We were in the process of becoming!

When Pastor Pete was being considered for the position of senior pastor there was divine intervention in every endeavor. From the first time we met Pastor Pete, we felt that he was the person to continue building our foundation. And he did. He came here under very challenging circumstances when John became very ill. And yet, amidst the confusion, the despair, the questioning, the hurt, the sorrow, and the misunderstandings, Pete was the quiet encourager who helped us weather that storm. He focused his attention on bringing the vision for our church into a clearer focus. He has been instrumental in facilitating the possibilities in outreach and discipleship.

### *Hempfield Church of the Brethren Today*

In all this, there has been a more perfect plan than our business. We are on a precipice of being in a position to take that leap outside our walls. Now is the time to take advantage of this foundation. Now is the time to step out. We have been talking about discipleship. Now is the time to disciple. Not here, but out there. In East Petersburg, in Lancaster, in the Hempfield School District, and in our own communities through our lives. We have been clarifying our responsibility to putting the Great Commission into action. Christ did not give us the “Great Suggestion”, no, He gave us a command in Matthew, **“I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

We have to be the light in the world and walk into the dark together. Let's get to it. Let's be at the work of Learning His way, Living His way, Growing His way and then be about the business of Going His way. Let's demonstrate the infusion of the Spirit moving among us. If our common purpose is to put Jesus' purpose above our own, then we have to be about doing what He has commanded us to do.

So what is God calling us to do? Pastor Pete has said that God is always leading us forward, to grow and reach more people for Christ. That means he will give us new vision, new decisions to make, which will require new ways to use the gifts and resources He has given us. And so we pray, prepare, do whatever diligence is necessary ...and then step out onto unsure footing. The questions we have to ask ourselves: "Am I useful to our Master? What do I use my life for?" Pastor Geoff likes to say that we are not volunteers, but committed followers of Christ; that God has gifted us for serving Him and being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. Our moderator, Pete Cope has challenged us to guard against complacency and be apostles in the street as well as disciples within the fellowship.

Everything we do in church is solely for the purpose of taking the love of Christ to our neighbors. It's about relationship with God through Jesus, relationship with one another, and relationship with the world so that we, the church, show others what God's love is all about. What was it about Jesus that caused sinners to flock to Him? He was born, lived, and loved to transform lives. He was love in our midst. But He came to serve and not to be served. In Mark 10, Jesus says, **"You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."**

God has sent us into the world as his emissaries. God has unified us, sanctified us, and now says, "Go" – go and make a difference in the world around you in the name of my Son. If our vision, *"Firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ to become a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world"*, is more than words, we have to become a Prepared People, United in Christ, Serving God's Purpose – Pastor Pete's vision for our congregation for 2014. What is God calling us to do? Eat pork! Leave Peter's trepidation of breaking the law. Forget the boundaries we impose on ourselves...our inadequacies, our shortcomings, our lack of confidence, our humanness, and our ignorance... and do a *new* thing. We are prepared, empowered, and expected to distribute the bread of life to everyone.

In Ecclesiastes, the preacher writes, **"There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven."** God indeed has times and seasons for things and we are in the process of learning how to step into the mighty flow of these times of God's purpose. God has certainly been stirring hearts to reach His people in our community through our congregation. He has been truly blessing our efforts to reach out in ever-widening circles from the Hempfield Church of the Brethren.

### ***Looking Forward***

And so, "What is God calling us to do?" In 1983 we called a second Pastor for Youth and Christian Education and later engaged an additional Children's Ministry Coordinator. Now is the time for us to expand our ministry staff, this time looking outward.

**Pastor Kent Rice** - Pastor Kent's heart burns with the desire to reach into the community and help lead us in fulfilling the final part of our vision: ...*"powerfully sharing Christ with the world."* It is the piece of our vision that needs coordination and direction. If we are truly to powerfully share Christ with the world, we need to identify how we can walk out in faith *together*. God has certainly been stirring Kent's heart to reach His people in our community through our congregation. Kent is willing to take on this risk. Christ said, **"The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields."** Kent can help coordinate our efforts as the hands and feet of Christ. He will engage us in opportunities to carry God's purpose through our actions and our words to our community and beyond. He will become the Lord's missionary and we will be his staff. He intends to coordinate a connection between Hempfield members and ministries to which they could collectively lend their passions, gifts, and skills; canvas businesses in the area to introduce East Petersburg Faith Outreach; and investigate how we can

best serve the community. He plans on developing fundraising ideas and sponsorships for the EPFO and enlist the aid of people to explore local, state and federal grant opportunities. Kent will become our conduit to the community, offering us ways in which “we” can become involved in outreach that enhances an individual’s opportunity to impact our world for Christ. It was J.C. Wine who viewed this building as a staging point for mission and outreach. Perhaps, 40 years later, his dream will be realized.

**Pastor Doug Hinton** - God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He is continually raising up people and preparing them for their seasons of usefulness. We firmly believe that Doug’s season has come. God has prepared him for ministry and it is our opportunity to commission him into that ministry here at Hempfield. His passion for youth and discipleship and his commitment to Christ indicates the season has come for his time to be validated within our congregation. Just as Christ modeled, followers need to pour life-into-life, as we are given strength from above. Doug will be taking over the youth ministry responsibilities Kent currently performs. In addition, Doug will organize small groups to read the Bible, pray with each other, and think “all the way through” our faith. Intimately walking with other believers can allow us to grow in our faith as we shape our lives around Jesus. The Fruit of the Spirit can grow out of this. Evangelizing, (sharing the Good news with those around us), can result more naturally in a grounded person of faith. Walking with other people can allow every aspect of life to come under the Lordship of Christ because it allows time for reflection, the breaking of compartments in which we hide, and times to practice forgiveness and grace as each becomes closer to another. Through his ministry of youth and discipleship, Doug also plans to complement the gifts of the ministry team as each person uses his and her abilities to carry out the plan of reconciliation Christ began. Working with Ministry Teams, he also intends to facilitate different venues and/or provide resources to help adult believers mature in their faith. And finally, Doug would visit people: healthy, sick, family, widow, anchors in the church, those who may have strayed. Visiting people will give him time with people. He feels three important words represent face to face communication with each other; presence, humility and care. In his ministry, he intends to strengthen the bond of community within this fellowship of believers.

### *Our Calling*

We are prepared and we know what God is calling us to do. Is it the season for planting and harvesting outside the walls of Hempfield Church of the Brethren? Christ said, **“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** We are at our best for Christ when we look outward.

As Steve Green, the songwriter and singer, implores, “Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful.” The season has come.

# 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**

**MARCH**