

There's Nothing in Your Way

Pastor Pete Kontra

Matthew 28:1-10

Stones.

Lately I have noticed that there are a lot of stories and images using stones in the Bible. And so I share a brief reflection on some of those stories. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

Stones have been used for good:

- To mark the places where persons have encountered God, as did Jacob at Bethel and the Israelites after they crossed the Jordan River.
- To build great structures, including the Temple of God.
- To symbolize Jesus' place in all life: *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*
- To glorify Jesus' power, as Jesus says, *"I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."*

Stones have been used for pain:

- As Jesus laments Jerusalem's blindness: *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!"*
- As Jesus encounters the woman caught in adultery, the crowd is ready to stone her for her sin, as Jesus replies, *"Let anyone who is without sin cast the first stone."*
- Stephen, one of the early church leaders, was stoned for sharing the message of Christ.

What kind of stone do you carry in your hand?

Do you carry around the weight and burden of sin and guilt, or perhaps of worry and stress over life? Do you carry stones of anger ready to cast at others?

Well, you see, God has taken away the biggest stone of all: The large stone that sealed Jesus' tomb was no match for the power of Jesus' resurrection. Moved away, it revealed the new and glorious life God has given to us—that sin and death no longer prevail. That means, because of Easter, we no longer need to carry around those stones of suffering. God has transformed those so that now we can put those stones down and with them start building new life.

I pray that this day be a new one for you through the power of Jesus' love and grace. Mark this day with the stone you carry as the place where God has healed you of all that weighs you down. Begin to build a life upon the solid rock of Christ, that you become a beacon of hope to a world that is hurting.

There is nothing in your way. The stone has been rolled away! God bless you. -Pastor Pete

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Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

Standing in Line

So there I was the other day in a Christian bookstore. I marched in, knew exactly what I wanted (more copies of *The Resolution for Men*) and proceeded to the checkout line. The setup was such that everyone waits at a sign and then is called to the next available cashier, so I got behind two ladies who were only holding a couple of items. There was one customer checking out at the one open register. “Good,” I thought.

Not so good. The one customer seemed to be under the impression that she was the only customer in, well, Lancaster County. And the cashier seemed to be under the impression that there was no one else in the store. The two interacted leisurely, like they were feeding pigeons together on a sunny day in the park with nothing else to do. The three of us in line shifted back and forth and looked helplessly around the store for a Deliverer who would accept our money and let us get on with our day. Time passed.

As usual, I decided to break the ice. “Almost enough to make you lose faith!” I remarked quietly to my fellow refugees. We chuckled and then a minute or two later the first lady in line decided to act on our behalf. She walked up to the pigeon-feeder behind the counter and asked, “Could you please call for some help?” Remarkably, the cashier did pick up the phone and announced to the almost empty store that help was needed. Someone came and a second register opened. “Good,” I thought.

Not so good. Mrs. Brave Linestander attempted to pay with a gift card, which stumped both of the cashiers. A third cashier was called in, who was able to talk them through the process. Mrs. Linestander left, Mrs. Penultimate Linestander moved forward and Cashier #3 opened a third register and said those wonderful words, “May I help you?”

Good! (*Update: it's two days later and as far as I know, Customer #1 and Cashier #1 are still at it.*)

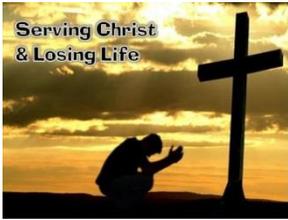
So what's the point of this tale of woe? Well, it struck me that a bunch of Christians standing in line in a Christian store holding items about how to be better Christians might be more aware of the behaviors they are exhibiting than usual. But should it be any different elsewhere? If we're standing in line at WalMart buying plastic lawn gnomes, is it ok to be fussy, impatient and demanding?

The older I get, the more I realize that the world isn't divided into neat little compartments. Sunday is not the only day to be spiritual or even to worship. It's *all* God's, *I'm* God's, and therefore I need to live like that. Yes, some days I'll be a better son to my Father in Heaven than others. But I can't pick up my spirituality like a book I'm reading, then set it down and do what I want until I feel like “being spiritual” again.

Everything can be for God's glory—the problem is that most people just don't choose to see it that way. So let's start by letting them see Christ in us...even when it feels like we're standing in line *eternally*!

Messages in April

April 6



Serving Christ & Losing Life—*John 12:20-26*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

What holds us back from becoming servants of Jesus? Understanding the freedom we hold in Jesus, we often struggle to let go of all of the desires and aspirations we planned for this life. When we fully embrace our Savior and let go of the things around us, only then will we begin to live in our freedom: dying to our preconceived desires and plans to produce a harvest for the Kingdom of Christ.

April 13



Ride On—*John 12:12-19*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Who is this Jesus? The crowd knew, but not as much as they thought. So now we enter into the crowd. Where will you end up by the end of the week?

April 20



The Passion of Christ—Piercing Word

No 8:00 Service

We are happy to once again welcome Piercing Word to our church. We were moved by their Christmas performance and we look forward to seeing their presentation this Easter. Plan to attend this Easter and you will be blessed and encouraged by this talented group that creatively presents the Gospel using only the Scripture.

April 27



A New Creation—*2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

During the past few months, we've looked at what it means to be free in Christ and what it means to be a slave to Christ. We've taken the long road to the cross, mourned our Lord's horrific death, and celebrated His victorious resurrection. Now what? Jesus appears to His disciples and says "Peace be with you... Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in [my] name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:36b, 47) His closest followers now stood as prepared people, united in Christ, ready to serve God. They continued to follow the trail of the cross, dying to themselves in order to live in Christ. They followed, regardless of the cost. Are we ready for new beginnings – individually and collectively? Are we willing to step out even more in our faith?

April Ministry Schedules

April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
Sue Hostetter
Carolyn Fritz
Jody Kettering

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Morgan Rice
Marg Zurin, Sue Brubaker, Jen Baker
Jill Stout, Courtney Barry, Laura Myer
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Morgan Rice



April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Dave Schott
Matt Markey

SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

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



April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

TBA
Dennis Hughes
Tom Fritz
Pete Cope

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Pete Kontra
Pete Kontra
Kent Rice
Tom Cope

SPECIAL MUSIC



April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
Corinne Nissley (8:00), Kim Stauffer (10:15)
Sanctuary Choir
Bob Heffley

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Alex Troxell
Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Nate Polonchak

April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

DEACON GREETERS

Mary Ann Fisher
Lois Killian
Nancy Haas
Doris Wright

JNH GREETERS

Jerry & Jean Barger
Rick & Bonnie Bard
Earl & Betty Zimmerman
Carl & Lisa Polonchak



OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

SUNDAY SCHOOL SEC.

Bev Moyer

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **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.

April 6	Jesus Cleanses the Temple	Teacher: Denny Bushong
April 13	A Messianic Priest-King	Teacher: Jim Kettering
April 20	The Third Day	Teacher: Del Kautz
April 27	From Suffering to Glory	Teacher: Butch Nachbar

† **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.

April 6	Revelation 7
April 13	Revelation 13
April 20	Max Lucado Video-Resurrection
April 27	Revelation 14

† **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



Hebrews 5:7—“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”

With Jesus as our example, as we submit to God, we can rest assured that our prayers are heard by our Father.

Easter @ HCOB



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 12, 10:00 AM

On April 12th we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt here at HCOB! Come join us! The hunt will begin at 10 am. There will be eggs hidden for all age groups and there will be prizes to be won! Bring your parents, your grandparents and your friends! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can be sure we are ready for everyone!

Good Friday Breakfast April 18, 6:00 AM

Join with other Christians in our community to enjoy a delicious breakfast and special music by Rod Myers and Jen & Doug Hinton. Aaron House from Piercing Word will share the passion story, memorized word for word from the Gospel of John.



GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST



Easter Sunday Sunday, April 20, 10:15 AM

We are happy to once again welcome Piercing Word to our church. We were moved by their Christmas performance and we look forward to seeing their presentation this Easter. Plan to attend this Easter and you will be blessed and encouraged by this talented group that creatively presents the Gospel using only the Scripture.



We are so happy to welcome spring to HCOB Kids! If you have a minute, come upstairs and take a stroll through our spring hallways. We would love to have you visit.

We are excited to celebrate the gift God gave us through sending His son to pay a price we could never afford. What a wonderful blessing!

On April 12th we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt here at HCOB! Come join us! The hunt will begin at 10 am. There will be eggs hidden for all age groups and there will be prizes to be won! Bring your parents, your grandparents and your friends! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can be sure we are ready for everyone!

Join us on Wednesday nights during Connections for our Kids Praise and Worship time! We meet for some games and play from 6pm to 6:30pm. We have a wonderful time of singing and fun musical activities that begin at 6:30pm and run until 7pm. Jen Hinton and Jen Walls make it so much fun!!!

Our children are a huge blessing from God. We are blessed to be able to share in their lives. If you want to share that blessing, see Karen Rice to find out about opportunities. You won't be disappointed!

New Member



Deborah (Deb) Foti joined Hempfield Church of the Brethren on February 23, 2014. Deb is a Mountville native who recently moved to Kampala, Uganda for at least two years and perhaps forever.

She grew up in Otterbein United Methodist Church, and recently gave up a lucrative career as an independent financial consultant in Washington, D.C., to work for Lancaster's Hiinga Microfinance, a faith-based nonprofit founded here in 2012 by Andy Agaba to help farmers in his native country.

Deb says, "I'm so excited because we're working at the grassroots, with the farmers. We're not going in from the top down, letting money trickle down to the farmers." She is also excited about becoming a member at HCOB "God works in mysterious ways," she says. "They [the people of HCOB] are an amazing group of people. I've expanded my prayer team by about fourfold."

Deb graduated from Hempfield High School in 1975 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, with a major in accounting, from Shippensburg University in 1979. In 2002, she received a master of general administration degree, with a concentration in management information systems, from the University of Maryland University College; in 2010, a graduate certification in microfinance management from Southern New Hampshire University. She is a certified public accountant.

Before moving to Washington D.C. six years ago, Deb lived in Durango CO for 11 years. That's where she "felt this calling from God to be in ministry somehow. I can't explain it other than to say God just put Africa on my heart. I started reading about it. I was consumed by it."

While in D.C., Deb took a leave of absence from work to serve with a nongovernmental organization in Ghana, West Africa, helping small business owners with record keeping. "For 2½ months, I lived in a small village with a family. I wanted to immerse myself in the culture," she says. Since then, she has returned on assignments to Ghana five times, two or three weeks at a time, once or twice a year. After her first trip to Ghana, she said she just knew Africa was her feel-at-home place. Deb says, "I recently met a missionary who said to me, 'The sweet spot of fruitful service is doing what you were created to do.' I felt created to serve. I always thought it would be in Africa. It's what God has created me to do."

HCOB Youth News

What Is NYC?

National Youth Conference, or "NYC," is a Brethren tradition that dates back to 1954. Every four years, youth from across the United States (and sometimes beyond) travel to Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado for an incredible week-long youth conference! Typical attendance is around 3,000. Youth who have completed 9th grade through one year of college are eligible to attend. The week includes worship twice a day, small groups, workshops, service projects, recreation, hiking in the Rocky Mountains, and more! It is a full week with lots of exciting activities, but there is a good balance of time for reflection and down-time as well.

HCOB Family News



INTERESTED IN ATTENDING CAMP SWATARA THIS YEAR? The earlier you get your reservation form in, the better, because after May 26 camp fees increase \$25. Information on various programs is available on the bulletin boards in the outer office and outside the kitchen. The Education Team will pay 100% for a **FIRST** time camper and 75% for any other child. Contact Janice Haldeman, our Camp Representative, with any questions.

EASTER CANDY SALE sponsored by the Brethren Village Auxiliary will be held Friday, April 11 in Wolfe Auditorium 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Candy will be sold at \$4.00 per half pound. Please patronize the sale and help raise funds for BV 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 April 6-9. **Please make sure the candy is labeled and marked for Brethren Village. If you are unable to make candy, please consider this alternative.** You can also donate money which we will use to purchase candy from Linda Rannel's Geneva Bakery and resell it at the Village. There will be a table in the narthex to receive your donations or a sign-up sheet to make your own candy. 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 and worked with other youth fund raisers!** They will not be selling candy this year.



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 Donna Reed on the Education Team (rdreed2@verizon.net). The deadline for the grant is May 1, 2014.

ATTENTION UPCOMING HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATES- If you or anyone you know is graduating high school this year, please contact Donna Reed (rdreed2@verizon.net) by May 11, to fill out a short questionnaire. We want to celebrate with you as you finish this chapter of your life!



ATTENTION POST-HIGH GRADUATES. If you or anyone you know is graduating from a college or technical school, please contact Donna Reed (rdreed2@verizon.net) by Sunday, April 27, to fill out a short questionnaire. We want to celebrate with you as you finish this chapter of your life!



**WATER STREET
MINISTRIES**

Changing one life at a time.

HOW CAN WE HELP? On Sunday, April 13, Chasz Parker from **Water Street Rescue Mission** will be joining us at both worship services. Water Street is one of the missions supported by our church through the Evangelism budget. The Evangelism Team invited Rev. Parker to share with us for April's Christ Living Through Us moment so we can learn more about how Water Street

is ministering to those in need in Lancaster. However, the team also thought it would be the perfect opportunity for us as a congregation to provide some extra support. Currently, Water Street is in special need of the following items: 5-pound bags of sugar, canned fruit, canned soup, cans of coffee, mayonnaise, and salad dressing. Hopefully we CAN help Water Street by bringing some CANS. Look for the large CAN in the narthex between March 23 and April 13 and place your donations inside. Hopefully we CAN make a small difference in the lives of those in need!

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**



**Toon of
The Month**

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

