

## Pastor Pete Kontra

Hebrews 12:1, speaking to our heroes of the faith and our present call as believers, says: *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*

When I was pastor at Spring Creek Church of the Brethren in Hershey, I got a call one day from an executive from The Hershey Company (then it was still called Hershey Foods...). The woman on the line said:

“As we recently were excavating the land for our new Hershey plant on the west side of town, we uncovered a small cemetery. The name on the stones is Hamacher and they lived in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Our research discovered that the Hamacher family were members in the Old German Baptist Brethren church. We will be fencing off and restoring the gravestones and wondered if you, as the local Brethren minister, would come and say a few words at its dedication.”

Something new for me indeed. And so, as I prepared, I wondered, “What do I say?” But then I began to think about how different the surroundings are now from what the Hamachers would have known. The grounds where we stood that day look much different from what they did when Brother Adam and his family worked it over 200 years ago. No buildings, no traffic, no Hersheypark. Our pace of life today would have been something quite difficult for anyone living in the 1700's to comprehend, as is their lifestyle to us. We stood there, two worlds coming together in that moment, united on the common ground where we each have spent time in this world.

Yes, on the surface the landscape and our lives seem much different. Yet, deeper within our lives we are still the same. We are God's creations who know the miracle of what it is to be alive, living and breathing and in relationship with God in Christ and the world by which we are surrounded.

We are placed within this world and do not know where it is that we may finish our time. Nor do we comprehend the impact our lives may have on others, yes even 220 years after we have gone from this place. As German Baptist Brethren, the Hamachers believed in the goodness of God our heavenly Father, of His grace given to us in His Son Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and continue within us His transforming power.

Adam Hamacher finished his earthly life as a minister, which was long before the days of paid ministers. He and his family gave their lives to serving God by serving those around them, leaders not only within the church, but leaders to their neighbors. They worked the land God gave to them, expanded their sphere of influence, and left a legacy to which we now look as an example for our lives. Their graves were lost for a time, but never their memories nor their souls which live on in Jesus Christ.

So what about you? What about Hempfield Church of the Brethren? What will people say years from now? Let us run with perseverance, that we might become the next “great cloud of witnesses” who faithfully followed Christ.

Blessings! -Pastor Pete

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# Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

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“As I look back, the reason I came to Jesus in the first place was not because of some polished leader or excellence of the church but because I had a spiritual awakening. God acted in a sovereign way, and I met the risen Savior whom the church preached.” – Brian Dodd

*For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:22-24).*

Does the fear of “not doing it right” ever keep you from doing something? The other day my family asked me to build something. Right away, all the reasons why I couldn’t came to the forefront: I’m not good at visualizing projects; I don’t have much experience making things; I don’t usually have the tools or raw materials I need; and so on. And while I’d like to still blame my 6<sup>th</sup> grade shop teacher for making me afraid to try, it’s really just my fault.

And so I thought about it and even pushed a few boards around. Then I gave up, because I convinced myself that I didn’t know where to even start.

The next day I decided to just start. And so I did. With the help of the internet, I got an idea that looked easy enough and I measured, dug, cut and drilled. I went to Home Depot, which most guys enjoy doing but I don’t because it just reminds me of all the stuff I don’t do well.

Two days later, with the help of a holiday weekend, it was done. (Well, almost done but usable.) Actually felt pretty good.

Sometimes we just don’t get started because we are afraid of “doing it wrong.” Like the proverbial deer in the headlights, we stand there. We start telling ourselves lies like, “Everyone is good at this but me” or “my shop teacher was right, I *am* bad at this,” or “I just...can’t.”

God never asked for perfection from us. Only one was perfect and it ain’t you and it ain’t me! But God wants us to *try*, to believe in ourselves, and to be humble enough to ask for help when we need it. No one ever won a race by standing in the starting blocks.

What is God asking you to try today?

# Messages in June

June 1



**His**—*Mark 1:9-13*

*Pastor Kent Rice Preaching*

In the last week of our "New Beginnings" series, we consider Mark's account of the life of Jesus. It begins with Isaiah's prophecy, tells of John the Baptist and then gets right to the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of our Lord's ministry. As the voice comes from Heaven saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased," consider this: Jesus hadn't really *done* anything yet! His Father loved him because he was *his*. So it is with all of us!

June 8



**The Gift of Power**—*Acts 2:1-21*

*Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching*

Pentecost. Jesus fulfills His promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, which He said will give us power to: be Personal, Proclaim, and Persevere.

June 15

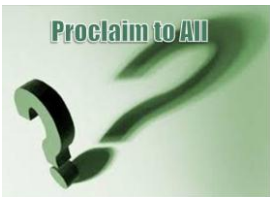


**The Big Questions**—*Luke 4:14-24*

*Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching*

Jesus' first sermon, preached in his hometown of Nazareth, was his own description of his mission and his ministry: anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to preach good news to the poor; proclaim freedom for the prisoners; recovery of sight for the blind; release the oppressed; proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Those who heard Jesus on that Sabbath initially accepted and praised him, but eventually rejected him. What, exactly, was his mission and ministry supposed to be and how does it apply to us?

June 22



**Proclaim to All**—*Luke 10:5-12*

*Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching*

As followers of Jesus, we sometimes fall into the trap of *who* we speak to about faith. Whether we feel a person is open or not to hear the good news does not change the truth: the kingdom of God is near. Looking into our passage in Luke, how can it shape the way we share the good news of Jesus with others? What do we need to be aware of - in caution and in confidence? Let us learn both from Jesus' words and the disciples' reports as we explore our passage today.

June 29



**Not Now**—*1 Peter 2:4-10*

*Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching*

God transforms our NOT into NOW. We say, "I'm not worthy. I'm not able. What we have is not enough." God says, "Not now. Now you are Mine. Now you have My power. Now, with Me, what you have is more than enough." Why? Because NOW is the time to tell others of the night-and-day difference God has made for us in Christ.

# June Ministry Schedules

June 1  
June 8  
June 15  
June 22  
June 29

## NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy  
Jody Kettering  
Lois Killian  
Sarah Fisher  
Jen Hinton

## NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Laura Myer  
Marg Zurin, Sue Brubaker, Jen Baker  
Jill Stout, Courtney Barry, Kensey Rice  
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Morgan Rice  
Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis



June 1  
June 8  
June 15  
June 22  
June 29

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell  
No 8:00 service  
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



June 1  
June 8  
June 15  
June 22  
June 29

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

TBA  
No 8:00 Service  
Pete Cope  
Ray O'Boyle  
Randy Ziegler

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA  
Dennis Bushong  
TBA  
TBA  
Del Kautz

SPECIAL MUSIC



June 1  
June 8  
June 15  
June 22  
June 29

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard  
Dave Bendit  
Alex Troxell  
Nate Polonchak  
Dave Bendit

June 1  
June 8  
June 15  
June 22  
June 29

## DEACON GREETERS

Wes Bowers  
Tom Connelly  
Ruth Johnson  
Dave Fisher  
Pete Moore

## JNH GREETERS

Peg Martin  
Del & Mary Ann Kautz  
Jerry & Jean Barger  
Carl & Lisa Polonchak  
Nicolas & Joanna Huacani



**OFFERING TABULATORS**  
Dave Dum, alternate, Rick Schaidle

# HCOB Summer Adult Sunday School

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## THE MEMOIRS OF NEHEMIAH

This year's summer combined Sunday school class will be studying and discussing the Old Testament Book of Nehemiah. This is the memoirs of Nehemiah as he relates the history of God's faithfulness to the people of Judah and Jerusalem as they reestablished their religion and spiritual character. This informative Old Testament book reveals lessons on effective prayer, spiritual renewal, visionary ministry, the benefits of teamwork, overcoming opposition and the value of celebratory worship. Nehemiah teaches us how to be faithful disciples in a society that challenges the values of trusting in God. The class will meet in the Adult Choir Room over the summer months of June, July and August.

## Praying Attention

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### GRACE

It is costly because it calls us to follow.  
It is Grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ.

It is costly because it cost a man his life.  
It is Grace because it gives a man the only true life.

It is costly because it condemns sin.  
It is Grace because it justifies the sinner.

It is costly because it cost God the life of His Son.  
It is Grace because God did not reckon His Son too dear a price to pay, but delivered Him up for us.

# HCOB Family News

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**BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALKS** are scheduled for June 26, July 24, August 28, and September 25. Please contact Gerrie Hurst or Lois Killian if you can help. The residents of the Village thank you!

**SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC**—The Hempfield Church has been blessed with much musical talent, vocal and instrumental! If you feel that you are being called to share your gifts over the summer months, please sign up on the chart in the narthex, or call Carolyn Gingrich at 898-7445. May God bless you as you share your gifts! Thanks, The Worship Team

# HCOB Youth News

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**Creation Festival June 24-29**

**National Youth Conference July 19-24**



# 2014 HCOB Vacation Bible School

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## Agency D3

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 13th through Thursday, July 17th!** 2014 VBS is going to be **AMAZING!!!** Our theme is **Agency D3**. This week will give kids and adults a chance to "Discover, Decide, Defend" their spiritual beliefs. We will discover the answers to questions like, "Is Jesus really God's son?", "Was Jesus really more than just a good man?", and "What do I do with the evidence about Jesus?" We will follow clues in God's word (the Bible) to find out the truth about these questions and so much more! You can register online for this exciting event at our church website [www.hempfieldcob.org](http://www.hempfieldcob.org). Begin to use your sleuthing skills by keeping an eye out for more information about the exciting 2014 HCOB VBS!!!!

# 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**



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The Month**

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**RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

