

Pastor Pete Kontra

Staying Cool

There is a thought a friend of mine likes to say: Living things are in motion. Motion causes friction. Friction causes heat. And I have found that to be true. If you are alive you are in motion. And like tires on asphalt, it can get hot sometimes. And so this week's summer image for us is staying cool in the heat, and one of the best ways we do that is with water.

Kids are the best at finding creative ways of doing this. I know when we lived in the country and our kids were young, we had our swing set with the sliding board out in the yard. Well, it wasn't long, on those hot summer days, before it was transformed into a "water park." First the sprinkler was attached to the hose and set up to shower the sliding board, thereby greatly reducing the friction caused by sticky legs on 150 degree plastic. Next, plastic was laid out at the base of the sliding board, also soaked with water, so that the momentum formed as one skims down the slide would carry you across the plastic—kind of a home-made slip and slide. Finally, at the other end of the plastic base our blow-up swimming pool stood as the final frontier where one launched into two feet of cool, though somewhat grassy, water.

It was most refreshing. Yes, I know from experience.

So a few observations came from all this.

Any living thing is in motion.

Children are in motion. Trees are in motion. The earth is in motion. No matter where on the scale of slow to fast, perceivable or not, living things are in motion. I mean, it's a fact sometimes that we wish we could change and try to change our bodies. As we age our bodies change, hair turns gray, joints wear out. We have a lot of "procedures" available now to try and fix all that.

We are in motion. We are made to be active creatures, in mind, body and spirit. And all that is true for the Church as well. When the Church is alive, it is in motion, changing, in action to serve one another, growing and shifting. It is because God's Spirit is always on the move, leading us, inspiring us, empowering us.

Look again at Acts and the early Church. Things are taking off. God is at work. Thousands of people are coming to Christ. The disciples are on the move. Peter and John get in trouble. And it won't be the last time either. They heal a man and are speaking to the crowds, when they are arrested and taken before the Council, who, as Acts tells us, were "much annoyed." It brought friction.

Motion causes friction.

Like the kids in summer, you are having fun on the sliding board, but then you discover it can get a little sticky. Your commitment to Christ will rub some people the wrong way. It gets hot.

Friction causes heat.

Our emotions can heat up. We want to argue, defend, and can slip into the sinful nature. So what do we do? That's when you need the coolness of the water. Stay cool in the heat. My kids learned well, when it's hot there is nothing better than the hose. Douse yourself with water. Soak in it. Drink it up. And so it is with our lives.

Stay cool in the heat—drink the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

Jesus says in John 4:13, "*Those who drink from the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.*" Drink the Living Water of Jesus. As we do, the Holy Spirit lives within us and bears fruit—fruit that is sweet to those around us and gives us power to live as His disciples.

The disciples stayed focused on Christ—teaching, fellowship, breaking of the bread, prayers, service. And now, from the strength they received from God, they face the Council, and in the heat of this intense moment they were able to stay cool and share the Gospel. As Acts 4:13 says, "*they were amazed and recognized Peter and John as companions of Jesus.*"

All the fruit of the Spirit are yours in Christ: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Live so that others will recognize you as companions of Jesus.

—Pastor Pete

Grains of Rice

Pastor Kent Rice

Accepting

¹⁵ After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. ¹⁶ David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground.

¹⁷ The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. David's attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, he wouldn't listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

¹⁹ David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked.

"Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

²¹ His attendants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!"

²² He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' ²³ But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."
– 2 Sam 15-22

Isn't this an amazing story? In the previous chapter, Nathan had shown David the depth of his sin in having Uriah killed so that he could have his wife. David acknowledged it before God. So when God struck their child with an illness, David did everything he could—fasted, mourned, pleaded with God, etc. But upon hearing the child had died, David did an amazing thing—got up, washed, ate and essentially "got on with his life." People were amazed at the transformation, as if David says, "oh well, what are you gonna do?" Does that mean David didn't still mourn the loss of his son? I don't think so. It means he accepted God's judgment. He paid the price for his action and now it was time to get right with God again, to live into the fullness that God had prepared for him in advance.

The earthly bloodline of Jesus came through David, the "stump of Jesse." And what a thin Book of Psalms we would have if David had thought God's judgment was unfair and lamented this loss the rest of his days! This story for me is less about David's lack of grief than it is about his acceptance of God's judgment. God was just and fair like He always is. Believing this freed David to have some great moments in the years to come. This "man after God's own heart" was a mess, just like us. He misunderstood lots of things. But he understood that questioning God's judgment was the recipe for a lifetime of bitterness and lukewarm service.

Messages in July

July 6



The Problem Is Me—*Psalm 51*

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

We are quick to look around and point out the flaws in everyone else, aren't we? Today's scripture reminds us that we don't have to go beyond ourselves to find things that God needs to fix. When we offer our "broken and contrite heart" to God as a sacrifice, He won't despise it.

Q: What do I give the God who has everything? A: The only thing He doesn't have at the moment--my heart.

July 13



Stay Cool in the Heat—*Psalm 23/Luke 5:15-16*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

The needs of the world around us are endless. There is no end to this journey into the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ—our "finish line" is our home in heaven. And so, as we follow Jesus' lead and go into the world, at times we'll find ourselves standing where no one else is—alone in those quiet places where God will restore your soul. Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray, and so we must as well if we're going to truly be who God made us to be in Christ.

July 20



Our Identity in Christ—*1 Peter 2:9-12*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Did you ever stop and think about who you really are? What your purpose is? What the point of living is? How about who we really are collectively as Hempfield COB? God has made us to be something very special, but the world's expectations and competition for our attention and time draws us away from focusing and realizing God's special gifts to us. Peter writes his first letter to early believers to encourage them to stand fast while they endure suffering and distress in the present evil age. By living a godly life and living as good citizens, they are showing that they place their hope in God rather in the joys and comforts of this world. Believers should imitate Jesus Christ and start by realizing that when they are baptized and confess that Jesus is their Lord and Savior their identity – individually and collectively –

is changed forever.

July 27



All I Know Is...—*John 9:1-34*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

When you're born anew from above in Christ, now your life is on display for all to see His glory revealed through you. People may wonder about it, they may ask about it, they may question your faith or who Jesus is. And like the blind man Jesus healed that day, our response is to simply point people to Jesus: "All I know is, I was blind but now I see!"

July Ministry Schedules

July 6
July 13
July 20
July 27

NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
Carolyn Gingrich
Colette Root
Lois Killian

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



July 6
July 13
July 20
July 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



July 6
July 13
July 20
July 27

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

TBA
Ray O'Boyle
Ray O'Boyle
Pete Cope

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
TBA
TBA
Ray Hutchison

SPECIAL MUSIC



July 6
July 13
July 20
July 27

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBA
TBA
Ashley Heisey
TBA

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
Alex Troxell
Nate Polonchak
Dave Bendit

July 6
July 13
July 20
July 27

DEACON GREETERS

Carl Haas
Paula Connelly
Mary Ann Fisher
Nancy Haas

JNH GREETERS

Del & MaryAnn Kautz
Curtis & Jean May
Jeff & Bev Moyer
Rick & Bonnie Bard



OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

HCOB Summer Adult Sunday School

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



"The morning offers a chance to plot out the day in advance, to bring before God every scheduled appointment and phone call as well as to ask God to keep me mindful of any sacred interruptions. None of us knows what any day will bring, of course, and I find it helps to request in advance a sensitivity to whatever might transpire. I need to tune in to God's work behind the scenes. As my pastor in Chicago used to pray, 'God, show me what you are doing today, and how I can be a part of it.'"

-- Philip Yancey, "Prayer".

HCOB Youth News

WE NEED PARENTS to coordinate "Grab and Go luncheons" the last Sundays of each month. Contact Pastor Kent if you can help!

HCOB Kids News



Summer is here! Due to all the vacations that happen over summer, the two older classes are combined during Kids Church on Sunday mornings.

Don't forget that VBS begins on
Sunday, July 13th to Thursday, July 17th.

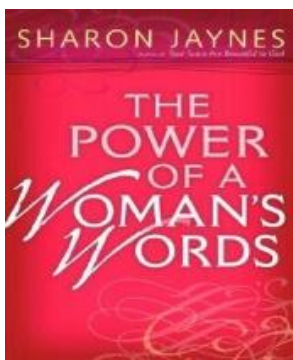
We are in desperate need of volunteers to help during VBS and don't forget to sign up the kids on our website, www.hempfieldcob.org

HCOB Family News



BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALKS are scheduled for 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



THE THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY will be using the 6-session DVD Bible Study by Sharon Jaynes based on her book "The Power of a Woman's Words." International speaker Sharon Jaynes believes that women have incredible power in their sphere of influence with the words they speak.

Words are one of the most powerful forces in the universe, and they can be used for good or evil. When God created our world, He did so with words. He said, "Let there be..." and it was so. While our words cannot bring into existence things that are not, they do have the power to build courage into a husband's life, instill confidence into a child's heart, fan into flames the dying embers of a friend's smoldering dreams, and draw the lost to Christ.

This book is for every woman who desires to use her words to build up rather than tear down, to encourage rather than discourage, to cheer rather than jeer. It is for all who desire to have more control over that mighty force called the tongue. **Join us to discover how to harness the tongue's power to build up rather than tear down.**

The Bible Study meets at Ruth Johnson's home in East Petersburg. We meet from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. For September we will meet on the 18th. Starting in October we will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month ending December 4th. Please contact Ruth Johnson (569-2430) or Jamie Bushong (664-4395) by August 3rd if you are able to join us and would like to have a book and/or workbook.

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**



Moses and the water hazard

**Toon of
The Month**

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

