

Pastor Pete Kontra

Which Came First...?

Psalms 67:5-6 says: “*May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.*”

You know the age-old question: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? It's the question that seems never to have a clear answer until you find yourself trapped in a never-ending circle. Well, being the believer in creation that I am, I would say the chicken came first, along with all the other creatures God created in the beginning. Okay, moving on...

Sometimes I liken this to my own life and my relationship with God. I have been fortunate to live where I live and have the riches of a good family, good food, good medical care, and a life free from knowing the ravages of war (at least so far). I was raised in the church and have known God as long as I can remember. Yes, I have great reason to praise God!

Now take that all away. It makes me think, “Do I praise God because of who He is, or because of what He has given me? Which came first, the chicken or the egg?”

Psalms 67 makes it clear—Praise God, “*then the land will yield its harvest.*” God has been and always will be first, before all things. Remember, He said Himself, “I am the *Alpha* and the *Omega*, the *beginning* and the *end*” (Revelation 21:6).

It is to God that we must first give our praise, in all things and all times, simply for who He is. Thanksgiving is nearly upon us, when we celebrate God's goodness to us and the bounty with which He has blessed us. We gather around tables filled with food and are reminded that God is indeed good. Or, perhaps like many of our fore-fathers and mothers did, we simply celebrate that we are alive and pray we have enough to make it through the winter.

But how does this action of thanks-giving function in our lives everyday?

One of the most powerful testimonies I have heard came from a fellow student when I was in seminary. Wafulu is from Nigeria. As we sat around the tables one evening discussing our thoughts on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the poor in spirit...Blessed are those who mourn...Blessed are the meek...,” Wafulu began to share with the group his experience with his African brothers and sisters. “I have been with those who have suffered in great droughts,” he said, “hurting, starving people who are in great need. And yet, I watched as they never stopped praising God, thanking Him for His goodness, growing ever more faithful as they endured their plight.”

Hebrews 13:15: “Through Jesus, therefore, let us *continually* offer to God a sacrifice of praise.”
“I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.” (Psalm 145). Keep the praises flowing constantly to God, no matter what the day or the situation. Because His glory and majesty do not solely depend on what we receive. In the days of plenty *and* in the droughts of life praise the Lord and, no doubt, as the psalmist says, you will be blessed.
God bless you. —Pastor Pete

From Pastor Doug

Rest in Deep Relationship

Matthew 11:27-29 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from (of) me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

What would our lives look like to fully know God and to be fully known by him? In Psalm 139, David writes, “*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*” People want to be known, to be in deep relationship with God and with one another. In our anxieties, in our offensive behaviors, when we are weighed down by the overwhelming burdens of our lives – even then God can ‘know’ who we are, walk with us, and we learn *of* him. When we turn and walk with him, we learn about him-his thoughts, his ways, his behaviors. As we learn, we find rest because we are not living up to impossible societal standards of image, money, and success-but merely *being* with God-as we are-as he created us. How beautiful to rest in the deep relationship of God and to create relationships with one another in that rest.

I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know each person here at Hempfield. Walking together, building deeper relationships with God and one another, I pray we see God’s hand move in our lives and in our communities. As we rest in him, learning from and shaping our lives around Jesus’ teachings, may we receive a fresh anointing of his Spirit to live, to work, to be. Blessings as we move forward in our journey together!

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

A common question I get these days is: “What will you be doing in your new position?” Next month I will touch base on the “EPFO half” of my time. Since becoming your half-time Pastor of Outreach and Mission on Oct. 1, my time log says that I have:

- Taught Bible2School release time each Wednesday
- set up my “office in the library”
- attended staff meetings
- led TNT each Thursday night
- met several times w/ a new family in crisis and arranged support network
- served as District Conference delegate
- led worship and praise bands
- shared at Love Feast
- conducted a wedding rehearsal and a wedding
- prepared for Sunday School teaching
- attended Worship Team and Evangelism Team meetings
- prepared a service and sermon
- met with TNT executives
- and answered about a zillion emails.

My regular meetings with Pete and the Evangelism Team will help me make sure I’m spending my time in fruitful ways. Pastor Geoff has also been helpful to remind me to maintain focus—with so many things going on, it’s so important to keep one’s focus where it needs to be.

As always, if you have a heart for a certain ministry or are feeling a “restlessness” to start serving in some way... let’s talk! *This message will NOT self-destruct in five seconds—God’s call to serve lasts a lifetime!*

Messages in November

November 2



Show Me Jesus—*Matthew 25:34-40*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

People often ask for proof of God. How can they believe in something they cannot see? Looking at the words of Jesus, he tells us that “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Can we see Jesus, the Son of God in those we encounter every day? In doing so, can we look God in the face daily? What impact can that have on our lives, those around, and the community at large?

November 9

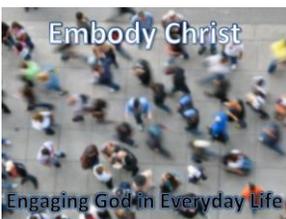


Great Expectations—*John 14:6-7; 23-27*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

An expectation is a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future. People in Jesus’ time expected a lot from him: healing, raising people from the dead, miracles, teaching that challenged the authorities, confrontation with authorities, freedom from slavery, and freedom from the burdens of their lives. We bring a lot of expectations to our relationship with God. We expect health, good families, purposeful jobs, nurturing friendships, wealth, and the same things that those in biblical times expected. But what does God expect from us? And how do those expectations reshape ours so that we can see God more than Sunday mornings and participate in his plan of redemption?

November 16



Embody Christ—*1 John 3:16-20; Philippians 2:1-11*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

We are called to live and love as Christ did. But that seems like a tall order. How often do I have the chance to lay down my life for someone? But God tells us how: Anytime we meet someone’s need, or put someone’s interest before our own, we embody Christ. Am I willing to surrender that which has value in my life to better the life of another? That is love in action. Is that what others see in you?

November 23

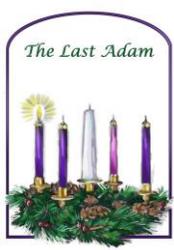


Enjoy Christ—*Colossians 1:22*

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

C.S. Lewis writes, “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are ... like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a *slum* because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the *sea*.” We have the Victory in Christ, who desires for us to enjoy our lives and our relationship with the Godhead. “(God) has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.” (Col. 1:22) Holy, perfect, blameless...sounds like a cause for celebration!

November 30



The Last Adam—*Isaiah 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

We begin our lives with a lot of good intentions, but as Adam found out, sometimes things don’t go as we had hoped. Sin entered the world through Adam. And so, as the prophets foretold, God promised the birth of The Messiah, Jesus—The Last Adam—who would bring salvation. There’s no worry with God—He always does what He says He will do.

November Ministry Schedules

November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

NURSERY—SS

Bob & Mary Ellen McEvoy
Carolyn Gingrich
Karen Rice
Jody Kettering
Jen Hinton

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Laura Myer
Marg Zurin, Sue Brubaker, Jen Baker
Jill Stout, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Libby Rannels
Carol Koser, Abby Wright, Ivy Davis



November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 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



November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Pastor TBD
Tom Fritz
Pete Cope
Randy Ziegler
Ray O'Boyle

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Deb Bendit
Pete Kontra
TBA
Laura Meiser
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir & QuinEssentially Brass

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Nate Polonchak
Dave Bendit
Dave Bendit
Doug Howard

November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30

DEACON GREETERS

Mary Ann Fisher
Lois Killian
Nancy Haas
Doris Wright
Gladys Metzler

JNH GREETERS

Jim & Sue Musser
Rick & Bonnie Bard
Peg Martin
Nicolas & Joanna Huacani
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich



OFFERING TABULATORS

Glenn Brubaker, Marcia Root & alternate

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.

November 2	God's Divine Glory Returns	Teacher: Denny Bushong
November 9	Persecuted Church	Teacher: Seekers Class
November 16	A Transforming Stream	Teacher: Jim Kettering
November 23	Transformation Continued	Teacher: Tom Fritz
November 30	Let Zion Rejoice	Teacher: Pete Kontra

† **THE SEEKERS**—The Seekers Class will be studying the same passage of Scripture that the pastor will be preaching on that morning. Please join us for teaching and discussion that will help us to delve deeper into the themes that God has put on the hearts of our pastoral leaders. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

November 2	Matthew 25:34-40	Teacher: TBD
November 9	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - *Combined Sunday School in Choir Room	
November 16	1 John 3:16-20; Philippians 2:1-11	Teacher: Doug Hinton
November 23	Col 1:22	Teacher: Pete Cope
November 30	Isaiah 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49	Teacher: Dennis Bushong

† **CONVERSATIONS**—In the Great Commission, Jesus told his disciples to go everywhere and baptize, preach, and teach everything he commanded. But what exactly were Jesus' commands and why are they important for us to know? Conversations Class will continue to examine Jesus' commands through the book, "What Jesus Demands from the World" by John Piper, in weekly examination of Jesus' words and what they mean in our lives and our mission. We meet in our classroom on the second floor. All are welcome to come. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

† **HEMPFIELD YOUNG ADULTS**—The gospel and the American Dream. Somehow we've confused the two, trying to fit the message and life of Jesus into our idea of what we deserve. The result is a life spent pursuing comfort, even inside the wall of the church. But God wants to interrupt that pursuit. Join us as we work through Jen Hatmaker's study *Interrupted: An Adventure in Relearning the Essentials of Faith*.

Praying Attention

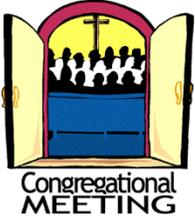


God the Father, restrain, protect, and deliver us from the evil that has come into our world.

God the Son, be exalted, magnified, glorified in Your church, our nation and our lives.

God the Holy Spirit, fall on us in a fresh way compelling the Church to repent of sin and our nation to return to faith in the Living God, resulting in a great national spiritual awakening.

HCOB Family News



CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING will be held Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 PM here at the church. If you are a church member or regular attender, please plan to attend this important meeting in the life of our church. The agenda will include approving next year's budget and confirming church leadership for the new year. Please pick up an informational packet on the narthex table to read before the meeting.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday November 26, 7:30 PM

We will join East Petersburg Mennonite Church at their location for a special service on Thanksgiving Eve. Bring your whole family and prepare for the Thanksgiving Holiday as we enjoy singing, special music from the combined choirs of both churches and a brief meditation by Pastor Jeff McClain of East Petersburg Mennonite Church. We will also collect a special monetary offering to benefit TNT Youth Ministries.



We want to hear what you're thankful for! As part of the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, we will create a video presentation sharing all your expressions of thanks. Please share what you're thankful for: Email Pastor Pete (pete@hempfieldcob.org), write a note and place it in Pastor Pete's office door mailbox, mail a note to the church, whatever works for you. Sign your name or not—either way let's give God our thanks!



QUINTESENTIALLY BRASS will be playing sounds of the season at HCOB on **Sunday, November 30** for our 8:00 and 10:15 services. This premier musical group featuring Andy Walls, Geoff Davis, Kris & Doug Albert and Gene Clark is devoted to surprising and delighting audiences by presenting the best in the brass quintet repertoire. Don't miss this opportunity!

2014 FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



On Sunday, December 7th, we will be having our Family Christmas Celebration. This year will be a little different than past years. We will have Bethlehem set up in the gym! Yes, the plan is to set up Bethlehem in the gym so that families can move around and enjoy different activities, such as making a snack, wood working, games, and more! After that concludes, we will all join together to hear Piercing Word present the Christmas story. So, put that on your calendars!

Now, another thing, how would you like to be a part of Bethlehem? Interested in dressing in Biblical costume and running a stand or milling around? Do you have a special interest? The more participants we have, the more enjoyable it will be for all! Please sign up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Rice or Donna Reed. This will be such a wonderful way to embrace and participate in the true reason for Christmas!!!

MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS who participated in the Wheelchair Walks and Bingo Game at the Brethren Village this past summer. These events really help to enrich the lives of the residents.- Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who participated in the Brethren Village Auxiliary Sponsorship Drive. \$885.00 was collected to help enrich the lives of the residents. This was an increase of \$50.00 from last year's amount. PRAISE THE LORD!



-Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

HCOB Youth News

JR HIGH

We had an awesome time this weekend at the Jr High District Retreat!! Meeting new friends, sharing time to worship God and learning to 'be' disciples of Jesus in Camp Swatara's beautiful setting brought us closer to one another and God. Chris Shelley from Lampeter COB did a great job teaching about the one body of Jesus from Ephesians 4. Keep learning, living, and striving toward Jesus - have a great week!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Eastland Alpaca 12th Annual Open House** Nov 1 & 8, 10 AM-4 PM; Nov 2 & 9, 12 AM-4 PM
Place: Zurin Alpaca Farm, 2089 Risser Mill Rd, Mt Joy, PA 17552
This is an opportunity to raise funds for youth missions' trips locally, regionally, and internationally. We currently have the week of August 2, 2015 reserved with BDM Disaster Relief to possibly help those affected by Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey as more work needs done. This event is held over the first two weekends in November. We will sell baked goods, hot dogs and other assorted foods to raise funds for the Hempfield Youth Missions Fund. **We will have sign ups in the Narthex for baked goods, hot dog buns, hot chocolate/coffee as well as time to man the tables. We currently have one adult signed up for a shift at the tables. A shift will run 2 hours. Youth, please make time to work one of the two weekends.** In doing this, you have the chance to meet people that are both part of Hempfield COB and those visiting the area for this great event! A commercial is being played on 90.3, WJTL featuring Eastland Alpaca's Open house. **Thank you to those already signed up!** This event helps us be the hands and feet of Jesus in different areas of our community – here and abroad – your participation now allows times of growth, mission and community later!
- **Fully Alive, not just living:** Lititz Church of the Brethren, November 29, 4pm-8pm
Place: Lititz COB, 300 W Orange Street, Lititz, PA 17543
Who: This event will be geared towards youth and young adults, but ALL are invited and encouraged to attend.
What:
Part 1: Alexa Moody, an expert on suicide intervention, speaker at National Youth Conference, and President of pleaselive.org will be speaking at the Lititz Church of the Brethren about the facts of depression and suicide, how to recognize the symptoms, and what to do when you perceive a threat of suicide.
Part 2: Alexa and many other local counselors will be available in the fellowship hall to speak with people in a more personal setting and to offer additional help. Brethren like to eat when we meet, therefore food will be provided.
Part 3: We will have a revival service from 7ishpm - 8ishpm featuring the musical talents of Jake Huber and his crew, stories from suicide survivors, and anointing. An offering will be taken this evening to support pleaselive.org
We hope to see many at this event on Thanksgiving weekend!!!
Lititz, Lancaster, and Hempfield COB have teamed up to bring awareness and conversation of these topics that affect more and more people in our congregations and lives. This is geared toward youth, but all are invited: ask your friends and family if they would like to come!!

CANCELLATIONS

The **Weenie Hunt** is cancelled on November 1 due to lack of participation/interest. This is a busy time of year for many – enjoy time w/your family and friends!!

HCOB Kids News



We are excited about fall and all that comes with it! During the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, the kids will be saving their collection to buy turkeys for our church turkey collection. Wonder how many we can save for this year?

Be sure to put the Family Christmas Celebration on your calendars for December 7th. It will begin at 2:30pm. You will get to enjoy activities in our own Bethlehem. It will include crafts, games and snacks for the family. Very family friendly! Following a tour of Bethlehem, enjoy celebrating Christ's birth with Piercing Word as they reenact the Biblical story.

Friday, December 12th will be our annual Gingerbread House Competition!!!! The festivities will begin at 6:30 pm. Bring your plans and creative ideas! Remember that it has to all be edible. Get your family and/or teams together! Prizes will be given!

As always, please visit us upstairs to see what we are up to. God has blessed our church with amazing children. As a congregation, we have made a commitment to help raise them up and nurture them in God's love. Remember and honor that promise.

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
East Petersburg, PA 17520

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

November

A decorative border at the bottom of the page consisting of a row of colorful autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green.