

Pastor Pete Kontra Easter

The most extraordinary thing happened. After dying a cruel death on the cross, being wrapped in burial cloths and placed in a guarded tomb, Jesus defies anything rational or natural, His dead body is brought back to life by God's creative and infinite power. Now everything has truly been fulfilled. God has saved us from death. The glory of God has been vividly displayed. His power and His authority has reached its zenith—for He has conquered the powers of spiritual darkness, evil, and death for all time. They no longer hold sway over us. Satan's grip has been released. Your sins are forgiven. Now, in Jesus Christ, you have been given the promise of new life, true life, forever more.

Glory to God in the highest heaven! Hallelujah! And so God's next move is...to go to Galilee. What? No, wait. Doesn't it say something else? Isn't there a big parade or something? Maybe a flash in the sky? God's glory and power exhibited around the world for all to see? "And Jesus went out of the tomb and spoke in the voice of thunder so that all trembled before His mighty presence!"

Nope. What Jesus did is not necessarily what we would expect: He goes to Galilee to meet up with His disciples.

Jesus, in all His risen glory, only wants to return to His people, to the ones He loves, to the ordinary, scared, shaken up men and women who so loved Him. Jesus returns to ordinary life and with Him brings the extraordinary.

I hope and pray you know the full joy of the Resurrection, this day and always.

And just as Jesus did, He calls us to go and share that joy with others—to bring the extraordinary into our ordinary lives.

His call is for all of us: Follow Me. Yes, the Resurrection was the beginning of new life for the disciples and for us. It's a new beginning: A time for new awareness, new understanding, new places to go and new people to reach.

Follow Jesus into new depths of your commitment and make Him the center of your life. It's time to see the extraordinary in our ordinary everyday lives. He's walking with you in all His resurrection power, so there's no need to worry or fear about taking steps where you haven't before. There's no need to fear letting something go that's holding you back. There's no need to fear that person standing before you who desperately needs to know Jesus and His extraordinary love.

Yes, the most extraordinary thing just happened. Praise the Lord! God bless you. —Pastor Pete

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From Pastor Doug

TO THE SAINTS AND THE SINNERS REDEEMED

To the saints and the sinners redeemed, to those who know Jesus and those who've never seen, God is moving in our midst today as we read his Word and seek His Way. Worry not about tomorrow nor fret about the past, but continue to grow with one another for His love will always last! Fear, anger, anxiety and stress can paralyze a People who put their faith in less. But with our hope in Jesus, the one who overcame the Grave, we continue to strive forward with the only One who saves! Let your Spirit stand firm and let your voice be heard. Hold on to one another and Hold fast to the Lord. Tomorrow's never promised and the past we'll soon forget. Look forward to the promise on that our eyes are set. That with Jesus by our side we steady move along. With his Spirit filled inside we have the strength to carry on. Not death nor life, no angel or demon can separate us from His Love. In that promise, in that Hope, we soundly move with Strength above.

As we begin to move forward, I am looking for a couple of people interested in leading the junior high cell group next year. This will be grades 6th through 8th to align with our District events. Join with me in prayer that God may lay this on the heart of two or three of His servants here. As we look forward, we will seek out curriculum for the facilitators to move through and plan events that can allow our youth to grow in their walk with Jesus. If you have any questions concerning this, please contact Pastor Doug.

I am also looking for a Female advisor for our Senior high Cell group. As many of us know, men and women have a tendency to think and process differently in the same situation. We have some awesome youth, many of them young ladies who could benefit from a voice other than mine. As an advisor, you and I would co-lead sessions, work out lesson plans, and possibly participate in different events. The Sr High cell group currently meets on Monday nights, 6:30-8pm. This would require a commitment of one and a half to four hours a week. Prayerfully consider walking with our youth: the blessing often outweighs the effort!

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

Some of you know my late uncle, Paul Fike, who married Phares Forney's daughter Ella Mae and who was Seminary buddy to our own J.C. Wine. Paul was perhaps the kindest man I ever met. He was also very touchy—if he didn't have a back to slap or a hand to shake, he shook his own hands. During his funeral five years ago God gave me a vision of his face and of course he was smiling as usual.

Ella Mae told me awhile back that after Paul was serving as chaplain at a retirement home, he made it a habit to lightly touch the hands of the wheelchair-bound residents when he was making his rounds. She told me that, knowing this, residents would put their hands out on the armrests so that he would touch them as he passed. I love my aunt and while she is prone to exaggeration, I'm sure it happened at least some of the time.

What an image! Our worn, often-dirty hands "becoming" Christ's hands as we reach out to those around us. This is an amazing thing. I have seen this also during WORDD worship, when a Friendship Community volunteer helps a disabled worshipper clap their hands or make motions.

We can shove our hands in our pockets or we can extend Christ's reach to those who need us. *Lord, use my hands today!*

Messages in March

March 1



God's Plan Involves Deep Relationships—1 Samuel 8:4-9

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

The crowd: They were fed by Jesus and followed Him for a while, but when Jesus calls them to go deeper, that was the end of the road for many. And then there's Zacchaeus: He climbed out of the crowd to see Jesus, and because of that was transformed by Jesus. The crowd said, "Here and now I want." Zacchaeus said, "Here and now I give." How about you? Will you rise above the crowd and follow Jesus to new life?

March 8



God's Plan: To Grow Up—Jeremiah 1:4-10

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

This week's love letters address the truth of all life—that there are times we struggle, suffer, and become confused. We learn that the prosperity of this world does not last. But in Christ we can live abundantly even in the midst of hardship. God is not a vending machine stocked with the sweets we desire as a child, but the One who satisfies our deepest need for love and calls us to grow up into Christ. Is your view of God different in times of prosperity versus times of suffering? How do we turn toward God in difficult times?

March 15



God's Plan Is Life—Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

This week's love letters (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and Romans) show the fulfillment of God's plan. In the first 39 letters (the Old Testament), he set the stage for the climax of the entire Bible – the arrival of his Son who fulfills his mission and sends his followers on a different road. Each devotional this week reinforces the idea that we're all on a road, traveling somewhere, but is there one right road? Aren't all beliefs just different ways to God? Not only does Jesus set the record straight on this, he also gives a warning to those who think they're followers, but aren't.

March 22



God's Plan: To Be Free—Galatians 5:13-18

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Much of our lives is spent in attempt to control our personal satisfaction. Whether you tend to break the rules or are obsessed with keeping them, we can find our own desires leading our lives, rather than the absolute freedom we have in Christ from all of it. Our only true satisfaction comes from the joy in knowing Him and the unconditional love He has for us. Are you truly free? How do you know?

March 29



Followers or Disciples—John 12:12-19

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem shortly before his death commands our attention. As the people celebrated, The Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" Our Lenten devotional this week speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit--the Pharisees had no idea of how God's power would inhabit his people following the Crucifixion and produce true disciples, not followers.

March Ministry Schedules

March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

NURSERY—SS

TBA
Carolyn Gingrich
Butch Nachbar
Sue Musser
Paula Stoner

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Donna Schaidle, Betty Lull, Laura Myer
Carol Koser, Abby Wright, Sue Brubaker
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Libby Rannels
Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis



March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

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
Rich & Jamie Bushong



March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Pastor TBD
Dennis Hughes
Pete Cope
Tom Fritz
Randy Ziegler

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
Jim Eshleman
Del Kautz
TBA
TBA



March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit

March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

DEACON GREETERS

Paula Connelly
Joel Kettering
Betty Cox
Pete Moore
Nancy Haas

JNH GREETERS

Faye Rohrer
Jeff & Bev Moyer
Butch Nachbar
Roger & Gladys Ulmer
Tom & Carolyn Fritz



OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum, Rick Schaidle

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.

March 1	Samuel: God's Plan Involves Deep Relationships	Teacher: Denny Bushong
March 8	Jeremiah: God's Plan: To Grow Up	Teacher: Jim Kettering
March 15	Matthew: God's Plan is Life	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
March 22	Galatians: God's Plan: To Be Free	Teacher: TBA
March 29	John: Followers or Disciples	Teacher: Tom Fritz

† **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.

March 1	Samuel: God's Plan Involves Deep Relationships	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
March 8	Jeremiah: God's Plan: To Grow Up	Teacher: TBA
March 15	Matthew: God's Plan is Life	Teacher: Ray O'Boyle
March 22	Galatians: God's Plan: To Be Free	Teacher: Doug Hinton
March 29	John: Followers or Disciples	Teacher: Dennis Bushong

† **CONVERSATIONS**—We will be participating in the whole church Lenten study of “God’s Love Letters to You” by Larry Crabb. We meet in our classroom on the second floor. All are welcome to come. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

† **HEMPFIELD YOUNG ADULTS**— We will be participating in the whole church Lenten study of “God’s Love Letters to You” by Larry Crabb. Janelle Witter is the contact person. We meet in the classroom on the 1st floor beside the sanctuary.

Praying Attention



What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use — men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men — men of prayer.

E. M. Bounds, **Power Through Prayer**

HCOB Family News



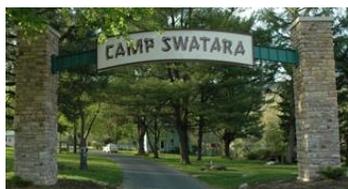
Photo Exhibit!

PHOTO EXHIBIT BY OUR OWN DENNIS HUGHES: Amish in Focus: Photos and Stories by Dennis Hughes—Thursday, March 12, 7:30 PM. Young Center @ E-town College. Professional photographer Dennis Hughes of East Petersburg, PA has been taking pictures of the Amish and other Plain groups since 1986. His 18,000 wide-ranging images, taken in various counties in Pennsylvania and other states, illustrate his sensitivity and respect for Amish people and their way of life. Hughes will show some of his photographs and tell behind-the-scene stories related to them. A reception honoring Hughes for the generous contribution of his slides to the Hess Archives and Special Collections will follow the program.

SAFE CHURCH MEETING—Sunday, April 26—All adults and youth, (ages 13 and older) are strongly encouraged to attend a one-hour program, “Protecting Our Children and Youth: What is a Safe Church?” presented by the Samaritan Counseling Center, on Sunday, April 26 immediately following the 10:15 worship service. This informative and important program will focus on raising awareness of protecting our children from abuse. Mark your calendars and watch for more information in the coming weeks.



CAMP SWATARA PAUL BUNYAN WORK DAY—March 7, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Willing hands and cheerful help are needed at Camp Swatara on Saturday March 7th to bring in wood to refill woodsheds for the 2015 camping season! Plan to saddle up any blue oxen named Babe, bring your chainsaws, wood splitters, pick-up trucks, etc. to help with the work. A morning coffee break and a hot lunch fit for a lumberjack will be provided. Register for the day by calling the camp office any time before March 2nd. 717-933-8510 or jebling@campswatara.org.



SPRING WEEKEND CAMPS are coming up in March at Camp Swatara for kids grades 1-9. Pick up a brochure on the narthex table or contact Janice Haldeman (569-5426) if you are interested in finding out more.

HCOB Youth News

We had a great time at Montrose Bible Conference with New Hope Community Church’s Jr. High Youth! Ask our youth about the duct tape games, knock out, team building activities with KJ, snow tubing, or how God may have spoken to them in this time together. Thank you to Dave, Sheri, Terry, and Mary for being with our youth on this snowy and frigid weekend!

Looking at the last weekend in March, we will join Lancaster, Lititz, and Mechanics Grove COBs in a lock-in. We will meet at Lancaster CoB at 7:30pm (3/27) and then head to Red Rose Indoor Arena for games and fun! After our time there we will come back to Lancaster CoB for a devotion and worship time and then have the rest of the night to play games, watch movies, eat snacks and more! Pick up will be at 8:30am Saturday. Check our Youth FB page for complete details!

HCOB Kids News

We have fun things going on during the month of March! We are continuing our combined Kids’ Church that follows the devotional the rest of the congregation is studying. What an incredible way to encourage chat time!

Don’t forget to put Family Movie Night on your calendars! Friday, 13th from 6pm to 8 pm here at HCOB! We will all get cozy in the gym and watch Veggie Tales *The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything*. Bring something comfy to sit on and a snack to share with the group. It is really fun!

March 28th at 1pm is our annual Easter Egg Hunt! All ages welcome! Bring your own bucket to collect, or make a fancy bag when you get here. We will have it, rain or shine!

[Join in on the fun with HCOB Kids’ and their families!!!!](#)

Easter Season @ HCOB



Love Feast

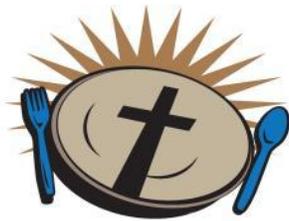
Sunday, March 15, 11:30 AM

Please join us for Love Feast March 15 following the 10:15 worship service. There will be no 8:00 worship that day. We will follow Jesus' example by gathering together to wash one another's feet, eat a simple meal together, and share in communion.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 28, 1:00 PM

Come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! All ages welcome! Bring your own bucket to collect, or make a fancy bag when you get here. We will have it, rain or shine!



Good Friday Breakfast

April 3, 6:00 AM

Join with other Christians in our community to enjoy a delicious breakfast, special music and a brief devotional to help you reflect on the significance of Christ's life and death for us.

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 8:00 & 10:15 AM

Pastor Pete Kontra preaching

Join us for an inspirational service to sing joyful songs together, special music from our choir and a meaningful message from Pastor Pete to remind us of the true significance of Easter.



“An Empty Tomb”

By an HCOB Family Member

An empty tomb, stone rolled away,
Three women come at break of day.

In awe and fear they enter in,
But find no trace of where he'd been.

“He is not here. Be not afraid.”
Two angels nod where he was laid.

“Your Savior lives. Why seek him here?
Death has no power. Why do you fear?”

“Go share this news with all his friends.
From death comes life; God victory sends.”

With haste they ran, their joy to share.
“Our Lord is Ris'n. He is not there.”

But Mary stunned by what she'd heard
Could scarce believe the angels' word.

With heavy heart she searched again.
But only cloths remained within.

Tears flowing down, her ointment poured.
“Where have they taken my King and my Lord?”

A movement nearby stirred Mary to turn
A sweet, gentle voice made her heart burn.

As she heard Jesus' voice say no more than her name,
Her soul leapt within her as closer He came.

Go to my brethren and to all of them tell
That I am alive, that all will be well.

“I will come to you soon, before I return
To my Father above, and His plan you will learn.”

The apostles saw Jesus for many more days
They knew and believed their hearts filled with praise.

Then taking them up to a very high hill,
He looked up to heav'n and with glory was filled.

“My commission I give to all who will hear.
Go serve one another both far and near.”

“And I will be with you, wherever you go.
I will never forsake you. I love you, you know.”

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

MARCH