

Pastor Pete Kontra

Beyond the Box

When was there a time in your life that you can say your faith was truly tested? When has there been a time when God said, "Do this," and you said, "Say what?"

There was a crowd with Jesus and His disciples one day and they needed to eat. And so Jesus asks Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" Jesus was purposely testing Philip. Jesus wanted to see where Philip was in his faith, how Philip would react to a challenging situation—even an impossible situation. What would be Philip's first thought: to look at the situation according to human abilities or to look at it from the eyes of God? I can almost see Jesus standing there with a little smile on His face, knowing that for Philip this was an impossible situation.

What's your first reaction to challenging situations in life?

Jesus was saying to Philip, "Look at what you have in Me." Jesus is the one who can take that little boy's bag lunch and make it feed the multitude.

Jesus is standing next to you, asking, "So, Pete, Doug, Kent, Geoff, Ray, Karen, how are we going to feed all these people?" "Where are we to buy bread?" Where will we look to do what needs to be done? "To buy bread" implies that Philip would go somewhere else. "To buy bread" means to go to the same routine, to the same places, the same thinking as usual to solve a problem.

Do we continue to go back to the same old box that keeps all our usual ways of doing things, or are we looking beyond it to something and Someone a lot bigger than our own ideas and abilities?

This applies to all areas of our lives. This is a personal and a corporate challenge. God has plans for each of us, and we need to be ready when He comes to us and says, "Feed the multitude."

There is a multitude sitting out there waiting to be fed. Will we see what we have before us in Jesus Christ and in the resources we have to feed the people with the Bread of Life?

Are we still "in the box" of the usual ways of doing things or can we go "beyond the box?" A church still "in the box" is committed to institutional survival—a church "beyond the box" is committed to life with Christ. In the box, manages committees—beyond the box, deploys missions. In the box, trains people for membership—beyond the box, equips a lifelong quest for quality. In the box, eager to know everyone in church—out of the box, eager for everyone to know God. In the box, perpetuates a heritage—out of the box, pursues a vision.

The answer to Jesus' question was right in front of Philip: The boy's bag lunch and Jesus. The answer to our question, "How are we going to feed the people around us?" is right before us: You and Jesus. God's got big plans for us!

We so often think in a 1:1 ratio, a direct cause and effect. If I have one dollar, then this is what I get for one dollar. If I give ten dollars to the church, then that will buy us ten dollars' worth of paper.

If I have 5 loaves of bread and two fish, then split that up and maybe we can feed 15 or 20 people. No! Jesus wanted Philip and everyone else to see that God's world works a lot differently—not with a 1:1 ratio, but a 1-bag-lunch-to-5000-people kind of ratio.

God is an awesome God! Let's keep pressing on together. Blessings. -Pastor Pete

From Pastor Doug

Where's your focus?

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. --Ephesians 4:29

Many awesome things are coming to pass as we seek out God: people are getting married and being baptized, we have new members joining the church, members from different teams (and those without a team) are working together to make events like VBS happen, our youth and college students are participating in worship, outside organizations are coming to and using our facility, people are living healthier lifestyles and losing weight, and the list goes on. Yes, as we follow Jesus and seek God's will, people are drawing near God and one another.

In the midst of all God is doing in and through the people at Hempfield, we need to be aware of an undercurrent that I have noticed. How are we using our words? How are we interacting with people who hold different standards than our own? How are we encouraging and coming alongside of people when we see a need? How are we building one another up? No matter the age, we must all be aware of our preferences against the truth and life of Jesus found in Scripture. We must not let the ways of the world come into our body. Gossip, a lack of grace toward others in our speech, not addressing a person directly but going through others, labeling: these things do not build up the body of Christ. If an issue rises between two individuals, as brothers and sisters under 'one baptism, one faith, one Lord,' we must be able to sit down with one another to resolve the issue at hand. Listen to another, understand one another, and seek a solution together. I have always appreciated the spirit of grace found at Hempfield. We must strive to keep it and live it out, even in our disagreements and grievances with one another.

The next time an issue arises or a person offends you, seek them out in love and long-suffering (patience), and see how you both may find a solution or resolution. As Paul challenges us, we can ask, "How can I speak in a way that edifies the other in this situation, giving grace to those who hear?" Even in our disagreements and preferences, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ our Lord. In all that we say, may we grow closer to Christ, learn to understand one another, and encourage one another to the perfection of our faith!

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8

Growing up, I was one of those kids who would find answers without going through all the normal processes. "Show your work!" the teachers would say. My attempts to do that would often get some red ink applied to them. Made sense to me! Truth be told, I like to get to the end. The destination is so appealing that I miss the journey sometimes and that's not always good. "Life's a journey, not a destination," sang a popular band some years ago. Even they got it.

But when there's an answer so clear and concise in the Bible, I can't help but latch onto it. The Micah scripture above—which I literally wore on my back for years on a BVS shirt—is pretty straightforward. Read the entire chapter and see why this little-known prophet from an obscure little town records this timeless truth as the answer to all those questions: "What should I do?" "Am I doing it right?" "What does God want of me?"

Act justly, be merciful and be spiritually humble. That's the answer in the back of the book. May your life show that work!

Happiness begins where selfishness ends. – John Wooden

Messages in August

August 2



The Language We Long to Hear— *John 15:26-27*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

From the beginning at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has empowered believers to testify about Jesus Christ. In our world today, how do we share Christ with others? What words do we say? How will we know? Jesus said, No worries. The Spirit will give you what you need.

August 9



Ignorance—*John 16:1-4*

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

Jesus teaches that a time will come when people will kill others thinking they are serving God because they have not known the Father or Christ. We were told to remember this warning—yet we still seem surprised when it happens around us today.

August 16



Don't Be Spoiled Fruit, but Fruit that Spoils— *Galatians 5:22-26*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Fruit feeds others. Fruit is sweet to experience. Fruit is fragrant. That is, because of the grace and love given to us by God in Christ, from the new life we are given, that flows out to others. Amidst the toxic fumes of society we are to live as fragrant fruit which draws that person to God. Don't be spoiled fruit, but fruit that spoils others with God's grace.

August 23



It's Not Magical—*John 16:5-16; Romans 8:1-17*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

For centuries, God made his will for us known through the law and the prophets. Then he did something amazing by sending himself in human form - Christ to be with us and to teach us a new way to live. Then he did something even more amazing by sending the Spirit of Christ to live in us and be with us and guide us in all things. Then he did something even more amazing than that - he formed all believers into the Body of Christ, each playing a unique role, led by the Spirit, to do his will and help to fulfill his purpose. How are you trying to play your part in the Christian life? What's your "to-do" list look like? One of the most important things that Jesus says is don't try to live the Christian life in your own strength. Paul tells us to live according to the Spirit. What's the work of the Spirit? What does life in the Spirit look like? How do we become Spirit-led?

August 30



When We Are Scattered—*John 16:29-33*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

There are times that we feel alone or isolated in our faith. Social media and our work environments are not always conducive to growing in Christ. As we read Jesus' warning and words, we can take courage that like him, we are not alone. As we seek to follow the Way, the Truth, and the Life, not only is he with us, but he has overcome our fears and insecurities. Overcome our trials and tests in life. Overcome our tragedies and pain. Indeed, he has overcome the world!

August Ministry Schedules

August 2
August 9
August 16
August 23
August 30

NURSERY—SS

Steph Moyer
Paula Stoner
Butch Nachbar
Sarah Fisher
TBA

NURSERY—WORSHIP

Laura Myer
Marg Zurin, Diane Garber, Jen Baker
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Libby Rannels
Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis



August 2
August 9
August 16
August 23
August 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
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong
Dave Dum & Mitchell Barnes



August 2
August 9
August 16
August 23
August 30

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the pastors
Ray O'Boyle
Pete Cope
Randy Ziegler
Ray O'Boyle

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
Jason Hoffman
TBA
TBA
Rich Bushong

SPECIAL MUSIC



August 2
August 9
August 16
August 23
August 30

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Christian Layman
Rod Myers & Friends
Lisa Polonchak & Diane Myers
Emily Marini
Dudley & Deanna Myers

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit

August 2
August 9
August 16
August 23
August 30

DEACON GREETERS

Penny Kettering
Janet Moore
Paula Connelly
Lois Killian
Wes Bowers

JNH GREETERS

Roger & Gladys Ulmer
Bev & Jeff Moyer
Rick & Bonnie Bard
Nicholas & Joanna Huacani
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich



OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

HCOB Family News



CHURCH PICNIC!!!! SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH.

Just mark your calendar, and bring a pew-full of friends to experience the joy and grace of our Lord as we live it out as family here in this place! Dress casually since following 10:15 worship we will have our church picnic with barbecued chicken and all the trimmings! Details for picnic are below. **See you there!!!!**

- We will provide chicken, chips, drinks, plates, utensils and cups.
- Families whose last names start with A-O to bring salad, fresh fruit or relish to serve 10 to 12 people.
- Families with last names from P-Z to bring dessert to serve 12-15 people.
- No serving utensils are needed.
- Please drop off your food in the kitchen BEFORE the 10:15 service.
- We will serve the food from the Fellowship Hall
- Seating inside and outside, weather permitting.
- If you plan to sit outside, you may bring chairs and blankets in case all the seating outside is taken.

The Dunk Tank will be part of the day's activities with the funds going to a cause which will be announced at a later date. Join in the fun and be a Dunker or a Dunkee!

BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALKS are scheduled for August 27 and September 24. Arrive at 10:00, and please contact Gerrie Hurst or Lois Killian if you can help. The residents of the Village thank you!



BRETHREN VILLAGE is sponsoring the **25th Annual Golf Tournament on September 17** at Foxchase Golf Club. There will be prizes and awards given. There is an AM and PM Scramble Schedule. Registration must be received by August 28. Brochures for this event are on the narthex table.

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU to our wonderful church family for the many prayers, cards and phone calls. We started on our journey in November when Carl started having medical issues. He had extensive abdominal surgery in February and was told he had pancreatic cancer that also involved two of his lymph nodes. He completed his chemotherapy in June. Our daughter Lisa was diagnosed in March with a rare form of cancer and has completed her chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Both Carl and Lisa will be followed closely by their oncologists for any recurrence of their cancers. Thanks again for all your prayers, support and caring.

--Blessings to all of you, Carl & Ellie Lehman



Praying Attention



"Prayer is not an escape from the battles of life but a great equipping to fight them in supernatural power." --Daniel Henderson from the book *Transforming Prayer*.

HCOB Youth News

Summer is flying by!! I am looking for those who may be able to help with our Junior High Cell group. We will meet on Sunday nights from 6:30-8 starting September 6. If this is something that God's laid on your heart, please contact Pastor Doug! We have some awesome youth! Are you feeling led to walk with them? Ages 4-14 are the most formative years in our walks of faith. Who influenced and walked with you as a child and teenager? I remember leaders like Shelva, Shelley, and Huey from my youth: people who spoke truth and love into my life when I needed it the most. A person eager to build up our youth and show them the love of Jesus will trump a well-informed, but disconnected person any day of the week. Pray for people to step into a role as an advisor to our Junior High. And if the answer to that prayer might be you, you know who to call!

- August 2-8: Youth Missions, Greeley, CO
- August 3: No Cell Group
- August 26: Penn Manor SD first day of school
- August 31: Hempfield & Manheim Central SD first day of school
- September 6: First Junior High Cell group 6:30-8pm @ HCOB
- September 9: Warwick SD first day of school

HCOB Kids News



Greetings from HCOB Kids! We hope that the summer has been fun and exciting for each of you. As well as safe.

VBS was amazing! Our highest attendance was 94 kiddos, with the majority from the community. We had so many wonderful people from our church helping out. THANK YOU AGAIN! Our mission was Roblealto. We raised \$384.00 for their mission. We are looking at plans for next year! We will start VBS on June 20th!!! Mark your calendars! We will be having some training prior to it and some brainstorming. Get those minds churning!

In September, we will be starting our fall curriculum. The classes will be divided up again. Please consider being a part of that. We can always use teachers and helpers even just for substitutes. Keep that in mind regarding the Nursery schedule as well. We are short Nursery helpers.

During Kids' Church, we continue work on the books of the Bible and the verses from the Roman's Road. Over 20 kids have memorized Romans 3:23 and they are working on Romans 6:23. Praise!!!

Hempfield Herald Survey

*In our continuing effort to improve communication in our church family, we would appreciate your participation in this survey about our monthly newsletter, The Hempfield Herald. Please complete this form by **Sunday, August 16th** and put it in the box marked "Herald Survey" in the church narthex. Thank you!*

1. What is your age?

- 0-17 18-30 31-50 51-70 70+

2. Approximately how long have you been attending the church?

- less than a year 1-3 years 4-10 years 10+ years

3. How do you receive the Herald?

- In printed format In digital format I don't receive the Herald

4. How often do you read the Herald?

- Never Rarely Sometimes Often Every month

5. Please rate how helpful the following sections of the Herald are to you:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| • Pastors' articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • Sermon descriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • Ministry Schedules | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • Sunday School Schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • Praying Attention | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • HCOB Family News | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • HCOB Youth News | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • HCOB Kids News | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |
| • Church Calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Very helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat helpful | <input type="checkbox"/> Not helpful |

6. Overall, how would you rate the Herald's effectiveness as a communication tool for our congregation?

- Very effective Somewhat effective Not effective

7. Please give us any other helpful comments or feedback. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

HCOB Calendar

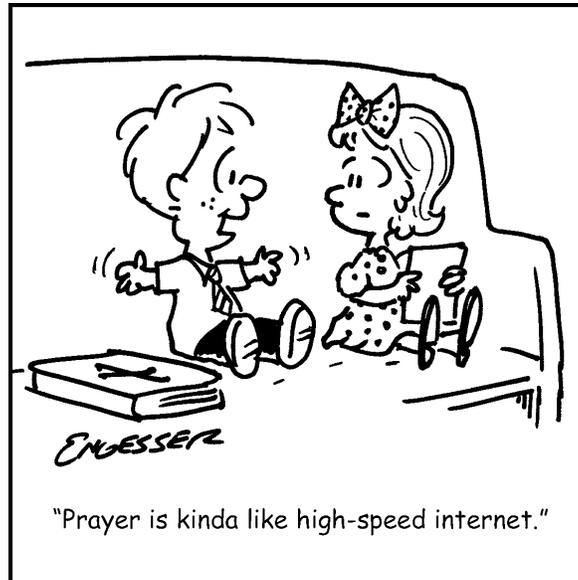
Keep up with what's happening at Hempfield COB by checking out our online calendar.

Please go to

<http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html>

for a full calendar of events.

**Toon of
The Month**



**Toon of
The Month**



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 246
East Petersburg, PA 17520