

Pastor Pete Kontra

Lessons from Tomatoes

Max De Pree tells a wonderful story about those wonderful tomato growers in central California. More successful at tomato growing than the tomato growers of all human history, they grew more tomatoes per acre than anyone ever had. But they did have one problem: How to get their tomatoes into the salad bowls of Chicago and the fruit baskets of the Bronx un-bruised. Because a magnificent bruised tomato, in the hands of the tomato squeezers of the world, is only a bruised tomato.

So they set agrotechnology to work and accomplished two marvelous things. First, they got a machine to pick the tomatoes while they were still yellow and very firm. Then they put the tomatoes on an assembly belt, passed them under a certain kind of light for seven seconds, and they came out a rosy red—a rosy pink, almost red. And then they devised a packaging such that you could put a bunch of tomatoes in a Styrofoam crate, and lift it twenty feet high above solid concrete, and also take a bumper from a Chevy pickup, lift it twenty feet high above solid concrete, drop them both, and the bumper would come off worse than any one of those tomatoes. Agrotechnology wins again.

But they had one problem: The tomato that the chef sliced into his salad in Chicago and the woman bought from the market in Boston didn't taste the way a tomato was supposed to taste. The true goal of getting the best tasting tomatoes to the chefs and stores of the country was lost. The tomato growers got sidetracked with the means and never reached their desired end.

It's a lesson from a shiny tomato: We can have great success with the means, with all we "do", but if we forget *why* we do something in the first place then we end with nothing.

Before we do anything at all, we must ask ourselves why we are doing it. What are we ultimately trying to accomplish? Because the next step is to then evaluate whether what we have done is a "success" or "failure". And if we measure that with the wrong standard, if we get sidetracked from what we have set out to accomplish, then we have completely lost the whole picture. Then we will produce a "tomato" that is strong and shiny, but tastes horrible.

Jesus gives us the "why" for all that we do as His disciples: To go into the world and make more disciples—that the world may know that God sent Jesus for them and that He loves them. When we talk about all that we do as a church, let's be sure we can end every sentence with "so the world may know that God sent Jesus and that He loves them." We worship...so that the world may know that God sent Jesus and that He loves them. We give generously to Hempfield's ministries...so that the world may know that God sent Jesus and that He loves them. We fix the church roof...so that the world may know that God sent Jesus and that He loves them.

That is the standard, the guideline, by which we measure our success in all that we do as Christ's Church. That begins to put everything in a different light. If our measure of success is that the world may know that God sent Jesus and that He loves them, and that is the *only* way we measure ourselves, suddenly all we do takes on a new perspective.

I praise God for each of you and all He is doing through us! Blessings. –Pastor Pete

From Pastor Doug

SACRED LIFE

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. -- Genesis 1:27

Life is sacred. The life of your neighbor and the life of your friend. The life of your enemy and your life at the end. **Sa*cred** (sā'krīd) adj. **1.** Dedicated to or set apart for the worship of a deity. **5.** Worth of respect; venerable. (*The American Heritage College dictionary*) Sacred because in the image of God, he created them, male and female, he created them. (Gen. 1.27) Sacred because we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139.14). Sacred because no matter the age, race, ethnicity or class, we all breathe and bleed, laugh and cry, work and play, embrace and push, seek and know. The life carried by a woman inside her body is sacred. The life, yet redeemed on death row is sacred. The life of those who cut you down or build you up, aim to destroy or kill, defame and use, rob and steal, bless and nourish, strengthen, weaken, wreck or rebuild-that life is sacred. That life is sacred and we must learn to see that. When it rains, it rains on the evil and the good. When the sun shines, it shines upon the evil and the good (Matt. 5.45). How will the evil person accept any different image if they are not told? How will the righteous affect change if they do not express the message? Can you forgive the thief, the murderer, the adulterer, the liar? Can you look your enemy in the eye and see the sacred life before you before any words are spoken? Can you bless the man or woman on the street who's lost everything just because *their* life matters? Can you hug the wealthy man or woman and bless them because their life matters? We have confused position, possession, knowledge or authority as to who matters and who does not. It is a lie. The life of the man, woman, or child you see, matters. It is sacred. Until we close the gaps, cross the lines, and focus on the person in front of us instead of the information being fed us, we will continue to struggle to understand: *that* person's life matters. Life is sacred. Whether healthy or working on it, whether blind, deaf, or mute, in full capacity or missing limbs-don't let your eyes make the judgment. Sit. Listen. Embrace. Some of the most amazing people are those we look down on and this is to our own shame. Young, old, teenager, or middle-aged. It's not about generation, political party, or national association. Life is sacred. *Breathe deep.* The air you breathe is the air that your enemy, your friend, your family members, and your boss breathe. Breathe deep and know: life is sacred.

We are coming down the home stretch for putting our new Safe Church Policy together for those people working with our youth! Many people have spent hours attending training sessions, looking over parts of policy, and asking questions (at times, difficult ones) to have a policy in place to help keep our children safe. This is of utmost importance in today's society. As we pull that together, the Education Team and I will begin to look at curriculum for the beginning of the 2016 year. If educating followers of Christ is one of your passions, please contact Pastor Doug to see how your gifts might be used in a fuller sense!

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.

September 13 Sharing with Sincerity
September 20 Speaking up for God
September 27 Standing Firm against Opposition

Teacher: Denny Bushong
Teacher: Butch Nachbar
Teacher: Sue Brubaker

Messages in September

September 6



Raise Your Voices Together— Acts 4:23-31

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

There are big moments that come in life, be it cultural issues, changes in the world or your life, that can challenge us and raise deep spiritual questions. Where do we turn? How do we respond? Our brothers and sisters in the early church show us an example: Accept what's happening; Believe in God's sovereignty; Center ourselves in the church; Devote ourselves to prayer.

September 13



What Kind of Person Are You?— Luke 7:36-50

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

There are people in the world whom we will not understand or view in high regard. Jesus shows us what to do, which is to give them access to Him. Do we put up barriers to Jesus, or through our lives and the church make Him accessible to all?

September 20



It's a Battle—Matthew 7:7-12

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

In recent times and through recent events within our culture, many believers are being challenged in their faith as it pertains to different aspects in life: marriage, race, abortion, symbols, government, vaccines, etc. I see anxiety, doubt, fear, defensiveness, hate...to name a view emotional responses to these situations. How can we respond? Who do we turn to? Found toward the end of the Sermon on the Mount, we will explore Jesus words to 'ask, seek, knock' as to how his teaching might guide us today. There are times like life and faith feel like a battle. How can we respond?

September 27



All Over Includes Right Here—Mark 6:1-6

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

They say that anyone 80 miles away with a briefcase is an expert. Is it easier to believe someone when we don't know all their shortcomings and their background? Do we think that God is doing stuff all around the world but not in our own lives? Jesus teaches that a prophet isn't always honored in his hometown. Our history and our present here at HCOB show us that God has indeed been using people in our midst for all kinds of Kingdom purposes! And God is not done yet!

September Ministry Schedules

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

NURSERY—SS

TBA
Keith/Karma Witmer
Keith/Karma Witmer
Keith/Karma Witmer

NURSERY—WORSHIP

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



September 6
September 13
September 20
September 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



September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the pastors
Dennis Hughes
Tom Fritz
Randy Ziegler

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Del Kautz
Kevin Zurin
TBA
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Donna Reed
Brad Minnig
Sanctuary Choir
TBA

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

DEACON GREETERS

Carl Haas
Joel Kettering
Gladys Metzler
Tom Connelly

JNH GREETERS

Faye Rohrer
Carl & Lisa Polonchak
Jim & Sue Musser
Butch Nachbar



OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum, Rick Schaidle

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.

- ✓ We will provide chicken, chips, drinks, plates, utensils and cups. Extra chicken may be taken home for a donation to the Scott Hollinger Fund!
- ✓ 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 10 to 12 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 the Scott Hollinger Fund. Join in the fun and bring your wallet if you want to be a Dunker but bring your swimsuit if you want to be a DUNKEE!!!!

Anyone who is volunteering to be a Dunkee should contact Jim or Sue Musser 653-5927 or just show up with clothes that can get wet! See you there!!!!

BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALK is scheduled for 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!



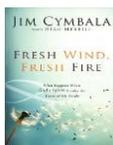
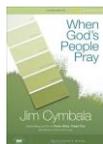
CALLING ALL SINGERS!! Fall is approaching and that means it's almost time for our Sanctuary Choir to gather together once again. Our first rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. If singing is your thing, you love to praise God and enjoy fellowshiping with your brothers and sisters in Christ, our choir is for YOU. You do NOT need to read music to be a part of our group. Just bring your love of Jesus and the song He's put in your heart. Any questions? Please feel free to contact Laura Meiser at laura@hempfieldcob.org or 689.0465. Looking forward to seeing YOU then!

BOOKS NEEDED FOR LADIES BIBLE STUDY—The Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study will be using the book *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala for our Fall – Winter Study. The Seeker's Sunday School Class used this book March – May 2010 and a group used the book for a study during Connections with Pastor Pete in the fall of 2012. If you have a copy of this book and would be willing to either loan or give your copy to the ladies to use this fall that would be a blessing. Please bring your book to the church office by September 6th. If you want your book returned to you please put your name in the book and add a note to please return. We will be sure not to make marks in your book.



SUPPORT COBYS FAMILY SERVICES by sponsoring James Wenger in their Hike 'N Bike event on September 13. James will be in the narthex collecting pledges for this important cause after church this morning.

Ladies Bible Study



The Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study will be using the 6 session DVD Bible Study by Jim Cymbala *When God's People Pray* in conjunction with the book *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala.

What?

- In the small group Bible study, *When God's People Pray*, best-selling author and pastor Jim Cymbala helps you understand, personalize and apply the transforming power of prayer in your life.
- Go through this study and learn how to pray with newfound confidence! When used together, the Participant Guide and companion DVD provide you with a practical tool that can transform your faith.
- Prayer can change lives and circumstances like nothing else can. The book *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* shows what the Holy Spirit can do when believers get serious about prayer and the gospel. This compelling book reveals how God moves in life-changing ways when we set aside our own agendas, take Him at His Word and listen for His voice.

Where?

The Bible Study meets at Ruth Johnson's home in East Petersburg.

When?

We meet from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. For September we will meet on the 17th. Starting in October we will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month ending the first Thursday in December.

How to Participate

Please contact Ruth Johnson (569-2430) or Jamie Bushong (664-4395 or jvb@dejazzd.com) by September 6th if you are able to join us and would like to have a participants guide and book.

HCOB Kids News



Kids are back in school! How did that happen? Where did summer go? At least we have fun fall things to think about and we get to see all our friends we have missed over the warm months.

Hope everyone comes out to our Church Picnic on the 13th. There will be some fun "old fashioned" games to play. LOTS of yummy food!!! Kiddos in 1st, 4th and 6th grades will be moving into new classes as we separate into our different age group classes again. How fun! A great day for all!!!

We plan to start our kids' choir October 7th at around 6pm. Keep an eye out for more details!

Also keep an eye out for a monthly Family Night here at the church. Lots of information will be coming your way!

HCOB Youth News

September is here! We will be looking at cell group and Sunday School curriculum. To build on the cell group already established, we are looking at moving cell from Monday nights to Sunday nights and having junior and senior high combined. In this atmosphere, we will have a group time for activities/games, a group lesson, and then break into to smaller groups according to age and/or gender. In these smaller groups, we will have discussions, touch base about what God is doing in our lives, and share any prayer requests we may have for that week. In doing this, the youth-older and younger-can get to know one another, pray for one another, and encourage one another. Steph Moyer and Sheri Barnes will facilitate some of the smaller groups. If other adults-*this means you*-are feeling led to work with our youth, either on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, or special events, please contact Pastor Doug.

Upcoming Events

- **September 7: Labor Day – No Cell**
- **September 27: Grab n Go Lunch**
This will begin our Grab n Go, last Sunday of the month, Youth missions fund raisers. Don't make lunch on the last Sunday of the month, support our youth in missions. Make a small donation and take a meal home!
- **October 3: Senior High District Barn Party**
Date & Time: Saturday October 3, 2015, 6-10 pm
Where: Becker Farm, 643 Hereford Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Registration: Please have registrations to the District Office by Thursday, September 24th. Register by mail or online.
Cost: \$5 per youth. Free for advisers. **No payment will be accepted at the event.** Please send all payments to the District Office or pay online.
Details: All 9th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us for a great night which will include a hayride, campfire, train wreck, devotions, and many more fun activities. Snacks and drink provided!
- **October 23-25: Junior High District Retreat**
Where: Camp Swatara, 2905 Camp Swatara Road, Bethel, PA 19507
Registration: Please have registrations to the District Office by Friday, October 9th. Register by mail or online.
Cost: \$90 per youth. \$50 per adviser. **No payment will be accepted at the event.** Please send all payments to the District Office or pay online.
Details: We hope to see lots of 6th through 8th grade youth at retreat. Learning sessions led by **Matt Christ**, from the Little Swatara congregation.
- **November 7,8, 14,15: Eastland Alpaca Open House**
Every year, the youth hold a stand with hotdogs, sauerkraut, coffee, hot chocolate, and delicious baked goods made by the wonderful bakers here at Hempfield!! Doug will have a sign-up sheet for shifts as we will need people to run our stand! It's a great time to see the Zurin farm, interact with people from all over the East coast, and raise money for future mission trips!!
- **November 20-22: SH DC Trip**
We will make our annual trip down to St. Stephen's Baptist church to serve meals, work in the community, and worship with our brothers and sisters in Virginia. Mark your calendar now! Details to come.

Praying Attention



“When anyone is in the presence of something very powerful and unusual to their normal experience, it is difficult to remain the same. Prayer that begins with a pursuit of God’s face, an encounter with His character, an experience of His presence – changes us at the deepest level.”

‘Transforming Prayer’ by Daniel Henderson

"Acts"

A poem by an HCOB Family Member

It matters only what I do,
Not what I say, not who I knew

When death draws close and whispers clear
I only care whose voice I hear.

I may have been of no great fame
Of small success and smaller name

To far off lands I never went
To lead great crowds, I've not been sent

It matters not how I appear
How much I have, nor things I fear

The gift to heal I've not received
Though in His truth I have believed

Still yet a plan God has for me
To do His work, help others see

His will for us He made quite clear
Obey my words; to Christ draw near

Cast cares on Him who loves us all
He won't forsake, what ere befall

So when I hear God call my name
I'll gladly answer, His grace proclaim

And on this path of faith I'll go
It matters only Whom I know

And what remains as legacy
Is simply that Christ sets us free

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	2 6:30 PM Young Adults Picnic 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	3 6:30 PM TNT Youth Ministries 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	4 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	5 Outbreak Festival
6 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Jr. High Cell Group	7 Labor Day--office closed 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group 7:30 PM Education Team	8 12:00 PM Silver Singles 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Worship Team	9 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30 PM TNT Youth Ministries	11	12
13 2-Cent-A-Meal Offering Rally Day 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Church Picnic 6:30 PM Jr. High Cell Group	14 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group 7:00 PM Stewards of Property	15 6:30 PM Social Services Team 7:00 PM Evangelism Team	16 HERALD DEADLINE 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM TNT Youth Ministries	18	19
20 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Jr. High Cell Group	21 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group	22 7:00 PM Leadership Team	23 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30 PM TNT Youth Ministries	25	26
27 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Safe Church Presentation 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Youth Grab 'N Go Lunch Fundraiser 6:30 PM Jr. High Cell Group	28 6:30 PM Sr. High Cell Group	29	30 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			

For more details about upcoming events and up-to-date calendar information, please visit

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

**Toon of
The Month**



**Toon of
The Month**



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 246
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