

Pastor Pete Kontra

Serving Like Jesus

Pastor John Beukema says, "One spring afternoon an older couple came to the church looking for a handout. They were ragged, dirty, and claiming to be homeless. They said they didn't want money, just some food.

"I took them across the street to Chateau 7-Eleven. While they waited outside, I bought them each a sub sandwich, chips, and a Coke. I watched as they ravenously attacked the food. The man took a big gulp of his drink and made a face. From his seat on the pavement of the 7-Eleven he looked up at me and said, 'What is this? Diet?' I laughed right out loud because I immediately saw myself. How often I react that way, even to the gifts of God."

What is gratitude? I was thinking this week about my past Thanksgivings as a kid. I have a lot of great memories of going to my grandparents' house to eat, all my extended family there, gathered around my grandma's huge table. Good stuff.

But then God hit me with the meaning of Thanksgiving.

Romans 12:1-2 from The Message says:

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out... The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him."

Thanksgiving is fixing our attention on God, and by His power being transformed.

When you take your everyday, ordinary life and place it before God as an offering you will be transformed. Your mind will be transformed. The way you think and act and feel will be transformed so that your desires become God's desires. The way you view your life completely changes. That is Thanksgiving.

Author Fleming Rutledge writes:

"The life of thankfulness—biblically speaking—is lived in view of the hard things of existence. As the life of thanksgiving deepens, we discover that the more mature prayers of thanksgiving are not those offered for the obvious blessings, but those spoken in gratitude for obstacles overcome, for insights gained, for lessons learned, for increased humility, for help received in time of need, for strength to persevere, for opportunities to serve others."

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! -Pastor Pete

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

It All Goes Back in the Box

“My grandmother had just gotten out of jail,” begins John Ortberg’s book *When The Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box*. That might be my second-favorite first line of a book, after Rick Warren’s “It’s not about you.” (*Purpose Driven Life*).

Ortberg was recounting a Monopoly game he played with his grandma years ago and the developing desire to be Master of the Board. Domination, ownership. When Conan the Barbarian was asked “What is best in life?” he answered, “To crush enemies. To see them driven before you. And to hear the lamentation of the women.”

Same concept: get all you can while you can. But we can’t take it with us because after the game of life is over, everything gets packed up. Only the soul remains.

In my work in ministry both here and at East Petersburg Area Civic Center, I often encounter the same conundrum: How do you save a world that doesn’t want to be saved? Honestly sometimes you feel like giving up, finding a higher-paying secular job and accumulating stuff so that you can take it easy when you’re older. And then what? It all goes back in the box.

There is work to do today, tomorrow and the day after that. It doesn’t matter that some people don’t get it and it doesn’t matter that some people will use you and cast you aside. When your world gets distilled down to just your soul and the presence of God, that fancy car or vacation home will disappear behind the smile of Jesus.

And you’ll be glad that you let others accumulate all the hotels and all the accolades of men while you went about the Lord’s business!

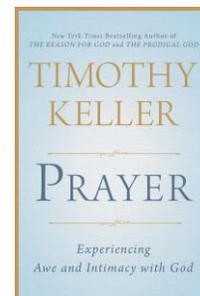
Praying Attention



Check out "Prayer" by Tim Keller, recommended by Pastor Geoff.

<http://www.timothykeller.com/books/prayer>

Though we all have unique ways in which we connect with God, it's good to explore the way others have experienced intimacy with the Father. Commit to the journey and see where it takes you!



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 1	Persecuted Church Presentation (in choir room)	Teacher: Rich Bushong
November 8	God Makes No Distinction	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
November 15	From Derbe to Philippi	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
November 22	Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens	Teacher: Tom Fritz
November 29	Teaching God's Word	Teacher: Jim Kettering

† **THE SEEKERS**—Please join us for teaching and discussion that will help us to delve deeper into our Christian faith and life. We will be watching and discussing a video series by Andy Stanley called “Application Is Everything.” Anyone who would like to drop in to see one or more of the DVD series is welcome to do so. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

November 1	Persecuted Church Presentation (in choir room)	Teacher: Rich Bushong
November 8	The Confession App (part 3)	Teacher: Andy Stanley
November 15	The Rest App (part 4)	Teacher: Andy Stanley
November 22	The Trust App (part 5)	Teacher: Andy Stanley
November 29	The Encouragement App (part 6)	Teacher: Andy Stanley

† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class meets in the Conversations classroom on the second floor each Sunday during Sunday School hour. All are welcome to come. We are continuing our study of the early church and its formation by studying the book of Acts. October will feature a look at Peter and the formation of the church – the rising persecution, Philip in Samaria, Saul's conversion, the Gentiles included in God's plan, and the persecution that happened in Jerusalem – all found in Acts 8 -12. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

Messages in November

November 1



A Change of Perspective — Acts 11:1-18

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Due to Pastor Doug's accident, Pastor Pete will be preaching this week. Come and find out what God will tell us through Pastor Pete!

November 8



Walk In It— 2 Corinthians 1:20-21

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

God has anointed us for a purpose. Sometimes all we must do is remember to walk in that anointing, especially when troubles arise.

November 15



Tired and Troubled—Matthew 11:28-30

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Increasingly, the kinds of emotions people experience in their day-to-day lives are fear, anxiety, uncertainty, and meaningless. We are a society of tired, troubled people who have made worry a national pastime. Jesus reminds us that we don't have to live that way. What's the secret? "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." But what, exactly, does he mean by that?

November 22



Think BIG about Thanksgiving—Hebrews 12:28

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Give thanks for all things. And no matter what size your table, remember that God has filled it with an abundance of unshakeable things.

November 29



God Has Done Great Things—Luke 1:46-55

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

In all that's happening in the world and in our lives, Advent is our time now to celebrate all the great things God has done and is doing. As Mary rejoiced in being a part of God's salvation through Jesus, so too we have reason to rejoice. What great things can you name? How do we call ourselves blessed? Not in riches of this world, but in His mercy, His love, His grace, and awesome deeds.

November Ministry Schedules

November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29

NURSERY—SS

TBA
Carolyn Gingrich
Karen Rice
Paula Stoner
Jen Hinton

NURSERY—WORSHIP

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



November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 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



November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the pastors
Tom Fritz
Dennis Hughes
Randy Ziegler
Pete Cope

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Ashley Haldeman
TBA
Jim Eshleman
Jayne Hutchison
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
TBA
TBA
Sanctuary Choir
Sanctuary Choir; QE Brass

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Christian Layman
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Doug Howard

November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29

DEACON GREETERS

Carl Haas
Lois Killian
Betty Cox
Janet Moore
Pete Moore

JNH GREETERS

Earl & Betty Zimmerman
Curtis & Jean May
Rick & Bonnie Bard
Carl & Lisa Polonchak
TBA



OFFERING TABULATORS

Glenn Brubaker, Marcia Root

HCOB Family News

ATTENTION ALL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK WITH OUR CHILDREN AND OUR YOUTH!



November 14th is the final training for the Safe Church program and anyone who is volunteering with children or with youth is asked to attend. It will run from **8:30AM to 12:30PM**. It will take place at Highland Presbyterian Church. This training will make you up to date with any changes in our policy as well as changes that have happened state wide. One change is that *you would all be considered mandated reporters* for any abuse you might come across. This training will teach you how to make these reports and what steps to take. Anyone could be in this situation if they are going to be working with children or youth, so it is *essential* to learn the process. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign-up ASAP. Thanks!

EPACC VOLUNTEER WORKDAY Saturday Nov. 7 8am - 5pm. Help us get EPACC ready for our growing Fall schedule and our GRAND OPENING November 20! Painting, cleanup, light carpentry for all skill levels. Come for an hour or all day, whatever works for you!

EPACC GRAND OPENING Friday Nov 20 7am - 10pm. Come on out to EPACC and check in on our progress, learn more about our programs, meet our instructors, sample some food, listen to some music and hang out in the cafe! The opening coincides with the annual Extraordinary Give, so there will be opportunities to donate online during your visit.



CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING will be held Thursday, November 12 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 proposed changes to church polity as well as confirming church leadership for the new year. Please pick up an informational packet on the narthex table to read before the meeting. You can also read the proposed changes to the church polity on the church website (www.hempfieldcob.org). If you have internet access, please view the documents online so that we can conserve paper and ink resources.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday November 25, 7:00 PM @ Hempfield COB

East Petersburg Mennonite Church will join us 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 McLain from East Petersburg Mennonite. We will collect non-perishable food items for the food bank.



QUINTESSENTIALLY BRASS will be playing sounds of the season at HCOB on **Sunday, November 29** 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!

THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A GIVING CONGREGATION! We collected \$930.00 for the Brethren Village Auxiliary Sponsorship Drive, having surpassed the \$885.00 from last year. It is a joy to be able to help the residents with our dollars! --Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian



OPERATION: *Christmas Blessing*



Purpose

Partner with HCOB to be a blessing to others this Christmas.

Potential

- ♥ The Matthew 25 Thrift Shop has generously donated \$1,000 to HCOB.
- ♥ We challenge you to grow that “seed money” into a bountiful harvest to share with our community and world.
- ♥ How far will \$1000 go? \$2000? More?

Process

- ♥ Through November 22, you can “grow our seed” by placing your donations in specially marked envelopes available on the narthex table.
- ♥ We will count up the final “harvest,” and on November 29 a giving tree will “grow” in the narthex. On the tree will be vouchers that anyone can redeem for \$100 portions of the “harvest.” All we ask is that you give the \$100 to bless someone who is in need during the Christmas season. Then on the other side of the voucher, describe in words, take a picture, etc. to show how others were blessed with the \$100. Bring this back to church by Christmas Eve and place it on the tree so we can see how many different ways we as a congregation have blessed others. No names, please!!!
- ♥ Ways to Bless... Buy groceries for a family in need, leave a Christmas tree on someone’s door step, buy hats and gloves and distribute them to those in need, place the money in a Salvation Army bucket, give gifts to a family in need this season, donate to a non-profit. The options are endless!!!!

HCOB Kids News



We are enjoying being in full swing with our fall schedule. The kids are enjoying their classes and the teachers are doing an amazing job!

Please be in prayerful consideration regarding our nursery. We are in need of people to fill spots during the Sunday School hour and the 10:15 service. Our littlest members need our tender care while they grow in our church family. This is a chance to show them, and their families, that we love and care for them.

NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Pray for the Persecuted Church 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	2 7:00 PM Education Team	3 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	4 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	6 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	7 8:00 AM EPACC Volunteer Workday 10:00 AM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser
8 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 12:00 PM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	9 7:00 PM Stewards of Property	10 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 12:00 PM Silver Singles 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Worship Team	11 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 7:00 PM Congregational Gathering	13	14 8:30 AM Safe Church Training 10:00 AM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser
15 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 12:00 PM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	16	17 6:30 PM Social Services Team 7:00 PM Evangelism Team	18 HERALD DEADLINE 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	20 Sr. High DC Missions Trip 7:00 AM EPACC Grand Opening	21 Sr. High DC Missions Trip
22 Sr. High DC Missions Trip 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	23	24 7:00 PM Leadership Team	25 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Thanksgiving--office closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 Pastor Doug on vacation QuintEssentially Brass in Worship 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Youth Grab 'N Go Lunch Fundraiser 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	30 Pastor Doug on vacation					

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**

November

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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