

Pastor Pete Kontra

Welcome 2016

Greetings Hempfield! Welcome to 2016.

No one knows what the New Year will bring for us, but this one thing we do know: God is with us. That is what we just celebrated in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, along with all the other great things He has done!

And so as we step into the new year, we focus on what all this is about: God's love for us. God is love, and 1 Corinthians 13 calls us to live in His love.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

-1 Corinthians 13:13

That is our theme for 2016: "The Greatest of These is Love."

There is so much we hear about love—from poems, songs, art, philosophy—what more can be said? That's exactly why Paul says "I will *show* you the most excellent way." God is love—all powerful and creative. He has shown us His love in Jesus Christ. We are His ambassadors, called to demonstrate His love to others. That is the most excellent and only way.

Please join us in praying for the church, that we see the opportunities God opens for us—opportunities to share the all-powerful love of Jesus Christ with the world around us. Pray that you see and respond to the ways God wants to use you. Make this the year you begin to truly dig deeper into His Word. Make today the day you reach out to that person who is waiting to meet Jesus.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us!

Blessings. –Pastor Pete

In This Issue...

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| † Page 2—From Pastor Doug | † Page 7—Special Thanks |
| † Page 3—Mission Possible | † Page 7—HCOB Kids News |
| † Page 4—Adult Sunday School Schedule | † Page 8—January Calendar |
| † Page 5—Messages in January | † Back Cover—'Toon of the Month |
| † Page 6—January Ministry Schedules | |

From Pastor Doug

Thank you to all! God is good, God is near!

*Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of **God is near**. Luke 21.31*
Looking back at this year, I cannot count the blessings that God's given and shown through his people. The support shown to my family during Jen's father's journey toward the end of his days helped carry us through. No matter where I was or who I was around, people constantly asked how he was doing, how we were doing, and let us know that they were praying for him. Cards, meals, prayers: holding us up in this difficult time. Thank you.

When I had my accident, the support came. Soups, shakes, protein powder, Boost, Ensure, cards, calls, prayers. Learning that in the middle of the accident, someone was praying for me because God placed me on their heart—even during the accident, I was not alone. People of all ages from our body came by my side and Jen's as well. I could not have recovered the way I did without your prayers, gifts, and presence. Thank you.

For those people who come alongside the youth and ministry thereof, thank you. For the adults and high school grads that travelled to Colorado, Washington DC, Winter Retreat, Creation, or spoke at Cell group, thank you for building up our youth—the church. Your leadership, wisdom, and compassion make a greater impact on our youth than any sermon, any book. We learn from those who live in the Spirit of God and walk with us. Through giving to Grab n Go lunches, donations for Eastland Alpaca's Open house, and time spent with our youth, they are being built up in the way of Christ. Without your help, our youth ministry cannot be what it is. Thank you.

For those on the Education Team and those who tackled the task of updating our Child Protection Policy, thank you. I learned about your passion and life experiences as we sought to make Hempfield a safe place for children and those affected by abuse. Hours of time and energy went into training, combing through files of paperwork, and completing an 80+ page policy so that children and people of all ages can worship in a safe environment. This is challenging work and allows us to open the conversation of difficult, but important topics. If we are to face some of the evil in our society, we must name it, and we must work through this process to be proactive in taking steps to address such evil. Thank you to those on the Safe Church Committee and all those involved in putting our Child Protection Policy together.

God has done great things! He's moving in and through his people at Hempfield and building up his church. His work is not finished here...and neither is ours. 2016 will bring new challenges, new praises, new ministries. Continue to seek. Continue to pray. Continue to build one another up. God is God. God is near. Thank you for all you did and we look forward to an exciting next year!

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

Resolute

“Every day we do the best we can. But we rarely do the best we are capable of.” – Geoff Davis

Many years ago I managed a Gold’s Gym. Every January, the “New Year’s Resolution Crowd” came in. For two to three weeks, the place would be packed and the regulars would have to wait in line for machines and weights. But by the end of the month, things were back to normal—even some new members who had paid in full for the *whole year* stopped coming. So I would tell people, “No one keeps New Year’s Resolutions. Don’t make a resolution about something as important as health—make a *decision*.”

You see, even as we make New Year’s Resolutions we know that we probably won’t keep them. Most of them fall apart as quickly as my gym members. But a decision is *different*. You don’t FAIL when you have a bad day after making a decision, you just readjust your course and try to do better tomorrow. God doesn’t want us to make promises we can’t keep and then label ourselves as failures when we don’t keep them. He wants you to get right with Him when you stumble, pick yourself up, and keep on truckin.’

What decision are you on the verge of making? Are you feeling led to commit to devotional life? Finding new ways to serve? Are you “wishing” you could reconcile with someone with whom you have a broken relationship?

Don’t make a New Year’s Resolution to become a better Christian. Decide *today* that you will give God more of your heart, pray for guidance, and don’t go to bed without sorting out what went wrong today. If King David can get right with God, you can too!

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.

January 3	A Bride Worth Waiting For	Teacher: Denny Bushong
January 10	The Most Beautiful Bride	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
January 17	An Unfaithful Bride	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
January 24	A Wedding in Cana	Teacher: Jim Kettering
January 31	The Death of a Friend	Teacher: Tom Fritz

† **THE SEEKERS**—Please join us for teaching and discussion that will help us to delve deeper into our Christian faith and life. We meet on the second floor, 3rd door on the right from the steps nearest the narthex. We are studying the scripture the pastors are preaching on each week. If you would enjoy discussing the sermon scriptures with others please join us. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

January 3		
January 10	Genesis 29:14b-30	Teacher: Rich Bushong
January 17	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Teacher: TBD
January 24	1 John 4:16b-18	Teacher: Kent Rice
January 31	2 Peter 3:8-13	Teacher: Dennis Bushong

† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class meets in the Conversations classroom on the second floor each Sunday during Sunday School hour. All are welcome to come. Conversations Class will be completing its study of Acts and Paul's journeys throughout the world, fulfilling the initial understanding of the 'great commandment'. When we've completed Acts, we'll begin a study of "Why Trust the Bible?" by Greg Gilbert. The Bible stands at the heart of the Christian faith. But this leads to an inescapable question: why should we trust the Bible? Written to help non-Christians, longtime Christians, and everyone in between better understand why God's Word is reliable, this short book explores the historical and theological arguments that have helped lead millions of believers through the centuries to trust the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Written by pastor Greg Gilbert, author of the popular books *What Is the Gospel?* and *Who Is Jesus?*, this volume will help Christians articulate why they trust the Bible when it comes to who God is, who we are, and how we're supposed to live. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

Messages in January

January 3



The Most Excellent Way — 1 Corinthians 13

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

We begin our theme for 2016: “The Greatest of These is Love”. There is so much we hear about love—from poems, songs, art, philosophy—what more can be said? That’s exactly why Paul says “I will *show* you the most excellent way.” God is love—all powerful and creative. He has shown us His love in Jesus Christ. We are His ambassadors, called to demonstrate His love to others. That is the most excellent and only way.

January 10



Fast Promises—2 Peter 3:8-13

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

Peter reminds us that God is patient, not slow. Sometimes we need to act and sometimes we need to let things play out in God’s timing. It’s hard to know what to do, which is why it’s so important to cultivate a loving heart.

January 17



In It for the Long Haul—2 Timothy 4:1-5

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

How often do we say of someone, “When will he get it?!” or “I’ve tried and tried but she doesn’t ever change.” We humans can be slow in understanding what life is about and who we are created to be in it. 2 Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” This is love, that even though we don’t see immediate results, we do not give up on anyone. Are we in it with each other for the long-haul?

January 24



God Is Love—1 John 4:16b-18

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

1 John 4:10 says, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” ‘Not that we loved God...’ God did not embody Christ on earth out of our love for Him, but out of his love for us. He loved us first. When we speak of love, patience and the character of God through Christ, the question becomes: can I love someone first? Can I love my child, my neighbor, my enemy first and show them Jesus?

January 31



Love Is Patient — Genesis 29:14b-30

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

One of the best accounts from the Bible about the patience of love is the story of Jacob working for seven years to earn Rachel as his wife. But his relative, Laban, tricks him and not only marries his daughter, Leah, to Jacob, but also gets another seven years of labor from him. What’s the point of this story? How does it fit into the long arc of biblical history? And what does it suggest for us as Christians today?

January Ministry Schedules

NURSERY

January 3 Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis
January 10 Marg Zurin, Diane Garber, Karen Rice
January 17 Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
January 24 Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Libby Rannels
January 31 TBA



SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

January 3 Dick Caldwell
January 10 Rich & Jamie Bushong
January 17 Dave Schott
January 24 No 8:00 Service
January 31 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



WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

January 3 One of the pastors
January 10 Dennis Hughes
January 17 Randy Ziegler
January 24 No 8:00 service
January 31 Joel Kettering

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Kevin Zurin
Steph Moyer
TBA
Pete Kontra
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

January 3 TBA
January 10 TBA
January 17 Sanctuary Choir
January 24 TBA
January 31 Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Christian Layman
Doug Howard
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit

DEACON GREETERS

January 3 Doris Wright
January 10 Lois Killian
January 17 Millie Hoffman
January 24 Janet Moore
January 31 Betty Cox

JNH GREETERS

Nicolas & Joanna Huacani
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich
Jeff & Bev Moyer
Curtis & Jean May
Bruce, Bonnie & Abby Wright



OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

Special Thanks

MANY THANKS TO THE RECORD NUMBER of bakers who provided cookies for the Brethren Village Cookie and Craft Sale and for those who attended. \$1,466.00 was raised from the cookie sale alone.

–Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

DEACONS AND DEACONESSES WE THANK YOU for all your services to us throughout 2015, especially for the fifty-one Christmas baskets and boxes that were prepared for some of us.- Members of the Hempfield Church

WE APPRECIATE YOU, JUNE!

Recently, our talented organist stepped down from her extended role as choir accompanist. On Sunday, November 22, 2015, members of our Sanctuary Choir took a few moments to honor June for her many years of dedicated service. Words of appreciation, cards of thanks, a lovely commemorative photo, and a small gift were all shared at this time.

June, we are so thankful for the gifts you've provided to both choir and congregation through your music and effervescence at the keyboard. While we will miss your presence at our choir rehearsals, we are thankful we may enjoy your delightful music at worship as you continue to serve as organist. Many blessings to you as you continue to serve!

HCOB Kids News



Deuteronomy 11:19--You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

A new year begins!!! Full of possibilities and excitement! Let's bathe our children in God's love and His word. Let's make their relationship with their Heavenly Father a priority, regardless if they are our biological children or our children in Christ. For those of you who have children in our Kids Church ministry...HOORAY! What a blessing! I look forward to this being an incredible year of growth for them, for you as a family AND for me! God has great things in store!

For those of you who have already had your children move through the ins and outs of nursery, Sunday School, Kids Church, youth activities, this is your chance to come alongside the younger families and little ones in our church. Remember the older members of the church who came alongside you when you were the child or young parent? This is your turn to share what you have learned in life in MANY areas. The good, the bad, the ups and downs. Times you had to run to God because you were overwhelmed with life! What a blessing! What a gift! And you will continue to learn as you go.

Psalm 71:18 "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come."

I am charging us all to make this a year of commitment to our children and their children. A year to make faith in our blessed Savior, giver of all we have, a priority. Please join me.

Sincerely,
Karen Rice, Children's Ministry Coordinator

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed Pastor Pete on Vacation	2
3 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study	4 7:30 PM Education Team	5 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	6 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	8 6:00 PM Servant Team Retreat 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	9 8:00 AM Servant Team Retreat
10 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 10:15 AM Ministry Team Commissioning 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	11	12 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 12:00 PM Silver Singles 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Stewards of Property 7:00 PM Worship Team	13 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	18 MLK Day--Office Closed	19 6:30 PM Outreach Team	20 HERALD DEADLINE 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 10:15 AM Service of Remembrance 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	25	26 7:00 PM Leadership Team	27 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 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						

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**

JANUARY

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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