

## Pastor Pete Kontra *There's Nothing in Your Way*

Stones.

I have noticed that there are a lot of stories and images using stones in the Bible. And so I share a brief reflection on some, but this is by no means an exhaustive list.

Stones have been used for good:

- To mark the places where persons have encountered God, as did Jacob at Bethel and the Israelites after they crossed the Jordan River.
- To build great structures, including the Temple of God.
- To symbolize Jesus' place in all life: *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*
- To glorify Jesus' power, as Jesus says, *"I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."*

Stones have been used for pain:

- As Jesus laments Jerusalem's blindness: *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!"*
- As Jesus encounters the woman caught in adultery, the crowd is ready to stone her for her sin, as Jesus replies, *"Let anyone who is without sin cast the first stone."*
- Stephen, one of the early church leaders, was stoned for sharing the message of Christ.

What kind of stone do you carry in your hand?

Do you carry around the weight and burden of sin and guilt, or perhaps of worry and stress over life? Do you carry stones of anger ready to cast at others?

Well, you see, God has taken away the biggest stone of all: The large stone that sealed Jesus' tomb was no match for the power of Jesus' resurrection. Moved away, it revealed the new and glorious life God has given to us—that sin and death no longer prevail.

That means, because of Easter, we no longer need to carry around those stones of suffering. God has transformed those so that now we can put those stones down and with them start building new life.

I pray that this day be a new one for you through the power of Jesus' love and grace. Mark this day with the stone you carry as the place where God has healed you of all that weighs you down. Begin to build a life upon the solid rock of Christ, that you become a beacon of hope to a world that is hurting.

There is nothing in your way. The stone has been rolled away! God bless you. -Pastor Pete

# From Pastor Doug

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## ♪♪ *Talking 'bout my generation* ♪♪

The Who belted this line out fifty years ago, revealing a divide in understanding between their and other generations, most likely the older generations. The constant cycle of what came first, i.e., does music inform culture or does culture inform music? – can be debated and argued but the truth remains: if we are not careful, we in the church can be divided on generational lines. We must be on our guard against this. Maybe I've written about this topic before, maybe not. It remains constant on my heart.

**Changes in our language** (what's a tablet? A pad of paper or a hand held computer w/touch screen?), **to the way we communicate** (i.e. phone, face to face, email, text, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, newspaper, radio, TV), **how we spend our time** (who still goes to family reunions or spends time with friends on Easter instead of family), **to how we spend our money** (may look different for those who grew up in the Depression, the 60s to today) **all show a difference in understanding as to how we act and interact in this world we live in.** A person may ask, "So what? Who cares if I want to stay with the group I grew up with? What does it matter if I spend all my time with people who share a common understanding, a common life experience? These are the people I feel most comfortable around."

Listening to people of all ages, from youth to those at Brethren Village and everyone in between, these divisions become more apparent. Jesus said, "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." The problem with division is that people can co-exist in a common body for a period of time, but more often than not, it becomes "divided [and] against itself." Then, our differences in understanding become more apparent. People become more passionate about things and events over and above the people in their local church body. Whether these occur within the church or outside of the church, the attitude remains the same. "They don't understand."

How can we fight this? How can we gain understanding from one another and strengthen the body? What must we do and how can we learn from believers past? The first is to acknowledge how we add to the issue. What do I say about 'us' or 'them?' Next, how can we break the lines? Who is 'them?' Do I know anyone one from 'them?' Then, humble ourselves. Can I teach or share anything with 'them?' Can I learn from the same? We have many faithful followers of Christ in all ages at Hempfield. How can we strengthen one another? Acts 2:42ff tells us:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **Everyone** was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **All the believers** were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day **they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

When was the last time we had a person from outside our group over for dinner? Or coffee? Or even on a Sunday morning? The church in Acts did not seem to have that issue. **All the believers were together and had everything in common.** Let's break the lines. Let's bridge the gaps. Let's grow in understanding.

# Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

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## Bloom Where You Are Planted



Somewhere in a binder in a box in one of my offices rests a quote from one of my Uncle Paul Fike's sermon notes that says, "*Bloom where you are planted.*" I think about that a lot.

Thirty years ago I would have bet my grandpa's farm that I would not settle in Lancaster County to raise a family—I had too many places to go, too many things to see. I would go somewhere to make my mark.

My mark turned out to be a less than *remarkable*: a half-decade of different jobs in different places with no purpose, little peace and more than a few tears along the way. A year in Brethren Volunteer Service brought me back to Manheim, and now I live,

minister and work a mile away from that afore-mentioned farm. It's wonderful and fulfilling to have a calling and to not constantly wonder what my next move is. The peace comes from wondering what God's next move is and being pre-emptively content with it.

Truth be told, I still don't feel like I fit in very well in Lancaster County but it really doesn't matter. For this season in life, I can finally sing along with King David, who wrote:

*LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.*

*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.* – Psalm 16:5-6

And so, like the lone blooming daffodil along my fence, I do my best to bloom. Do the same. It doesn't matter if the flowers around you have given up or if they wish to be somewhere else or if they tell you that it's pointless to try. God wants to see the Son's glory shining in your face. Bloom!

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## Praying Attention

The other evening the EPACC board was finishing up a meeting with prayer and in this prayer my Christian brother prayed "we don't just want "good ideas" we want "*God ideas.*" The more I pondered this, the more profound these words became to me. What if we came to the Lord and asked Him for His ideas in every area of our life? After all, we're asking the One whose idea it was to create the world and every person and thing in it. In Ephesians 3:20 - 21 it says "*Now to Him who is able to do **immeasurably more than all** we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever!*" Praise God for the great privilege of asking Him for His ideas!



# 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.

April 3	Renewed Health	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
April 10	A Reversal of Shame	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
April 17	A Sound Mind	Teacher: TBA
April 24	A Family Reunion	Teacher: TBA

† **THE SEEKERS**—Please join us for teaching and discussion that will help us to delve deeper into our Christian faith and life. We meet in the Prayer Room just off the Sanctuary. 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.

April 3	Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-13	Teacher: Doug Hinton
April 10	Luke 14:1-14	Teacher: Ray O'Boyle
April 17	James 4:1-6	Teacher: Rich Bushong
April 24	I Cor. 1:18-31	Teacher: Ray Hutchison

† **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 finishing Greg Gilbert's, *Why Trust the Bible?* What's the main reason that you trust the Bible? Why should others? How you answer those two questions forms the foundation of your faith and the trajectory of your spiritual development. If you can't answer those two questions, then it's difficult to be a practicing Christian and almost impossible to be an effective ambassador for Christ.

In this book, Gilbert addresses five core questions. Can we be confident:

1. In the translation of the Bible?
2. That copyists accurately transmitted the original writing to us?
3. That we're looking at the right set of books?
4. That the original authors were themselves trustworthy?
5. That what they described really took place?

Discovering the answers to these questions would establish a pretty solid foundation for thinking that we can really accept the Bible as historically reliable. And if we can do that, then it follows that we consider the Bible's account of Jesus' resurrection as true. And everything else flows from that belief.

In the coming months we will be studying Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Geoff Davis teaches this class.

# Messages in April

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April 3



**Bible Babble — *Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-13***

***Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching***

This month we are speaking from “love is not proud.” American Christianity has taken an individualistic stance toward the faith. “Do you know Jesus?” “Are you saved?” “This is my faith.” But what about the community of faith? What happens when people seek God together? What about when they seek to ‘make a name for themselves’ without God? Looking at our passages in Genesis and Acts, what does all this have to do with pride? Let’s seek together.

April 10



**Life at the Table—*Luke 14:1-14***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

Love is not proud. Why? Pride takes from others. Love gives. Pride relies on the praise and acknowledgement of others. True honor must be given by others, and the only honor that matters for us is that which comes from God. When we lift others up we can all stand together.

April 17



**Path of Least Resistance—*James 4:1-6***

***Pastor Kent Rice Preaching***

Would you rather be a salmon or a tuna? Jerry Seinfeld correctly observed that one swims with the current and the other against it. James tells us that God opposes the proud but gives grace to (“strengthens” in some translations) the humble. Nothing works for us when we make it all about us and not about Him--the harder we work to elevate ourselves, the more spiritually, emotionally and physically exhausted we become. Abandon your pride and swim with God's current!

April 24



**A Preaching Fool—*1 Corinthians 1:18-31***

***Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching***

If we go through life trying to figure this out on our own by our great smarts, we’re going to get pretty frustrated. As intelligent as you may be, it’s only a tiny fraction of life that you see. According to some, we nullify our survival if we do not rely on our minds for all things. But according to God, if we do rely only on our own understandings we nullify our chance for survival. Let me be a fool filled by God, then full of myself and truly empty.

# April Ministry Schedules

April 3  
April 10  
April 17  
April 24

## NURSERY

Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Brooke Davis  
Marg Zurin, Diane Garber, Jen Lugar  
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice  
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Abby Wright



April 3  
April 10  
April 17  
April 24

## 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



April 3  
April 10  
April 17  
April 24

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the pastors  
Tom Fritz  
Joel Kettering  
Randy Ziegler

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

## SPECIAL MUSIC



April 3  
April 10  
April 17  
April 24

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir  
TBA  
Sanctuary Choir  
TBA

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard  
Christian Layman  
Dave Bendit  
Ben Johnson

April 3  
April 10  
April 17  
April 24

## DEACON GREETERS

Pete Moore  
Gladys Metzler  
Nancy Haas  
Betty Cox

## JNH GREETERS

Earl & Betty Zimmerman  
Delbert & MaryAnn Kautz  
Bruce, Bonnie & Abby Wright  
Jeff & Bev Moyer



## OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

# HCOB Family News

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**EDUCATIONAL GRANT**—The Church, through the Education Team, is offering a GRANT to individuals pursuing a career in Christian Ministry or attending a Christian college or university. Inquiring applicants can send a letter to Donna Reed, secretary of the Education Team, via the church mailbox or [rdreed2@verizon.net](mailto:rdreed2@verizon.net). Please include a short resume. The deadline for grant applications is May 1, 2016.

**POST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:** If you, or someone you know is graduating from a college, university, or other post high school program, please send the name & contact information to Donna Reed, secretary of the Education Team, (church mailbox or [rdreed2@verizon.net](mailto:rdreed2@verizon.net)) by April 17, 2016 in order to complete a short questionnaire. We would like to celebrate with you as you finish this chapter of your life!

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:** If you, or a family member is graduating this year from High School, please submit the name and contact information to Donna Reed by May 1, 2016. (church mailbox or [rdreed2@verizon.net](mailto:rdreed2@verizon.net)). Then you will receive a short questionnaire that is due May 8, 2016, so that we may recognize your achievements on Graduation Sunday.



## **GOD'S GROUNDSKEEPERS NEEDS YOU!**

If you have a green, blue or brown thumb, love flowers and enjoy working in the soil, then God's Groundskeepers may be the team for you! We will not have any meetings but the only time we will meet is when there is a need to play in the soil and get dirty.



Our goals will be:

- Maintain the flowers and landscape around the church.
- Planting and watering of flowers
- Mulching – congregation and youth will be invited to help
- Spring and fall cleanup – congregation and youth will be invited to help
- Trimming bushes
- Weeding the beds when needed.

This team is an extension of the Stewards Team and will be under their guidance and funding. We are hoping to have enough volunteers to make this team easily fit into anyone's schedule. We will be working out a schedule for weeding of the beds and watering flowers. This team will be under the guidance of a few master gardeners so you will have a chance to learn some new cultivating skills. If you are interested please contact Mary Lou Ruth at 717-682-6488 or [gmlruth@gmail.com](mailto:gmlruth@gmail.com).

# HCOB Kids News

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Praise that we are actually in full swing of spring! God is so good and SO amazing! What an incredible artist.

Easter was a blessed time with our kids here at HCOB. We had a great turn out for our Easter Egg Hunt and lots of friends from the community participated. I was honored to hear some amazing insights from some of our children about what the whole Easter story means and the beauty of Jesus' gift to us.

We are looking forward to VBS in June. It will run June 20th to the 23rd. PLEASE mark your calendars and consider participating!!! It is honestly one of my favorite times of the whole year. Our theme is Submerged and it promises many laughs interwoven with biblical truths.

Enjoy God's lovely artwork this season! Hug the kids!!!

# Outreach @ HCOB

## *Special Report by Deborah Foti*

It is so exciting to learn about the different ministries that HCOB is working through to reach out to our community, both local and global. This month we will highlight two organizations: first, is the Foods Resources Bank and its “growing project,” which HCOB supports financially through the efforts of local HCOB farmers, and second, is our own Naomi Beach’s new business called Eat Clean Move, which is supporting the East Petersburg Area Civic Center (EPACC) and our East Pete Faith Outreach (EPFO).

### **Foods Resource Bank (FRB) – A Christian Response to World Hunger**



**FRB** raises money to help people in developing countries grow their own food with a focus on food security. FRB links grassroots energy and commitment of the U.S. agricultural community with the capability and desire of small-holder farmers in developing countries to grow lasting solutions to hunger.

Each year more than 200 U.S. “growing projects,” volunteers, companies, and organizations raise \$3.5-4 million to support 50-60 overseas programs. A U.S. “growing project” is simply a group of people who get together to raise money to support communities overseas working to end hunger.

In FRB’s first 15 years, they supported the efforts of 1 million people as they learned new and better ways to grow their own food, increase their incomes and improve their homes, farms, and communities. So what does a “growing project” look like?

A number of HCOB farmers have functioned as a “growing project” for years. Jim, Dustin and Cody Musser, Jim Kettering, Dick Harnish and Lowell Landis have participated by donating a portion of their corn or soybean sales to this FRB program. These farmers designate 1-3 acres for an FRB project, donate the expenses to grow, harvest and sell the crops, and then contribute the gross selling proceeds of the crops.

Jim shared that he gets everyone along the chain involved, from planting to harvesting. He shares the ministry of how the donated crop sales are used to support local farming projects in overseas communities and the seed company willingly donates the seeds; the sprayer donates chemical spraying time and material; and even the combine operator donates his time and equipment. Last year alone, over \$3,000 was donated by our HCOB farmers. What a great way to minister locally and globally.



Naomi has walked the talk of her new business. She began her journey to health eight years ago after tragically losing her sister to cancer and brother to a gunshot wound in a carjacking. She turned her losses into motivation to completely change her life and commit to a healthy and active lifestyle.

Naomi is now a certified health coach through the Dr. Sears Wellness Institute. She offers classes and individual coaching to help people change their life to reach and maintain their optimal health. She follows the LEAN principle which is based on the four pillars of – Lifestyle – Exercise - Attitude – Nutrition. Her focus groups are children, pregnant women and people 50+, each of which has unique needs for optimal health.

How does this relate to HCOB Outreach? I am so glad you asked. Eat Clean Move is an example of how a business can promote the EPFO ministry: through the use of the EPACC space for differing kinds of activities; by generating income through sharing class fees; and by drawing different people from the community into EPACC so they can learn about other EPFO activities.

Naomi's next workshop at EPACC will be a LEAN Start workshop aimed at anyone who prepares meals for children ages 3 - 12. With the growing obesity epidemic among children, this workshop will allow attendees to "experience" nutrition and play. You can register by emailing Naomi at [naomibeach.healthcoach@gmail.com](mailto:naomibeach.healthcoach@gmail.com) or calling 717-715-3190. Her website – [www.eatcleanmove.com](http://www.eatcleanmove.com) – will be live in mid-April and will have her schedule of future classes.

## New Members

*We welcomed the following people into our HCOB family as new members on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.*



### ***Naomi Beach***

My name is Naomi and I am originally from South Africa. Mark and I met there, and after a few trips back and forth we started an adventurous journey of marriage, two children, living in Switzerland for eight years and now, this next chapter of our lives here in East Petersburg. We had the privilege to be part of a very diverse, international church in France. To be honest, I was skeptical about finding a church here. However, my first impressions of this church was how friendly everyone was. We feel welcome and are excited to be part of the church community. Audrey and Wesley enjoy being part of the youth group and I look forward to helping in the nursery.

### ***Mark Beach***

I am Mark Beach. With my family, Naomi, Audrey and Wesley, we moved to East Petersburg in early 2015 from living in Switzerland for eight years. We came to Hempfield on a snowy Sunday in February and sensed that this is where God wanted us to be. We were not sure why that sense was so evident because this church is so different from our congregation in France...our church was just across the border. It must have been the smiles and the sense that you were waiting for us to show up. Maybe you didn't know you were waiting for us, but it felt as if you were. So we are here to worship, fellowship and serve our Lord. I work with Mennonite Disaster Service doing communications work. So, I have cameras, editing equipment, and a pen and paper. I hope that I can offer some gifts to the church. Thank you.

### ***Sara Basom***

My name is Sara Basom. I grew up in Sunbury, Pennsylvania with my parents and older sister, Elisabeth. I attended Emmanuel Bible Fellowship Church where I was an active member in our youth group and other various ministries. This is also where I was baptized a few years ago in 2014. After graduating high school I went to Millersville University where I received my elementary teaching degree. Since graduating, I have been teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Mountville Elementary in the Hempfield School District. I have been regularly attending Hempfield COB for about 2 years with my husband, Tim. Right from the start I was welcomed with open arms and have greatly enjoyed getting to know so many of you. I consider it such a blessing to be able to join this body and I look forward to seeing where the Lord leads me as a new member of this church.

# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 4:00 PM Kristin Stauffer & Ryan Novak wedding rehearsal	<b>2</b> Kristin Stauffer & Ryan Novak Wedding
<b>3</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Pastor Doug Seminary Class 7:00 PM Education Team	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Doug@ Brethren Village 7:00 PM Congregational Gathering 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	<b>8</b> 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Pastor Doug@ Brethren Village	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Kautz Family Dinner 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Pastor Doug Seminary Class	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Outreach Team	<b>20</b> <b>HERALD DEADLINE</b> 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor Doug@ Brethren Village	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Youth Grab 'N Go Lunch Fundraiser 3:00 PM Kautz Birthday Party 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Leadership Team	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Pastor Doug@ Brethren Village	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

*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  
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