

Pastor Pete Kontra

Don't Let Your Heart Grow Cold

"I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first..." Revelation 2:2-5 (NAS)

It's getting warm! It's soon summer, which makes me think of a lot of things, one being Hershey Park. I grew up there, worked there, and still enjoy going there. And what do I love about it? The rollercoasters! I love the speed and the ups and downs, ups and downs.

Ups and downs are great at Hershey Park (unless you get motion sickness), but they are not so great when we talk about our relationship with God. Life is definitely filled with ups and downs, highs and lows, but we must always do all we can not to allow our relationship with Jesus Christ to do the same.

Jesus began His ministry of teaching about the Kingdom of God and transforming lives and performing miracles. That was a high. But then what happened? He's crucified. That was a low. But then what happened? He rose from the dead. And that was a high. Here's what I know: because Jesus stayed faithful to God in the highs *and* the lows, it is in the highs and the lows that we will learn to become like Jesus.

Notice the description of these followers of Jesus in Revelation. They've grown in their faith. It's obvious they had a clear sense of their purpose. They had served the Lord with gratitude and emotion and joy and diligence, but something had happened. Somewhere along the way, in their journey with Jesus, something had changed. Now it wasn't a work problem. They were working along just fine. As a matter of fact, the Bible says, "You're great at work, you're great at perseverance, you're great at endurance." They were doing the right thing. I don't believe it was an information problem, in thinking wrong things. They had the right information. Their problem was a love problem. They were suffering from what can adequately be described as heart-drift.

Have you ever experienced heart-drift? Where your heart used to be just inflamed with passion and now it's cold? Maybe right now you are coming down off a spiritual high, or are already in a spiritual low, or are at a peak moment. Whatever the case, continue to stay connected daily with God's Word, continue to stay connected to God in prayer, continue to stay connected to the Body of Christ.

Life and our emotions will take those roller coaster rides. But God is constant. His love for you is unchanging. Stay open to Him and He will keep your heart aflame. God bless you. -Pastor Pete

From Pastor Doug

Looking Through the Turn

Why is it that in so many accidents-car or motorcycle-people hit the one thing they want to avoid? It seems people hit trees or telephone poles even when nothing else is around that *one* object for 200 yards. Often times, what people do not realize is that **they fixate their eyes on the one thing they wish to avoid**. Where the eyes or head go, the body will follow.

In motorcycle safety class, we are taught to look through the turn; i.e. look the direction you wish the bike to go. When looking through the turn, your brain translates what the eyes focus on to how the body should react. Same thing when driving a car. Have you ever been in a long sweeping turn when you see something in the distance that distracts your focus? You find yourself in the other lane of traffic, even if ever so slightly. Though I knew to look through turns when riding, the lesson I learned on October 24th last year follows suit: know the limitations of the bike you're on and readjust or suffer the consequences.

1 Peter 5:6-10 tells us: *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

The world and church are facing many changes and issues that we have either avoided or not had to deal with. Today, I encourage you, **look through the turn**. Keep your focus on following Christ by **humbling yourself...under God's mighty hand**. Do not look at the evils or the problems of this world as the end all be all. Do not focus on the tree! **Be alert and of sober mind**. Focus on God's leading presence in your life and know when to speak, when to pray, and when to stay silent. Know your strengths and learn your limitations. Our enemy the devil wishes to divide and devour us. **Stand firm!** Know that other believers share in Christ's sufferings throughout the world. After suffering a little while, **God will restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast**. What is Christ calling you to today? Focus on him. Look through the turn.

Praying Attention



A Morning Prayer -
God, please enlighten my mind with truth;
Inflame my heart with love;
Inspire my will with courage;
Enrich my life with service;
Pardon what I have been;
Sanctify what I am;
And order what I shall be.
Amen

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.

May 1	Increased Faith	Teacher: Pete Kontra
May 8	Grateful Faith	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
May 15	Humble Faith	Teacher: Denny Bushong
May 22	Childlike Faith	Teacher: TBA
May 29	Joyous Faith	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 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.

May 1	1 Cor 13:5; Luke 15:11-32	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
May 8	Matthew 7:12	Teacher: Kent Rice
May 15	Luke 14:25-27	Teacher: Pete Cope
May 22	Luke 14:1-14	Teacher: Ray O'Boyle
May 29	Matthew 5:9; Proverbs 16:21	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. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Galatians to close out the year. Paul wrote the letter because the gospel message was under attack by Jewish Christians who taught it was necessary for Christians to first obey the law of Moses before becoming Christians. Paul writes to the Galatians to follow the true gospel which teaches that we are saved by God's grace alone and become more what God wants us to be through his grace. Geoff Davis teaches this class.

Messages in May

May 1

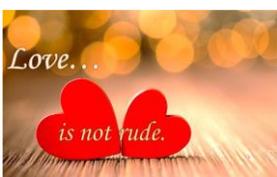


Love Is Not Rude — 1 Corinthians 13:5; Luke 15:11-32

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

“Corinthians is a letter that gives a practical way to apply the Christian faith to day-to-day issues of life’s work. Love is the purpose, means, motivations, gift and glory behind all work done in Christ.” (Theology of Work Project) The word ‘rude’ is translated in other version of the Bible as ‘propriety’, ‘is not ill-mannered’, ‘does not act unbecomingly’, ‘does not dishonor others’, ‘doesn’t force itself on others.’ What do we believe about ‘standards of behavior’, about choosing appropriate actions and responses that help other people, about how we behave in Christian community? Or have we become so self-centered that we no longer have a place for this concept in our society or interactions with others? Love is not rude.

May 8



Listen to the Song—1 Kings 3:3-12

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Love is not rude. Love listens to God’s voice and the voice of others around us. When God asked Solomon what he wanted, he asked for a discerning, or listening, heart. Do we truly hear? Do we truly listen?

May 15



8:00 Service— It’s Not Just “What” but “How”—Matthew 7:12

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Love is not rude. Why? Rudeness is being insensitive to the needs and situation of the other, making the moment about myself. Love respects others, living as Christ in every moment—not just in what we do or say, but how and why.

10:15 Service—Celebration Sunday—Love Wins!

Please join us for a joyful worship celebration of God’s love for the whole family. Kids will worship with their families on this special day.

May 22



Hate Your Family?—Luke 14:25-27

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

In 1 Corinthians 13:5, it tells us that “love is not rude [ESV]” or “does not dishonor others [NIV].” Yet in Luke 14:25-27, Jesus tells his followers that if they follow him, they must hate their parents, spouses, kids---even themselves! WHAT?!? That doesn’t seem to match. So, what do we do with this passage? What does Jesus mean here and how can we learn from his teaching? Are we missing anything in translation, and most importantly, when others come to us with this question, can we answer it in the way of Christ?

May 29



How to Be Heard—Matthew 5:9; Proverbs 16:21

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Whether you’re tempted to be rude, or responding to someone else’s rudeness, we are called to seek the wisdom of God. Proverbs says, “Pleasant words promote instruction”—in order to be heard, and to truly hear, we must do those things that make for peace.

May Ministry Schedules

May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 29

NURSERY

Carol Koser
Marg Zurin, Diane Garber, Karen Rice
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Carolyn Gingrich
TBA



May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 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
Dave Dum & Rich Bushong



May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 29

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the pastors
Tom Fritz
Ray O'Boyle
Pete Cope
Pete Cope

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Laura Meiser
TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 29

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir
TBA
TBA

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit

May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 29

DEACON GREETERS

Doris Wright
Tom Connelly
Millie Hoffman
Janet Moore
Ruth Johnson

JNH GREETERS

Tom & Carolyn Fritz
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich
Nicholas & Joanna Huacani
Faye Rohrer
Carl & Lisa Polonchak



OFFERING TABULATORS

Glenn Brubaker, Marcia Root

HCOB Family News

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER is Thursday, May 5, at the Junction Center. Plan now to join in this community event. Starts at 6pm and is over at 8pm. Parking is at Roots Country Auction on Graystone Road. If you would like to carpool, we will be meeting at the church in John Naas Hall parking lot at 5pm. Please contact Rich Bushong at 664-4395 before 8pm if you are interested in carpooling. Michael W. Smith will be at this year's event. Food vendors will be there from 4pm till 7:30pm. Theme for this year is "Wake-Up America" from Isaiah 58:1.

THE HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP MINISTRY is planning a clean-up day on **Saturday, May 7th**. Participants will meet at **9:30AM** at the church. If you would like to participate in this ministry of caring for our community's environment, please sign up in the narthex. We need about 10 people to help out with this project. Contact Cody Musser (575-2011) if you have any questions.

HCOB Kids News



Spring is really here! What a blessed time of year. God gets to pull out is colorful paintbrush and really amaze us with His incredible art work!

The kids are excited about the impending summer vacation. Some might even be counting down the days. (I know a lot of teachers are too!)

Along with the excitement of summer comes the excitement of Vacation Bible School!!!! Okay, as the director, it can be a little daunting to think about, BUT it is also one of my very favorite times of the year. We here at Hempfield are known for having one of the best VBS's around! What I love most is that so many in the church come together to make it so much fun. It is a huge group effort! This year, New Life Church will be partnering with us. They feel called to have a VBS, but just don't have the manpower to pull it off. What an amazing blessing to be able to have them join on board with us. If you have never helped with VBS, or it has been a while, I greatly urge you to jump in. We have jobs for all talents! Please be a blessing to someone else and let the blessings of the week also pour out on you. You won't be disappointed!

VBS is Monday, June 20th through Thursday, June 23rd. We start at 6:30 pm and run until 8:30 pm. Our theme is Submerged - Finding truth below the surface. Classes begin at 4 years of age through finished 7th. There is also an adult class!!!

Blessings to you all. We covet your prayers for our dear children. They are sponges just waiting to soak up God's love!!!!

Karen Rice--Children's Ministry Coordinator

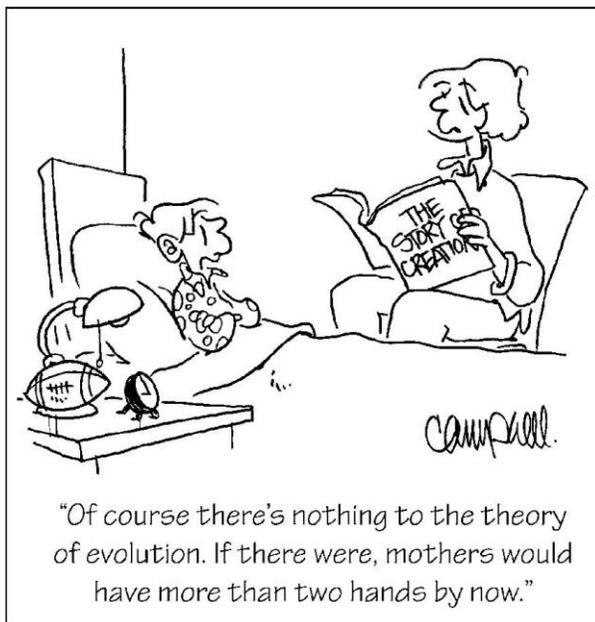
MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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	2 10:00 AM Pastor Doug Seminary Class 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 9:30 AM Highway Clean-up Ministry 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
8 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	9	10 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	11 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
15 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Celebration Sunday 6:30 PM Young Families Fellowship & Study 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	16 5:00 PM Setup WORDD Social	17 6:00 PM WORDD Spring Social 6:30 PM Outreach Team	18 HERALD DEADLINE 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study	19 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	20	21 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
22 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	23	24 7:00 PM Leadership Team	25 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	26	27	28 9:00 AM QE Brass Rehearsal 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
29 Graduation Sunday 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 Piano Recital 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	30 Memorial Day--Office Closed	31				

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

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

**Toon of
The Month**



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The Month**



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
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