

## Free!

Pastor Pete Kontra

FREE! How many times do you see that word every day? Seriously, pay attention this week at how many various ways businesses use that word in advertisements to get your attention. You know:

“Free toothbrush when you purchase three tubes of Bright Mouth toothpaste”

“Free tank of gasoline when you buy this \$65,000 car! (While supplies last)”

Tuition-Free. Fat-free.

Yes, even Free Air! (at a couple mini-marts in the area)

I was driving the other day and a little yellow sign along the side of the road caught my attention:

“Live Free for a Year” I’m pretty sure it was an ad for a new home or mortgage company –something like that. But it got me thinking: Yes, what if we really could live free for a year? Sure, go ahead and imagine living a whole year without having to pay money for anything. That’s a fascinating conversation in itself.

But what about in what really matters? Live free for a year—free from all those things that get in the way of fully living as the beautiful creation God made you to be. The sin, the brokenness, the fear, the pain, the worries, the jealousy, the anger, the self-doubt. You name it for yourself. What would happen?

Then I thought about us as the church: Live free for a year—free from all the stuff that gets in our way of fully living as God called us to as followers of Jesus Christ. The fear, the doubt, the “rules”, the “way we’ve always done it.” What would happen?

The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 5:1: “It is for freedom that Christ set us free.”

Yes, go ahead and read that verse again. In Christ we are free from the powers of sin and anything that would try and enslave us. Freedom to live life to its fullest, which means finding our strength and peace in the joy of the Lord, and shining His Light to all the world around us.

Live free for a year. What about a lifetime? It’s a decision each of us are called to make. Because God wants that freedom for you; He wants that freedom for us as His Church.

Yeah, I know, there’s still a lot of nasty stuff going on in the world and right in our backyards. But that’s exactly what we’re talking about. In the midst of that we have the Freedom to love when we’re tempted to hate, freedom to give when we’re tempted to hold on tight, freedom to serve when we’re tempted to sit in our comfort, freedom to forgive when we’re tempted to hold onto our pain, freedom to accept others and not judge where they are in life so that they too may know this freedom.

Yes, and the freedom to actually BELIEVE all this is true and possible. Live free for a year. I mean, really, what would you do? What could we do together? Go ahead, use that awesome imagination God gave to you!

Because guess what? God is the one “Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” -Ephesians 3:20

Blessings!

# What Is the Bible About?

Pastor Doug Hinton

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*“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”* **Mark 12:32-33**

How well do you process the information you receive throughout the day? We see things on the news, on our way to work or school or a friend’s house, sale ads, social media—I mean there is a lot to take in and filter out. What about questions? Do you stand at the front of the line in McDonald’s and look at the menu for three minutes before ordering or do you know what you want when you park the car? Questions concerning food or how to get to grandma’s house may be easy to respond to. There are other questions that we can ponder for hours, days, weeks or years. In conversation with a young man, he asked, “what is the Bible about?” We discussed the overarching theme and the Ten Commandments (at his prompting) among other things. But as I lay in bed this morning, the question continued to roll around in my head.

The context of the verse above comes from Mark 12:28-34 and relates a story of a man who comes to questions Jesus about the greatest commandment. The man seems to understand and confirm this (as found in his statement above) and Jesus tells him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” “Love the Lord you God...love your neighbor as yourself...” Love the Unknown and the known, the Unseen and seen, the Almighty, Eternal, Infinite God and the mortal, limited humanity made in His image. These thoughts accompanied me as I woke up, swirling around my head, pointing me to what the Bible relates: everything is about our relationship to God and humanity. Nothing is more important. I find it funny. We can learn facts about the universe, what our weight would be on Mars, how deep the Pacific Ocean is, how high Mt. Everest stands, or the strength of an ant. But we continue to struggle to understand how to live with and love one another. I believe it starts with understanding the story of God and mankind found in the Bible and we can best seek this out together.

In September, many will begin going through the E100: the 100 foundational stories of our faith found in the Old and New Testament. Many of these stories we learned as children. As we grow in our faith and maturity, we learn new aspects and gain different insights from them. My hope is that people increase in understanding of the overarching story of the Bible, share insights and questions with one another, and grow in community as followers of Jesus. Going through this as a body can bring us closer to one another and God as we humbly try to understand and teach His Word. Some questions may be answered and many may be raised—great! This can be a time to begin to understand--or better understand--those around you as we seek to understand God’s Word and ultimately God’s character through Christ. Finally, for our newer members and guests that may not be part of a small group, this can allow them to create a new one or become part of those already in existence. We are all members of one body in Christ. Let us grow in knowledge, understanding, and humility as we seek God’s Word together.

Blessings!! Pastor Doug

# Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

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## *Either God Is In Control or He Isn't*

Last month we talked about learning to be content with a certain amount of ignorance where spiritual matters are concerned, because we are small and God is BIG and despite all our smarticles we know very little about what's going on in this realm or any other. (Yes, I know "smarticles" isn't really a word but I just like the way it sounds!)

The question I pose today is this: Is God in control? Is God sovereign? If not, then everything should be subject to suspicion. But if He IS, then I think we would all agree that NOT everything should be subject to suspicion. And yet I don't see Christians having much more peace than anyone else when it comes to the state of things.

Knowing God is in control certainly doesn't lessen the imperative to try to help. In fact, it should compel us to help more. But if the same person who believes God is real and is actively moving in the world spends his day criticizing every part about that day, then the math would prove that he criticized God at some point.

Did God not use Nebuchadnezzar? Or even deeply flawed people like David and Simon Peter? Perhaps today's exasperating, inexplicable thing is intended to bring about a KINGDOM thing that wouldn't happen if the ONLY thing was that we got to do OUR thing. Can you dig it?

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For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. -- Psalm 71:5

## HCOB Kids News

Karen Rice

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Greetings from HCOB Kids! Fall is upon us and we are all gearing up, or already into, our crazy (non-summer) lives. I'm really not sure where the time went, but it happened!

We are starting a fun new curriculum with our 1st through 5th grade classes! We will be following along with the e100 book that is geared to kids. It is the book that many of the Sunday School classes are using as well as some small groups. Really interesting!

Many of you signed up to be Prayer Buddies with our kids as they head out into the world. THANK YOU! What a blessing to know that our children are being covered in prayer each day. Even if you didn't sign up, please continue to keep our kids in your prayers. Also, teachers need lots of prayer and we have many in our congregation! Lift them up as well! Enjoy the delicious smells, sights and textures of fall! God is amazing!

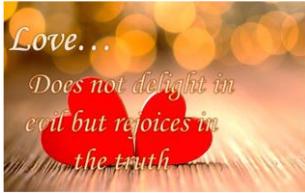
*"Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger."*

*Psalm 8:2*

# Messages in September

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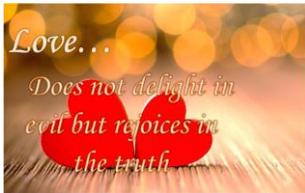
September 4



**Rejoicing in the Truth — Acts 8:25-40, Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 119.1-8**  
**Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching**

1 Corinthians tells us that love rejoices in the Truth: but where can truth be found? As we start a new school year, a new Sunday School season, and go back into routine, finding Truth in and through Scripture together reveals not only the Laws of God, but the heart of the Law Giver. We may face people who have questions about God and His Word: are we prepared to give an answer? How can we grow in such a way?

September 11



**Love Does Not Delight in Evil— 1 Corinthians 13:6; Matthew 4:1-11**  
**Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching @ HCOB**

In Greek, the word, *truth*, means “conformity to reality; something we can depend on; goodness.” *Evil* is defined as “wrongdoing; malicious joy or gloating over people’s failures; all that is opposed to the gospel.” Paul was addressing the evils of Corinth – idol worship and rampant sexual immorality – and how difficult it was for the newly converted Christians to shake their old habits. After Jesus’ baptism, the Holy Spirit takes him into the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan – the intersection of pure goodness and pure evil. What happened in each situation? How do we react when confronted with evil? What do we have to remember?

**Love Lessons Learned—1 John 4:7-12**

**Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching @ Camp Swatara**

Growing up I hated doing homework. Sitting at my desk at home was torture. Why? Because I wanted to be out exploring the world. Yes, we must take time to study God’s Word, but we cannot leave it there. Love is action, and we only learn what God’s love really is when we live it out ourselves.

September 18



**All for Truth—2 Corinthians 13:5-10--Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching**  
**No 8:00 Service—10:15 Service Only**

Love does not delight in evil. From the beginning we humans are tempted to delight in the failings of others. It serves our ego. But love rejoices with the truth—that we all might stand in the light of Christ and be made whole in Him. How do we examine ourselves? Do we live to build one another up?

September 25



**Know the Truth— John 8:31-36**  
**Pastor Kent Rice Preaching**

John 8:36 says, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Love rejoices in the truth--do we run to that truth or shy away from it?

# September Ministry Schedules

September 4  
September 11  
September 18  
September 25

## NURSERY

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



September 4  
September 11  
September 18  
September 25

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell & Rich Bushong  
Rich & Jamie Bushong  
No 8:00 service  
Matt Markey

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Rich Bushong  
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong  
Mitchell Barnes & Rich Bushong  
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong



September 4  
September 11  
September 18  
September 25

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the Pastors  
Dennis Hughes  
No 8:00 Service  
Tom Fritz

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

## SPECIAL MUSIC



September 4  
September 11  
September 18  
September 25

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
Sanctuary Choir

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard  
Ben Johnson  
Dave Bendit  
Dave Bendit

September 4  
September 11  
September 18  
September 25

## DEACON GREETERS

Betty Cox  
Nancy Haas  
Ruth Johnson  
Doris Wright

## JNH GREETERS

Jim & Sue Musser  
Jerry & Jean Barger  
Faye Rohrer  
Delbert & Mary Ann Kautz



## OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum, Rick Schaidle

# 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 4	The Peaceful Kingdom	Teacher: Denny Bushong
September 11	The Mountain of God	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
September 18	Foundations of the Earth	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
September 25	Everlasting Covenant	Teacher: Del Kautz

† **THE OTHER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE STUDYING THE E100 CURRICULUM.** The following is a description by Pastor Doug.

*When people ask me how they should approach performance, I always tell them the professional musician should aspire to the state of the beginner. Yo Yo Ma*

I watched an interview involving Yo-Yo Ma, the master cellist. I do not remember the entire interview, but will reflect what struck me as he spoke with another. He spoke of his process of learning and mastering his art and the different stages people go through and can get stuck in. In the beginning, the student is curious, carrying the desire to learn how to play in order to perform great music. He or she can practice fervently as they learn and are able to practice more notes, better techniques, and play more difficult pieces of music. Sometimes, people study so far and go with the small amount they learned, still struggling through the art unable to learn from others. Others, however, can accomplish a high skill level in their art, continuing to learn techniques allowing them to play beautiful and technical pieces. Those in this latter group must be careful because passion and technique do not always translate well; meaning, a person can play the notes but lack the emotion. Therefore, Ma says that in order to master the art, one must apply the curiosity of those first notes to the knowledge of the highly trained. This can allow them to learn *and* feel the music that may translate to their audiences listening. The quote above reflects this sentiment.

This is my heart for the E100 study that many of us are delving into here at Hempfield. Some of us know some of the Biblical stories, some of us know many, and some of us may know them all. However, as we seek to know our Eternal God, our Savior Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come, we must approach Scripture and those around us with a renewed curiosity. Maybe you can think back to the time you first met your spouse and how you wanted to learn about his or her likes, dislikes, hopes, dreams and expectations for life. Or maybe there was a time when you sat down with grandma or grandpa, and looking through old pictures began to ask questions to learn more of their story. Sure, you *heard* about that time your uncle did this or your aunt did that, but to see the pictures puts more gravity into those old stories. Instead of looking at pictures or asking questions about our loved ones, we can sit down and study the Bible, the story of our relationship with God through Jesus.

The readings for the following week will be in the bulletin every week. Meaning, for September 4, Genesis 1-3 are to be read. Then on the September 4, they can be discussed in the various Sunday Schools and small groups. If you have any questions about the E100, please contact Pastor Doug.

## Praying Attention



***A great intercessory prayer:***

Psalm 20:1-3 May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May He send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.

# HCOB Family News



## CHURCH PICNIC!!!! SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH.

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. **See you there!!!!**

- ✓ We will provide chicken, chips, drinks, plates, utensils and cups.
- ✓ 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 12-15 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 Camp Swatara Campaign Fund. Join in the fun and be a Dunker or a Dunkee! Karen will provide activities for the kids!!!**

**EPFO DONATION ENVELOPES**--To ensure your contributions to EPFO are handled properly, please use the special EPFO contribution envelopes on the narthex table when giving cash or checks to EPFO. Cash and checks made out to the church for EPFO contributions will be included in your annual church contribution statement if you write your name or general offering envelope number on the EPFO envelope. IF you make your check out directly to EPFO, these contributions cannot be included in your annual church statement. If you want a tax statement for these direct contributions, please contact Pastor Kent Rice (kent@hempsfieldcob.org, 717-723-6197). Thank you, the Finance Team.



## COBYS BIKE & HIKE SEEKS TO RAISE \$120,000 IN 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



People have been walking, riding, and giving to support the ministries of COBYS Family Services for two decades now. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Bike & Hike will be held Sunday afternoon, September 11, at the Lititz Church of the Brethren. Brochures and information are available in your church literature rack and on the News & Events page at [www.cobys.org](http://www.cobys.org). The Bike & Hike includes a three-mile walk, 10- and 25-mile bicycle rides, and the 65-mile Dutch Country Motorcycle Ride, which this year will travel across the Susquehanna into York County. A

silent auction runs throughout the afternoon. Proceeds support the ministries of COBYS Family Services.

“In our 20th year we are seeking to raise \$120,000 or more and reverse a two-year decline in attendance,” says Director of Development Don Fitzkee. “We are off to a great start with record business support already in place. Now we are looking for walkers, riders, and givers.”

Walkers and bicyclists donate a \$25 registration fee, obtain support from sponsors, or both. Motorcycles are \$35 per cycle, plus \$25 for an additional passenger. Those who pre-register by September 6 receive a \$5 discount. Individuals who raise \$25 or more in pledges do not need to pay the registration fee. Last year nearly 500 participants raised more than \$118,000 to support COBYS ministries.

Each participant receives a free t-shirt, ice cream and refreshments, and a chance to win a door prize. Those who raise certain levels of support earn additional prizes. New COBYS logo prizes this year include a burgundy hoodie, a mug, travel mug, and water bottle. Junior and senior high youth groups who raise \$1,500 or more earn a gym and pizza night. Donations of door prizes and auction items will be welcomed until the week of the event. To learn more, contact Development Associate Nicole Hurst at 717-656-6580 or [nhurst@cobys.org](mailto:nhurst@cobys.org). Or visit [www.cobys.org](http://www.cobys.org) to view the brochure, print additional sponsor sheets (including an Excel version that does the math for you), and more.

# Outreach @ HCOB



This month's featured Outreach partner is Roblealto Child Care Assoc. Founded in 1932, Roblealto is a Christian, non-profit org. whose mission is to care for the children of Costa Rica who are in critical situations, at social risk and in need of specialized care so that they have better chances of becoming men and women of good standing.

Last month ten youth and advisors of HCOB went on a mission trip to Costa Rica to work with the children of Roblealto. As is usually the case, they felt that they received more than they gave. Rather than present interesting facts about the programs of Roblealto, I thought it would be interesting to hear firsthand from some of the participants. I interviewed Libby Rannels, youth group member, and Doug Hinton, advisor, and here are the highlights of our conversations.

I am always curious to learn what groups do when on a mission trip. Doug and Libby shared that they spent three days loving on the kids, both groups of 4-6 year olds and 7-12 year olds. They did crafts together, played soccer, danced, took lots of pictures, and just enjoyed being together. One day they took some children to a local amusement park; most of the children had never experienced anything like it.

The group also spent a day at the Bible Home helping Juan, the maintenance manager, do clean up tasks on the grounds. Doug was a little nervous when everyone was handed a machete, but everyone returned with all digits intact.



One of the trips' surprises for Libby was the level of joy and thankfulness she saw in the children. Most of these children come from very troubled homes and yet they can smile and laugh. Libby is quite the photographer and she delighted in how excited the children would get with having their pictures taken. When they would see her coming with her camera, they were full of smiles and were her willing subjects.

I was curious how Libby and Doug saw the focus of mission for this trip. Doug shared that his goal was for "our group to connect with the children and they did this above and beyond Roblealto's expectations." On a personal note, he went to be a student to see how God moves through people in a different culture who are working to "break generational strongholds and restore families." Libby's mission goal was to shower the children with attention, something that is rare in their lives, and demonstrate God's love to them.

It was clear that this trip will continue to impact the lives of Doug and Libby and everyone who went; it will be interesting to watch how God will use it to further His work through HCOB.

# September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
<b>4</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>5</b> Labor Day--Office Closed	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class 6:30 PM Torie Hostetter Memorial Service	<b>9</b> All-Church Retreat 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	<b>10</b> All-Church Retreat 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
<b>11</b> All-Church Retreat 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>12</b> 7:30 PM Education Team	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 12:00 PM Silver Singles 7:00 PM Stewards of Property 7:00 PM Worship Team	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 8:30 AM Ladies Bible Study Begins 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30 AM SEBAH Class 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
<b>18</b> Rally Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Church Picnic & Chicken BBQ 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM Outreach Team	<b>21</b> HERALD DEADLINE 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
<b>25</b> 2-Cent-A-Meal Offering 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Youth Grab 'N Go Lunch Fundraiser 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Leadership Team	<b>28</b> 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class	<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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