

Thanksgiving: To Be Alive

Pastor Pete Kontra

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

"We ought to always thank God for you."

Yes, I thank God for you, for my family, and, yes, for life itself. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Thanksgiving: it begins and ends with God. Because anything we have, including life, is from God. And to truly be alive, truly living life to its fullest, includes living a life of Thanksgiving.

To be truly alive: that also means giving thanks in all things in life. Because to be truly alive means that an organism is changing, growing, in motion, and being aware of all that each day.

The Apostle Paul says that about the church in Thessalonica. He says, *"We ought to always thank God for you, and rightly so, because your faith is growing, your love is increasing..."* And for the fact they are living for God's purpose for them in the world (v. 11).

Paul is thankful for their life as a church. How does he know they are alive? By the fact that they are growing, changing, in motion, and aware of their purpose. Those are the marks of a church that is alive—words for us at Hempfield to always keep before us.

Growing in faith. How? We recognize and give thanks to God for all the gifts He has given us, as individuals and collectively as His church. God has given us life. God has given us relationships as the Body of Christ. God has given us tremendous resources to use for His work. Look around this Thanksgiving-month and see.

Growing in faith. How? As Paul pointed out, that also comes through adversity. Can we give thanks in adversity? Yes. Why? Because it is then we rely on God's power and not our own. Look back as a church and see what you have come through over the years. Has God failed? Absolutely not! Are we alive? By all means! Praise God for a stronger faith through adversity!

Increasing in love. An alive church is always increasing in love. Stop and thank God for His love for us. Now see the love we share as a church. Never take it for granted, but pray that we always are growing in love for one another, so that, as Jesus says, the world then will know we are His disciples.

Which is the final mark of being alive: Being in motion. A living person is moving and interacting with his/her surroundings in the world. An alive church does the same. By the grace of God we have been given a purpose, which is to sow the seeds of faith, love, and hope all around us. Thank God for that! So that, as Paul says in verse 12, *"The name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him."*

Thank God for it all! Thank God for you! That is what being alive is all about. God bless you.

-Pastor Pete

Who Holds the Power?

Pastor Doug Hinton

*“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” **Jesus answered**, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” --**John 19:10-12***

I looked out my window and off in the distance I saw large, dark clouds rolling my way. A severe storm formed carrying damaging winds, lightning, torrential rain, and calls for a possibility of hail. I closed most of the windows in my house, leaving them cracked to allow the air move through. We turned off and unplugged our TV and computer in case of a loss of power or lightning strike. I found matches in our kitchen drawer and made sure each room had a candle for lighting, just in case. We gathered by our large, front bay window to watch the storm come in. The cool air pushing through the house, ushering in the rain outside. The gentle pitter-patter on our porch roof turned to a battering of rain and then lightning lit up the sky, followed by the crack and rumble of thunder. Our children stayed calm and close to us as the storm made its presence known. As the wind picked up, we decided to more to the basement way from the large window.

The rain came down hard. Lightning struck. Thunder shook the house. Now the children became nervous. And then, darkness. We lost power. Now fear set in to the children and one began to cry. My wife and I tried to stay calm but became frustrated as neither of us brought the matches down. Now nighttime, it became difficult to see. After a quick and stern discussion, I headed to the stairs to get the matches. Once back downstairs, we lit a candle and began to read books to the children to draw their attention away from our current situation.

The storm passed. Fear led to assessment: is everyone alright? Is there damage to the roof or property? Assessment led to relief as we bathed and got ready for bed. Before tucking the children in, we prayed together, as we did every night. Thanking God for keeping us safe and helping us to trust in His plan even through the storm, further brought ease to the children to allow them to sleep.

In November, the election will be over. The storm passed. Just like being in the storm, the worry and fear of what *could* be will be over. We will now who the next president will be. We also know that God’s will and plan will be carried out no matter who sits in office. We’ll look back and see the calming voice of the saints who shined light during the election process and reminded us of God’s Word to bring peace to our hearts and minds. Yes in November, we will hear Jesus’ words, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.” And we will again acknowledge: God is in control and His Will will be done...and is in fact being done by His body, the church. Be encouraged brothers and sisters! God is still in control...

Praying Attention



From the book “*Fervent*” by Priscilla Shirer

Prayer
Releases
All
Your
Eternal
Resources

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

How Things Work

Here's an illustration of how things currently work:

1. A school social worker identified a need for Thanksgiving meals for eight local families.
2. The school contacted a local non-profit organization.
3. Knowing of our relationship with local families, the organization contact the East Petersburg Area Civic Center.
4. I took the request to HCOB's Outreach Team, who suggested that our church could do four meals and EPACC could do four.

Wouldn't it have been easier for the social worker to contact the church? Sure! That's the way it used to be. But things are different now.

And guess what? God's people responded anyway! Has there even been a time where it's easy to address the problems that face us? All we can do is to do what we can. In this case, it worked out. And while the current culture is somewhat inefficient and less than ideal, anything that involves people gets that way compared to God just doing stuff Himself. Maybe the point is that God is glorified by the love that is shown along the way!

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' --Matthew 25:34-41

HCOB Kids News

Karen Rice



We are looking forward to the wonderful holiday season beginning this month. What a blessed time of year!

We have started saving our offering to go toward buying turkeys to donate to Water Street Mission. I wonder how many we are going to be able to get? We are adding feathers to a turkey to help us keep track of how we're doing.

I am hearing great things about how Prayer Buddies are going. It is wonderful to hear adults telling children they are praying for them. I am sure it blesses God.

Mark your calendars for our Gingerbread Competition on Sunday, December 4th!!! It is a wonderful family activity! We will begin at 3pm. There are different categories and prizes! If nothing else, it is loads of fun AND there is candy!

Please keep an eye out for the Nursery schedule in the December Herald. If you are on the schedule and would like to change anything, please contact Karen Rice. If you are interested in being on the schedule and aren't already, please contact Karen Rice. There are going to be two adorable babies and a couple cute toddlers in there!!! Lots of giggles and snuggles!

Mathew 18:4, 5 Anyone who takes the humble position of this child is the most important in the kingdom of heaven. Anyone who welcomes a little child like this one in my name welcomes me.

Messages in November

November 6



Hope. Perseverance. Perfection — *Romans 5:1-5*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

Do we believe in God's promise to us through Christ that he never leaves us as orphaned children? No matter our time, place, or situation, God is with us. Let's see how this verse connects with our current culture and time.

November 13



Hope Big & Don't Quit—*Psalm 33*

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

We often think of "Hope" as a child's desire for something that will be freely given. Isn't it better to work hard and earn what you get? Are "Hope" and "Perseverance" mutually exclusive? Not according to Paul, who writes that love always hopes and always perseveres.

November 20



Love Always Hopes, Always Perseveres—

1 Corinthians 13:7; John 5:1-18; Luke 18:1-8

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, translates this passage, "Love... takes pleasure in the flowering of the truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end." Love is a confident belief in the unseen. Love doesn't quit or give up. It's the kind of love that Jesus showed to all – God's love flowing through him to those who didn't deserve it. It's the kind of love God, through Jesus, continues to show us. The question is, are we holding up our part of the agreement? Are we sharing that same love in the same way with the world?

November 27



As You Have Promised—*Luke 2:22-40*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Simeon: Righteous, devout, waiting. Anna: Worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. There was 400 years of silence from God before Jesus' arrival to earth. That's a lot of quiet. How do we respond when God seems silent? How do we continue to walk in hope and persevere when it seems as though nothing is happening? Might we gain some insight from Simeon and Anna?

November Ministry Schedules

November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

NURSERY

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



November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell & Rich Bushong
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



November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the Pastors
Randy Ziegler
Tom Fritz
Ray O'Boyle

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
Kids Choir
Sanctuary Choir
Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Dave Bendit
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Doug Howard

November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

DEACON GREETERS

Millie Hoffman
Lois Killian
Doris Wright
Gladys Metzler

JNH GREETERS

Tom & Carolyn Fritz
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich
Butch Nachbar
Curtis & Jean May



OFFERING TABULATORS

Glenn Brubaker, Marcia Root

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 6	Brand New	Teacher: Denny Bushong
November 13	New Jerusalem	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
November 20	Living Waters	Teacher: Jim Kettering
November 27	First and Last	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh

† **THE OTHER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE STUDYING THE E100 CURRICULUM.** The readings for the upcoming week will be in the bulletin every week. Then they can be discussed in the various Sunday Schools and small groups. If you have any questions about the E100, please contact Pastor Doug.

HCOB Family News

2016 FALL CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

The date for the Fall Congregational Gathering has been changed to Sunday November 13 following the worship service, rather than Thursday November 10 as indicated on the Church Calendar. The Gathering material, including the 2017 budget and 2017 Ministry Team slate, along with the Ministry Team and staff reports will be available Sunday October 30. Leadership will be available during the Sunday School hours on November 6 and 13 to answer any questions or concerns and voting will occur after the worship service on November 13. In addition, any amendments raised during the Sunday School hour discussions will be addressed at that time.

CAN YOU BAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES? Please consider baking cookies and bring them to the church kitchen November 27- 30. Mark them "for Brethren Village." Label the kinds of cookies and if they contain peanut butter or nuts. Some diabetic varieties would be appreciated. Each congregation is asked to bring 12 full batches of cookies in disposable containers, if possible. All cookies are appreciated, but the Christmas varieties sell well. **PLEASE SIGN UP AT TABLE IN NARTHEX.**

BRETHREN VILLAGE CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND CRAFT BAZAAR SALE Friday, December 2, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Wolfe Auditorium. Cookies, crafts, and food. Cookies at \$4.00 per pound. It is sponsored by the Brethren Village Auxiliary.

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 PM Young Adults & Families E100 Group 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Team	2 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	4 11:00 AM Setup Witmer Baby Shower	5 10:00 AM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser 10:00 AM Witmer baby shower 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
6 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 12:00 PM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	7 Setup for voting 7:00 PM Education Team	8 Election Day 12:00 PM Silver Singles 7:00 PM Stewards of Property	9 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class	11 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	12 10:00 AM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
13 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Persecuted Church Presentation 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Gathering 12:00 PM Eastland Alpaca Youth Fundraiser 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	14 5:00 PM Setup WORDD Social	15 6:00 PM WORDD Fall Social 6:00 PM Young Adults & Families E100 Group 6:30 PM Outreach Team	16 HERALD DEADLINE 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class	18 Sr. High D.C. Trip	19 Sr. High D.C. Trip 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
20 Sr. High D.C. Trip 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	21	22 7:00 PM Leadership Team	23 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 Thanksgiving Day Thanksgiving--Office Closed 12:45 PM Pastor Doug in Class	25 Thanksgiving--Office Closed	26 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
27 Advent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	28	29	30 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			

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**

November

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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