

What's Really Important?

Pastor Pete Kontra

We are about to enter into July—the heart of the summer and our celebration of freedom that we enjoy in our country. It seems like we were just talking about the cold, rainy days that appeared to never end, and now here we are, hot, humid, and sunlight until well after 9:00pm.

It goes fast. Time, I mean. You hear it as a kid and can't quite comprehend what those old folks are talking about (yes, even 47 is old when you're 10!). But it's true—our days are but a shadow, a mist, a blade of grass in a world of ever-changing seasons. *“As for mortals, their days are like grass,”* Psalm 103:15 reminds us.

So what about it? Some of our brothers and sisters here at Hempfield are struggling hard with illness. Two recent conversations I've had with different folks got to the heart of what this life is all about. Here are their reflections:

“It's times like this that you realize what is important: not being busy or making a name for yourself, but the ones you love in your life and spending quality time with them.”

“Time goes fast. And a way you can slow it down is to take time every day to stop and look around and enjoy it. It can be difficult, but you have to not only see what you have but also enjoy it.”

I'm not sure what else I need to say to that, other than what verse 17 in Psalm 103 says, that *“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.”* There is something that lasts forever—God's love for us and our love for Him and one another. All else will fade. It doesn't mean that other things we do here are unimportant, just always keep things in their proper place.

So as these days drift by like the warm summer breeze, soak it in. Take a deep breath. Look around. It goes fast.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great,” (Psalm 104:1).

Go and Cover Some Ground!

Pastor Doug Hinton

And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” --Matthew 4:19

“Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow...” --Mark 4:2

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20

We live in a culture of specialists. Specialists in the medical field, engineering, finance, law, insurance, the different sciences—the list could go on and on. A person can go see their general practitioner (i.e. doctor) about an ailment and then see a number of specialists in order to resolve the issue. We know a great deal about the awesome greatness and size of the universe, as well as the molecules and particles that are invisible to the eye because of specialized fields of study. Taxes and laws and loopholes and exceptions—one often needs to hire a lawyer, accountant, or specialist in those fields when trying to address property assessment or employment taxes/exemptions because of the legal jargon associated with such things. It can make a person step back and wonder: how are all these things and people connected? Can we find common ground that touches each of us? What is the common thread?

When Jesus called his disciples and taught them about spreading the Gospel, that is “good news,” message, he compared them to farmers and fishermen. Farmers would cast seed, covering the ground, knowing most (but not all) would take root. Fishermen would cast nets off the sides of their boats (see Matt. 4:18, Mark 1:16, John 21:6), covering a large area to catch as many fish as possible. Both methods did not pinpoint an *exact* fish or seed, but relied upon a multitude. Did all of the seed produce fruit? Most definitely not. Did the fisher catch all the fish? No, the very question sounds ridiculous. However, the farmer continued to sow. The fisher continued to cast his net. So it is with the gospel message.

Jesus made a way for all men, no matter age, race, socio-economic class, wealth, education level, family or time-period to come to God. He desired that all men be reconciled through His blood on the cross back to the Father. As followers of Christ, we are called to take this message to everyone we come into contact with. Our job is not to grow the seed or catch all the fish. Our job is to plant the seed and cast the net. Our only specialty is knowing the Gospel message; but we take that message to any and all who will listen. And when a person receives the message and turns to Christ, he or she “will save his (or her) soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” Not only will the ground be covered, but so will a ‘multitude of sin.’ Speak to people about your faith and what Christ has done in your life. How He made a way for all men. How He desires that we all love God and neighbor. Plant the seed. Cover the ground. Cast the net. In so doing, who knows, you may ‘cover a multitude of sins’ and see your coworker, your friend, your family member, that stranger at the grocery store set free in Christ! Go on then! Let’s cover some ground!

HCOB Kids News

Karen Rice



We are now officially in the midst of summer. People are enjoying their change in daily schedules and the kids are possibly already saying "I'm bored"hopefully not yet.

I have the privilege of teaching the 1st through 5th grade Kids' Church class over the summer months. We have been working on our Big Bible Challenge books and just wrapped up the Old Testament. During July we are looking at the gospels and their telling of The Good News! Yes, we get to do Christmas in July. I know the "Christmas in July" thing is sort of cliché, but the reality is that we should be celebrating the true meaning of Christmas every day of the year. Jesus's birth isn't just "good news", it's GREAT news! Amazing news! Praise God news!!! It was prophesied by Isaiah 800 years before His birth. Should we just celebrate it or share this gift once a year?! No, we need to be in the mindset of Christmas all year round. Each and every day. Crack open your Bible and begin reading Luke. Remember the words of Zechariah when he said in Luke 1:68 "Give praises to the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to his people and purchased their freedom." OUR FREEDOM! Praise be to God that His gift wasn't just meant for one season out of the year, but for each and every moment of each and every day! Enjoy celebrating Christmas in July!!!

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

Some things I've learned from God and people at HCOB since 1992—Pastor Kent Rice

- ♥ I learned the true meaning of Easter in this sanctuary when the Spirit showed me that I am that thief on the cross who was given God's undeserved grace.
- ♥ It's better to serve than to be served. We do it because Jesus did it.
- ♥ Prayer is a much bigger deal than I ever thought. Keep on praying, you'll get better at it if you really want to, if you're open, and if you listen.
- ♥ The Holy Spirit is active, convicting, powerful and always brings to mind the things of Christ.
- ♥ Sometimes caring for one person is better than speaking to hundreds.
- ♥ People are happiest and have the most peace when they are fully dependent on God.
- ♥ It is possible to look at your own death with no fear at all, just the peaceful expectation of crossing over.
- ♥ God can use our good efforts AND our mistakes. But He can't use us when we are apathetic and complacent.
- ♥ You don't have to always know what you're doing to be effective in the kingdom but you have to be doing it for the right reasons.
- ♥ Clarity on faith and family often comes on your deathbed after everything else has been stripped away.
- ♥ There are few joys like seeing young people in whom you've invested go forth and boldly share the gospel.
- ♥ Few things are as empowering as having someone believe in you.
- ♥ Satan uses any division in the body of Christ to cause discord, further separation and pain.
- ♥ People tend to remember the kind of person you were more than what you say or even what you did.
- ♥ Things that are important today might not be important tomorrow and vice versa.
- ♥ There is almost never growth without pain.
- ♥ People come in and out of our lives. People change. Only Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- ♥ Sometimes the best thing you can do is just be there.
- ♥ I can't remember things that happened yesterday but I can remember kindness done to me 20 years ago.
- ♥ "You're a man after God's own heart" (blessing from a note I received).

Messages in July

July 2



Why?—Hebrews 12:1-3

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

Here's another way we can be united: The realization that **God is not finished with us yet**. We will study this aspect of our faith perspective throughout July. This morning, we acknowledge that there are moments when all of us tire of running the race—we're one footstep away from quitting. Why strain? It's too hard. Why care? No one else does! Why? Let's start with what is written in Hebrews: *Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

July 9



Sitting by the Roadside—Mark 10:46-52

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Sometimes it feels like God is done with us, that nothing much is happening, just sitting along the roadside waiting. What do we do? Is He done? We must have: Patience, as we sit by the roadside; Persistence, in seeking God's will. And then comes the great Possibility, which is wide open when we step onto the road with Christ.

July 16



How Did Jesus Teach?—Mark 3:7-19; 13:1-13

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

One of the questions that we face as a church: how do we continue to instill the faith passed to us to the next generation? There are times it can be difficult to find teachers to lead Sunday school or advisers to participate with special events. What should we do then? Let's look at what Christ taught and challenged his disciples to follow in his steps. As we discuss crowds, the twelve, and even smaller groups (i.e. James, John, and Peter), maybe we can begin to see a model set forth by Christ himself and ask: what is our next step?

July 23



No One Is Righteous—Genesis 3; Romans 3:9-20

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Since Adam and Eve's decision to listen to the serpent in the garden, people have lived outside of the relationship and life that God originally intended for each of us. The world's message is the same as the serpent's: "Do your own thing." "Follow your conscience." "Do you really think there are bad consequences for your actions?" "Look out for #1." But it's a message that continues to keep our attention from the single way of repairing that original relationship that God – and we – long for. What is "righteousness?" What does God expect of each of us? Is there hope?

July 30



One Thing I Do—Philippians 3:12-16

Pastor Peter Kontra Preaching

We are all at different stages in life and in our walk with Christ. Sometimes we feel as if we reached the goal and no longer need to strive for more—Paul names all his earthly accomplishments as being rubbish so that he can gain Christ and be found in Him. Sometimes we feel as if we're simply not worthy to keep going—Paul says no, I'm not perfect yet, but I'm going to keep pressing on toward the goal. God is never done with us—maturing us and using us for His good work in Christ. So what's next?

July Ministry Schedules

July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

NURSERY

Carol Koser, Peggie Layman
Marg Zurin, Carolyn Gingrich, Karen Rice
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Jake Rannels
Angela Ebersole, Naomi Beach, Emmy Schott



July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Doug Hinton
Tom Fritz
Dennis Hughes
Joel Kettering
Ray O'Boyle

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Doug Hinton
TBD
Kevin Zurin
TBD
Rich or Jamie Bushong

SPECIAL MUSIC



July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBD
TBD
TBD
Walls Family
Tom Connelly & Marianne

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit



July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell & Rich Bushong
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Matt Markey
Dave Schott
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



July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

DEACON GREETERS

Lois Killian
Doris Wright
Penny Kettering
Wes Bowers
Ruth Johnson

JNH GREETERS

Earl & Betty Zimmerman
Carl & Lisa Polonchak
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich
Tom & Carolyn Fritz
Jeff & Bev Moyer

OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

HCOB Family News

BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALKS are scheduled for Thursdays June 22, July 27, August 24, and September 28 from 10:00 AM-11:30 AM. Please contact Gerrie Hurst (569-3047) or Lois Killian (560-9429) if you can help. The residents of the Village thank you!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS SUMMER. We will be having a seven week series trying to understand different faith backgrounds as selected by members in the Congregation, and how we can enter into conversations about Christ with those of different understanding. We will meet in the choir room during the Sunday School hour-9AM. ALL are welcome. Today is our first. Denny Hughes will lead our conversation on the Amish. Below is the schedule for July.

- July 2 - Amish - Dennis Hughes
- July 9 - Mormonism - Doug Hinton
- July 16 - Jehovah's Witness - Pete Kontra
- July 23 - Annual Conference report - Deb & Dave Bendit
- July 30 - Catholicism - Tom Connelly & Marianne Connelly

DISASTER RELIEF TRIP: Still looking for a few volunteers for Brethren Disaster Relief trip September 24-30. Please contact Dave Dum (davesdum@gmail.com, 278-0618) if you are interested in going.

Praying Attention



Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

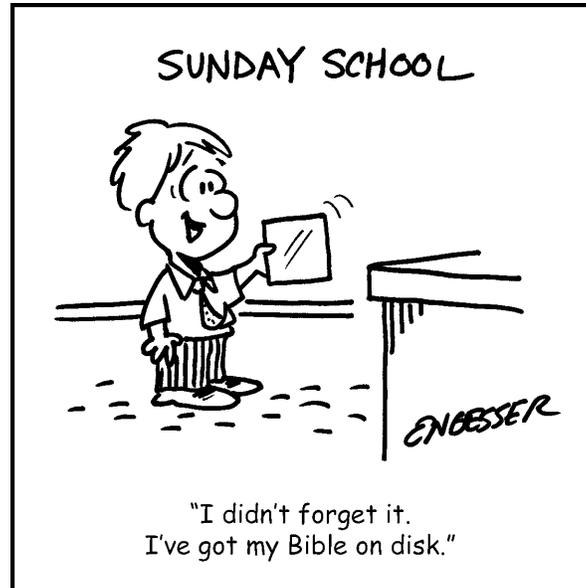
Meditate on that prayer for a moment and think about all the amazing things that are going on in heaven. So many things we can't even imagine; eye has not seen nor ear has heard. What if we were dedicated in praying this expecting to see God change things? What if we were dedicated in praying the prayer, *Thy will be done in the United States as it is in heaven?* Or praying for the country of the month, *Thy will be done in North Korea as it is in heaven* expecting God to move because He IS able.

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Carlissa Cochran & Garrett Abernethy wedding Creation Festival Pastor Pete @ Annual Conference
2 Annual Conference Church Administrator on Vacation Creation Festival Pastor Pete @ Annual Conference 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship	3 Church Administrator on Vacation 9:00 AM VBS Prep & Decorating 7:30 PM Education Team	4 Church Administrator on Vacation Church Office Closed Independence Day	5 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM Quilting Group 5:00 PM VBS Prep & Decorating 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	6 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	7	8 9:00 AM VBS Prep & Decorating 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
9 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM VBS Prep & Decorating 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	10 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School	11 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 11:00 AM Silver Singles 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Worship Team	12 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Stewards of Property	13 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School	14 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	15 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
16 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	17 Setup WORDD Social 6:30 PM Outreach Team	18 6:00 PM WORDD Summer Social	19 HERALD DEADLINE McEvoy's borrowing tables & chairs 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	20 McEvoy's borrowing tables & chairs	21 McEvoy's borrowing tables & chairs	22 McEvoy's borrowing tables & chairs 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
23 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	24	25 7:00 PM Leadership Team	26 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	27	28	29 4:00 PM Metzler Family Reunion 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
30 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	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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