

What Is Most Important?

Pastor Pete Kontra

There's a lot going on in the world, isn't there? A lot of brokenness. A lot of unwillingness to listen. To love. It seems we've lost what is most important in our lives: **Our relationships.**

And so here is a great example of who we are to be as followers of Christ. In Mark 11, Jesus enters Jerusalem and the crowds shout their hosannas. The next day He goes to the temple and sees how they have turned it into a business, and begins driving out all those who were buying and selling and changing money. That doesn't sit well with the chief priests and teachers of the law.

So, in Mark 11:28 they ask Jesus: **"By what authority are you doing these things?"**

The Jewish leaders questioned Jesus' authority, when in reality they were just worried about protecting their own authority.

Then in Mark 12 Jesus goes right into the parable of the tenants, speaking of His rejection by the Pharisees. In Mark 12:12 it says: **Then they looked for a way to arrest Jesus, because they knew He had spoken the parable against them.**

In Mark 12:13, **they tried to catch Jesus in His words with a political question.** They ask Jesus this question about paying taxes to Caesar—should we or not?

In Mark 12:18 **they tried to trap Jesus with tough theological questions.** They come and ask Jesus this whole convoluted question about who will be whose wife in heaven.

All this happens in one long interaction. What's going on here? It sounds like some interactions I've heard in the wider church at times.

One after another they come at Jesus, and one after another they are put in their place by Him, until finally the teacher of the law brings it all into focus with his question:

Of all the commandments, which is the most important?

In the midst of all the noise, all the emotion, all the pride, here stands Jesus and the teacher of the law, not only speaking the truth, but living it out right in front of this whole mess.

What's the most important?

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Even though there are many important things in this world to know and to do, the Jewish leaders raised those up higher than God's command to love.

What is most important in your life? In the life of the church?

May it be our One True God and the love He has shown.

Because, **instead of being open to the possibility of who Jesus is, they did all they could to show He was a fraud.**

Instead of truly being in conversation with Jesus, they came to debate. Instead of truly listening to Him and taking that step toward understanding, they were shut off from their own pride and didn't even give Him a chance.

The teacher of the law came open and ready to listen.

This interaction with the teacher and Jesus is the example we are to follow. The exchange occurs right in the middle of this ongoing dispute with the religious leaders, and there, in the midst of it all, they rise above it. Together they confess the truth that there is nothing greater than loving God and our neighbor, and thereby treat each other as neighbors.

They've stepped away from the "us" versus "them" conflict. Their example silences the debate. And so may we encourage one another in our walk together. May we truly silence the noise and lift up the name above all names, that is Jesus Christ.

Listen. Listen to His voice. Listen to His Word. Listen to your brother and sister next to you, across from you. Listen, not just to the words, but to the heart.

When you're tempted to shove yourself out front. When you're tempted to follow all these other important things, listen to the most important one: God's command to love.

-Pastor Pete

Calling & Resolve

Pastor Doug Hinton

Yesterday, August 21, Jen shared a Facebook memory she had from **8/21/2009**: that she and I just attended orientation at Evangelical Seminary and classes would begin a week later. Eight years ago, I began my studies because of a nudge, a pull, a draw toward ministry that I could not shake, dodge, or run from any longer. At the time, we had no children, lived in our house on Stevens Street for about a year, and had a 3-month-old boxer named Porter. Though we attended and served a church regularly, we never became members. And yet, my classes began...

Two years before this, I started studying the Bible with my uncle John. We made a list of goals, prayers, concerns, and questions to take to God as we studied. We started in the pastoral epistles, or letters of 1, 2 Timothy and Titus. Not long into our study, we felt the need to invite my brother to join us. Within a two-year period, about 12-15 men studied the Bible in a garage in Manheim. Though the study eventually dissolved, the resolve to know God deeper and become obedient to His call on my life began to solidify. Jen and I prayed often. I changed some of my behaviors at work to be a better witness (though this was a long process). Before deciding on Evangelical, I previously looked at three other schools. With no end goal in sight (i.e. I was not a chaplain, minister, missionary, etc), God's challenge was clear: **Do you trust me?** Though I struggled with doubts and feared meeting the financial commitments necessary when taking class, I did trust Him.

After Peter declared Jesus the Messiah, Jesus tells him, "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church (Matt. 16:18a)." Yet, Peter betrays Jesus three times before Christ is crucified. Jesus told Peter his role in the church, and yet Peter needed to answer the challenge: "**Simon, do you love me?**" Before Peter could fulfill *his* mission of being the Rock, the pillar of the church, he had to recognize: yes, he did love Jesus—and love covers a multitude of sin, even betrayal.

Though I did not know what form ministry would take (and can you ever?), I heard God's call on my life and resolved to trust Him. Beyond my skill level, my ability to speak in front of people, the financial burden, the time commitment (with two kids and four job changes in eight years between Jen and I), I resolved to trust God and fulfill *His* purpose for my life. Without the support of family and friends, Hempfield COB or my mentor, Pastor Geoff, we would not be here. I thank you for your prayers and support as I enter the last semester of my degree! In December, I will complete my Masters of Divinity at Evangelical and seek to be ordained in the Church of the Brethren.

All this to ask three questions:

1. **What is God's call on your life?** If you have not asked Him yet, begin. Jen and I prayed together for 4-5 years before I started class. For some, your answer will come sooner, for some later. But it will never come if you do not ask (Matt. 7:7ff)
2. **When you receive your call, do you have the resolve to trust and love God to fulfill it?** A call is not an end goal, but a lifelong fulfillment of God's hand in your life to build up the body, reach others for Christ, and fully accept how God's made you.
3. **Who is your support system?** Geoff continually drives this home for me. We are not in this alone. Your support system can start with one or two people, but it will most likely grow into groups of people. AND, God's Spirit will guide you, encourage you, and always be with you!

We are in this together! The Holy Spirit is moving through the Body of Christ here at HCOB! Seek God's call through Bible study, prayer, and the community here. Resolve to follow through and get the support you need. Trust. Love. And let God move through you! Then watch and see how He moves through us!

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

Let's Get Messy

For the past month, I've had the unusual and unexpected experience of working in a huge "fulfillment" center to help make ends meet. (It's not really that "fulfilling" but I'm grateful for the paycheck!) Hundreds of thousands of pieces of merchandise move through the facility from bins to totes to boxes until they are shipped to waiting customers from Wisconsin to Florida.

As a "noobie," I've been able to just do my job and slowly pick my spots to engage people in conversation. Many of the other noobs are Bhutanese refugees like the family we sponsored here some years ago. It's amazing the change when you do nothing more than say "thank you" in Nepali—they suddenly open up and we can chat about things. To a person, they spent a minimum of 15 years in a refugee camp and don't seem at all bitter about it—just thankful that their kids can go to school.

Almost everyone I've spoken to is battling something, from health issues to family brokenness to overcoming addiction. Not one person has refused me when I've asked, "Is it okay if I pray for you about that?" Not one. When we travel in relatively "safe" pockets of Christian family and friends, it's easy to forget the struggles of our neighbors. And if we're honest, we have plenty of struggles of our own that we need to take to God in prayer. The world is messy but we are called to enter into it and help each other to clean up. We can't make someone clean and whole—only God can do that—but we can certainly be a part of the process.

HCOB Kids News

Karen Rice



It's a new season! Exciting new adventures lie ahead of us. There are mixed feelings with the crew headed back to school (both the young and the older).

Kids: Will I get the teacher I want? Will I have friends in my class? Will someone play with me at recess? I get to see my friends!

Teachers: I wonder how this group of kids will behave this year. Will we get everything done we are supposed to? Will I have a good relationship with the parents? I have so many fun, new ideas to share!

Parents: (Might be sending a child off for the first time.) Will they feel comfortable with their teacher? Will they make friends? How will they behave? Will they be safe? They are growing up into such amazing people!

As we move into this new season, a time of uncertainty, concern, anticipation and excitement, remember that God is with each one of us. He cares about all those things. He is with you when things are hard AND when things are fun. Send up your concerns and your praises. Include Him in your day-to-day stuff. He wants to be there!

Please lift up our children, teachers, parents, faculty, bus drivers, crossing guards, lunch ladies, guidance counselors, and custodial crew in prayers! Shower them in prayer each day.

And remember, "God made you special and He loves you very much!" (Bob & Larry-Veggie Tales)

Romans 8:28 "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him."

DON'T FORGET, October 1st - Prayer Buddy Meal

HCOB Family News

BRETHREN VILLAGE WHEELCHAIR WALK is scheduled for Thursday 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!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SEMINAR—Saturday, September 16, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM—Vicki Smith will lead our congregation and ministers from other district churches in a seminar designed to help you understand and use the spiritual gifts God has given to you. The objectives of this seminar are:

- To learn more about how you are God-wired
- To explore your personal tendencies and leadership style
- To discover how others are made and function in their own unique way
- To appreciate gifting differences, moving from good or bad to God-purposed
- To embrace and engage the fullness of the Body of Christ as we work together for God's glory and to build His Kingdom.

The cost for the seminar is \$25 for Hempfield COB members and includes lunch and a workbook. For more information and to register go to the following

link <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=qsqizkxab&oeidk=a07eebiw4i48e0e54c3>. Or contact Krista Dickson in the Atlantic District Office at 717-367-4730 or kdickson@ane-cob.org.

CHURCH PICNIC!!!! SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10th.

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, baked beans, chips, drinks, plates, utensils and cups.
- ✓ Families whose last names start with A-L to bring dessert to serve **12-15 people**.
- ✓ Families with last names from M-Z to bring salad, fresh fruit or relish 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.
- ✓ **Karen will provide activities for the kids and Mr. Baloony-the clown, will be joining us!!!**

THE CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM NOVEMBER 9 TO NOVEMBER 16.

PEACE POLE DEDICATION--The Leadership Team has purchased a peace pole for the church. The peace pole project was initiated by the World Peace Prayer Society, a nonprofit, member-supported non-sectarian organization dedicated to uniting people across the globe through the universal prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Founded in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, the Society is recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization associated with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations. The peace poles are designed to have varying plates with the phrase, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in different languages displayed. The one we have purchased uses English, Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish.

Since the Church of the Brethren is known as one of the "Historic Peace Churches" and has grown in its understanding of the complexity of violence beyond warfare to include economic, spiritual, emotional and physical violence, it currently seeks peace as not merely the opposite of war, but as a system where all of God's creation is given just treatment. In that spirit, we hope members of HCoB will be reminded of that heritage when walking past the peace pole, and consider thoughts of peace as we enter and leave the church.

We will be conducting a brief peace pole dedication ceremony on Sunday, September 24th, following the 10:15AM worship service. Please prayerfully consider attending. We would love to have the whole congregation there.

HCOB Family News

COBYS BIKE & HIKE SEEKS TO EXTEND GROWTH STREAK TO 19TH YEAR

The 21st annual COBYS Bike & Hike will be held Sunday afternoon, September 10, at the Lititz Church of the Brethren. The event includes a three-mile walk, 10 and 25 mile bicycle rides, and the 60 mile Dutch Country Motorcycle Ride, which this year will travel into scenic “Amish Country” in eastern Lancaster County. A silent auction runs throughout the afternoon. Donations of door prizes and auction items will be welcomed until the week of the event.

The Bike & Hike is COBYS signature fundraiser, having raised more than \$1.2 million for COBYS ministries since its inception. Last year, fueled by the event’s 20th anniversary, the Bike & Hike grossed \$133,556, a nearly \$15,000 increase over the previous year.

Participation also was up to 509, reversing a two-year decline in attendance. Participants included 209 walkers, 131 bicyclists, and 169 motorcyclists on 106 cycles, along with some additional friends who stopped in to visit and participate in the silent auction.

“With the huge surge in giving that we experienced last year, it will be tough to keep our growth streak going” said Director of Development Don Fitzkee. “But I’ve learned not to underestimate the generosity of our supporters.”

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 5 receive a \$5 discount. Individuals who raise \$25 or more in pledges do not need to pay the registration fee.

Each participant receives a free t-shirt (purple this year), ice cream and refreshments, and a chance to win a door prize. Those who raise certain levels of support earn additional prizes. Junior and senior high youth groups who raise \$1,500 or more earn a gym and pizza night.

A WJTL radio personality will provide live reports from the event.

For more information, visit the News & Events page at www.cobys.org or pick up a brochure at the church. To learn more or to arrange a silent auction or door prize donation, contact Don Fitzkee at 717-656-6580 or don@cobys.org.

CHURCH FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

In preparation for our Fall Congregational Gathering, the Leadership Team is hosting a series of Church Family Conversations. The outcome of the Conversations will be input to the Leadership Team in developing supported ministries and budgets for the upcoming year. All interested members of the church family are invited to come and discuss their views on church priorities, and provide feedback to the Leadership Team regarding its service to the congregation, including what is working well and where improvements are possible. In addition, discussion will be open regarding our congregational cares and concerns along with barriers and enablers to HCOB meeting our goals.

In particular, discussion will be open regarding our Outreach ministries. While there is change with Pastor Kent leaving, our vision “*Firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ to become a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world*” remains our guiding principle. What is the best plan for us to move forward in our Outreach Ministry will be an important focus of the session.

The dates for Church Family Conversations are Tuesday **October 3**, Tuesday **October 10**, and Monday **October 16**. All sessions will be held from **6:00PM to 8:00PM** at the Church. Pastor Geoff Davis will be leading the discussions, bringing his longtime experience and skill as a facilitator to keep the discussion lively, fun, and on-track.

Please plan on attending the session which best suits your schedule. The Church needs your ideas and input.

Pete Cope--Moderator

PRINTED CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY COMING LATER THIS YEAR! More details will be coming, but for now please plan to come to the church to get your picture taken on one of the following times: Sunday October 8, 1-7 PM; Monday October 9, 2-9 PM; Tuesday October 10, 2-9 PM; Tuesday October 17, 2-9 PM; Wednesday, October 18, 2-9 PM. If you have any questions please contact Laura Meiser at laura@hempfieldcob.org or 717-689-0465.

Messages in September

September 3



Hold True to the End—*Phil. 2:12-18, Matt. 24:3-14, Matt. 28:18-20*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

Our call is to follow Jesus, calling out to others to turn to Him and away from those desires meant to harm, kill, and destroy. Once we turn and follow Jesus, is that it? Are we done? Since we're 'good' with God, what more is there? Paul tells us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling;" why? Are we living out the faith we claim? Does Jesus make His appeal through us, or is He fighting other voices, other priorities, other desires that we put before Him? How can we 'endure to the end and be saved?'

September 10



Keep Your Eye on the Ball—*Romans 14:1-13*

Pastor Kent Rice Preaching

Many times people are at their best in the midst of tragedy—during the World Trade Center attack, for example, folks risked their lives to help strangers. Why? Maybe it's because there wasn't the time or luxury to decide who was worth it and who isn't. In a time where many issues threaten to divide us, God reminds us to not let our differences keep us from serving, following and loving as we should. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness"!

September 17



On Display—*1 Timothy 1:12-17*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

The Apostle Paul names himself as the worst of all sinners—boldly and without hesitation. Why? So that he can be on display for everyone to see Christ's unlimited patience and mercy. It's the truth of our Lord, that if He can call and use me as He has done, then there is hope for anyone and everyone. How can God use you? Wherever you are, display the amazing power of His love, mercy, and grace.

September 24



From Now On—*Luke 5:1-11*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Peter and his fishing boat were sitting there ready to be used by Jesus, they just didn't know it. Jesus calls them to do something they had done all night with no reward—go fish. And once they got a glimpse of Jesus' power, they were all in and followed Him. "From now on," Jesus said, you will serve my purpose. We are all called by God to serve the purpose of our Lord Jesus Christ. You may not realize yet how He has gifted you and wants to use you, but if we're willing, He will lead us to deep and bountiful waters. Are we willing to say, "From now on I'm yours, Jesus?"

September Ministry Schedules

September 3
September 10
September 17
September 24

NURSERY

Carol Koser, Peggie Layman
Marg Zurin, Carolyn Gingrich, Karen Rice
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Jake Rannels



September 3
September 10
September 17
September 24

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Pete Kontra
Dennis Hughes
Joel Kettering
Ray O'Boyle

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Pete Kontra
Sue Brubaker

SPECIAL MUSIC



September 3
September 10
September 17
September 24

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

TBD
TBD
Sanctuary Choir
Grateful 4 Quartet

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit



September 3
September 10
September 17
September 24

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



September 3
September 10
September 17
September 24

DEACON GREETERS

Paula Connelly
Millie Hoffman
Betty Cox
Nancy Haas

JNH GREETERS

Edith Martin
Bruce/Bonnie/Abby Wright
Faye Rohrer
Carl & Lisa Polonchak

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. Our theme for September is “Signs of God’s Covenants.”

September 3	The Rainbow	Teacher: Denny Bushong
September 10	Circumcision	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
September 17	Sabbath Observance	Teacher: Sue Brubaker
September 24	Spirit-Filled Heart	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh

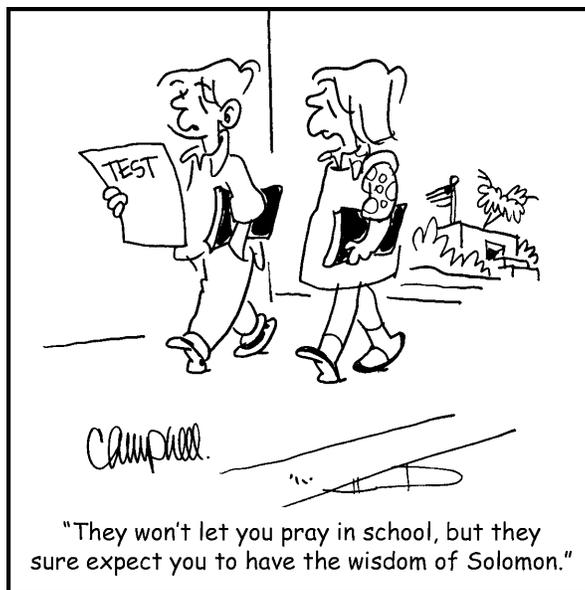
† **CONVERSATIONS**—Conversations Class meets in the Conversations classroom on the second floor each Sunday during Sunday School hour. All are welcome to come. Conversations Class will be studying Romans for the fall. “The letter to the Romans is a book that repeatedly changes the world by changing people... Romans is about the gospel. Paul was writing to the church in Rome about 57 AD because he wanted them to understand the gospel and then to experience the gospel – to know its glorious release... They seem to have been a church suffering from tensions between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians... Paul... knew what it was they most needed to hear – the gospel. Reading and reflecting on this letter today, we should be prepared to have our hearts shaped and our lives changed by God’s gift of righteousness... and how it applies to us today.” – Tim Keller
For September: Romans 1 - 4. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 4:30 PM Praise Band Practice	2 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
3 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	6 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6:00 PM Choir Kickoff & Dinner 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	7 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	8 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	9 Setup for Picnic 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
10 2-Cent-A-Meal Offering Rally Day 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Church Picnic & Chicken BBQ 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	11 12:00 PM Brethren World Mission Quarterly Meeting 7:00 PM Education Team	12 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 12:00 PM Silver Singles 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Worship Team	13 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Stewards of Property	14	15	16 8:15 AM Spiritual Gifts Seminar 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
17 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	18 6:30 PM Outreach Team	19	20 HERALD DEADLINE 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice	21 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study	22	23 3:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal 4:00 PM Music Group Rehearsal 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
24 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 11:30 AM Peace Pole Dedication 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	25	26 7:00 PM Leadership Team	27 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ

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

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