

## In All Your Ways...

Pastor Pete Kontra

I was recently sitting on our deck enjoying a sunny afternoon when along came a spider. It didn't sit down beside me, but was hanging, dangling in what looked like mid-air. As I looked closer, I could see that the spider was attached to two lines, one attached to the deck and one to the house. It was dangling there, slowly making its way from one side to the other. As I got close to it, I'm sure it noticed me, this huge beast that at any time could destroy its hopes of making it to its destination. Of course, I did not. But the spider was pretty vulnerable at that point. It made the decision to go for it.

And I thought, Yes, that's sometimes how life feels: In limbo, leaving behind where we were, yet not quite where we want to be. Just dangling in mid-air!

The old is gone—the new has come. So now what? How do we figure all this out? We're just out here dangling on this terrestrial ball.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

### **Trust in the Lord, not yourself.**

God shows me over and over again that I can fully rely on Him in all things. And then, when the next dangling moment comes, when I am unsure and feeling a little insecure, what do I do? I lean on my own understanding. My mind tries to figure it all out. Which way do I go? Where is this line leading me? A first reaction might be to look back—maybe head back the old line to where we came from.

Our call by God is to move forward, to take that next step. And it requires of us that:

### **In all your ways acknowledge Him.**

In some of your ways? In most of your ways? In the ways that I don't understand? No, in ALL your ways: relationships, decisions, hopes, fears, work, play, taking a walk or pondering the meaning of it all.

The Lord encourages His people in Isaiah 30:21: *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"*

**Listen to God:** In all those thoughts you start your day with, where's God's voice in all that?

**When you need peace:** Psalm 23:2: *"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters."*

**When you're making decisions:** Psalm 25:9: *"He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way."*

**When you're looking to the end:** Psalm 48:14: *"For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end."*

**When the way is uncertain:** Isaiah 42:16: *"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."*

**When you need truth:** Jesus says, in John 16:13, *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth."*

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. We never have reason to fear or worry about tomorrow, because God is already there. He is the Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end. His steadfast love endures forever. May we walk together in that blessed assurance! God bless you. -Pastor Pete

# Live with Intent

Pastor Doug Hinton

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*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. –Philippians 2:5-8*

At times, it feels as though we live in a reactionary, reaction-driven society. It becomes more apparent to me that I need to be intentional about my time, my decisions, my actions. I need to start intentionally building relationships with those around me and those not far from me. For followers of Christ, we need to empty ourselves, humble ourselves, and become ever more obedient to Christ's call to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven, to be ministers of reconciliation. Start small. Go meet a neighbor. Get to know them. Learn their story. Share yours. Are they a Veteran? What made them join? What's important to them? How can you show the love of Christ to them? Lancaster County has more refugees per capita than the rest of the US. You know how many I know? I think I worked with one person who was a refugee. I grew up two miles south of the city. I live 4 miles north of the city. I'd be willing to bet 99% of my friends are white. This is not necessarily a bad thing - just something I want to start to address. Martin Luther King Jr stated that "the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning" - and that was 57 years ago. Brothers and sisters in Christ need to be more intentional about building the bridges between one another.

All this hype, all this garbage flowing through media and social media seeking to further divide us in different ways-don't believe the hype. Reach out to those you disagree with. Seek out the person the media tells you, 'you should be against.' Pick up your cross. Echo the words of John the Baptist, "He [Christ] must increase; I must decrease." And in all things, pray. Seek the guidance of the Spirit that filled you when you turned to Christ who reconciled you back to God and now calls you to be a minister of reconciliation. Don't live to react. Live with intent. I write this as a confession, an assessment, an encouragement. Remember, Christ not only died for *you* but the person who lives across the street, the athlete, the officer, that 'different' family that just moved in next door. Do you want to create change? Do you want to live in a different kind of world? Live humbly, set your pride down, and go meet someone. You are an ambassador for Christ *as though God was making his appeal through you.*

Pray for me. Pray for the church. Pray for our country. Pray for the world. But first, pray for your neighbor. And then pray for your enemy. Live out the law of liberty that set you free. When you're done praying, move in the Spirit. Live with intent.

As we face this season of transition here at Hempfield, who is God calling us to be? How do we intend to follow that call? What purposeful steps can we take in fulfilling our mission? We can live with intent as an individual; we can also live with intent as a community. The community is the body of Christ. We must ask collectively: what intent, what purpose is Christ calling us to fulfill?

# Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

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## *For the Birds*

*We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare;  
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.*

*Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. – Psalm 124:7-8*

Have you ever seen an ostrich run? It's pretty impressive. Big muscles attached to impossibly long, light legs produce an animal that can run up to 43mph. They have amazingly huge eyes, too, but they come with a price:

*The ostrich's eyes are about the size of billiard balls. They take up so much room in the skull that the ostrich's brain is actually smaller than either one of its eyeballs. This may be why the ostrich, despite its tremendous running speed, is not very good at eluding predators: It tends to run in circles.*

– howstuffworks.com

The nets that King David writes about in Psalm 124 are to catch flying birds. Flying birds can't run away from anyone, so a simple net will easily hold a bird. Then it's trapped with few tools to escape.

So too with us! We were caught dead in sin and Jesus came along with a knife and cut a hole in the net for us so that we could escape. Let's not be like 9 of the 10 lepers in Luke 17 who get healed and don't come back to thank the Lord. Fly and be free...and live with gratitude!

## HCOB Kids News

Karen Rice

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Fall is upon us again and He is painting with His amazing palate!  
What a wonderful world He has given us.

Our children are in full swing with their classes in Kids' Church. We have amazing teachers/helpers leading them through the Bible and learning about God's love for each of them.

Our Prayer Buddies are all set up and hopefully working on some incredible, supportive relationships. Thank you all for caring about our children

Enjoy the splendor of fall!!! Don't forget to thank God for each and every beautiful change you see!

Blessings,

Karen Rice

Children's Ministry Coordinator

# HCOB Family News

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

## **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 give 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

**ANNUAL BROTHERS VILLAGE AUXILIARY SPONSORSHIP DRIVE**- Suggested Sponsorship fees are \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 and other. Thank you for your response that will be greatly appreciated, as it helps with the many programs that the Auxiliary provides for the Village. Look for your representatives in the narthex October 8, 15, and 22.

Thank you-Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

**MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS** who participated in the Wheelchair Walks and Birthday Party at the Brethren Village this year. These events really helped to enrich the lives of the residents. We are looking forward to our current Brethren Village Auxiliary Sponsorship Drive. -Gerrie Hurst and Lois Killian

**DISTRICT HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP**—The Atlantic Northeast District is hosting a Hospitality workshop which will be held at Florin COB on Saturday Oct., 28, 2017 at 9:00-11:30 am. The workshop is to guide greeters, ushers and others to have a welcoming spirit to extend the church's evangelism ministry. Registration will be paid by the Hospitality Team. If you would like to attend please contact Mary Lou Ruth by Oct. 10th. [gmlruth@gmail.com](mailto:gmlruth@gmail.com) or 717-682-6488.

# Messages in October

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October 1



## **Unfinished and Unhindered— *Acts 28:30-31***

***Pastor Doug Hinton***

Many things in life go unfinished even when we ‘complete’ steps within the larger picture. A person can complete job training or a degree, but is never finished learning within their field if they want to be successful. One may pay off a car loan or mortgage, but continue to put money into maintenance, restoration, or remodeling. The wedding day may be complete, but the marriage continues on. And so it is with our faith. Some things we complete, but the work is often unfinished. Looking at the end of Acts, we’ll see what Luke writes of Paul and see how we can strive ‘unhindered’ in our unfinished call.

October 8



## **On Display— *1 Timothy 1:12-17***

***Pastor Pete Kontra***

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.

October 15



## **Dynamite Comes In Small Packages— *Galatians 6:7-10***

***Pastor Doug Hinton***

Sowing and reaping. For our gardeners and farmers, this language rings true. Plant good seed, care for the growing crop, and reap the benefits of your hard labor. While the seed is often tiny and to those who don’t know better, seemingly insignificant, it brings forth crop many times its size. Looking at Paul’s words today in Galatians, how can we apply them to our body here at Hempfield? How can we ‘sow in the Spirit,’ ‘not lose heart,’ and ‘do good to all people...especially to those who are of the household of the faith’? As ministers and mouthpieces of God, let’s see what steps we can begin to take.

October 22



## **One Mission— *Matthew 25:14-30; Matthew 25:31-46***

***Pastor Geoff Davis***

We all know Jesus’ great commandment: *Love God and love others the way you love yourself.* Being compassionate is the heart of our faith. But how do we obey this commandment? Christ demands more than playing it safe and being comfortable. He demands the kind of service that produces results. And there are no modifiers – we should love everybody. He’s very specific about how to actively love others. How are we doing and why is it so simple, but so difficult?

October 29



## **Don’t Hesitate— *Acts 10:1-23***

***Pastor Pete Kontra***

God gave Peter a powerful vision that would change the way everyone understood God’s love. He called Peter to be a part of it, and while Peter was still thinking about it, God gave him an immediate opportunity to live it out. The Spirit said to Peter, “Do not hesitate to go.” God will give you every opportunity to live out His calling upon your life, and when they come, go with confidence that God will lead the way and is in control.

# October Ministry Schedules

October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
October 29

## NURSERY

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



October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
October 29

## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

Pete Cope  
Kent Rice  
Randy Ziegler  
Pete Cope  
Dennis Hughes

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Kent Rice  
Del Kautz

SPECIAL MUSIC



October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
October 29

## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir  
TBD  
Sanctuary Choir  
TBD  
Kids Choir

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard  
Dave Bendit  
Ben Johnson  
Dave Bendit  
Ben Johnson



October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
October 29

## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell & Rich Bushong  
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



October 1  
October 8  
October 15  
October 22  
October 29

## DEACON GREETERS

Doris Wright  
Lois Killian  
Wes Bowers  
Tom Connelly  
Joel Kettering

## JNH GREETERS

Jean & Jerry Barger  
Richard & Carolyn Gingrich  
Butch Nachbar  
Jeff & Bev Moyer  
Earl & Betty Zimmerman

## OFFERING TABULATORS

Jim Stauffer, Dwayne Hostetter, Sue Hostetter

# HCOB Adult Sunday School

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† **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 October is “Called into Covenant with God”

October 1	God’s Covenant with Abram	Teacher: Denny Bushong
October 8	God’s Covenant with Israel	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
October 15	Obedying God’s Law	Teacher: Pastor Pete
October 22	God’s Covenant with David	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh
October 29	God’s Covenant with the Returned Exiles	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 currently studying a book by Chuck Swindoll named *So, You Want To Be Like Christ? Eight Essentials to Get You There*. Chuck guides readers into a greater understanding of eight spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith—prayer, humility, self-control, sacrifice, submission, solitude, silence, and hope. Each chapter defines and discusses the concept. Rich Bushong is the contact person.

October 1	Simplicity: Maintaining an Uncluttered Private Life	Teacher: Pete Kontra
October 8	Silence: Slowing Our Pace	Teacher: Ray Hutchison
October 15	Solitude: The Ministry of Solitude	Teacher: Kent Rice
October 22	Surrender: Releasing Our Grip	Teacher: TBD
October 29	Prayer: Calling Out-Understanding Prayer	Teacher: Pete Cope

† **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 October: Romans 5-8:25. Geoff Davis is the teacher.

# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Prayer Buddy Fun Meal <b>11:30 AM</b> Special Congregational Gathering <b>4:00 PM</b> Jordan Fisher's baptism <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>2</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Education Team	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Church Family Conversations <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Ladies Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Experience	<b>6</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> WORDD Worship	<b>7</b> ANE District Conference <b>6:00 PM</b> June Lantz practicing organ
<b>8</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> Photo Directory Session <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>9</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Photo Directory Session	<b>10</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Sewing Circle <b>12:00 PM</b> Silver Singles <b>2:00 PM</b> Photo Directory Session <b>6:00 PM</b> Church Family Conversations <b>6:30 PM</b> Fellowship & Hospitality Team <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Team	<b>11</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Sewing Circle <b>6:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Stewards of Property	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> June Lantz practicing organ
<b>15</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>16</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Church Family Conversations <b>6:30 PM</b> Outreach Team	<b>17</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Photo Directory Session <b>6:00 PM</b> Young Adults/Families Small Group	<b>18</b> <b>HERALD DEADLINE</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>2:00 PM</b> Photo Directory Session <b>6:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Ladies Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Cemetery Association Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> June Lantz practicing organ
<b>22</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Leadership Team	<b>25</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Jr. High District Retreat	<b>28</b> Jr. High District Retreat <b>6:00 PM</b> June Lantz practicing organ
<b>29</b> Jr. High District Retreat <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</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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