

## HOW IMPORTANT IS RECONCILIATION IN OUR WALK?

What if, in order to understand reconciliation, we took a passage from 1 John 4 and replaced love with reconcile? Verse 20 might look like:

“Whoever claims *to be reconciled to* God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not *reconcile with* their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot *be reconciled to* God, whom they have not seen.”

Would this change how we interact with people?

Could this deepen our understanding of what Christ did for us?

Can a person live in a state of love and reconciliation while ‘the other’ is not?

Can a person truly want to see others reconciled to God *and* carry a deep disgust and disdain for those who view or believe things differently?

Can you think of a person...you know who it is, the one who gets under your skin, the one who opens their mouth and your blood pressure rises, the one who ‘never does any wrong’ or ‘believes they’re always right’...who is it? OR, who are *they*? You know *those* people...*that* generation...*that* party. Can you name one or many? Good. Now, let’s try something.

You have the name(s)? Write it (or them) down. Now, begin to pray. Ask God to open your eyes and see them the way He does...go ahead, you can tell Him how you really feel first. “God, you know how I feel about...that they did...or said...and I just wish...” THEN, ask Him, in the midst of all these feelings and actions, to see that person, that group, through His eyes...hear them through His ears...speak to them as His ambassador (I know...sometimes that means we just need to be quiet). Do this on a daily basis and see Him transform your view. Die to your assumptions, die to your pride, die to your priority. Even when they beat, spat on, and killed Jesus, he asked, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” As followers of Jesus, I believe we can live in a state of love and reconciliation even when the other is not ready to receive it...indeed, we would not love if we were not shown love first nor be reconciled without accepting what Christ already did for us. What we *can’t* believe is that we can be right with God who we can’t see when we refuse to make things right with His people who we can see.

**One note:** What I’m not saying is that you need to stay in an abusive or dangerous relationship. Sometimes in order to restore people and keep others safe, we need to create space for everyone’s well-being. Restoration and reconciliation often take a different path in these situations. Pray is need for all. We have been shown love and mercy, truth and grace. We have been reconciled back to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. These gifts have been freely given. Let us go and freely give.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Doug

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# Youth News

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By: Josh Fulmer, Youth Minister

What comes to mind when you think of the phrase “love yourself”? Some might think of self-care, or narcissism. Some might think of a Justin Bieber song. But let me point out the importance of the phrase for us as Christians. The greatest commandments from Jesus in Matthew 22:37-39 goes like this: “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” That last part is crucial.

Sure, imagery of the golden rule pops up, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” However, it’s more than that. The idea of loving someone as you would love yourself dives into the care, upkeep, and concern that one would have for one’s self. Meaning, if you saw someone going hungry, you should feed them, as you would get food for yourself as to care for your body. The concept of loving others is only effective when we understand how to love ourselves individually. The only way that we can fully love ourselves is by knowing who we are in the Lord (hence why the greatest commandment is what it is).

Today, I think one of the greatest issues for teens is loving themselves. Their focus is on how their appearance isn’t as good as it should be, or their status isn’t as high as it should be. Worst of all, they might not care at all due to a personal Nihilism that they adopt from the decomposing status of the world. There are numerous influences attributing to this self-criticism and discontent, such as social media, shows, movies, peers, and the lingering societal idea of the “perfect person.” It is heartbreaking when someone doesn’t find their self-worth, but it is even more heartbreaking to find that the people who care so deeply about others finding their self-worth often lack it themselves. A study through Harvard Business Review shows that it takes about 5 positive comments to counteract a negative comment. What happens when those negative comments are coming from everywhere – including from your own head.

Christian, let us not forget to love one another, uplift one another, and remind one another of the truths that come with being made in the image of God, being redeemed by the blood of Christ, and being the temple of the Holy Spirit. The mission of preaching the Gospel begins with oneself, for we must fully understand these truths before attempting to convey it to others. The biggest way you can love your neighbor is by modeling what it looks like to love yourself. So if you *don’t* like the way you look so much, you need to go love yourself – by understanding who loves you most. God wouldn’t change a thing about how he made you. Christ died for *all* your baggage, so let it go. And as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, let the Holy Spirit dwell in your temple, making you clean and pure.

Pray for the teens as we go on from our winter retreat the previous month, and that we would power through this back half of the school year together. Pray also for me, as I look to the Summer events and plan accordingly for them. Pray that as we transition from learning this same lesson of loving self, we can better love others, and make a difference in our world.

Soli Deo Gloria



### **Mark Your Calendars:**

- March 6th - Kids Connect—10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- March 20th- Kids Connect—10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- March 29th following the 10:15 Church Service— Easter Egg Prep
- March 29th following the 10:15 service: Egg Stuffing Eggs-travaganza Event
  - Enjoy a light luncheon and help stuff Easter eggs
- April 1st @ 10 am: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 5th: Palm Sunday - Children will be singing during the 10:15 Service
- May 4th: Registration opens for VBS
- June 8th-11th: VBS - Wilderness Escape

Thank you to all who purchased toys or donated money toward purchasing new toys for Kids Connect @ HCOB and the nursery! We appreciate your generosity.

The children have been dropping coins and dollar bills into the offering tube upstairs for the past three months. This quarter the children's offering will be going to Bible2School. We are also working toward doing a "hands on" service project on March 29th during Children's Church. Our goal is to help Bible2School prepare crafts so that they are ready for the kids throughout the year. We are continuing to look for ways throughout the year where the children can be the hands and feet of Christ. If you have any ideas, please share with us.

### **Kids Connect @ HCOB**

We are enjoying the opportunity to interact with parents, caregivers, and young children on Friday mornings at Kids Connect @ HCOB. It is open to the public. The children participate in a short story, song and musical activity before they play at various stations. Feel free to invite others to join us! If you're interested in helping us, please contact Laura Meiser or Emmy Schott.

# March Ministry Schedules

## NURSERY

**March 1** Peggie Layman & Ivy Davis  
**March 8** Carolyn Gingrich & Marg Zurin  
**March 15** Sue Brubaker & Sallie Hoppert  
**March 22** Betty Cox & Sarah Fisher  
**March 29** Jen Lugar & Carol Koser



## WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

**March 1** Jamie Bushong  
**March 8** Kent Rice  
**March 15** Pat Cox  
**March 22** Janice Haldeman  
**March 29** Lowell Landis

## WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

Del Kautz  
 Angela Ebersole  
 Kim Stauffer  
 Al Shuss  
 Rich Bushong



## CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

**March 1** Sanctuary Choir (10:15)  
**March 8**  
**March 15** Sanctuary Choir (10:15)  
**March 22** Diane Garber (10:15)  
**March 29** Sanctuary Choir (10:15)

## VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Dave Bendit  
 Ben Johnson  
 Dave Bendit  
 Doug Howard  
 Dave Bendit



## SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

**March 1** Dick Caldwell & Rich Bushong  
**March 8** Rich & Jamie Bushong  
**March 15** Dave Schott  
**March 22** Rich & Jamie Bushong  
**March 29** 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



## DEACON GREETERS

**March 1** Ruth Johnson  
**March 8** Wes Bowers  
**March 15** Nancy Haas  
**March 22** Bonnie Shuss  
**March 29** Doris Wright

## JNH GREETERS

Faye Rohrer  
 Jerry & Connie Dawson  
 Aaron & Joyce Denlinger  
 Lowell Landis  
 Nicolas & Joanna Haucani



## OFFERING TABULATORS

Dave Dum & Rick Schaidle

# Messages in March

## March 1



### Putting Off and Taking In

*1 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Peter 1:22-25, Matthew 18:1-3*

**Pastor Doug Hinton**

In our walk of faith, there's often a tension between God's action and our action, what God has done and is doing, and what we are called to do. Before Peter calls the church "living stones," he talks about what we are to put off (malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander) and take in (the pure milk of the word). Do we do this? How can this way of life, this way of thinking impacts our walk as individuals and as a body? How can doing these things affect our relationships to one another?

## March 8



### The Gift: An Unshakable Beginning

*1 Peter 2:4-8, Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16, Daniel 1:1-21, 1 Corinthians 3:10-17*

**Del Kautz**

Our focus is directed to the spiritual metaphor of "living stones". When we come to Christ and accept God's free gift of salvation, we become living stones that God is using to build a beautiful temple that will draw people to Him. Peter says we shall become a royal priesthood, which means we shall be involved with Christ in the work of reconciliation. Our work is to partner with God in building bridges so pre-Christians can cross the chasm of despair and destruction to arrive in God's glorious new Kingdom.

## March 15



### A Holy Nation of Foreigners

*1 Peter 2:9-12*

**Pastor Doug Hinton**

Peter calls people who follow Jesus a "spiritual house," "chosen people," a "royal priesthood," a "holy nation" of foreigners, exiles, aliens, and strangers (depending on your translation). What does he mean by this? Do, or would we treat people differently if we knew they were brothers and sisters in Christ? As "Living Stones, Building Bridges," how can we live these verses out in our personal lives? In our community? As a nation?

## March 22



### Submission and Obedience

*1 Peter 2:13-17*

**Geoff Davis**

We are living stones, built on the firm foundation of Christ, joined by God with his Son to "declare praises" of God. Our work as living stones is to be speakers of praise and declarers of truth, love, and light. But we also have instructions in this passage around submitting to earthly leaders. Submission is "the action or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person."

Nero was a compulsive and corrupt emperor of Rome at the time whose cruelty had Christians horribly executed as scapegoats in public sight. Why would Peter emphasize the importance of submitting to rulers and masters? How does that fit our role as "living stones" and "ministers of reconciliation" and what purpose would it fill? What do we have to watch out for?

March 29



if you suffer for doing good  
and endure it, this is  
commendable before GOD  
1 Peter 2:20

## Slaves & Masters, History & Scripture

*1 Peter 2:18-20*

**Pastor Doug Hinton**

“Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters...” (v.18) How do we understand slavery in the New Testament? How do we reconcile our history as a nation with our faith, Scriptural understanding, and speak about this today? As living stones building bridges, how can we decipher between Scriptural precedent and cultural rhetoric? Where and how else can we apply this Scripture in everyday life?

# HCOB Adult Sunday School

✝ **THE SEEKERS CLASS** Where do you turn when the world around you grows dark? In this study of the Gospel of John, Dr. Tony Evans encourages us to turn to Christ by reminding us of the two purposes for the beloved disciple’s book—that we would believe in Jesus and find life in his name. Despite what our culture may argue, there is only one hope that is truly trustworthy and that is our savior, Jesus Christ. So join Tony for this twelve-session series that will draw you back to the essential truths of our faith and the life found in our king. Feel free to join the class in the library each Sunday 9-10am as we begin this video series. Contact person is Rich Bushong

✝ **THE CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS** class meets in the old youth room (at the end of the hall). We study the international lesson. Our teachers are 5 people from our class who each teach one Sunday a month. Gerrie Hurst and Ruth Johnson are co-chairperson for the class. We enjoy a social activity several times a year. We invite others to come and share in our class at any time. This quarter the studies are God is Faithful, Response to God’s Faithfulness and Faith Leads to Holy Living. Scriptures are from both the old and new testaments.

March 1	A Call to Accountability	Leader: Dennis Bushong
March 8	A Prayer for Justice	Leader: Butch Nachbar
March 15	Consequences for Injustice	Leader: Jim Kettering
March 22	An Argument Against Corruption	Leader: Galen Brumbaugh
March 29	Need for Just Leaders	Leader: Tom Fritz

# HCOB Family News

Steward of  
the Month



**STEWARD OF THE MONTH SIGNUP SHEET** for 2020 is on the bulletin board in the outer office. If you would be willing to take a turn opening and closing the church on Sunday for one month, please sign up for this important ministry.

**CHURCH SAFETY:** For the safety of the church and our children, the doors to the Sunday School wing and John Naas Hall will be locked each Sunday at 10:10 am. If you arrive after 10:10 you will need to enter through the main doors in the Narthex. Please continue to sign your children in at the Children's Ministry table before going into the service.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FLOWERS** for the altar table in the coming year please sign up for a Sunday on the chart in the outer office.



**KIDS CONNECT @ HCOB** - We are opening the gym to moms and caregivers of little ones on the first and third Friday mornings from 10 am to 11:30 am during the months (December through April) when the weather isn't very cooperative. The children will hear a short story, participate in an organized group activity, and have free time to play. We will be advertising this community outreach on our Children's Ministry Facebook page. Please share with any neighbors and friends.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** Cereal, Chunky peanut butter, Oatmeal (regular & instant), Jelly, & Elbow Macaroni.

**BORROWING FROM THE CHURCH:** if you would like to borrow tables, chairs, or other items please sign them out using the sign-up sheet located beside the phone in the kitchen. Please note there are certain items in the kitchen that are not to be borrowed; these items are clearly marked. If you have questions or concerns contact Mary Lou Ruth or Penny Kettering.

**BUILDING FUNDRAISER UPDATE-** The Fixer Upper Team and Stewards Team continue to make progress on the 2020 projects that are part of the 5 Year Plan outlined at the 2019 Fall Congregational Meeting. Currently the Children's Ministry office is being remodeled to provide a resource area for teachers and office space for Emma and Laura.

None of these necessary updates to our building would be possible without the continued support of the Congregation through weekly giving to the Building Fund and support of fundraisers. As of February 28th, we have collected \$1163.83 through the sale of Chicken Corn Soup and \$1545.00 through weekly giving towards the building fund for a total of \$2708.83. Another opportunity to purchase Chicken Corn Soup will be available on March 15th after each service until sold out. If you would like soup but are not available to pick it up on the 15th, please contact Mary Lou Ruth or Penny Kettering.

In the coming weeks, look for a thermometer to appear to highlight our progress in raising the funds to support our ongoing renovation. We appreciate all the support you provide and if you are feeling led make specific or additional contributions to the building renovations please do so through the building fund or reaching out to the chairs of the Stewards or Finance Team.

# Outreach in Action

**The Kids are Coming! The Kids are Coming!  
To Camp Swatara this Summer!**

The Outreach Team invites you to join us to help at Camp Swatara's Opening Work Weekend. You can help the Camp get ready for the Summer of 2020 by volunteering at a work day on **Saturday, April 4**. We'll meet at the Camp's Fellowship Hall beginning at 8 am. Donuts and lunch will be provided by Camp. Volunteers can camp for FREE this weekend from Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5. If you are interested in camping please RSVP to: [familycamp@campswatara.org](mailto:familycamp@campswatara.org).

**Camp Swatara: where Faith is Formed, Memories are Made and God is Glorified.**

*Camp Swatara* is a Church of the Brethren summer camp, year-round retreat and conference center and family campground. The purpose of Camp Swatara is to provide opportunities in the natural setting for people to grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ so that they may give their lives to Him in total discipleship.



**This is a great way for families and individuals of all ages at Hempfield to work together and support the ministry of Camp Swatara.** You can sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact anyone from the Outreach Team: Janice Haldeman, Ed Haldeman, Tom Fritz or Dave Bendit.

**TNT HEMPFIELD** is in need of volunteers, specifically male volunteers! The present need is for discussion leaders during the small group lesson time, but anyone who is willing to assist is greatly appreciated! If you would like to help out at TNT on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00, please let Pastor Josh know, or email Savannah Varner at [savannah.tnthempfield@gmail.com](mailto:savannah.tnthempfield@gmail.com). Clearances are needed to help, if you need clearances done, please speak to Josh.

**EASTER FLOWER SALE!** The Worship Team is selling flowers for Easter to decorate the sanctuary (they would also make lovely Easter gifts for family!) Please order your flowers on March 8 or 15. Daffodils, mini Daffodils, Cinerarias (various colors) and Tulips (various colors) in 6.5-inch pots are each \$6.00. Thank you for beautifying our church!

**LADIES SPRING BIBLE STUDY:** Unexpected by Christine Caine. How do you move forward in faith when the unexpected happens? Life is full of surprises, both good and bad. In this five-week Bible study we're going to tackle the topic of how to find hope and trust in God when the unexpected happens. You will learn how to: get out of your stuck place and find a way to move forward, let go of fear and anxiety of the unexpected, release the need to feel in control of every situation, and develop a relentless faith so that you can navigate your way through the ups and downs of life, still experiencing the goodness of God and living the adventure He has planned for you! The morning study, led by Jamie Bushong, meets in Chapel Hall on March 5, 19, April 2, 16, and 30 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The evening, led by Cheryl Myers, meets in Chapel Hall on March 18, April 1, 15, 29, and May 13 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

# March HCOB Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sunday Music <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>8:50 AM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons Meeting	<b>4</b> Pastor Doug's Day Off <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Care of Church Community Team <b>6:00 PM</b> Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>6</b> Josh's Day Off <b>10:00 AM</b> Kids Connect <b>6:45 PM WORDD Worship: Expressions of Love and Praise</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Daylight-Saving Time Begins</b> Sunday Music <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>8:50 AM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>9</b> <b>6:30 PM QE Brass Rehearsal</b>	<b>10</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Sewing Circle <b>8:00 AM</b> Sewing Circle <b>12:00 PM</b> Silver Singles <b>6:30 PM</b> Fellowship & Hospitality Team <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Team	<b>11</b> Pastor Doug's Day Off <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Sewing Circle <b>7:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Stewards of Property	<b>12</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Praise Band Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Education Team	<b>13</b> Josh's Day Off	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Sunday Music <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>8:50 AM</b> Praise Band Practice <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>12:00 PM Brethren World Mission</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Outreach Team <b>7:00 PM QE Brass Rehearsal</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>HERALD DEADLINE</b> Pastor Doug's Day Off <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Josh's Day Off <b>10:00 AM</b> Kids Connect	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday Music <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>8:50 AM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>12:00 PM Membership Luncheon</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM QE Brass Rehearsal</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Leadership Team	<b>25</b> Pastor Doug's Day Off <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Praise Band Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM Prayer Experience</b>	<b>27</b> Josh's Day Off	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday Music <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>8:50 AM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>11:30 AM Easter EGGS-travaganza</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Cell Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Pastor Doug's Day Off <b>6:00 AM</b> Ladies Prayer Breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Quilting Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Care of Church Community Team <b>6:00 PM</b> Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>3</b> Josh's Day Off <b>10:00 AM</b> Kids Connect <b>6:45 PM WORDD Worship: Expressions of Love and Praise</b>	<b>4</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**

March 