

Sharing the Good News of God's Work with God's People



February 2025

Thy Kingdom Come

Pastor Doug Hinton

"At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Christ, is it?" They went out of the city, and were coming to Him." John 4.27-30

I was raised in the church. In fact, I can't remember a time in my life where I was not connected to a local body. As a child, I attended Willow Street United Church of Christ. I went to Sunday School, was an acolyte, sang in the children's choir, and one of my best friends of the time was the pastor's son. In the summers, I traveled to Milroy to participate in church camp at Hartman Center. We sang songs, learned Bible stories and memorized Scriptures, sang camp songs and prayers, and hiked a mountain called The Knob.

After my parents' divorce as a teen, I attended the First Assembly of God in Columbia. The services and preaching differed from the UCC: services were longer, higher energy, and the preaching was louder and filled with emotion than I experienced in my early years. Baptized in the Susquehanna on the Wrightsville side as a teen, I helped lead the youth after I graduated high school. When Jen and I were married, we began to look for a place to bridge the gap of her Episcopalian background and my newfound AOG appreciation of worship and faith. We attended an UCC in Etown as it was familiar to me and she knew some members there. All this happened before coming to Hempfield COB.

Why bring this all up? Many of my experiences of God, faith, service, and love have been found within a local body of Christ. I wonder: is this how the woman at the well experienced God for most of her life? In the confines of the local temple or home, not much aware of Him beyond the space allotted for such awareness. Yet, her life completely changed when she encountered the living God in the

midst of daily task: getting water in the middle of the day as to avoid the awkward stares or conversation from others when they gathered their water in the early morning because of her past and current living situation. There she was, as she'd been hundreds if not thousands of times before, seeking to be left alone and just go about her business. A Samaritan, already being unworthy because of her heritage, and a woman with five previous husbands: how could she approach a Holy and Almighty God? She knew herself and could hide nothing from Him; what hope might there be? Thankfully, it did not rest fully on her ability or worthiness because Jesus approached and met her.

Jesus sought her out. Not in the temple or on some holy hill, but in the familiar space of everyday chores. His kingdom was (and is) not restricted to a certain temple or hill or party or people or nation. He named her past without condemnation and still set her free from her sin, releasing the burden of shame to proclaim her greatest encounter.

Where do you encounter Christ in the everyday activities of life? To whom do you share His word, His message, His movement in your life? We pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," but do we seek it out, call it out, name it in the midst of our work, our home, our travels? Do we practice Jesus's teachings, seeking to live in relationship with the Living and Resurrected Savior, so that others might be set free from sin and shame as well? Or are we content to practice our faith in the confines and safety of the local body and home? Christ continues to seek people in all walks of life: how are we partnering with Him?

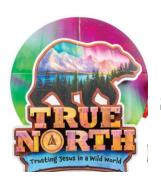


HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

As the weather temperatures plunge in February, children's ministry is just heating up as planning for our favorite kid events is underway. The Easter Egg Hunt and VBS provide access for the community to join us for fun, fellowship, and hearing about Jesus. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12 at 10 AM for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you can't join us, we would love for you to team up with us. A variety of opportunities are available such as praying, greeting visitors, donating candy or prizes, helping to stuff the eggs, hiding eggs, and inviting your neighbors, families, and friends.

East Petersburg neighbors and friends are also invited to our VBS this summer, June 8th through June 12th. Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. This VBS will guide kids through an Alaskan adventure to show kids that Jesus is a faithful friend that we can always trust. We are so excited to share the Good News with kids.

Kids Connect ~ Moms Connect will begin in March on Wednesdays from 9:30-11 AM. Register on the church website if you're interested in participating. We will meet the following dates: March 5, March 19, April 2, April 16, and April 30.



SAVE THE DATE – June 8-12, 2025.

Messages in February

February 2

"Forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Forgiveness and the Kingdom

Matthew 18:21-35 **Pastor: Doug Hinton**

Forgiveness and the Kingdom of God...how do we practice forgiveness? Let's take a step back: do we carry resentment, contempt, or pain for certain people in our lives? Do we hold grudges or gossip, work together against another? In January, we recognized that an attribute of the kingdom of God is grace: no matter how many hours in the day the workers completed, they all received the same pay. So, what role does forgiveness play in the Kingdom of God? How do we truly live it out among one another: those we agree with and those we do not? In this parable, Jesus speaks of two servants of the same lord, their actions, reactions, and consequences among them. To whom do we relate? How can practicing forgiveness make way and room for the Kingdom?

February 9



The Kingdom: Word & Action

Matthew 21:28-32; Matthew 25:31-46; James 2:18

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Billy Sunday once said, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile." What makes a person a Christian than? Serving so many hours a week? Reading Scripture daily? Voting for the right party? Flying the correct flags or promoting the righteous slogans? Jesus tells the story of two sons, their father's request, the respective responses, and their actions following those. What can we learn from this parable? How might it apply to the church or even our culture today? What will be our response beyond our words?

February 16



How Does Your Gard Grow?

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43; Acts 17:24-31

Pastor: Geoff Davis

How can we live in the Kingdom of God when good and bad people live together? What should we make of God's judgement? Should we live in fear and anxiety? What should we do to be good citizens of God's kingdom?

Jesus continues to explain the Kingdom of God by using parables. This "earthly story with a heavenly meaning" addresses one of the darker sides of ancient Israel horticultural sabotage. When one farmer wanted to harm another, he would sow bearded darnel into their wheat. Bearded darnel is a deadly weed that mimics wheat. Before they grow the two plants are identical. But as they grow, their fruit is different and is poisonous – in large doses even able to kill a person.

Why did Jesus use this familiar practice to teach his followers about living in God's kingdom? What's his message for us?

February 23

OTHER SEEDS

fell on good soil and produced grain...

Matthew 138

You Reap What You Sow

Matthew 13:1-17

Pastor: Laura Meiser

As he contemplated how to explain the kingdom of God, Jesus understood the power of story and, perhaps a good object lesson. Surrounded by crowds and his disciples, Jesus stepped into a boat, assumed the posture of a teacher rather than a king (ie, he sat down...) and launched into a narrative of a sower and four types of soil. Jesus makes it clear; while God does not desire to remain hidden from his people, there are forces at work that would prefer we not receive his Word or apply his teaching to our lives. As we explore this passage, I wonder...what soil is prevalent in the proving ground of our hearts? What is our part in being sure the seed of God's teaching lands on fertile soil, fully received, and ready to be nurtured by the power of the Holy Spirit?

HCOB Family News



Checks For You

... Blood Pressure Checks that is.

The Deacon Committee, through their Health Ministry Team, is providing monthly blood pressure checks to all participants of our church family.

Next check March 2.

Where: Library

When: After the church service



DID YOU PLAY???

Total pennies were 647

The closest guesser without going over was RANDY ZIEGLER!!!

Congratulations Randy!!



2025 FRIENDS TOGETHER WEEK

Monday-Friday June 16-20, 2025

If you'd like to be a part of this fantastic ministry and have some time to volunteer, see Bev Moyer. You will be blessed!



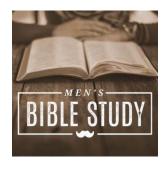
Looking for places to plug in, meet new friends and connect? Watch this space for opportunities to join in the fellowship.



The Quilting and Sewing ministries at Hempfield COB

For many decades, Hempfield Church of the Brethren has had some type of sewing groups. The earliest sewers sewed "layettes" for babies, as well as making comforters and quilts. The days of making baby clothing are far gone, but Hempfield continues to have a wonderful <u>comforter</u> ministry, and our <u>quilters</u> support the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction .

Any of you who may be available on the <u>second Wednesday mornings of each month</u> are invited to come and join us, beginning at 8:00 AM to 11:00, and put together comforters with us. Mary Ellen McEvoy ALSO is always looking for people to knot the smaller baby comforters at their homes during the month. If you are interested in either of these, please get in touch with Mary Ellen... she is very happy to show you what to do! On all of the other Wednesday mornings, also from 8:00 to 11:00, there is a small but mighty group of ladies who hand quilt. Arlene Slotter creates the vast majority of quilt tops that the group has quilted. Hand quilting is a very slow process, and it is not unusual for the group to take five to six months to complete a queen or king size quilt. Deb Bendit is in charge of the quilting ministry here at Hempfield, and if you would like to learn how to quilt, or if you know how and are interested in joining the quilting group, please make sure to contact her. Please pray for all of the sewers and quilters as they continue these ministries, and if God is calling you to help in some way with one or both groups, please see Mary Ellen McEvoy or Deb Bendit for more information.



The Men's Bible Study

We will be looking at Scriptures around Biblical manhood

Wednesdays, 6pm, The Gathering Place.

As we gather, we'll read through the Scriptures (and I encourage you to read them beforehand), wrestle with questions we may have, look at the context of the passages, discuss what we understand, pray for one another, continue to get to know each other, and see how we can grow into the men God calls us to be.

Small Group @ The Schott's



Spring Study: The Overcomers by Matt Chandler

Description from RightNowMedia:

A Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

Are you ready to live fully prepared and fully equipped to handle anything life throws at you? As Christians, we can be courageous and confident, knowing that God has placed us in human history for his purposes, and he will empower us regardless of our circumstances. In this eight-

session series, pastor and author Matt Chandler will walk us through the book of Revelation to remind us of God's fierce, conquering, commanding authority over all the earth.

Meet the following Sunday's at 4 PM. All are welcome to enjoy a meal and fellowship after the study around 5:15 PM. Children are welcome. Transportation for youth kids up to church is available as well. If you are interested in joining us (even for some of the sessions), please contact Emmy Schott (717-333-8216).

- February 2: Your Ultimate Reality
- February 23: Your Strength in Christ
- March 2: Your Witness to the World
- March 16: Your Enemy in Focus
- March 30: Your Family in Faith
- April 13: Your Cultural Caution
- April 27: Your New Home



Do you like to sing? Perhaps this ministry is a great place to fellowship and build lasting friendships with others that like to sing too. Consider becoming involved in the church choir. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm (first 2024-2025 rehearsal is Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 7:00pm). Come join the fun!!

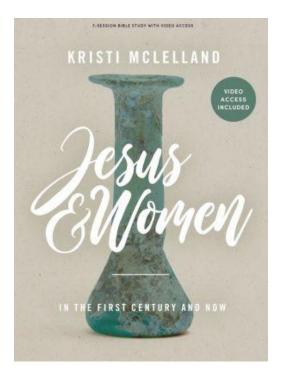
Questions? Contact Laura Meiser



You are invited to join us and invite friends you know for Kids Connect—Moms Connect at Hempfield Church of the Brethren!

For five mornings beginning March 5, 2025 at 9:30am, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers will explore a Bible story, enjoy a musical activity, and have time to play while supervised by loving caregivers. Just down the hall, moms (or grandmas, caregivers, etc.) will be studying God's word together.

Registration link: https://forms.gle/EWdE1qrqL3HjjiPy7



This spring, we will study "Jesus and Women: In the First Century and Now" by Kristi McLelland. If you participated in our fall study, you already know what a treat it is to study with Kristi. Each week we'll meet to watch a video teaching, enjoy discussion, pray together, and go out with a bit of "homework" to tackle.

Study topics include:

- Meeting the Middle Eastern Jesus
- Jesus and Women in the First-Century World
- Jesus and the Women at the Well
- Jesus and the Tale of Two Marysand much more!

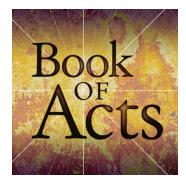
This seven-week study begins on **Thursday**, **February 27** at 9:30 AM (in The Gathering Place) and will run through **Thursday**, **April 10**.

If you'd like to participate, please sign up in the narrhex or contact Laura Meiser (717.689.0465). If you'd like to donate towards the purchase of a book, the cost is \$26.00.

Deadline to register is February 16.



Current Study...



The Book Acts tells the story of the early church. Unlike works of fiction, this narrative offers a factual, historical account. The Book of Acts chronicles the beginning of the Church and the incredible growth that resulted. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, these early believers took the Gospel to new lands. As God worked through His people then, we are charged with the same task the early believers received, to be a living witness of the gospel to the world.

February 2nd Acts 10:34-43 - Including
February 9th Acts 12:6-18 - Praying
February 16th Acts 13:1-12 - Sent
February 23rd Acts 13:42-52 - Task
March 2nd Acts 14:11-23 - Truth



HCOB Youth Ministry exists to be a loving, Christ-centered community that grows together in faith and life.

At HCOB Youth Ministry, we desire to see youth who build bridges between the church and the world through the profession of Christ as Savior, discipling others in their walks of faith, and continuing in communion with church and family.

Church Family Game Night and Chili Cook Off - Feb 2nd - 5:00-8:00 pm

Youth and their families are invited to join HCOB for the annual Church Family Game Night and Chili Cook Off. The night will include dinner (chili), games, bingo, and 9-square. Please bring your favorite game to share. If you wish to participate in the Chili Cook Off, bring your entry in a crockpot to share.

Winter Retreat - Feb 14th - 17th - RSVP to Lydia by Jan 26th

The winter retreat is a unique time of bible study, worship, and fellowship. This event will take place at Camp Conquest in Denver, PA and is open to 6th-12th graders. The cost for the event is a \$10 deposit. The registration packet with all details for the weekend is attached. We need numbers ASAP, so please let us know if you plan to attend by completing the Winter Retreat Registration google form below or by RSVPing to Lydia.

- Winter Retreat Registration/Permission Slip
- <u>Youth Registration Form (2024-2025)</u> Note: Most youth have already completed this at the start of the school year. This is likely only required for friends.

Upcoming Calendar:

- Feb 2nd 5-8pm Church Game Night & Chili Cook Off
- Feb 9th NO Youth Group Happy Super Bowl!
- Feb 14th-17th Winter Retreat
- Feb 23rd 6-8pm Youth Group @ HCOB
- Mar 2nd 6-8pm Youth Group @ HCOB



Hempfield COB is celebrating 50 years as an amazing congregation this year. Many exciting things are being planned to help make this year a special time of remembering and looking forward. Check here for exciting things to be aware of and involved in!

"Continuing Forward for the Glory of God and Our Neighbor's Good."

Did you know... Hempfield Church of the Brethren is turning 50 years old! We will celebrate this milestone during the next months with some extra-special events.



Our church "Pictorial" will be given to each family (depending on the printer's schedule) at the end of the year or beginning of 2025.



A beautiful tree has been promised to celebrate our 50th anniversary, and it will be planted at the proper time during the next year. We hope that this will be the cornerstone of a future prayer and meditation garden.



Additional activities are being planned for the next months, and it is our prayer that you will joyfully join in all these events with our church family, and prayerfully invite some friends who might be searching for Jesus and a church home.



Let's meet some of the individuals who make up this community called Hempfield Church of the Brethren.



Del & Mary Ann Kautz

Mary Ann and I visited HCOB sometime after I resigned from my position of lead pastor at Millersville Mennonite Church after 23 years in that position. Since both of us enjoy singing, we were attracted by the choir. It was also important to us to become involved in a congregation where numerous scriptures were presented to the congregation during the worship gathering. As others have attested, we experienced meeting many friendly people with whom we quickly became acquainted after returning a number of times for the worship gathering. We were invited to join the choir by some choir members and readily accepted.

We are the parents of four daughters and sons-in-law as well as seven grandchildren, including a set of triplets. Our second year of marriage we spent living in Germany and Switzerland as part of a Mennonite cultural exchange. In my late twenties I began part time college studies, which became full time studies with a German major at Millersville University. It became apparent to us before I graduated that the Lord was directing me to attend Eastern Mennonite Seminary to attain a Master of Divinity degree.

With a diploma from Thaddeus Stevens Trade School and more than a dozen years of experience in the carpentry trade, I was able to provide an income for our family while attending both university and seminary. Mary Ann had worked as a dental assistant for a few years before we our first child was born. We agreed that she would be a homemaker and stay-at-home mom. She was also good with typing and assisted me with typing the finished copies of many of my written assignments.

During my senior year at seminary, I was called to accept a pastoral assignment at Millersville Mennonite Church. The congregation had a large group of elderly people with whom I became acquainted through frequent visitation. Hospital visits did not intimidate me since I had spent my two 1W years in a hospital in Philadelphia. The congregation offered me a sabbatical, which gave me the time I needed to attain a Doctor of Ministry degree in worship studies.

We live on a 2 ½ acre farmette in Manor Township. We've had chickens, dogs, cats, goats, and currently have two ponies and some rabbits. The goats wore Swiss calf bells, which filled the neighborhood with unscripted music. After resigning my pastorate, I earned a CDL and began driving 18-wheelers for a few years. When I retired, it wasn't long before the deacons invited us to join their team to help shepherd our congregation. As deacons we can practice the pastoral skills we acquired during our years of ministry. We enjoy visitation, which provides us a wonderful way to become better acquainted with people in our congregation.

We desire God's richest blessings for our congregation as all of us grow together faithfully representing God's Kingdom in our community.



Hempfield Church of the Brethren supports a wide group of outside ministries with the Outreach dollars that you give. Look here each month to read a bit about those ministries – perhaps get involved if the Spirit leads....

Our impact is

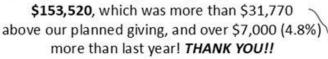
felt locally,

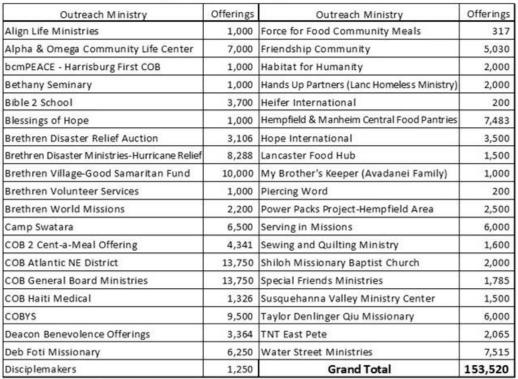
nationally &

internationally.

When the church acts with generosity to serve others, it is a clear picture of Jesus

Praise God for His faithfulness and the faithfulness of God's people at **Hempfield COB**. Below is a list of 40 Outreach ministries that we supported in 2024; this includes our planned budgeted giving, as well as special and designated offerings. Total giving to Outreach was

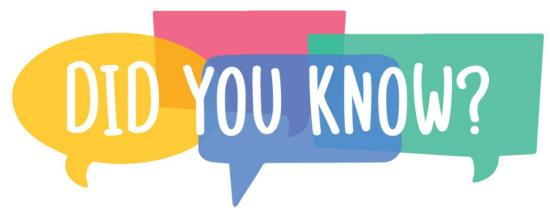




On behalf of our church, each Ministry above, and each person who was served: THANK YOU!!

Here's to another year of faith, love, service, generosity, witness, and stewardship.

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor 9:11



It is our desire to keep you each informed of all the things that you need to know about The Hempfield Church of the Brethren. Below are some things that are always available to you and how to access them quickly and easily. If you have other questions, please feel free to ask. We want you all in the KNOW.



Are you familiar with RightNow Media? It is a wonderful resource for Bible Studies and other materials. The church has a membership for their site and you can have access to it as well. If you'd like the information of how you can access all of this information, see Pastor Doug for login information.



Tithe.ly (formerly Breeze) is our online church management database. You can Tithe.ly (and should) have your own login to the system that will allow you to have access to contact information for our church community and to keep your own

information active and current. To create your own account, simply visit the church website at www.hempfieldcob.org and click on the Member's Directory link at the top of the page. If you already have an account and password, you can log in from there. At the bottom of that screen you'll see a place to "create an account". Follow that link to set yourself up – easy as that!. Once your account is created, you will see several tabs across the top of the page – go to the one that says "my profile". That will show you what is already loaded into Breeze for you and will give you the place to edit any incorrect information. In addition, if you'd like to have ready access to Tithe.ly from your smart phone, simply go to the App Store on your phone and download the Tythe.ly app and download the church app.. You will then be able to log into information at your fingertips. If you have questions, contact Irene in the church office.



www.hempfieldcob.org is the address for our church website. If you haven't visited there lately, you really should! There is a lot of great information to be found there.

- On the front page you will see scrolling pictures of different upcoming events and other fun times in the life of the church.
- You can follow the tabs on the top of the page to all of our social media platforms where things are posted regularly.
- There is basic information about our church.
- The "Events" tab will lead you directly to the church calendar so you can know many of the meetings and events happening in the life of the church. If you have church-wide events that you'd like added to the calendar, contact Irene in the church office.
- The center of the main page gives the church's vision statement and the pane to the left will give you the title of the upcoming service and a place to access the past services.
- If you click on "Our Church" you can find all kids of information about our ministries and staff. There is also a link under that tab that says "Sermons". There you will find the YouTube videos of past services. The most recent service is typically posted there early in the week following.
- The "Donate" tab takes you directly to screen to be able to give directly online. The dropdown box will allow you to also designate what fund you want that donation to go to.
- The last tab at the top of the page, "This Sunday" takes you to the information and downloadable version of the bulletin for the upcoming service.
- Near the bottom of the page, there are scrolling boxes that highlight other happenings in the life of HCOB. If you click on any of the boxes it will give you update information and registration links. The Herald box will give you links to the most current and previous two issues of the newsletter.
- Basic directions and contact information can be found at the very bottom of the page.

The website is a wonderful resource for much of the information you need to know about what is happening at HCOB!!

February Calendar

For more details about upcoming events and up-to-date calendar information, please visit http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	27 Doug's Day Off	28 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	31	1 10:00am - 3:00pm Hinton Family
2 Blood Pressure Check 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 5:00pm - 8:00pm Game Night and Chili Cookoff	3 Doug's Day Off	4 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	5 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	7	8
9 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm No Youth Group	10 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	11 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	13 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	14 Youth Winter Retreat	15 Youth Winter Retreat
Youth Winter Retreat 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting	17 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team	18 ① 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm Education Team 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	19 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	21	22
23 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 1:00pm - 4:00pm Houck - Gym 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	24 Doug's Day Off	25 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	26 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	28	1





February 2025



"There wasn't enough snow for a whole snowman."



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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