

following Jesus

Pastor Doug Hinton

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." **MATTHEW 11:2-30, The Message**

A few years back, Rob Bell put a video series together called NOOMA. One of the videos, "Dust," Bell talks about an ancient Jewish saying, "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi." The thought followed that a disciple walk so closely to their rabbi that they ended up covered in the dust kicked up from the ground as they walked. The disciple did not want to miss anything that his rabbi said and/or did. I know Bell had a falling out with the Evangelical church some years back, but here's the thing: that teaching and saying stick with me.

To follow Jesus, to live as He lived, speak as He spoke, act in His conduct, we need to be in Scripture often, prayer daily, and put Him above all our other priorities in life. Through Scripture, we can learn more about Jesus. Through prayer, we can seek Him in the quiet and the loud places. But that's only part of the faith. Both can end up being mental exercises to allow us to feel safe, puff up our own view of our spirituality, and be done alone – outside of questions or challenges or action. This is said less out of judgement and more out of conviction.

I ran into a situation a couple of weeks ago, that had I been more prepared, may have gone differently. Can I say this for sure? No. But I can say for certain that I was not fully suited up in the armor of God nor prayed up to be prepared for what may come. In fact, the last month and a half, I've been wrestling with God over the last two or so years (and how brothers and sisters have

treated one another), been distracted by some of the loud Christian voices that want to speak for everyone – even when they speak against Jesus' teachings, and I've let

these things pull my focus. All this came to a head that day. The funny thing was, earlier that day, someone asked me, "What is your role here?" This situation, this interaction reminded me: I'm called to be in the trenches, a mouthpiece of Almighty God, an ambassador for Jesus Christ our Lord to speak the truth in love and shine Christ's light into the dark places. I'm not called alone – we are all called in different ways to do this. And not on our own strength or by our own understanding, but following

Jesus together, we seek to live in the power of His Holy Spirit, living out His way, His truth, His life, to show those around us another way, a Godly way to be.

We may not be covered in our rabbi's dust...it may be hard to even understand that phrase. But you can see it in families: parents and children, grandparents and parents. You ever tell someone, "you sound just like [your father, mother, aunt, uncle, your grandpa, your grandmother, etc.]." Or you see a parent and child walking in the mall...same gate, same sway, same movement and you know they're related? As you go this week, as you speak, as you act, may you be so close to Christ that, as you do so, people see the resemblance. You are His. Follow closely.

The kind of community we aim to be...**Jesus following, one another focused, loving** God, neighbor, enemy, and self with the love we received in Christ, **inviting** others into the fold, **proclaiming** the excellencies of the One who called us out of dark and into His marvelous light.



HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

Beyond any doubt, it is evident from the Gingerbread Event that creativity exudes from all ages of our congregation. Thirty-nine people formed fourteen teams to create various forms of gingerbread houses. John Naas Hall was filled with Christmas music, laughter, and a multitude of candy. Hands anxiously worked at making their plans come to fruition in the one-hour time frame. After the creations were completed, they were displayed in the Narthex for the Congregation to view and cast votes. Congratulations to Jason and Micah Hoffman for the most popular gingerbread house! They have bragging rights until next December. Feel free to join in on the fun next time!

Following the Gingerbread Event, twenty-two people caroled through a couple of streets in East Petersburg. Jen Hinton accompanied the group while sharing her gift of playing the guitar. Children carried jingle bells to play along with the caroling. We hope to possibly have two groups next December where one group may stay stationary while another group travels. It was great to see the smiles on faces of those who came to the door or stepped out from their homes to listen to the caroling.

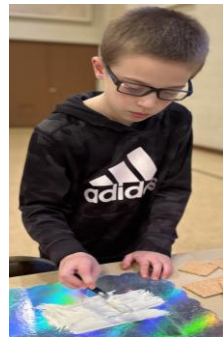
Please join us Sunday, January 29th from 6 PM to 8 PM for Game Night. It is open to everyone in the church to attend. Games and light snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring along your own game or invite a friend to come play games. It's a wonderful evening to fellowship.

AND THE WINNER IS.....



Jason & Micah Hoffman

It was a great time of fellowship and fun!!! Thanks to all who participated – the entries were wonderful!





Bible Points for Children's Church for January!

January 1 – Preschool/Kindergarten – The wise men knew that Jesus is God's Son
Grades 1-6 – God has a purpose for everything.

January 8 – Preschool/Kindergarten – God helps us do hard things.
Grades 1-3 – God can help us do things that seem impossible. God helps us be kind, even when people are mean to us.
Grades 4-6 – We can trust God to work things out for the best.

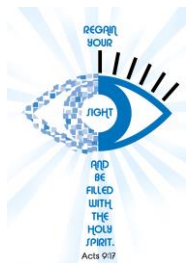
January 15 – Preschool/Kindergarten – God helps us trust Him.
Grades 1-3 – God wants us to act wisely.
Grades 4-6 – God gives us the courage to carry out His plan.

January 22 – Preschool/Kindergarten – God helps us obey Him.
Grades 1-3 – Good friends can depend on each other.
Grades 4-6 – God can use us to bring good out of bad situations.

January 29 – All children are with parents in the service.

Messages in January

January 1



Ananias: Specific & Extraordinary

Acts 9:10-19

Pastor: Doug Hinton

We begin our year with a man only mentioned at the beginning of Paul's journey with Jesus, Ananias. Ananias receives a specific vision from God about praying over a persecutor named Saul, currently residing at the house of Judas. How did Ananias respond? How would you? What enabled Ananias to complete the mission he received in this vision? Why is vision so important in a believer's life? As we work through January, we will look at Vision: what is it? Who receives it? Why does it matter? What sets it apart from mission? On this first Sunday, we will also touch on topical preaching: what is it? Strengths and pitfalls of such preaching? As we work through this topic together, we begin with Ananias. Did he know the impact his obedience to God would have on the church in seemingly such a small and monumental act?

January 8



Peter: Small Steps Toward Fulfillment

Acts 17:1-23a, Matthew 16:13-20, Matthew 28:18-20

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Jesus called Peter the Rock on which He would build His church. After the resurrection, Jesus commissioned His disciples to 'go and make disciples...of all the world.' Did Peter fully grasp Christ's vision for his life though? Did Peter need help along the way? A vision must be God-given if it is to be fulfilled for His 'ways are higher than our ways.' Peter was restored at the end of John and he was ready to go and fulfill his mission...just not with the unclean Gentiles. What makes fulfilling God's vision for our lives so special? Do we acknowledge it must come from outside our imaginations? How did Peter's obedience impact the larger body? How can this inform our own walks with Christ?

January 15



Nehemiah: The Next Right Thing

Nehemiah 1:1-3; 2:1-10; 8:1-12

Pastor: Laura Meiser

Nehemiah, a Jew in exile, lived a comfortable life with a cushy job serving the king of Persia. By all rights everything was going well for him. Yet when he heard of the condition his fellow Jews found the walls of Jerusalem in when they returned from exile he was both grieved and action oriented. While he didn't have a tangibly recorded experience with God, he quite obviously saw the ways his gifts and talents aligned with the work that needed to be done. Due to his unique connection to the king, he was able to bring a new perspective to the people he was to serve. Prayerfully he adapted to the challenges thrown his way and, in the end, the walls were rebuilt in community and God's Word was restored to his people. Nehemiah's example reminds us that while there are tremendous examples of people following God in what seem like extraordinary ways, sometimes it's simply doing the next right thing that makes all the difference in the world.

January 22



Moses: It's Not About You

Exodus 3:1-12

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Moses received a vision from God...much like Ananias and Peter. One thing was clear: it's not about Moses, but what God can do in His own power and with His faithful servants. What is it about vision that allows people to face world powers, their own fears, and certain death, putting all their effort and energy toward something that could cost everything they ever knew? What reasons does God give Moses for showing up at this time? Did Moses have a glimpse of God's heart in all this? What did this vision allow Moses to accomplish? What are you willing to sacrifice to fulfill God's vision in your life?

January 29



Paul

Acts 9:1-9, 15-16; 2 Cor 11:21-29; Gal 2:1-10

Pastor: Doug Hinton & Laura Meiser

A vision from God will break our concrete realities to allow His glory to shine and His kingdom to break forth. How is this most evident? What if a persecutor of the church, the body of Christ, became its greatest mouthpiece? What would such a person endure to fulfill his or her mission: testing by others, fear of bodily harm or worse -actual bodily harm, isolation, hunger, imprisonment? What could possibly motivate such a person? As we think over the last month, is there a formula to follow to receive God's vision or, when it comes, do we simply answer, 'yes, yes,' or 'no, no'? How can knowing our vision motivate us to obedience, reveal God's glory, and allow us to see His kingdom come? Let's take a walk with Paul. We're going to do something new today: Doug and Laura will tag-team preach.

HCOB Family News



Recent Giving

12/04/2022

General Fund \$ 17,678.00

Building Fund \$ 100.00

12/18/2022

General Fund \$ 19,077.41

Building Fund \$ 100.00

12/11/2022

General Fund \$ 9,461.45

Building Fund \$ 1,750.00

12/25/2022

General Fund \$ 8,855.00

Building Fund \$ 200.00



2023 Giving Envelopes are available. If you would like some, please see Tom Connelly in the Narthex following the service.



If you have a mailbox in the outer office, please take a moment to clean it out. As 2023 approaches, the mailboxes will change slightly so your help in having empty boxes would be greatly appreciated.



OUTREACH *Ministry*

Reaching Out ... Impacting People ... Making a Difference

We Reached Our
Outreach
Fundraising Goal
of \$53,000!

On behalf of HCOB
& all the ministries
we support:
THANK YOU!!

\$53,000!





NO YOUTH GROUP – JANUARY 1, 2023

WATCH FOR DATES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

GROUP WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 8TH AT 6:00PM.
BRING YOUR BIBLE AND A FRIEND.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

LOOKING AHEAD...



2023 *The Book of Hebrews* with Derwin Gray

The book of Hebrews was written to people in crisis. They were persecuted, tempted by the rampant sin around them, and doubting their faith in Jesus. It was not so different than what many of us go through today.

Join Dr. Derwin Gray in this eight-session series as he walks through Hebrews, teaching us how to live for Jesus in every season of life. Hebrews shows us that Jesus is better than anything the world can offer. We simply need to answer, "Am I willing to trust him above everything else?"



The Book of Hebrews by Derwin Gray

- 1/8 1.** 1:1-3 Jesus ID Galen Brumbaugh
- 1/15 2.** 1:4-3:19 Jesus is Better Rich Bushong
- 1/22 3.** 4 approach the throne Del Kautz
- 1/29 4.** 5-6 moving toward maturity Sue Brubaker
- 2/5 5.** 7-9 Jesus work Doug Hinton
- 2/12 6.** 10 Confident Christianity Laura Meiser
- 2/19 7.** 11-12 Living by Faith Galen Brumbaugh
- 2/26 8.** 13 Following Jesus Rich Bushong

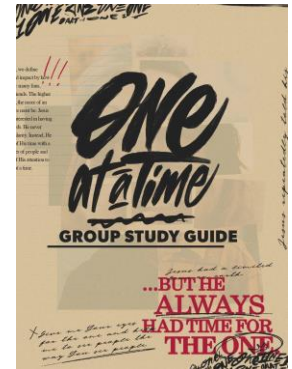


2023 *Jesus' Farewell Message* with Francis Chan

Do you know Jesus? It's one thing to know facts about him, but to experience his love, wisdom, and guidance in your life is what it means to follow him. On the night before he was crucified, Jesus invited his disciples into a deep relationship with the triune God—and his invitation stands for us too. In this 6-part series, Francis Chan dives into John 13–17, a passage rich in promises, commands, and eternal truths. He'll remind us we aren't called to a part-time faith—we were made to know, walk with, and commune with God.

2023 *One at a Time* with Kyle Idleman

Nobody grows up dreaming of waking up, going to work, heading home, watching Netflix, scrolling through social media, and then doing it all over again the next day until their last breath. We all want to be used to change the world. We don't want to spend our lives being time-wasters, or space-takers, or binge-watchers, or game-players, or even book-readers. We want to be difference-makers. But it's easy to get caught up in the everyday stuff of life until the years slowly go by, and with each passing year, the question seems to get louder: *Am I making any difference in this world?* We want to make a difference, but there are so many opinions on the way to do that. Maybe there's a different way to make a difference, and we're just missing it. Without a doubt, Jesus is the person who has made the biggest difference in all of history. So, how did Jesus make such a difference in this world? If we study the story of his life as recorded in the Gospels, there are a number of answers we could highlight, but there's one particular phrase that captures how Jesus had such an impact, and this phrase is how he wants to use us to make a difference: *one at a time*. Making a difference isn't measured by a viral post or a name on a building. It isn't determined by a following or a fan base. Making a difference isn't dependent on what's in your bank account or who's in your contacts. Want to make a difference? Focus on the one. That's it. That's the secret of the way of Jesus. *One at a time*.



DONATION INFORMATION To give your tithes and offerings to Hempfield COB, please send your checks to the church at PO Box 246 East Petersburg PA 17520.

If you wish to give to the Benevolence Fund, with which the deacons and pastors collaborate together to meet needs in our congregation and community, you may send your check to the church with “Benevolence Fund” in the memo line. This is also a tax-deductible donation and will help with urgent needs in the church and neighborhood.

Reminder: Only offering amounts received in church giving envelopes are recorded for end of the year contribution statements.

**Hempfield Church of the Brethren
Financial / Ministry Statement
January 1 through November 31, 2022
Year-to-Date Actual vs. Budget**

	Actual Jan-Nov 2022	Budget Jan-Nov 2022	YTD Under/(Over) Budget	2022 Full Yr Budget
General Fund Offerings 1/1 to 11/30	\$392,806	\$504,577	\$111,771	\$546,625
Designated Outreach Giving	\$12,281			
<u>Expenses</u>				
Finance	\$44,464	\$42,378	(\$2,086)	\$46,231
Outreach Team	\$88,978	\$140,250	\$51,272	\$153,000
Education Team	\$13,120	\$21,335	\$8,215	\$23,275
Deacons	\$890	\$4,033	\$3,143	\$4,400
Care of Church Community Team	\$686	\$3,667	\$2,981	\$4,000
Worship Team	\$28,160	\$35,503	\$7,343	\$38,730
Leadership	\$139,025	\$164,768	\$25,743	\$179,747
Stewards of Property	\$48,173	\$83,006	\$34,833	\$90,552
Fellowship & Hospitality	\$4,905	\$6,133	\$1,228	\$6,690
Total Expenses	\$368,401	\$501,073	\$132,672	\$546,625
2022 Actual % of Budget			73.5%	

100% of July Outreach paid

Checking Account as of 11/30/22 \$33,372

YTD Budget is based on the same amount for all 12 months

THANK YOU for supporting our ministries for Christ and His church!

January Calendar

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

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Office Closed 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship	2 Doug's Day Off Laura Vacation	3 Laura Vacation 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	4 Laura Vacation 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	5 Laura Vacation 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	6 Laura Vacation	7 Laura Vacation
8 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 12:00pm - 7:00pm Rice Family Event	9 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm - 7:30pm Outreach Team Meeting (via Zoom) 6:30pm Worship Team	10 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group	11 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	12 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 4:30pm - 8:30pm Rohrer Family Event	16 Doug's Day Off	17 6:30pm Education Team	18 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	19 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	20	21
22 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting	23 Doug's Day Off	24 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	25 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	26 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	27	28 1:00pm - 8:30pm Rohrer Family Birthday
29 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Game Night	30 Doug's Day Off	31	1 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	2 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	3 6:00pm - 8:00pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	4



"I think I've had enough winter
for today."

January

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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