

And they'll know we are Christians...

Pastor Doug Hinton

" But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all

When we think of church, or the church, our mind often turns to structures: meeting houses or ornate buildings, warehouse conference centers, steeples and crosses, stained glass and wooden pews. Some churches are known by their name or the personality that leads them, some by the flags they fly, or the symbols they display. Some of these are informed by faith; some

are informed by politics or ideologies. How will the 21st Century American Church be remembered? How will they be defined in history? How will we at Hempfield be known?

If we consider this passage from Acts 11, we can see the core of our vision: they were preaching (or proclaiming) the Lord Jesus Christ, a number of them believed and joined the fold, Barnabas focused on the bod – both rejoicing with it and encouraging it to remain true in the Lord. Because of their faithful actions and God's faithful presence, their relationships, status, and labels began to change. When people in the

with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.

And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord. And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called **Christians** in Antioch.

ACTS 11.20-26

surrounding area saw this group of followers, this group of believers, they were reminded of Jesus Christ...and gave this group the name of *Christian*. A now transformed people, this church, were known by the One they followed because they began to do the things that He did. They didn't have

big, set apart buildings to gather in, no budgets, no head quarters. *They were the church* and where they walked, lived, resided, the presence of God was with them.

Our brothers and sisters at Friendship Community sing a song, "*I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!*" This song reminds us who we are – that our very being in this world,

filled with the Holy Spirit, is where the church resides. May we be like the early church: following Jesus, loving as we have been loved, proclaiming Christ to all, and focused on meeting one another's needs. In this way, others may see and say, "I believe they are a Christian."

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

As you might guess, an event like the Easter Egg Hunt involves many people in a variety of ways. After our church celebration meal on March 26, about 40 individuals helped stuff eggs for the egg hunt. While it seems like it would take quite some time to stuff 2500 eggs, many hands truly did make the work light. Our helpers made fast work of stuffing eggs.

The egg hunt itself was held on April 1. While rain forced the event indoors, it was truly a successful morning! 66 children and 85 adults attended. Guests were able to make their selections for the basket raffle (created by our wonderful ministry teams!) and then met in the sanctuary where we looped videos from VBS and Harvest Fest last year. We began with a story, gave themed baskets to the winners, and then directed our egg hunters to their designated areas. Afterwards, each child was able to choose a prize from our prize table as well as a treat back with crafts, snacks, and a Bible verse to commemorate the day. We felt that this was perhaps our most successful egg hunt yet and that is a credit to our wonderful volunteers! Whether you donated candy, stuffed eggs, donated items for a basket, helped man stations at the egg hunt or simply prayed over our time together, we are blessed by your partnership in nurturing the youngest members of the congregation and sharing the love of Christ in tangible ways with the community that surrounds us.

Upcoming Events:

- Kids Connect—Mom's Connect: April 26, May 10, May 24
- Children participate in worship: April 30
- *Monumental* VBS—June 11-15 from 6:00-8:00 PM. You can register at vbspro.events/p/6c7fcd



Bible Points for Children's Church for May!

May 7

Preschool/Kindergarten – Jesus Loves Us and Knows Our Names
 Grades 1-3 – Good Friends Comfort Each Other When They are Sad
 Grades 4-6 – God Helps Us Make the Right Choices

May 14

Preschool/Kindergarten – Jesus Loves Us and Keeps Us Safe
 Grades 1-3 – God Wants to Be Our Friend
 Grades 4-6 – God Helps Us Stand Up for What's Right

May 21

Preschool/Kindergarten – Jesus Loves Us and Gives Us What We Need
 Grades 1-3 – Family Members Care for Each Other
 Grades 4-6 – God Deserves Credit for All Good Things

May 28

Preschool/Kindergarten – Jesus Wants Us to Believe in Him
 Grades 1-3 – God Loves Us, No Matter What
 Grades 4-6 – We Should Follow God No Matter What Happens



Every other Wednesday morning has been a great time of fellowship for mothers while their children enjoy activities and games with wonderful HCOB staff and volunteers. Many thanks to Emmy and Laura for this wonderful outreach program!



Messages in May

May 7



"I'm not done yet"

John 13:12-17; Luke 24:44-49; Philippians 1:3-6

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Our theme for May is: So what? What now? We have this vision and mission from God to 'follow Jesus, be one another focused, love as we have been loved, and testify to what He's done,' so now what do we do with our commitment? Doug and Kent will converse over our passages in John and Luke as we hold the tension of Jesus telling His disciples, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them," after He washed their feet and "stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" after His resurrection. Sometimes, we feel like we are waiting for the next big thing: job raise or promotion, child, a move, a cure, some miraculous or spiritual 'high' as we encounter God. Always looking to the next big thing can rob us from what God is doing right now, what He can do right now because we struggle to be present. What do we know right now? What can we do right now: at Hempfield COB, in our communities or workplaces or schools with the people around us right now? Let's anticipate and celebrate together as we hold this conversation.

May 14



Happily Ever After!.... (?)

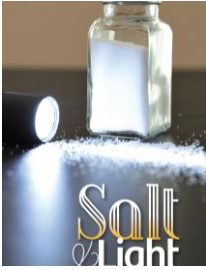
Ruth 4:13-22; Revelations 21:1-7

Pastor: Geoff Davis

We know God's vision for his people, understand the mission on which Jesus sent us, and are committed - truly committed - to a life focused on helping achieve a bigger purpose that extends beyond our interests. We've "confessed with our mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead" (Romans 10:9) and know that "we will be saved."

But what are the results of this commitment? So what? What's the big deal? We each have expectations of the results we are "entitled" to because we've followed Jesus. By examining some Biblical characters, will we be able to learn anything about how realistic and aligned our expectations are for ourselves with God's plan? Now what?

May 21



How Then Shall We Worship? How Shall We Honor God?

Revelation 5:6-14, Daniel 3:8-30, Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor: Laura Meiser

As we continue to explore our next steps in serving God (So what? What now?), we will take a look at what it means to honor God well with our lives and with our worship. What does our time together on Sunday morning convey about our affection to God? What does it look like to honor him well in our daily lives? We will explore the commitment Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego demonstrated as they walked to Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, trusting God to either save them, or to take them home to him. We'll also look at what Jesus laid out to his followers in the Sermon on the Mount. Is it what we've always thought? And while we do this, we will enjoy beautiful music, celebrating our beloved Father and declaring what he means to us.

May 28



Everyday Miracles

Acts 3:1-16; Jonah 3

Pastor: Doug Hinton

To whom does our faith belong? As I ponder the theme for May of "So What, What Now?" I'm struck that I'm inclined to 'go and do.' How do we respond when we encounter the Living God: to serve ourselves or to share with others? Do we seek to live in comfort or see the captives set free? To we hope that our form of justice will be carried out or God's true justice through Christ? What if we could witness everyday miracles as we act in faith...would we want to? We look at the faith and reactions of Jonah and Peter; in both, God's will was done. How did their approaches and postures differ? Though faithful, were both free in their faith? How can this inform our own walk today? Where do we need to practice our faith and share the gift we have received? If we are unable to share our gift, what else might we need to release?

HCOB Family News



Saturday, May 13th at 3:00pm there will be a Celebration of Life service for Glen Krebs. All are welcome to come.



Checks For You

... Blood Pressure Checks that is.

The Deacon Committee, through their Health Ministry Team, will begin the monthly blood pressure checks to all participants of our church family. New equipment has been purchased and we will have a qualified nurse present to assist.

Beginning April 2 (and every 1st Sunday of the month) **Next check May 7.**

Where: Choir Room

When: After the church service



The church, through the Education Team, is offering an **EDUCATION GRANT** of up to \$2,000 to individuals who are: (1) pursuing a career in Christian Ministry by attending a Christian college or university, or (2) attending a college that is affiliated with the Church of the Brethren. Inquiring applicants can send a request for an application to Donna Reed, chairman of the Education Team, via the church mailbox or rdreed2@verizon.net. The deadline to receive the returned grant application is May 7.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

**Donation Station at HCOB for
Church World Service (CWS)** – we
want to remind you of the ongoing
outreach opportunities available to
support CWS and their refugee
resettlement program.

You can help by donating household items on CWS's list of items that they accept. You can place your donations in the brown wheelbarrow in the narthex or coat closet. (**Food donations** should be placed in the **shopping cart** in the coat closet.) CWS's donation list is attached to the brown wheelbarrow. The Outreach Team will deliver donated items to CWS's donation hub on East King Street.

With many refugees arriving with little or no belongings, our continued donations of household items help to offset some of the home costs for a new refugee neighbor making a home and rebuilding their life here in Lancaster.

THANK YOU for your support!



If your youth might be interested in participating, please let Ed Haldeman or myself know as soon as possible. We would like to gauge interest, so we can guarantee the advisors and transportation to attend. We will register for the events as a group. The church will cover the costs after a small deposit.

National Junior High Conference:

Who: Junior High (completed 6th-8th)

When: June 16-18, 2023

Where: Juniata College (Huntingdon, PA)

What: The youth will engage in worship services, workshops, music, and recreation. The theme is "What does God want from me?" and will focus on Micah 6:8. Refer to attached brochure for more information.

Upcoming Calendar:

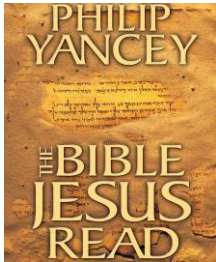
May 7th 6-8pm - Youth Group

May 14th - NO Youth Group - Happy Mother's Day!

May 21st 6-8pm - Youth Group



Current Study...



2023 The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yancey

In *The Bible Jesus Read*, award-winning author Philip Yancey combines scholarship and insight to bring new light to old material and stimulates new thought and further study. This eight-session video Bible study uses video and group discussion to explore the sometimes shocking and cryptic writings of the Old Testament to help readers know God better. Yancey serves as guide and interpretive leader of each session and, in a series of in-depth interviews and explanations, he covers five crucial segments of the Old Testament:

- Job
- Deuteronomy
- Psalms
- Ecclesiastes
- The Prophets

Yancey approaches each of these major segments from a different point of view and adds additional interpretive material, extending the reach of his best-selling book. The eight sessions include:

1. Is the Old Testament Worth the Effort?
2. Understanding the Old Testament
3. Job: Seeing in the Dark
4. Deuteronomy: A Taste of Bittersweet
5. Psalms: Spirituality in Every Key
6. Ecclesiastes: The End of Wisdom
7. The Prophets: God Talks Back
8. Advance Echoes of a Final Answer

May 7 – Is the Old Testament Worth the Effort

May 14 – Understanding the Old Testament

May 21 – Job: Seeing the Dark

May 28 – Deuteronomy: The Taste of Bittersweet

June 4 – Psalms: Spirituality in Every Key

June 11 – Ecclesiastes: The End of Wisdom

June 18 – The Prophets: God Talks Back

June 25 – Advance Echoes of a Final Answer

Galen Brumbaugh

Del Kautz

Rich Bushong

Doug Hinton

Galen Brumbaugh

TBD

Rich Bushong

TBD

LOOKING AHEAD...



At the end of the day, God is less concerned with what we do for Him than who we are in Him. Few figures illustrate that truth better than Jonah. Focused on the prophet rather than his prophecy, the story of Jonah gives us a picture of a man on the run due to his own selfish desires. Instead of showing mercy to his enemies, he determined to keep God's grace to himself rather than share it with those he considered undeserving. Can you relate?

Over the course of 8 verse-by-verse sessions, pastor and author Eric Mason expands our vision to see that Jonah's story is our own. Far more than a thrilling Sunday school adventure, it offers a profound glimpse into the conflict that occurs when God calls resistant believers to His mission. More importantly, it underscores the depths of His compassion not only in redeeming the lost, but redeeming those He has called to participate in His reconciling work.

And then.....

The Book of Jeremiah (International Standard Sunday School Curriculum)



NEWS!!

FOOD SERVICE:

Our kitchen needs your help!! Please consider volunteering for breakfast, lunch, or dinner shifts during any of the below dates. Bonus: WE WILL FEED YOU!

Shift times: Breakfast 6:45am-9:15am

Lunch 10:45am-1:15pm

Dinner 3:45pm-6:15pm

For more information email: foodservice@campswatara.org

Needed Dates: **School Group**

School Group

May 15 th & 22 nd	Lunch & Dinner
May 16 th & 23 rd	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
May 17 th & 24 th	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
May 18 th & 25 th	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
May 19 th & 26 th	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Summer Camp

June 9 – August 6 th	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
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Retreat Group

July 15 th	Lunch & Dinner
July 16 th – 21 st	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
July 22 nd	Breakfast & Lunch

CONTACT

Campswatara.org

**Find all about the Summer Camp Program
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!**

CAMP SWATARA



**AWESOME JOB.
AWESOME PLACE.
AWESOME PEOPLE.**

WWW.CAMPSWATARA.ORG

WE'RE HIRING!

- Buildings & Grounds Assistants
- Cabin Counselors
- Housekeepers
- Kitchen Assistants
- Lifeguards
- Storekeepers

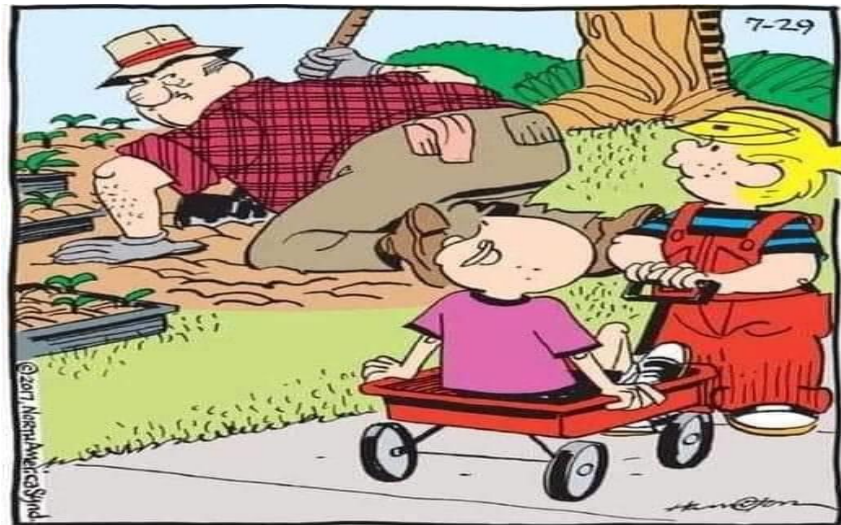


May Calendar

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

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	1 Doug's Day Off 6:00pm - 8:00pm F&H Kitchen Cleaning	2 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	3 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	4 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	5 6:00pm - 8:00pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP - Day of Prayer	6 5:00pm - 8:00pm Brethren World Mission Concert
7 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	8 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	9 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group	10 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	11 Doug Out 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	12	13 3:00pm - 5:00pm Krebs Memorial
14 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship	15 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team	16 Election Day	17 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	18 Irene Vacation 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	19 Irene Vacation	20 2:00pm - 7:00pm Fisher Family Event
21 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship - Communion 4:00pm - 9:00pm Rohrer Family Event 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	22 Doug's Day Off	23 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	24 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	25 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	26	27
28 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	29 Doug's Day Off Memorial Day - Church Office Closed	30	31 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	1 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	2 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	3



"WHEN WILL YOU BE DONE WITH GARDENIN',
MR. WILSON? ME AN' JOEY JUST WANNA
WATCH YOU GET UP!"



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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