

the pulse of blessing

Pastor Doug Hinton

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe **EPHESIANS 1:15-19a**

Jesus following, one another focused, loving God, neighbor, self and enemy with the love we received in Christ Jesus our Lord, testifying to His good work among us individually and communally, and inviting others into the fold...I'm hearing more and more stories of how this is being lived out among you and am grateful for the Spirit's work in your/our lives as we seek to be faithful to Jesus Christ our Lord. Stories of encouragement in others' lives, stories of sharing the faith with those who do not know Jesus and the freedom He gives, stories of coming alongside others as they live trauma and tragedy, stories of healing and wholeness restored. And I'm grateful. For Jesus. For His Word. For you and your faithfulness to Him.

I often wonder: where else do we need to grow? What do we need to address in order to be even healthier, even *more* faithful, even *more* truthful and graceful to Jesus and those around us? How are we inviting people into the body of Christ? What steps do we take to introduce people to Jesus, to help them grow in Him, to connect the people already here? Are we combatting the voices outside and inside the church that

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 Jesus following, one another focused, loving God, neighbor, self and enemy with the love we received in Christ

want to pull people from a true faith in Jesus' way? Are we trusting people to take hold of parts of the ministry to allow them to use their gifts to strengthen the saints to do the good work prepared before us? Why do I say all this?

Because I see the church as a heart of blessing, truth and grace. As we are covered in the blood of Christ, made clean, reconciled, forgiven and empowered, we are to go out and declare the Gospel we have received, blessing those around us – i.e., loving others as we have been loved. As the blood moves from our hearts out to the tips of our toes and fingers, giving us life to praise God another day, so the Spirit moves through the body, giving us new life to do the work of reconciliation and empowering us to sustain in strength and weakness.

And good news – we are not called to do this alone, but together! As we strengthen our relationship through the Spirit in the bond of peace, the knowledge and wisdom of God can be given us through Scripture, through conversations with others, and through prayer with and for others. May we grow in such ways as to fulfill God's call on our life!



HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

VBS 2023 is in the books! During the week of June 11, we hosted children in our church family as well as the community for Monumental VBS. This VBS focused on the story of Joseph and his journey to redemption and also presented the gospel message to all children. Children sang, danced, heard Bible stories, experienced each night's Bible points, played games, and had yummy snacks throughout the week. Throughout the week, we learned more and more about God's character. We learned that God loves you no matter what, God is with you everywhere, God is in charge, God is stronger than anything, and God is surprising. Ms. Laura exploded an egg to the high heavens, and Cliff Towers (AKA Kent Rice) made many friends along the way.

We are so grateful to everyone who generously shared their gifts and talents with our children. From our station leaders to crew leaders to our video and sound techs who spent countless hours working through technical difficulties, you are SO appreciated.

Please be in prayer for all children who attended VBS, for their families, and for the communities they interact with. This was a very special group of children and we were honored to speak into their lives.





Bible Points for Children's Church for July!

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|---------|--|
| July 2 | Preschool/Kindergarten – We are the church, and we take care of each other.
Grades 1-6 – It's good to follow where God leads. |
| July 9 | Combine group for Taylor Denlinger sharing about mission field |
| July 16 | Preschool/Kindergarten – We are the church, and tell others about Jesus.
Grades 1-6 – God loves all the people the same |
| July 23 | Preschool/Kindergarten – TBD
Grades 1-6 – God's Love Helps us, we can love others. |
| July 30 | Children will accompany their parents in the service. |

Messages in July

July 2



“Man, That Looks Good”

Gen 3:1-13

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Even if you’ve not watched the movie Jaws, you still may know the music when the shark approaches...duuuuh, duuuh. Adam and his wife did not get that heads up. There’s so much in these thirteen verses: how much knowledge did the man and woman possess? Are there things made that need not be known? Can we hold the tension of our free will and God’s purpose in our lives? When the serpent (that was talking?) asks the question of the woman, he starts, “did God really say...?” I’ve heard many arguments in our time that begin with, “Jesus never said anything about _____.” We often use this line of thought when justifying our own desires, right? And thinking on this, was God not with them the whole time? Why not? What about us? This will be part 1 of chapter 3...we will hear the rest of the story next week.

July 9

you
are **FREE**
TO CHOOSE,
BUT YOU ARE NOT
FREE from
the
CONSEQUENCE
OF
YOUR **CHOICE**

Free to Choose

Genesis 3:14-24

Pastor: Geoff Davis

After God has given Adam and Eve everything he created for a joyful life and they disobey the one rule that he’s given them, they blame each other for what happened and reap the results. God gave them the freedom to choose, but also the consequences of having disobeyed. But throughout the aftermath of their choices, God still loves and cares for them. He cursed the serpent and the ground but not the humans he’s made. He made garments for them and clothed them.

As Richard Rohr writes, “God is always sewing garments of love and protection to cover our immense and intense sense of unworthiness. Our very movements toward God are only because God has first moved toward us.” One of the most profound quotes I’ve learned has been attributed to C.S. Lewis: “We are free to choose but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choices.” What does this mean for us? What are the implications of this behavioral trait that we seem to relearn over and over again?

July 16



Cain and Abel

Out in the Open

Genesis 4

Pastor: Doug Hinton

We move into the account of Cain and Abel, brothers who worked the ground or raised cattle. Remember when Adam and his wife ate the fruit in the garden and hid from the Lord? Not so with their son, Cain, who killed his brother in the field and challenged the Lord when questioned. What does this reveal to us about family and sin? About warnings and curses? About mercy or redemption? Does the story end with Cain? Why is this story important in the larger whole of Genesis 1 – 11 and what can we learn from it today?

July 23



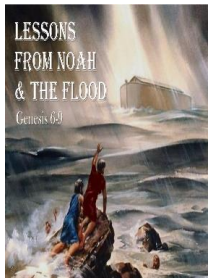
Generations and Wickedness

Genesis 5-6:12

Pastor: Doug Hinton

As we continue in Genesis, we see the generations of Adam named from Seth, eventually bring us to Noah and his sons. What happened to God's good creation? Who were the 'sons of God' and the Nephilim? How long did it take before 'every intent of the thoughts of [man's] heart was only evil continually'? What can we understand about this passage, what do we struggle against, and why is it important to us today? Let's look at this first part of the story of Noah together.

July 30



What Do We Do With Hard Things?

Genesis 6:9-22

Pastor: Laura Meiser

In Genesis 6:12-13 we read, "God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.'"

Have you ever heard someone suggest that they can get behind the New Testament God but not the God of the Old Testament? Is God different testament to testament? What does his character look like across the metanarrative of Scripture? And what do we do with hard passages? How can we sit well with *all* parts of God's Word? Join us and see!

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 July 9.

Where: Library

When: After the church service



Friends Together Week was a great success. Many, many thanks go to the members of Hempfield Church of the Brethren for stepping up to help in so many areas this week. Your willingness to serve was a wonderful part of our week.

THANK YOU

WORDD Worship will NOT meet on July 7th due to the 4th of July holiday. We'll see you on August 4th.



Many thanks for your partnership with feeding the Hempfield community!

Thank you for 230 pounds of food contributed in May.

AND the \$100.00 contributed in June!!

In May we served 670 children; 1137 adults; 446 seniors

a total of 2253 people served! 39 volunteers gave 588 hours in May!

Items requested for July are: cereal (always), canned mixed vegetables, canned corn, canned green beans, canned carrots, canned potatoes, spaghetti sauce, large peanut butter, large jelly, Mac/cheese, cream of broccoli soup, cream of celery soup, vegetable soup.



WELCOME

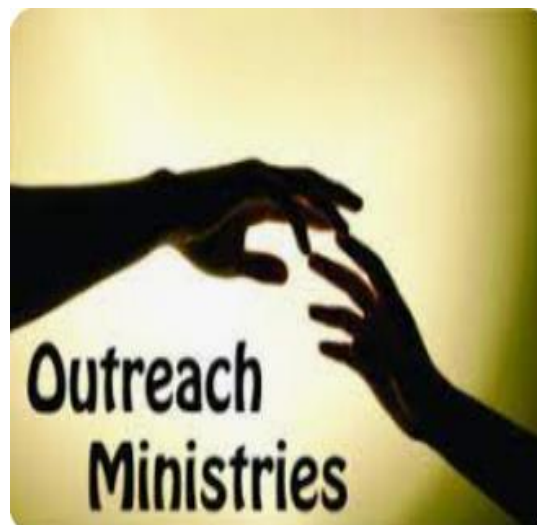
The Outreach Team is excited to have the following share "Outreach Minutes" during the Hempfield Happenings over the next few months:

July 16th -Tim Diehl, *Water Street Mission*

August 13th -Sue Brubaker and Paula Stoner – *Force for Food.*

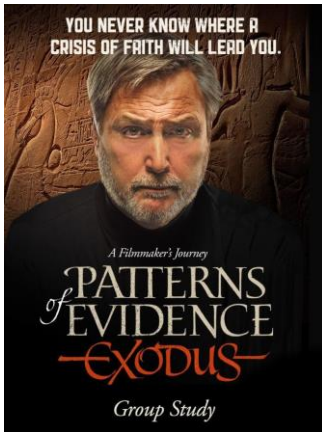
The Outreach Team would like to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone for strong General Fund year to date giving that has allowed us to provide 100% funding of our Outreach commitments through May. We also appreciate the support of our other Outreach activities involving donations of items and time including:

- The 8 volunteers who helped with the highway cleanup on April 22nd.,
- Volunteers who helped with the Ice Cream event at Constitution Square on May 19th.
- Continued donations to CWS (Church World Services) and the local Food Banks.





Current Study...



A debate rages over the credibility of the Bible. Most archaeologists today have concluded that there's no evidence that the Exodus of Israelite slaves from Egypt ever happened. Filmmaker Timothy Mahoney faces a crisis of faith, "Is this foundational event of the Bible really just a myth?" He embarks on a 12-year journey around the world to search for answers.

"Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus" unlocks the mystery of this ancient saga, combining a scientific investigation with a retelling of the Exodus story to reveal an amazing pattern of evidence matching the biblical account that may challenge our understanding of history. Featuring stunning animations and a cast including Narrator, Kevin Sorbo (God's Not Dead, Hercules: The Legendary Journeys), interviews with leading archaeologists including Israel Finkelstein, Kent Weeks, and David Rohl, and guest appearances by Israel's Benjamin

Netanyahu and Shimon Peres.

Dig Deeper into this riveting evidence for the Exodus out of Egypt and the Conquest of the Promised Land. This small group study includes thought-provoking questions that will help you explore key scenes from the film and why it matters to our faith.

July 9 – Intro – Donna Reed

July 16 – Arrival

July 23 – Multiplication & Slavery

July 30 – No Class – Annual Conference Report

August 6 – Judgement

August 13 – Exodus & Conquest

August 20 - Conclusion

July Calendar

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

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	26 Doug's Day Off	27 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	28 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	29 Laura Out 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	30 Laura Out 6:30pm - 7:30pm Softball Game - Manheim BIC Black 7:15pm - 8:15pm Softball Game - Dove Red	1
2 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship	3 Doug's Day Off Laura Out	4 Church Office Closed COB Annual Conference	5 COB Annual Conference Youth Mission Trip - Charleston, WV 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	6 COB Annual Conference Youth Mission Trip - Charleston, WV 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	7 COB Annual Conference Youth Mission Trip - Charleston, WV 9:15pm - 10:15pm Softball Game - Crossway Mennonite	8 COB Annual Conference Youth Mission Trip - Charleston, WV
9 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group Swim at Barnes'	10 Doug's Day Off Emmy Vacation 6:30pm Worship Team	11 Emmy Vacation Laura Out 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group 7:00pm - 9:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	12 Emmy Vacation Laura Out 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	13 Emmy Vacation Laura Out 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	14 Emmy Vacation	15 Emmy Vacation
16 Emmy Vacation 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group - Sunday Funday	17 Doug's Day Off	18	19 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	20 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - 7:30pm Softball Game vs. White Oak Gray 7:15pm - 8:15pm Softball Game - Manheim BIC Black	21	22
23 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group Swim at Barnes'	24 Doug Vacation 8:15pm - 9:15pm Softball Game vs. Manheim Brethren	25 Doug Vacation 7:00pm - 9:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	26 Doug Vacation 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	27 Doug Vacation 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	28 Doug Vacation	29 Doug Vacation
30 Doug Vacation 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 3:00pm - 7:00pm Van Schaaf Event 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	31 Doug Vacation	1 6:30pm - 7:30pm Outreach Team Meeting (via Zoom) 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	2 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	3 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	4 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	5



July

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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