The Mempfield Herald

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



September 2023

### 1:1

Pastor Doug Hinton As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; **He is mindful that we are** *but* **dust.** As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

#### PSALM 103:12-15

My grandfather spoke of death often. (Well, this is not a pleasant way to open up...) When he was a child, he stood at the mouth of a grave to look into a

though I may need to speak about it more than I do currently. So, here we are.

For those in Christ, death is neither something

gasket his relative was to be buried in...and this memory stuck with him. He told me that people are afraid of death because *in the beginning* we were not made to die. Death remained a result of sin. (Look in Genesis 1 and 2: no death, all vegetarian – people and animals) He would often say that the ratio of death was **1:1**. It is not a matter of if, but when.

Quite simply, death is part of this life. My great-

grandfather took his own life in 1944 and I've an unusual connection to him. My mom's dad, my grandfather, died in 1964 of cancer at the age of 42. My uncle died at the age of 49 of the same cancer. I've lost another uncle to alcohol. Friends and family to drugs, alcohol, drowning, suicide, cancer, old age, accidents, heart attack. Sometimes it was sudden and surprising or sad. Sometimes, drawn out and somewhat of a relief (we do not like to see loved ones suffer, do we?). It seems no matter my age, death was never far from me.

If I'm honest, I never cared for how often my grandfather spoke about death - I mean really, of all the things to focus on, why that? And yet, in a society that seems driven to fight against this reality, I feel as

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. to fear nor to welcome, but only accept. While we are on this earth, we are but dust. We may carry grandiose ideas about our impact on this world or those around us, but death is a humble reminder of what is important in life. Faith, presence with loved ones, experiencing the wonder of this creation, sharing the Gospel message of peace, hope, reconciliation, and joy with those we may or may not know. For those in Christ, our eternity is now. Do we live

today as we expect to live in the fullness of Christ when we move from this life to the next? What's holding us back? What do we need to release in order to live more fully in Christ? Are you living the way you want others to remember you?

When we follow Christ, His priority becomes our priority. "For to live is Christ; to die gain." We grieve from loved ones lost now, but for those in Christ, in the eternal future, when we see them again, it will be as though no time was lost.

This is a short piece. If you'd like to speak about death and dying, share a story of a loved one, or explore a question, please give me a call.

Pastor Doug



# **HCOB** Children's Ministry Happenings

In June, HCOB kids had the opportunity to meet with Taylor and Jonny Chi during Children's Church. Taylor and Jonny shared their passion for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and how they do that humbly by forming relationships with neighbors and by making friends in the coffee shop where they work. They encouraged children to share about Jesus right where they are because it makes a difference. Throughout their time together, children participated in several engaging activities. First they practiced using chopsticks by moving popcorn and goldfish crackers from one plate to another. (Spoiler alert: that was HARD!) Next, they tried their hand at writing Chinese characters for words and phrases such as Jesus, faith and the phrase God loves you. Throughout the experience, children asked some incredible questions and some expressed interest in becoming missionaries too.

What an interesting experience we had as we learned exactly what missionaries do to share the love of Christ with others who may never have heard of him at all.



# Bible Points for Children's Church for September!

September 3	Preschool & Kindergarten –
	Grades 1-6-
September 10	Preschool & Kindergarten –
	Grades 1-6 -
September 17	Preschool & Kindergarten –
	Grades 1-6 -
September 24	Preschool & Kindergarten –
	Grades 1-6 -



#### Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30pm

Join to be a part of the planning for this year's Harvest Fest! The Fest will be held this year on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in Chapel Hall to review the events from last year and brainstorm ideas for the coming event.

Hempfield Church of the Brethren has a beautiful property that has continued to be cared for over the years, in addition to seeing some changes like a vegetable garden and a softball field at one time. The church, throughout the years, has continued to maintain beautiful flower beds, removal of dead trees, and a manicured lawn. The church has also blessed many children with the playground over the past 30 years (with the help of a generous original contribution by the Heisey Family). It is time to continue to provide endless memories and smiles for children by updating the playground. Many of our community events are held outside and the children are naturally drawn to the playground. We often see children run to play on the playset after searching for eggs at the Easter Egg, our Harvest Fest event as well as other times throughout the year. The past couple of summers Emmy and Laura have invited children to "Popsicles in the Park" at Rapho Township due to the current state of the playground. With an updated playground, we could hold that event here on the church property as well as other events. Please prayerfully consider giving to this playground project.



### **DO YOU WANT TO PLAY??**

It's time to **SWING** into the goal of replacing our playground area. You can **CLIMB** into the process and help support the efforts. Don't forget to **SLIDE** into your wallet and give as you feel led. You won't just be **MONKEYING** around as this project becomes a reality.

### **JUMP** in on the fun!

There are giving envelopes on the display table and you may also give online through Breeze (just choose the Playground Project fund). Track the **FUN** on the thermometer in the Narthex display. For questions, see Donna Reed.

# **Messages in September**

### September 3



### You Want Me to do What?

Genesis 12:1-9; Galatians 3:6-9

### Pastor: Doug Hinton

Think back to the beginning of our series in Genesis and the video Laura showed from the BibleProject. Today we will look at the hinge story that connects the first eleven chapters to the rest of Genesis: The call of Abram to leave everything he knows behind to follow God. Now, think back to when you did something new for the first time. How did you feel? Did you do anything to prepare: take a class, watch another person like an apprentice, read a book or watch a video? Did you succeed the first attempt? What did you learn when you failed? Was the reward greater than the cost? How did others respond when you told them about this new venture?

Today, we will look at the call of Abram. God's call upon him not only affected him, his wife, and nephew, but also future generations in his family, strangers, and in fact "all the families of the earth." If this is true, and we are Abraham's seed (because we too believe), how are we carrying out those blessings to those around us? Those who know Jesus? Those who do not? More specifically, those in Hempfield COB, our immediate next door neighbors, our classmates, co-workers, and family? Anytime God calls us to something new, we may be uncomfortable, but our faith grows because we trust in Him through our words and action. Let's follow in the line of Abram, get uncomfortable and see God move!

### September 10



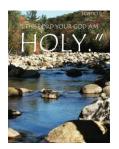
## Looking Ahead: Loving Others

### Leviticus 19

#### **Pastor: Doug Hinton**

Rally Day will be a time to celebrate what God has done, is doing, and also look ahead in anticipation to where He's calling us to grow. This will be a service of testimony and encouragement, celebration and anticipation. God is moving – let's move with Him! (this will be a devotion at best – the goal as my email stated before will to have other voices sharing)

### September 17



Living Differently Leviticus 19:1-4 Pastor: Geoff Davis

In Leviticus 19 God speaks to Moses to give him the moral, ethical, and theological ways that we are to behave. These behaviors will return Israel to God's original design and allow the people to live the life that he originally wanted for each of them. God's love, patience, and kindness are never-ending.

God commands *holiness*, to be different from the nations around them, and to represent him to the world by emulating this attribute in their daily lives. Holiness is "the sphere of purity unique only to God. From the human standpoint, it is the appropriate disposition that allows one to come into contact with God." (Booker, 2000)

But why does it matter? What would we do today to follow this command? Where would we start?

### September 24



### God Provides For Us and Through Us

Leviticus 19:9-10 Pastor: Doug Hinton

Through the fall, we look at the 'others' focused' verses around Leviticus 19 where we find the command to '*love your neighbor as yourself.*' Today's passage focuses on harvest and gleaning: who gets what? The farmer works hard to till the ground, plant the seed, and protect the crop so that he or she may have a plentiful harvest. But, God causes the growth, provides the sun and rain to allow such a crop to come forth. God may bless our work and in that, we can bless others. What helps us to follow these commands today? What hinders us? How did Christ speak of providing for *the needy and the stranger*? How is Hempfield COB doing this today? Where may God be calling us to serve further or in a new way?  $\leftarrow$  How can doing these things help us live into the vision God's placed before us to be *Jesus following, one another focused, loving as we have been loved,* and *testifying to Christ's work among us*?

# **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 September 3.

Where: Library When: After the church service



# Communion Service Sunday, September 17, 9:30am



### Chicken Barbecue-Rally Day Sept. 10, 2023

Mark your calendar, and bring a pew-full of friends. Rally Day marks the beginning of renewed church family experiences.

Our morning service will be followed by a delicious Chicken Barbecue meal as well as inter-generational activities such as: guesstimation games, bingo, board games, corn hole, disc golf, and kick ball, and comfort knotting to name a few.

There is something for everyone!

Dress casually to enjoy your day to the fullest.

### Hope to see you there !!!

**\*\*** If you are interested in playing kickball and/or the corn hole tournament, we ask you to sign up on the sheets in the narthex so that we may plan accordingly. **\*\*** 

- ~ F&H will provide chicken, baked beans, chips, drinks, fresh fruit, plates, utensils and cups.
- ~ Families whose last names start with A-M are asked to bring a salad to serve 12-15 people.
- ~ Families whose last names start with N-Z are asked to bring a dessert to serve 12-15 people.
- ~ No serving utensils needed.
- ~ Please drop off your food in the kitchen **BEFORE** the morning service.
- ~ We will serve the food from the Fellowship Hall.

 $\sim$  Seating inside and outside. If you plan to sit outside, you may bring chairs and blankets in case all the seating outside is taken.



### Brethren Disaster Relief Auction, Inc.

Atlantic Northern and Southern PA Districts

The Brethren Disaster Relief Auction will be held this year on **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at the Lebanon Valley Expo**, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

Highlights of the Event are:

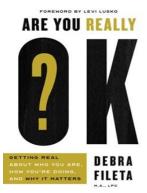
- Pulled Pork Barbecue Meal Friday Evening
- Saturday Morning Breakfast Meal
- Lots of Food Choices All Day Friday and Saturday
- Theme Basket Auction
- Quilt Auction
- Three Silent Auctions
- Arts and Crafts
- Wood Crafts from BV Woodshop
- General Merchandise
- Tools, Lawn & Garden Items in the Pole Barn Auctions
- Sporting Goods Auction
- Heifer Auction
- Coin Auction
- Children's Activities and Auction

To make this event successful we need your attendance, donations of merchandise, baked goods, produce and monetary donations. Cash donations may be sent directly to: Evelyn Dehmey, Treasurer, 164 Vinegar Ferry Road, Marrietta, PA 17547.

Visit the Auction website at <u>www.BrethrenAuction.org</u> You may also contact our Chairpersons, Tom Fritz 717-823-2745, or Gary Stevens 717-740-1227.

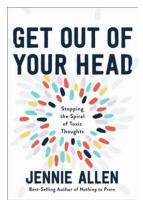


# Fall Ladies Bible Studies



This is one of Debra Fileta's best books. Honestly, after a year of chaos in the world, everyone needs to read this book. Her chapter on how Jesus addressed His emotions was eye opening and profound. I think a lot of times in the church we talk about spiritual health or even physical health but fail to address emotional and mental health. This book made me love God more. I had so much hope after reading this book. I know you will too....with Jesus right by your side. Praying for God to equip the church in emotional health. I know He will use this book powerfully!

The Ladies Fall Bible Study will be an 8-part video series along with the book. We will meet on a weekly basis for 8 weeks starting in September. Please check your August bulletins for information on dates, times, and study materials.



Are your thoughts holding you captive? Jennie Allen knows what it's like to swirl in a spiral of destructive thoughts, such as I'll never be good enough. Other people have better lives than I do. God couldn't really love me. But Jennie also knows we don't have to stay stuck in toxic thinking patterns. As she discovered, God built a way for us to escape that downward spiral. Freedom comes when we refuse to be victims to our thoughts and realize we have already been equipped with power from God to fight and win the war for our minds.

In *Get Out of Your Head*, Jennie takes groups on a study in Philippians, inspiring and equipping us to transform our emotions, our outlook, and even our circumstances by taking control of our thoughts. When we submit our minds to Christ, the promises and goodness of God flood our lives in remarkable ways. It starts in your head. And from there, the possibilities are endless.

This 6 part series was run in 2022 but is being revisited for any and all who would like to participate. The study will meet on Friday mornings, beginning on September  $15^{\text{th}}$  and meeting 9/29, 10/6, 10/27, 11/3 and 11/17. We will meet 9:30 – 11:00am. If interested, contact Jen Hinton at <u>Hinton\_Jen@yahoo.com</u>.



The Connect program will again be starting on September 20, 2023 from 9:30-11:00am, every other Wednesday through November 15<sup>th</sup>. A great way for moms to have a time of learning and fellowship while their children enjoy some awesome activities. For more information, contact Laura Meiser or Emmy Schott.

# You Willing to Serve?



It is that time of year when we begin to look toward building the ministry teams for 2024. Get involved! Be a part! Lend your voice! Nominate candidates. Nomination forms are available on the table as you enter the Sanctuary.

Position nominations will be **due by noon Sunday, September 3**. You may return your nomination ballots to the box located on the Narthex table. For questions, see Del Kautz.



Thank you for 72 pounds of food delivered in July ! Also thank you for the \$100. donated in June and \$100. in July

In July, we served 531 children; 847 adults;

380 seniors... for a total of 1,758 people served !

42 volunteers served 616 hours!

Requested food for September :

Elbow pasta, Mac and cheese, noodles, Raman noodles, cereal, canned carrots, canned mixed vegetables, canned green beans, large peanut butter and large jelly.

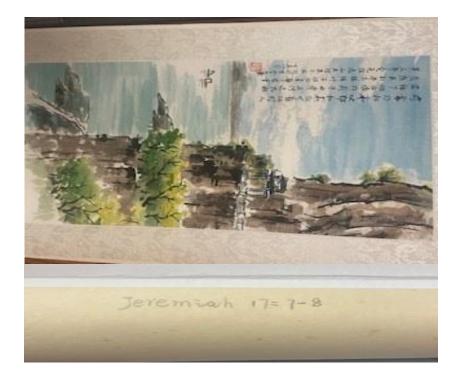


CONGRATULATIONS TO MADDIE HOUCK ON HER STATEMENT OF FAITH, SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023



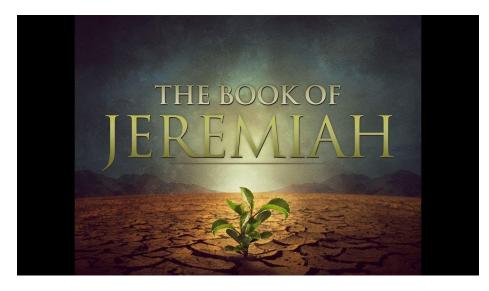
# **A Gift of Appreciation**

In appreciation for the generous support of the Hempfield congregation for their ministry abroad, Taylor (Denlinger) and Jonny Qui presented the congregation with a beautiful scroll that included Jeremiah 17, verses 7-8 at the conclusion of their visit. We will be looking for a location in the next few weeks to hang this beautiful gift.





# **Current Study...**



Jeremiah was a 7<sup>th</sup> Century BC prophet tasked with proclaiming God's message to the people of Judah. His words were a warning – they were to tun from their sinful ways and toward God. God had seen their idolatry of turning to other gods, and as a result He would bring judgement. We get a glimpse of that judgement in Jeremiah's prophecies. Still, Jeremiah's message offers words of hope of God's restoration, if they listened and obeyed.

September 3 – No Class September 10 – No Class (Rally Day) September 17 – Jeremiah 1:4-19 – Galen Brumbaugh September 24 – Jeremiah 2:1-13 – Rich Bushong

# September Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Childrens' Ministry Teacher Orientation 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group Swim at Barnes'	28 Doug's Day Off	29	8:00am - 11:00am	<b>31</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	2
<b>3</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm No Youth Group		5 6:30pm - 8:30pm Harvest Fest Planning Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting		<b>7</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	8	<b>9</b> F&H Kitchen and John Naas Hall
10 2 Cent A Meal Offering Rally Day & Chicken BBQ 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm No Youth Group	11 Doug's Day Off 2:00pm - 4:00pm Brethren World Mission 6:30pm Worship Team	<b>12</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group	13 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	14 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship - Communion 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> Doug's Day Off 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team Meeting (via Zoom)	<b>19</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Education Team	20	<b>21</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	22 Disaster Relief Auction	23 Disaster Relief Auction
24 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 10:45am - 11:45am Alpaca Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>25</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>26</b> 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team		<b>28</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	29 Doug Off	<b>30</b> Doug Off 4:00pm - 8:00pm Rohrer Family Event

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### **ΚΕΤURN SERVICES REQUESTED**

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