

## *be still*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
The holy dwelling places of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.  
The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;  
He raised His voice, the earth melted.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**PSALM 46:4-7**

Doug Hinton, Senior Pastor

How are you doing today? What are you looking most forward to this week? This month? How are you feeling? In this Advent season, this season of anticipation as we await the arriving Messiah, do you wait for Him? Seek Him? Still hold out hope?

I find this time of year we can get wrapped up in the busy-ness of Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, new sports season, another service, another project, another shopping trip. We plan for family gatherings, gifts, meals to serve, services to plan, trips to execute, tension to work through, meetings to attend, or kids to run to \_\_\_\_\_. After all the running, serving, attending, cheering, we still have chores (or acts of love to be better named) and work to do. It seems hard to catch a break sometimes.

This time of year, it can be difficult to escape our thoughts and feelings if we recently lost a loved one, tension remains in families, we lost a job or were 'downsized' or 'restructured,' making it difficult to make ends meet let alone have the money for all the planned festivities. We can feel anger, despair, grief, frustration, apathy, anxiety, resentment, or sadness and struggle to *not* crush the joy out of those around us who seem to be so light and full of life.

How about the news? War, murders, abuse, mud-slinging, skewed and slanted language in stories to shed light and shadows on the appropriate players. Reading through the news, it can feel like all is in chaos. *Is this much different than we find in Psalm 46? What shall we do then?*

In the midst of all the chaos named in Psalm 46 (*go back and read the whole chapter*), we find the unmoving city of God. A city with a flowing stream, whose help comes from within her midst from God Himself. In the midst of present trouble, earth quakes, tidal waves, even wars, the author pens the words of the Lord, "**Be still**, I know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." In this busy season, in the midst of planning and executing, shopping or grieving, living at peace or in tension, take time to **be still** to know God. Read Scripture, pray, take a walk in the woods or by a stream. Find a room or closet in your house to isolate and seek the Lord our God. Keep a prayer journal, sing praise songs and hymns to Him. In the midst of this busy season, remember: Advent is a time of anticipation for the arriving Messiah. **Be still** and draw near Him. As you draw near Him, He will draw near you and all the fullness of this season will be made known to you. Joy. Hope. Peace. Love. But first, **be still**.



## HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

### Parents' Night Out

As parents enjoyed an evening to themselves in November, children enjoyed an evening of fellowship and fun together. The children enjoyed playing in the gym prior to their dinner. Pizza, carrots, chips, and juice boxes filled their bellies before we headed to The Gathering Place for activities. First they created Christmas ornaments full of red, green, and white decorations. Next the children participated in a couple Minute to Win It games such as using straws to move mini-marshmallows onto a napkin and stacking cups into a pyramid. Then we used RightNowMedia to show an episode of Owlegories while they created art projects to hang in the upstairs hallway. Our evening ended with some more gym time as parents arrived back to gather their children.

### Have you seen HCOB kids serving?

God gives each of us gifts and talents. It's exciting to see kids willing to participate in the life of the church. There are a variety of ways that kids can serve and learn from adults in the various roles in the life of a church. No expiration on serving exists, as well as a starting age. We have seen kids helping in the nursery, on the sound board, in the praise band, and hanging bulletin boards. We are certain that there are other ways in which they can serve, and we will continue to explore the possibilities.





## **Bible Points for Children's Church for December!**

December 3	Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah
December 10	Isaac is born
December 17	God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael
December 25	Christmas Story (Combined Group)





Upcoming Calendar:

- Nov 26th - NO Youth Group - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec 3rd - NO Youth Group - Family Christmas Event at HCOB
- Dec 10th - 6-8pm - Youth Group
- Dec 17th - 6-8pm - Christmas Party
- Dec 24th - NO Youth Group - Merry Christmas!



# Messages in December

## December 3



### Hope is the Beginning of All Things

Luke 2:22-40

**Pastor: Laura Meiser**

Waiting is hard. It's uncomfortable and often involves suffering of some sort. Anyone who has waited for a situation to resolve, for healing to come, for a grief to pass knows this to be true. God's people were no different. In the opening pages of the gospel of Luke, we enter into a people who were bone weary after God had been silent for 400 years. And yet they had hope, a promise for the future. As God began a new chapter of His story, lives began to be touched, never to be the same. In his kindness, God allowed Simeon and Anna to participate in something they had long hoped for. What can we learn from their stories, from God's people at this time? How does this speak into the hard places and circumstances we find ourselves in 2000 years later?

## December 10



### Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:8-20

**Pastor: Doug Hinton**

From the United Nations' press website, "*Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, stating that peace — the United Nations' raison d'être — "is now under grave threat", observed that people's sense of safety and security is at an all-time low in almost every country. Six out of seven worldwide are plagued by feelings of insecurity, the world is facing the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War and 2 billion people — a quarter of humanity — live in places affected by such conflict.*"

A quarter of humanity – right now – live in places affected by conflict. The sense of safety and security remains an all time low in the last 80 years. Where do we place our trust and to whom do we seek to receive our peace? How do we seek peace, become peace-makers (which differs from peace keepers), and who is our model? This Sunday, we look delve into the prophet Isaiah's writing and the angels' proclamation "*Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*" Peace among men by the Prince of Peace; could it be so?

## December 15



### Jesus Wept

**Blue Christmas** John 11

**Pastor: Doug Hinton**

A Blue Christmas service allows us time, space, and presence to acknowledge the *less than* joyful emotions we experience during the Advent Season. This year we enter into the pain, loss, abandonment, and fear we experienced during the pandemic. What do you continue to carry from the time of Covid-19? What questions remain? Where do you need to invite Christ in to heal, lead, or forgive? Who may you need to forgive? Who do you miss or did not get to say goodbye? Through songs and Scripture, communal call and response, video, a meditation and exercise, we ask you to invite the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, into this space as we gather together.

## December 17



### Joy of New Life

Luke 1:39-56

#### Pastor: Doug Hinton

What brings you joy? Merriam-Webster defines joy as *the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires*. Possessing what one desires? Joy must go deeper than buying a new car, a new house, getting a promotion or going on vacation. Joy sustains a person when happiness fades away. Joy holds onto hope in the uncertainty, peace in the darkness, resolve in the trial. Today, we'll walk with Mary and Elizabeth as they express joy of a new life coming into the world through both these women: one beyond child-bearing years and one-not-yet-married. How do we experience joy when Mary's son, this Jesus of Nazareth, comes into our lives?

## December 24

Christmas Eve



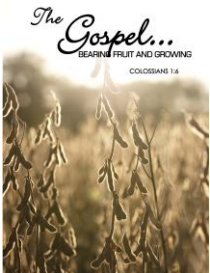
### Love

Matthew 1:18-25; 1 John 4:7-12

#### Pastor: Doug Hinton

We celebrate this Christmas Eve as we remember when God made His love known to all: not by a feeling but through action by sending us His son. Immanuel, God with us, came into the world as an infant, helpless and fully dependent upon His parents. If Jesus walked among us today, would we recognize Him? Do we recognize Him through the actions of others? In this season of anticipation, what do we hope for or need now? Tonight, we celebrate love coming into our world.

## December 31



### Year End Celebration

Colossians 1:4-9

#### Pastor: Doug Hinton

Let's do something different this year end. Let's celebrate how Hempfield Church of the Brethren is stepping into the vision that Christ calls us to live: Jesus following, one another focused, loving as we have been loved, and testifying to Christ's work in, through, and among us. As Paul says, I echo: *I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus...He will also keep you firm to the end...God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ*. Where do you see Christ moving now? Where is He leading us next?



# 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 December 3.**

Where: Library

When: After the church service



## CHRISTMAS CARD DROPOFF

The Deacons invite the congregation to send Christmas cards postage free to all our shut-ins and those living in senior homes. We ask that your cards be alphabetized by last name and rubber banded to ease the process of separation. Cards will be

delivered to all these persons on the list along with the fruit bags on December 9<sup>th</sup> by the Deacons.

Please remember to have your cards in the box under the table in the Narthex by that date. The box and list of eligible persons will be available for your deposits by November 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generous response to this very well received holiday program.



Lancaster City Gate, a storefront ministry on N. Queen Street in Lancaster, is in need of warm socks, gloves, and knit hats to give out to those in need this winter! We're also looking for volunteers to host "warming stations" on weekday afternoons during the coldest months! This would mean opening up the space to provide

free hot cups of coffee, a snack, and the love of Jesus to anyone stopping in from off the streets. Please contact Vicki von Schaaf to donate items or for more information.



We will be collecting the '2-Cent-A-Meal' offering on Sunday, December 10th for the **Global Food Initiative (GFI)** program. This program is the primary way that the Church of the Brethren assists hungry people in developing food security around the world.

Global Food Initiative seeks to:

- invest in small-scale economic development
- join efforts to improve diet and health practices
- champion soil conservation
- promote awareness-raising and advocacy on hunger issues.

**On behalf of the Outreach Team and those that benefit from your giving, Thank You!**



## Christmas Love Offering

### Align Life Ministries

"Aligning with God to proclaim the gospel and champion the sacredness of life."

The Outreach Team has chosen the Align Life Ministries as the Christmas Love offering this year. As in the past, monetary donations are welcome and the envelopes can be found in the narthex. We have also received a Christmas Wish List from Align, to help them better provide for their client's needs. Feel free to place these items under the tree, in the narthex.

Please find some time to look up their website, <https://alignlifeministries.org/>, to see all the ways they are making a difference in people's lives. For more information, contact Jen Houck at 717-951-7694.

Thank You & Merry Christmas!  
The Outreach Team

#### Align Pregnancy Services 2023 Wish List

##### Essential Needs

###### **Baby Wipes**

Diapers (all sizes but most need in size 4, 5, 8, 7)

Pull-ups (size 2T/3T, 3T/4T, 4T/5T,)

Formula—Powder (12.4, 12.5, 12.6 oz can)

Similac Advanced, Similac Sensitive, Similac Total Comfort, Similac Soy, Enfamil Gentlease, Enfamil Infant, Enfamil Reguline

Formula—Powder (20.1 oz, 20.6 oz, 20.7 oz)

Similac 360 Total Care, Similac 360 Total Care Sensitive, Enfamil Neuropro

##### Baby Boutique Needs

###### **Baby Care Needs**

Desitin, Baby shampoo, Baby wash, baby lotion, silicone bibs, Diaper Genie refills

###### **Baby Supplies**

Baby bottles, sippy cups, Spoons/utensils, brush/comb sets, Baby nail clippers/scissors, Teethers, thermometer

###### **Other baby items**

Diaper bags, Small toys, board books, door safety locks and outlet covers, Car seat covers, stroller covers, Hooded towels,

###### **Baby Equipment**

Bouncer seats, Boppy pillows, Sound machine, Adjustable baby gate, High chair, Exersaucer, Adjustable baby gate, Diaper Genie, Baby bathtub

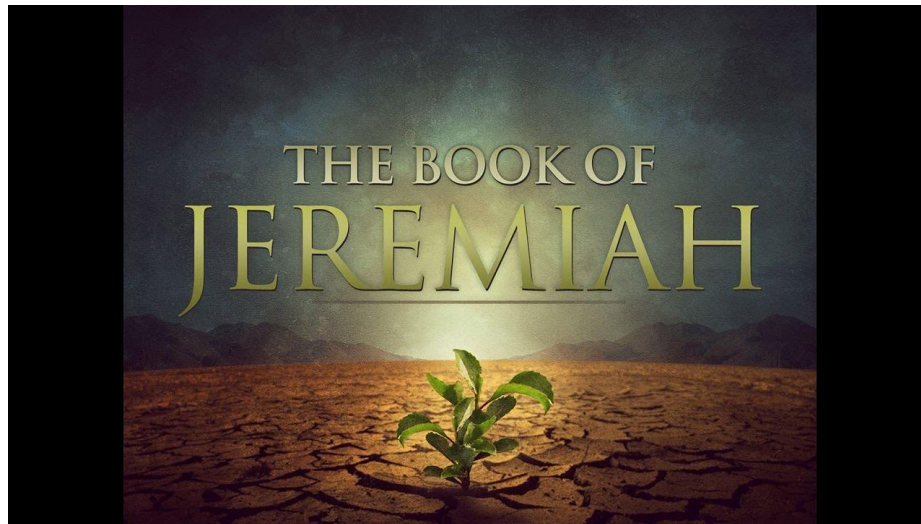
###### **Baby clothing**

Winter coats size 12 mo—4T



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## 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 turn 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.

Nov. 5	<b>Persecuted Church</b>	Rich Bushong
Nov. 12	Jeremiah 29:4-14	Del Kautz
Nov. 19	Jeremiah 31:23-34	Sue Brubaker
Nov. 26	Jeremiah 35:5-19	Galen Brumbaugh
Dec. 3	<b>All Church Event (No Class)</b>	
Dec. 10	Jeremiah 42:7-22	Sue Brubaker
Dec. 17	Jeremiah 50:11-22, 33-34	Galen Brumbaugh
Dec. 24	<b>Christmas Eve (No Class)</b>	
Dec. 31	<b>New Years Eve (No Class)</b>	

## Five Elements Towards Relational Healing in the Church



Start the New Year strong by participating in a powerful Sunday School series called “**Five Elements Toward Relational Healing in the Church.**” Our world is divided by so many things: race, ethnicity, gender, color, politics, denominations, wealth, age, education, etc. Five Elements is a Christian relational healing approach which has Christ in the center, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit as its power source, and its aim the glory of God. The series runs from January 7 through February 11 and will be held immediately following the worship service in the Gathering Space.

It will be led by members of the Five Element’s Men’s Group.

Join us beginning January 7 for an impactful series!

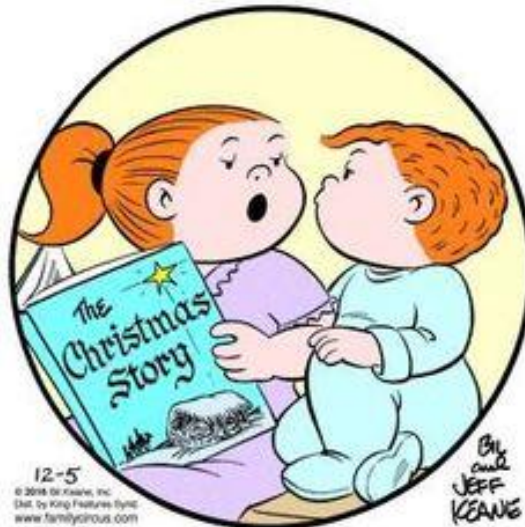
# December Calendar

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

## December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm No Youth Group	<b>27</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>28</b> 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team 7:00pm - 8:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 6:45pm - 8:00pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP Christmas Program	<b>2</b> 8:00am - 9:00am QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal
<b>3</b> <b>Family Christmas Event</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship - Advent Communion 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>4</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Deacons Christmas Basket Assembly
<b>10</b> 2 Cent A Meal Offering 9:00am - 11:00am QuintEssentially Brass in Service 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>11</b> Doug's Day Off 2:00pm - 4:00pm Brethren World Mission 6:30pm Worship Team 7:00pm - 8:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group	<b>13</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>15</b> <b>Blue Christmas</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>19</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	<b>20</b> <b>HERALD DEADLINE</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Holiday - Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	<b>28</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>1</b> Doug's Day Off <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	<b>3</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	<b>6</b>





"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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