

## the kind of community we aim to be

Pastor Doug Hinton

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**JOHN 13:12-15, 34-35**

Doug Hinton, Senior Pastor

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, testifying to the work of the One who called us out of dark and into His marvelous light.

**Jesus following:** Jesus, taking a form of a servant, not to be served but to serve, washing His disciples' feet at the time all power and authority had been given Him from the Father. Teaching and living truth, setting people free from sin in order to live an abundant life with Him. As His followers, we assess all our decisions, views, and actions against His life, teaching, and work found in the New Testament Scripture.

**One another focused:** We not only look to our own interest, but the interests of others: Joining together in corporate worship, meeting together through small groups and Bible fellowships – online when not in person, taking meals, sending cards, making calls, praying together and over each other, bearing with one another in trials, rejoicing in victories, and praising God as He moves through His body.

**Loving as we have been loved:** Do you remember when Christ first encountered your life? 🎵 "Oh, how He loves us so..." 🎵 Followers of Jesus at HCOB remember how Christ first loved us and continues to love us, empowering us to love our God, neighbor, enemy, and self with the same gift we received. We show this not only to brothers and sisters in Christ – no matter their local affiliation – but to family members, neighbors, coworkers, strangers who may not know Jesus or heard His good news.

**Testifying to Christ's Work Among Us:** We serve a Living and Resurrected Savior, the Cornerstone of the church upon which the whole structure is being fitted together. We, as living stones, declare and share with those around us the transformation, healing and wholeness only Christ can bring. He not only sacrificed and died for us, but now His Spirit empowers His body to continue the work He began: not holding people's sin and faults against them, but reconciling them through His work on the cross and giving us the ministry of reconciliation. We are His ambassadors, authorized representatives as though God makes His appeal through us to call to others: Be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.



## HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

On December 3, 2023, our HCOB church family enjoyed a wonderful day of fun as we celebrated the arrival of advent with a meal and a gingerbread house building competition. Immediately after worship we enjoyed pizza and great conversation with one another. Some folks even made it a point to sit with individuals they had never visited with before. What a great idea!

After our bellies were full, the competition got underway. Participants had 60 minutes to build their structures. What creativity! Some young people came with sketches of their design, borrowed books from the school library for support, raided the Children's Ministry supply closet, and requisitioned specific supplies from Mom and Dad. One individual even came equipped with a computer aided design for his structure. Impressive!

After the competition was complete we had planned to go caroling locally however with a lot of rain in the forecast we had to regroup. A huge thank you to Jason Hoffman and Jen Hinton for their creativity. We instead played "Name that Tune" with Christmas carols. Easy, right? Well, not so much when the Christmas carols are being played *BACKWARDS*! This was definitely a challenge but a whole lot of fun.

In the end, we had 19 gingerbread houses/structures/scenes for judging. While all were amazing, our winners are.....Nativity by Janice Shenk and Noah's Ark by Sabrina Houck, Bethany Garber and Evelyn and Penelope Schott. And the prize? Bragging rites for 2024!





## Bible Points for Children's Church for January!

January 7	John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus
January 14	God Dwells with Us
January 21	John Baptizes Jesus
January 28	Jesus Surprises Nathanael



**SAVE THE DATE!** Join us on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Chapel Hall to brainstorm and dream for Vacation Bible School 2024!  
**Questions? See Emmy Schott or Laura Meiser.**



### **Winter Retreat (Feb 16th - 19th)**

Please save the date for our Winter Retreat! This will be a great time of bible study, worship, and fellowship. This event will take place at Camp Swatara in Bethel, PA. More details to come in the new year!

### **Upcoming District Events:**

- ANE Youth Weekend Retreat (January 17th-19th)
  - The theme for the weekend is "Beatitudes" and will be hosted by Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The cost for the event is \$10. The schedule for the event is attached to the Dec 2nd email. This event is open to both junior and senior high students. Please contact Ed Haldeman ([edwardhaldeman@gmail.com](mailto:edwardhaldeman@gmail.com)) if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions.
- ANE Roundtable (Feb 23rd-25th)
  - The theme for this weeked is "Who is my Neighbor?" and this event will be held at Bridgewater College. The cost for this event is \$10. This event is for senior high students only. For more information, please visit their [website](#). Please contact Ed Haldeman ([edwardhaldeman@gmail.com](mailto:edwardhaldeman@gmail.com)) if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions.

### **Upcoming Calendar:**

- Jan 7th - 6-8pm - Youth Group
- Jan 14th - 3-8pm - Church Game Night
- Jan 21st - 6-8pm - Youth Group

### **Director of Youth Ministry and Discipleship Update**

As you may know, the Search Committee for the Director of Youth Ministry and Discipleship began the process to fill this position eighteen months ago. In April 2023, we pursued a candidate that the committee unanimously agreed upon; however, after prayer and consideration, the candidate withdrew their application. We revamped our advertising and received several applications. After screening the resumes, we conducted another set of interviews with three of the applicants. The committee invited two of the candidates for secondary interviews. One of the candidates, without the knowledge of the youth, was invited to a Sunday evening youth gathering, as a guest speaker. Following this lesson, the committee received feedback from Jason, Lydia, and other members of the youth group. After prayer and a lengthy, discerning, discussion amongst the committee, we did not move forward with this candidate. Realizing that after eighteen months, the needs of the youth may no longer be met by the current job description, the committee agreed to seek advisement from the Leadership Team. Leadership understood the concerns of the committee, and both parties agreed to reevaluate the position and the search process. At this point in time, the search will be put on hold until the new search process and position are established. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alan Houck ([ahouckhcob@gmail.com](mailto:ahouckhcob@gmail.com)), Del Kautz ([mardel2k@gmail.com](mailto:mardel2k@gmail.com)), Emmy Schott ([emmy@hempfieldcob.org](mailto:emmy@hempfieldcob.org)), or Jaynelle Trent ([troxelljaynelle@gmail.com](mailto:troxelljaynelle@gmail.com)).



# Messages in January

**January 7**



## **The Greatest Commandment**

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matt 22:36-38; Mark 12:28-31**

**Pastor: Doug Hinton**

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” According to Jesus, this is the greatest commandment in all of the 613 commandments of the Hebrew Bible. Why is this important? What would this look like in our lives? Why are there slight variances in the New Testament around this verse? This commandment holds our theme for 2024: The Greatest Commandment and we will spend time over the next 12 months fleshing out how we can follow this today.

**January 14**



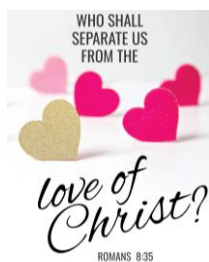
## **Renewing Our Mind**

**Romans 12:1-2, 14-21**

**Pastor: Doug Hinton**

If we are “*to love the Lord our God with all our...mind,*” our focus, our patterns, our victories and trauma, our gifts and weaknesses need to run through the mind of Christ. Why? In order to correct our perspective, our stories, our understandings, our ‘truth,’ to the One who gives life, redemption, and shows us the Way to live. How do we renew our mind? What approach is needed? What tools? Who can help us in this process? Where may we need to go? Finally, what are the results of such a renewal? We will look at what Paul has to write and Pastor Robert Corsey and Doug Hinton will share in the message, to dig into the Scripture and share stories.

**January 21**



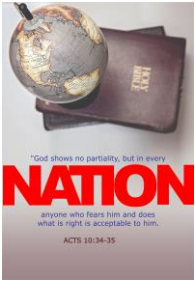
## **Resetting the Mind**

**Romans 8; Psalm 119:9-16**

**Pastor: Doug Hinton/Pastor Robert Corsey**

There are times we need to renew our mind – transform what is. Other times, we need to reset – change our focus completely that our eyes may be opened so that we may see the hand of God at work around us. Kent Rice will recite Romans 8 for us this Sunday from memory. What does Romans 8 have to say about our mind and focus? Why is knowing and/or memorizing Scripture valuable for a believer? Or for those around us? If the Scripture we have is 2,000+ years old, how does it continue to help us love the Lord with all our mind?

**January 28**



## **Holding on to What We Know, Learning as We Go**

**Acts 10:34-48**

**Pastor: Doug Hinton/Kent Rice**

Can a person be faithful and still have things to learn? Peter saw a vision that transformed his understanding of who could and could not receive the Gospel. How does testifying to the words and work of Christ allow others' minds to be transformed? Peter's understanding was challenged and transformed first, but in our passage, who else is being transformed? Can the act of God bring two groups of rivals or enemies together into one accord? What is needed for this to happen? Loving the Lord our God with our mind is one step...but is it the only one? What happens when we love and learn from God in our neighborhoods?

# 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 January 7.**

Where: Library

When: After the church service



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.



Has God prompted you to do something outside your comfort zone? Did God bless you in an unexpected way? Have you witnessed God's hand in something. Would you share your experience so others can be blessed?

Introducing a new page in the monthly Herald called Faith Steps. We want to share and celebrate all that God is doing in and around you. Send your submissions to the church office to include them each month. Let's encourage others by sharing our steps of faith. The first submissions will appear in the February Herald.

## LOOKING AHEAD...



**Christmas Eve Service – December 24 9:30am and 7:00pm**

**Christmas Holiday – December 25 & 26 (Church Office Closed)**

**VBS Planning Meeting – January 9 6:30pm in Chapel Hall**

**Game Day – January 14**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 15 Church Office Closed)**

**Deacon Commissioning – January 21**



A big thank you to the church and all the deacons who made up the beautiful Christmas baskets! Also a special thank you to the children who helped to beautifully decorate the bags. Thank you messages from the following:

*Millie Hoffman*  
*Claire & Vic Lincoln*  
*Betty Cox*  
*Carlene Strait*  
*Peggy Layman*  
*Jean Musser*  
*Ellie Lehman*  
*Carolyn & Richard Gingrich*  
*Millie Brubaker*  
*Faye Rohrer*  
*Jean May*  
*Ruth Johnson*  
*Gerry Shuman*  
*Gerrie & Alan Hurst*  
*Randy & Linda Ziegler*





Hempfield Outreach Committee and church family,

It is hard to believe that I have been in southeast Asia over five years and in Thailand over one year. I wanted to take this moment to say a special thank you to my Hempfield church family for your ongoing partnership with me.

I have been blessed to: (1) support freedom businesses to attain financial sustainability and provide economic opportunities for people surviving trafficking; (2) step into a leadership role in my international church in Bangkok, serving our church family from over eight different nations; and (3) facilitate learning Cohorts with Freedom Business Alliance members.

There are 40+million women and men caught up in labor and sex trafficking throughout the world and the work that we are doing is increasing awareness about the crisis of human trafficking and reducing the people who are being trafficked.

I am always mindful that I cannot be serving on the ground without your financial and prayer support. Your commitment to walking with those of us in the field uplifts and inspires me every day.

I pray for the work that you are doing on my behalf in your local community. You are my hands and feet where God has planted you and I support all that you do with my prayers, reading any correspondence that you share with me and in reading the HCOB monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Current Study...

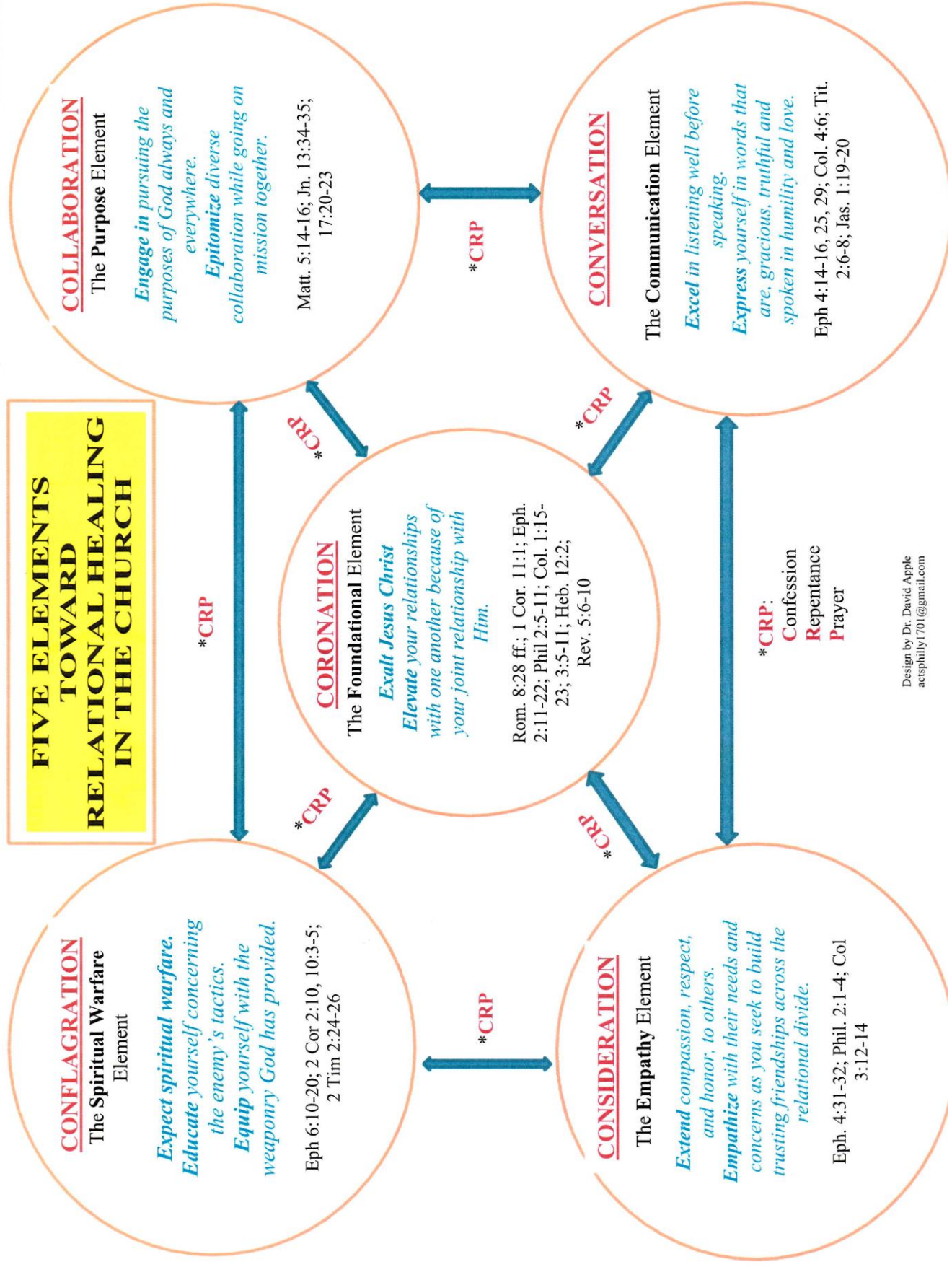
### Five Elements Towards Relational Healing in the Church



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!

JAN 7	Week 1 Topic: Introduction	Ray
JAN 14	Week 2 Topic: Coronation	Ray or Robert
JAN 21	Week 3 Topic: Consideration	Pete
JAN 28	Week 4 Topic: Conflagration	Doug
FEB 4	Week 5 Topic: Collaboration	Dave
FEB 11	Week 6 Topic: Conversation	Galen

## **“Five Elements Toward Relational Healing” Sunday School Series Starting January 7**



# January Calendar

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

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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>	<b>6</b> 12:30am - 12:30am Laura Recording
<b>7</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>8</b> Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	<b>9</b> 6:30pm - 8:30pm VBS Planning Meeting	<b>10</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	<b>11</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4:00pm - 9:00pm Rohrer Family Event
<b>14</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 3:30pm - 6:30pm Game Day 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>15</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>16</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Education Team 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team Meeting (via Zoom)	<b>17</b> <b>HERALD DEADLINE</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1:00pm - 5:00pm Jody Kettering Family Event
<b>21</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 4:00pm - 7:00pm Crawford Family Event 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>22</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>23</b> 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	<b>24</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	<b>29</b> Doug's Day Off	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	<b>3</b> 12:00pm - 2:00pm Hershey UMC Youth Lunch







"Bless you!"



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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