

Who can help? Who can join?

Pastor Doug Hinton

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. ⁵ If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." ⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere. **LUKE 9:1-6**

Doug Hinton, Senior Pastor

I find most people like to help. You can hear and see stories about the helpers in our church and in our communities. People helping others with lawn work, snow removal, or a ride to an appointment. People help and support our teams through teaching Sunday school or leading a small group, serving at a meal, or as Donna Reed mentioned on January 21st, a small group is needed to bring our Library up to speed. In the last week, I've witnessed people donate over \$100,000 to people in their communities that have experienced an unexpected death, fire, or some other tragedy through GoFundMe accounts. It remains a beautiful reminder of grace as people gather around those hurting (and possibly feeling isolated, alone, alienated) and experiencing trauma that support is there. What recent stories can you think of where helpers stepped in? Done in the right spirit, a person can experience, love, mercy, the removal of fear or isolation, and learn to continue to 'be' in the midst of trials in life. Yes, I find people like to help, but...

Many feel uncomfortable or even hate asking for help. We can feel 'less than' or weak, and we fear hearing the word "no." If we ask someone to help us with a task or join us at event, and they say *no*, we feel rejected. I remember reading in Jia Jiang's book, [Rejection Proof](#), that when someone says *no*, we feel they not only reject our idea or inquiry, but our whole being. He then

travels through the book to ground that assessment: it may not be the right time, it may not be their strength, it may be a miscommunication or misunderstanding in communication styles, AND...AND...they may help find a solution if we stay engaged.

If we look to Jesus, He asked for help all the time and what's crazy, not everyone said yes to Him. How can you say no to Immanuel, God with us?!? And yet, He continued to ask for help: He called the disciples to follow, to help feed the 5,000+, to go out on their own to practice what they witnessed in Jesus's speech and conduct, even telling John to take care of His mother while hanging from the cross. In His flesh, Jesus modeled not doing things on His own, but called and allowed others to participate in His plan of salvation, redemption, and Kingdom living.

Where do you need to ask for help? In faith, in marriage, in finances, at work? Who can help? Who can come alongside you that you trust to help you grow? Maybe God's leading you to something new: who can join? Who can help you flesh out ideas to make it a reality? Who can be constructive with you, honest in ways to make things better, and celebrate when good ideas come or a plan comes to fruition? As we seek to be Jesus following, one another focused, loving as we've been loved and testifying to Christ's work, we can't do it alone. So ask yourself: Who can help? Who can join?



HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

Last month forty individuals joined us in John Naas Hall for a day of games and fellowship. If you looked inside, you would have seen members playing games at tables, while a large group played 9-Square. The only time the 9-Square game stopped was for a slight break to enjoy a light dinner. Meatball subs, beef barbecue, and chili along with various snacks lined the table. We hope to continue this tradition and continue to seek ways to connect and meet individual needs.

As we look to make connections in our congregation, as well as into the community, you'll see that registration for Moms Connect~Kids Connect is currently open on our church website. Laura will lead moms in a study of "Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story" by Angie Smith with the mothers in Chapel Hall. Down the hallway, you'll find a handful of loving volunteers watching the children while they play, listen to a Bible story, and sing songs. There will be five Wednesday morning sessions from 9:30-11 AM starting in March. Do you know a mother or a caregiver of young children who would like to connect with other moms while the children engage in various activities? If so, please direct them to our website.

When visiting our website, check out the registration for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at 10 AM, rain or shine. To help us better prepare for that morning, we appreciate when attendees register. Once again, we will have plenty of eggs for children to gather, goodie bags for children to take home, and a free basket raffle for all to enjoy. Look for flyers and ways to help in the upcoming bulletins. Thanks for all your prayers and support of our young ones.



Bible Points for Children's Church for February!

February 4	Disciples Follow Jesus
February 11	Jesus Demonstrates His Authority
February 18	Jesus Heals, Prays, and Preaches
February 25	Jesus Calms a Storm



Winter Retreat (Feb 16th - 19th) - RSVP to Lydia by Feb 4th

The winter retreat is a unique time of bible study, worship, and fellowship. This event will take place at Camp Swatara in Bethel, PA and is open to 6th-12th graders. The cost for the event is a \$10 deposit. Please see the attached registration packet and forms for more information. Printed registration packets and forms will be provided at youth group too.

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) if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions.
The deadline to register is Sunday, January 7th.
- 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) if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions.

Upcoming Calendar:

- Feb 4th - 6-8pm - Youth Group
- Feb 11th - NO Youth Group
- Feb 16-19th Winter Retreat
- Feb 25 – 6-8pm – Youth Group

Messages in February

February 4



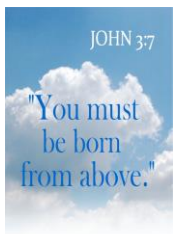
Living Wholeheartedly With God—Loving Him With Our Minds

Deuteronomy 6:4-12; John 5:1-15

Pastor: Laura Meiser

Do you ever find yourself moving through your day on autopilot? Are you focused on the things of God daily or are you (like most of humanity if we're being entirely honest) distracted, disengaged, or feeling defeated? How can we become more intentional in our service to God and more authentic in our worship of him? Let's explore what it looks like to love God wholeheartedly and also with our minds. Like the man in our gospel passage, God is inviting us to get well. The choice is ours.

February 11



Are You Out of Your Mind?

1 John 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Pastor: Geoff Davis

"Love the Lord, your God, with all your mind..." Your mind plays a critical role in your ability to understand and respond to God. The mind makes moral or amoral decisions, accepts or rejects God and makes understanding of God's will possible. Each of us carries the responsibility to decide to believe – and keep believing in God. But we are wired differently, creating our own image according to the world. As James Donaher writes, "This deeper life to which Jesus calls his disciples has very little to do with what we believe but ... what we love. The best things to love are what Jesus tells his disciples to love, and the worst things to love are the wealth, power, and prestige upon which the world tells us to build the illusions of the false self. The false self is the composite of those illusions that we want the world to believe make us better than other human beings, while the True Self is who we were in God before the world got a hold of us and began making us into its likeness." Are we "out of our minds?" What could we do to recognize the choices we've made, the actions we could take, and the consequences of not "loving God with all our mind?"

February 18



Baptism: Loving God in Obedience

Gen 9:8-17, Ps 25:1-10, 1Pet 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

Pastor: Doug Hinton

We begin the season of Lent today which will lead us to Resurrection Sunday on March 31st. The ministry team will use the lectionary through this season, which churches use all over the world as a way to carry a similar focus no matter the local gathering or denomination. Today, our focus turns to baptism. John baptized many for the repentance of sins. He baptized Jesus. In the first letter of Peter, he tells us that baptism saves us. When we think about loving God with our whole being, following Jesus, loving others and testifying to his work, what role does the event and action of baptism play? Do we know why Jesus was baptized? Can you remember the day you were baptized and when did you share that story with another person last? Let's dig into Scripture and allow it to challenge us toward growth.

February 25



Know Who To Believe

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22.23-31, Rom 4.13-25, Mark 8.31-38

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Today's passages revolve around belief, Abraham, and Peter. At an old age, God told Abram that he would be blessed with an heir. Romans tells us that Abram took God at His word and it was credited to him as righteousness. Fast-forward to Peter and Jesus: when Jesus told His disciples that He must be put to death, Peter began to rebuke Him. Yet, both statements to Abram and Peter were true. What would we do if we realized that our faith, while free, may cost us everything? For Abram, would cost his understanding of the nature of the world. For Peter, the loss of his teacher that healed many, even raising the dead. Do we take God, or *God with Us*, that is Jesus, at His word? What would that cost you? Me? How can trusting in Christ's word set us free from this world, turning us into strangers in our homeland? When it comes to life and best practices to live, who do you believe?

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 February 4.

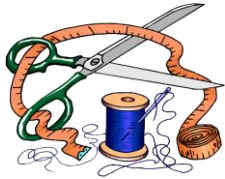
Where: Library

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.



Do you like to sew? Are you looking for some great fellowship and you complete projects for others? Come join a wonderful group of women who meet at the church on the dates below. You'll be blessed!

February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11.



Save the Date!!!

Join us on Sunday, March 17th as we fellowship over a meal (Chicken Corn Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Hot Dogs, Hamburger BBQ, Veggie tray, Ice Cream and Brownies). Then have some fun helping to stuff eggs for this year's Easter Egg Hunt.



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.



How a simple act parallels with my personal walk with Jesus Penny Kettering

I am a knitter and over the years, have taken the risk of learning difficult patterns. Recently, I set about finding the perfect knitting project. The pattern (a vest) seemed well within my ability to understand and maneuver through the instructions. I purchased the instructions and the beautiful yarn recommended-costing a bit more than I would normally spend. The vest was to be knitted "in the round", meaning there are no seams to sew and that you always knit on the right side. This is done with one length of nylon cord with knitting needle tips on each end. The directions tell you where the starting point is, from the bottom up, from the neck down, or at the side.

After knitting the ribbing at the bottom, and beginning the body of the sweater, I ran into an instruction that I just did not understand. I always envision the beginning of a project, where I'm starting and how it will flow. After several ripping outs and starting overs, I finally sought professional guidance. Plus, I was not about to be defeated!

I made a call and sent the problem part of the instructions to my friend, via e-mail, so she could review it before I visited her the following week. Later in the day, she called and said, "Penny, the instructions are correct. You just have to go in faith and follow the instructions of the designer step by step and it will turn out beautifully." So, I began as she instructed me, taking one step at a time. It was like walking blind into a room as I still could not envision the starting place anywhere else than where I thought it should be. In reality, the pattern started in the middle of the front. (New for me!)

It suddenly hit me how very similar my walk with Jesus is! I start where I think I should be; but in reality, He has a different starting point. We must learn to follow our creator, step by step. Though we may not know where we are going to end up... He knows and just like my knitting project, it will turn out perfectly!

Learning to take risks, staying on course when times are difficult, and walking where we aren't sure the path leads shows how our trust, faith and hope - all gifts from God will see us through.

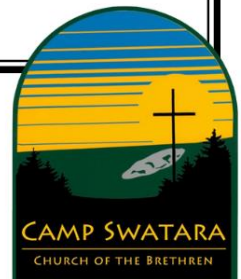
Camp Swatara

Summer at a Glance

Date	East	West	Mountainside	FCC
June 8-13	Counselor Training			
June 14-15	Big and Small I Grades K-3 (Fri-Sat)			
June 16-20		Monarch I Ages 16+ (Sun-Thurs)		
June 22-29	Musical Grades 7-12 (Sat-Sat)			
June 23-28			Mountainside Grades 7-12 (Sun-Fri)	
June 30-July 5	Creative Arts Grades 4-6 (Sun-Fri)			
June 30-July 2		Sprouts I Grades 1-3 (Sun-Tues)		
July 2-5		Sprouts II Grades 1-3 (Tues-Fri)		
July 5-6		Big and Small II Grades K-3 (Fri-Sat)		
July 7-11		Monarch II Ages 16+ (Sun-Thurs) Eco Camp Grades 7-10 (Sun-Thurs)		
July 15-19				Saplings (FCC) Grades 3-5 (Mon-Fri)
July 21-26	Eureka Grades 5-8 (Sun-Fri)			
July 21-25		Maples Grades 1-4 (Sun-Thurs)		
Aug 1-3		Young Adult Retreat 18+ (Thurs-Sat)		



2024 Theme: got spirit?





Greetings. Your faithful giving has once again contributed to the health and well-being of over 300 families in the Hempfield and Manheim communities. For the year, we donated 2,035 pounds of groceries and household supplies, along with \$8,089.

Since we started keeping records in April 2020, HCOB Food Pantry donations total 10,689 pounds and \$43,189.

As is certainly the case with all non-profit organizations, Hempfield Food Pantry operations has been challenging this past year. With the cost of purchased food going up considerably, monthly expenses have exceeded donations for much of the year. Fortunately, a healthy balance was created because of overwhelming generosity during the pandemic and was tapped during 2023. Also, some large late year donations made up for some of the earlier shortfall. Donations from HCOB has helped in stabilizing both the Hempfield and Manheim Central food pantries.

Special Requests for Hempfield include:

Canned mixed fruit, canned peaches, canned pears, canned mandarin oranges

Special Requests for Manheim include:

Canned beef stew, canned chili, soup, boxes of rice, reusable grocery bag

Both Pantries need cereal, large jelly (no glass containers please), mac and cheese, canned meat (chicken, Spam and tuna), pasta (egg noodles, spaghetti, Penna), pasta sauce, peanut butter, soups, canned vegetables.

Money donations can be sent as follows

Hempfield Area Food Pantry - 85 East Brandt Blvd., Landisville, PA 17538

Manheim Central Food Pantry - c/o Salem UMC, 140 North Penn Street, Manheim, PA 17545

Or mail to Pete Cope and it will be delivered to the Pantry.

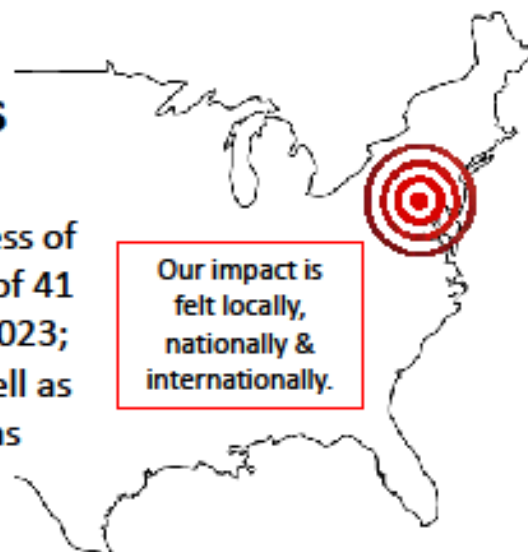
Please mark Hempfield COB Donation in the memo line for reporting purposes.

Thank you for your continuing faithful support of this ministry.

When the church acts with generosity to serve others, it is a clear picture of Jesus

Praise God for His faithfulness and the faithfulness of God's people at **Hempfield COB**. Below is a list of 41 Outreach ministries that we supported during 2023; this includes our planned budgeted giving, as well as special offerings. Total giving to Outreach was **\$146,455**, which was more than \$27,000 above our planned giving!

THANK YOU!!



Our impact is felt locally, nationally & internationally.

Outreach Ministry	Offerings	Outreach Ministry	Offerings
Align Life Ministries	4,267	Faith Tabernacle Food Pantry	1,000
Alpha & Omega Community Life Center	7,000	Force for Food	2,000
bcmPEACE - Harrisburg First COB	1,000	Friendship Community	3,700
Bethany Seminary	1,000	Habitat for Humanity	2,000
Bible 2 School	3,800	Heifer International	300
Brethren Disaster Relief Sale (Heifer)	2,500	Hempfield/Manheim Area Food Pantries	5,889
Brethren Village-Good Sam Fund	10,000	Hope International	3,000
Brethren Volunteer Services	1,000	Lancaster Food Hub	2,500
Brethren World Missions	2,000	My Brother's Keeper (Avadanei Family)	1,000
Camp Swatara	6,504	Power Packs Project-Hempfield Area	1,000
COB 2 Cent-a-Meal Offering	3,550	Serving in Missions	6,000
COB Atlantic NE District	13,752	Sewing Circle	1,064
COB Atlantic NE District Barnabas Fund	1,000	Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church	1,000
COB General Board Ministries	13,750	Special Friends Ministries	809
COB Haiti Medical	1,000	Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center	1,500
COBYS (includes James Wenger bike ride)	13,079	Taylor Denlinger Qju Missionary	6,000
Compassion International	1,200	Tenfold	1,000
Constitution Square Ice Cream Social	60	TNT East Pete	1,350
Deacon Benevolence Ministry	2,281	Veritas Community Church	1,000
Deb Foti Missionary	6,000	Water Street Ministries	8,350
Disciplemakers	1,250	Grand Total	146,455

On behalf of our church, each Ministry, and each person who was served: **THANK YOU!!**

Let's continue to purposefully serve and follow Jesus in 2024!

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor 9:11

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Current Study...

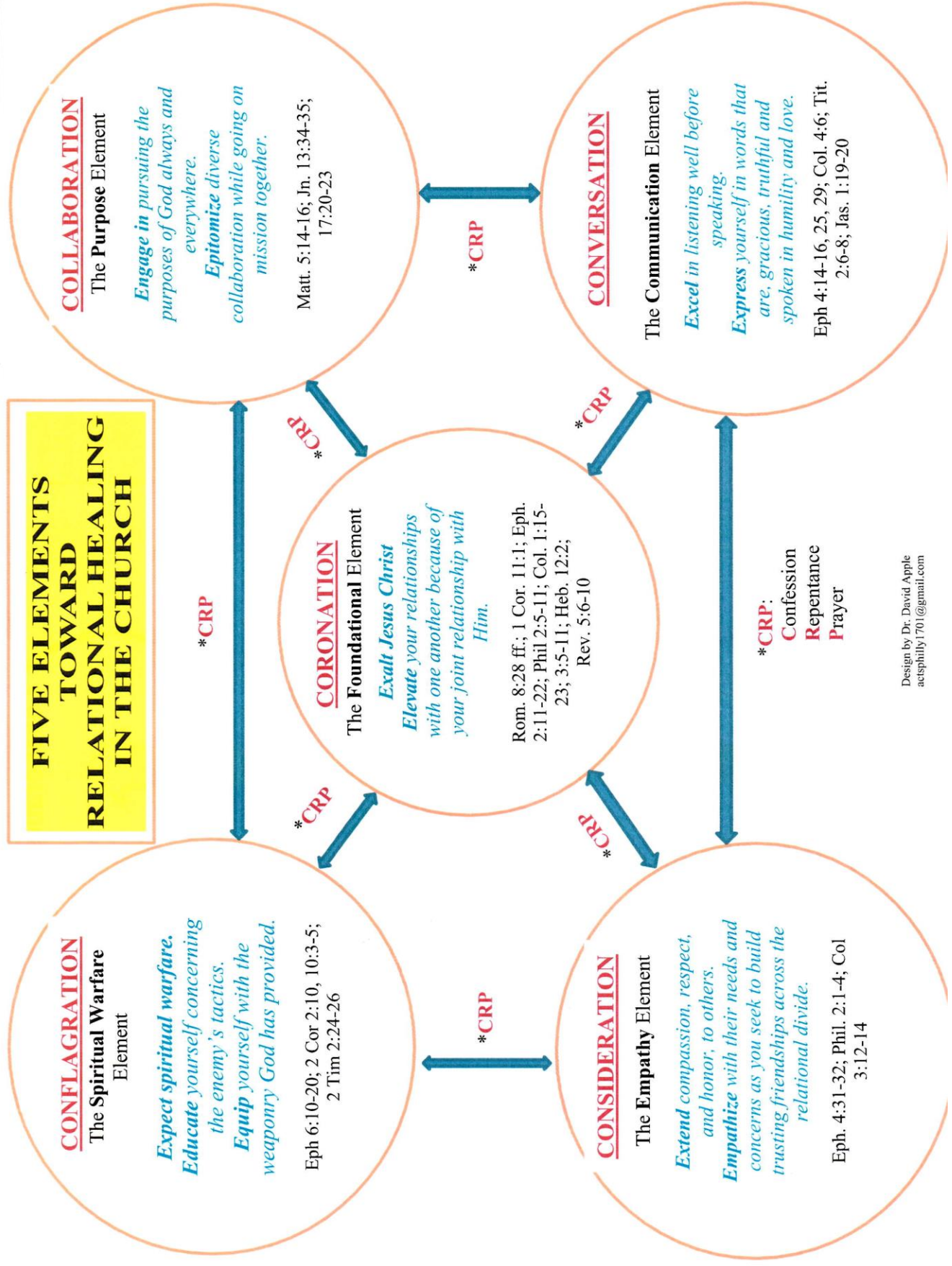
Five Elements Towards Relational Healing in the Church



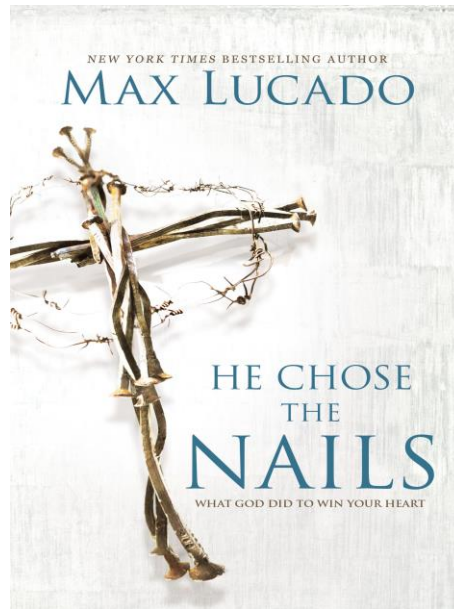
Start the New Year strong by participating in a powerful Sunday School series called “**Five Elements Toward Relational Healing in the Church.**” Our world is divided by so many things: race, ethnicity, gender, color, politics, denominations, wealth, age, education, etc. Five Elements is a Christian 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



NEXT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY



In *He Chose the Nails*, a five-session video Bible study, Max continues by examining the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the nails, and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, "I did it just for you."

Sessions include:

- February 18 - He Chose the Nails, He Chose to Be One of Us
- February 25 - He Chose the Nails, He Chose to Forgive Us
- March 3 - He Chose the Nails, He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence
- March 10 - He Chose the Nails, He Chose to Love Us Forever
- March 17 - He Chose the Nails, He Chose to Give Us Victory

HEMPFIELD 2024 DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. I Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for the congregations and their communities.

Week	Pray for this church
2/4/24	Wilmington (Wilmington, PA)
2/11/24	Iglesia Berith, Oasis De Esperanza (Lebanon, PA)
2/18/24	Ambler (Ambler, PA)
2/25/24	Paxton (Harrisburg, PA)
3/3/24	Mechanic Grove (Quarryville, PA)
3/10/24	East Cocalico (Stevens, PA)
3/17/24	Lebanon (Lebanon, PA)
3/24/24	Nuevo Amanecer (Bethlehem, PA)
3/31/24	Brooklyn First (Brooklyn, NY)
4/7/24	Parker Ford (Pottstown, PA)
4/14/24	Harrisburg First (Harrisburg, PA)
4/21/24	Quakertown (Quakertown, PA)
4/28/24	Un Nuevo Renacer Fellowship (Mountville, PA)
5/5/24	Ephrata (Ephrata, PA)
5/12/24	Mt. Wilson (Lebanon, PA)
5/19/24	Little Swatara (Bethel, PA)
5/26/24	Springfield (Coopersburg, PA)
6/2/24	Hatfield (Hatfield, PA)
6/9/24	Light of the Gospel Fellowship New Jersey (Cresskil, NJ)
6/16/24	Myerstown (Myerstown, PA)
6/23/24	Geiger Memorial (Philadelphia, PA)
6/30/24	Long Run (Lehighton, PA)
7/7/24	Germantown (Philadelphia, PA)
7/14/24	Spring Creek (Hershey, PA)
7/21/24	Philadelphia First (Wyndmoor, PA)
7/28/24	Puerto Del Cielo (Reading, PA)
8/4/24	West Green Tree (Elizabethtown, PA)
8/11/24	Elizabethtown (Elizabethtown, PA)
8/18/24	Hanoverdale (Hummelstown, PA)
8/25/24	Mohrsville (Mohrsville, PA)
9/1/24	Pottstown (Pottstown, PA)
9/8/24	Ebenezer Project (Lampeter, PA)
9/15/24	Light of the Gospel Fellowship Staten Island (Staten Island, NY)
9/22/24	Skippack (Collegeville, PA)
9/26/24	Ridgeway Community (Harrisburg, PA)
10/6/24	Drexel Hill (Drexel Hill, PA)
10/13/24	Amwell (Stockton, NJ)
10/20/24	Cornerstone (Lebanon, PA)
10/27/24	Wyomissing (Wyomissing, PA)

11/3/24	Schuylkill (Pine Grove, PA)
11/10/24	Alpha and Omega (Lancaster, PA)
11/17/24	Lampeter (Lancaster, PA)
11/24/24	Green Tree (Oaks, PA)
12/1/24	Indian Creek (Harleysville, PA)
12/8/24	Palmyra (Palmyra, PA)
12/15/24	Veritas (Lancaster, PA)
12/22/24	Conestoga (Leola, PA)
12/29/24	Grace Christian (Landsdale, PA)

February Calendar

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

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	30	31 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	2 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	3 12:00pm - 2:00pm Hershey UMC Youth Lunch
4 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	5 Doug's Day Off	6 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	7 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	9	10
11 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship	12 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	13	14 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	15 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	16	17
18 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 12:30pm - 5:30pm Al Houck Reservation	19 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team	20 6:00pm - 7:00pm Education Team	21 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	23	24
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 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	1 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	2



"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

February

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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