

God was a fan of the game...

A long-time baseball player attended church one Sunday when he realized God was a fan of the game. Listening to the beginning of Genesis 1, he could hardly contain himself, half-distracted the rest of the service, anticipating speaking to the pastor after. Finally, the service ended and he approached the pastor and told him excitedly, "God was a fan of baseball!" The pastor looked at the man amused and confused and asked, "How do you know?" The player responded, "I heard it read, 'In the big-inning...'"



I find sports and faith carry many similarities. For our softball team, different players carry strengths that allow the team to play well: some can hit well, some run faster than others, some can throw the ball accurately from a distance, some can communicate to the team what to expect or do in the moment, some encourage, some coach, many learn, and all are needed. This year, we have brothers from *Un Nuevo Renacer*, our Spanish body in the Mountville COB building, and a couple of our youth who will join us. You can find our games on hempfieldcob.org under the [events tab](#). Like the body of Christ, our softball team holds many parts with one focus. I invite you to come out and support our team this spring and summer as we play brothers and sisters from churches in the Manheim area. And, as I've said in a couple of my messages, our team members will lead on Father's Day – will be a good day for all!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Doug #13



HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

Moms Connect has come to a close for our spring session. Time certainly flies when you are having fun! Each week, moms gathered with Laura Meiser for coffee and conversation. We all know that moms of young children don't have much time to engage in the weekly homework a Bible study can provide. With that in mind, we did an "unstudy" of Angie Smith's "Seamless" Bible study--connecting the full narrative of Scripture seamlessly to Jesus. We covered a lot of ground each session, but our discussions were rich as we pieced together such things as the life of the patriarchs, wandering through the wilderness with the Israelites, judges, kings and prophets and of course the life of Christ himself.

Meanwhile children spent time in The Gathering Place with Emmy Schott and her crew of helpers. Jen Hinton provided a time of music and movement, Sue Brubaker and Emmy took turns sharing a Bible story and craft time, and Sally Davis provided loving hands to help engage our young friends. After this short time of structured learning about how very much Jesus loves each one of us, and of course a yummy snack, children were free to play their way through various stations with their favorite playthings.

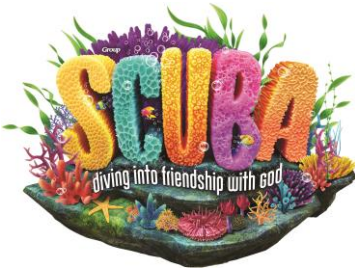
Thank you to everyone who joined us in loving moms and children both from our own congregation and from our community!





Bible Points for Children's Church for May!

May 5	Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts
May 12	Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus
May 19	Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus
May 26	Peter Visits Cornelius



Scuba VBS: Diving into Friendship with God is quickly approaching. Join us on Sunday, June 9th through Thursday, June 13th to discover what friendship with God looks like. Share with your friends and neighbors (ages 4 to finishing 5th grade) and register on our website. If you would be interesting in volunteering that week, here is a brief description of ways to get involved.

Be a crew leader – Supervise a group of children as you travel to various stations throughout the evening. You're responsible for your group, carrying a crew basket with supplies, and facilitating discussion when the station leaders ask questions.

Deep Bible Adventure – Engage the children as you share the Bible stories each evening in an interactive and theatrical manner. Materials and script are provided.

Imagination Station – Guide the children through various science experiments that reinforce the Bible Point each night. Provide directions and questions as children explore the activity.

Reef Rec – Facilitate various games and activities outside that allow children to move their bodies.

Sticky Scripture – Help children explore the Gospel of John through questions and a video.

Tidal Treats – Prepare snacks and deliver to the Sticky Scripture station.

Greeters & Registration Helper – Be a welcome face and help direct children into the sanctuary. We sometimes have new participants that did not register. We need someone to gather personal information from new participants.

Register to help at: <https://forms.gle/sYaEnH81NbpMv1V58>



HCOB Youth Ministry exists to be a loving, Christ-centered community that grows together in faith and life.

At HCOB Youth Ministry, we desire to see youth who build bridges between the church and the world through the profession of Christ as Savior, discipling others in their walks of faith, and continuing in communion with church and family.

Upcoming Calendar:

- May 5th - 6-8pm - Youth Group
- May 12th - NO Youth Group - Happy Mother's Day!
- May 19th - 6-8pm - Youth Group

Messages in May

May 5



Heart of Worship (Music Celebration Sunday)

Psalms 103; John 4:7-26

Pastor: Laura Meiser

On this Music Celebration Sunday we pause to honor God with hearts of worship. And yet, what does that mean? How can we come before God with knees bowed on Sunday morning and then carry that spirit of worship through the rest of the week. As pastor and songwriter Matt Redman said years ago, "I'll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required. You search much deeper within, through the way things appear, You're looking into my heart." How can we worship God fully with our hearts?

May 12



True Strength

Proverbs 31:10-31

Pastor: Doug Hinton

In this last Proverb, King Lemuel lays down words from his mother. What qualities does a woman of the Lord exude? How is she known? Or defined? In our culture, many look for approval: social followers or friends, many want to be noticed or sought after. We judge by outer appearance, position in society, attractiveness, wealth. On this Mother's Day, we seek to understand what it means for a woman to be defined first and foremost by and for the Lord. For 'she shall be praised.

May 19



Let's Pump It Up!

Mark 12:28-31; Isaiah 41:8-10; Ephesians 6:10-18

Pastor: Geoff Davis

Moses and David write that God is the source of our strength. Isaiah and Nehemiah remind their people that God will strengthen them. Then Jesus tells the teacher of the law that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. If God is the source of our strength and will strengthen us during tough times, does that mean that we are to love God with everything he's given to us? How does this work and why is it important? Paul tells the Philippians, through Christ, who gives us the capability to do all things. He gives the Ephesians the way to do this is to be strong in the Lord by putting on the armor of God. But how do we do this?

May 26



Soul = Life

Isaiah 42:1-4; Matthew 12:15-21

Pastor: Doug Hinton

If we are to love the Lord our God with all our soul, can you define what that means? Another way soul is translated in Matthew is 'life.' If this is so, and we are to live our lives as God intended, in whom is His soul well-pleased? What qualities does that person carry? How does that person treat others and what does he or she seek? Let us journey to seek His way as He leads forth!

HCOB Family News



Checks For You

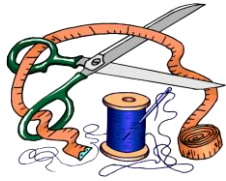
... Blood Pressure Checks that is.

The Deacon Committee, through their Health Ministry Team, is providing monthly blood pressure checks to all participants of our church family.

Next check May 5.

Where: Library

When: After the church service



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!

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



Friends Together Week will be June 24th-28th. This event is a week later than last year. Please mark your calendar of the change. If you are available to help in any way for the week or a few days please contact Bev Moyer thank you.



EDUCATIONAL GRANT—The church, through the Education Team, is offering an **EDUCATION GRANT** to individuals who are: (1) pursuing a career in Christian Ministry by attending a Christian college or university, or (2) attending a college that is affiliated with the Church of the Brethren. Inquiring applicants can send a request for an application to Donna Reed, chairman of the Education Team, via the church mailbox or rdreed2@verizon.net. The deadline to receive the returned grant application is May 12, 2024.



SMILE! SMILE! SMILE!

For The New Church Pictorial

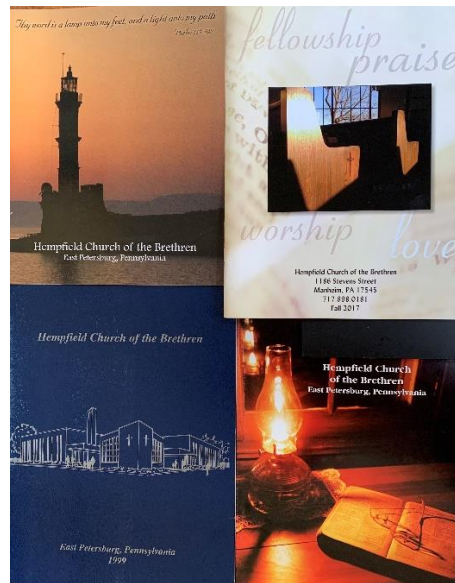
Hempfield Church of the Brethren is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and you don't want to miss it! One special memento to be generated this year is a booklet featuring photos of our members and friends, as well as candid shots of some of the wonderful things that happen at our church. Unlike the previous booklets, we will have a professional photographer take photos at our church, and then we will have the digital photo gallery to freely share with you so you can make your own photos. No sales pitch this year!

Sunday, May 19 will be "Picture Day", where you can have your photo taken after church... perhaps starting with families with young children. We anticipate everyone to be photographed within two hours! Those who cannot attend that day can send a favorite shot of themselves to the church office (office@hempfieldcob.org), and special consideration will be given to those homebound or at a nursing facility.

Artistic photos of the church building may also be used in the Pictorial: sunrises or sunsets, lighting that beautifully emphasizes a special feature... use your imagination and send these photos to the office also.

Spread the word to friends and members of Hempfield COB about the 50th Anniversary Pictorial! We want to have all of our friends and members represented within its pages. Our goal is to distribute the Pictorial in January, 2025.

The Church Pictorial Team:
Deb Bendit, Penny Kettering, and Laura Meiser





During the past three months HCOB has donated 483 pounds of groceries and \$2,779 to local food pantries. This reflects an increase from last year – thank you.

Client loads at both pantries are holding steady, with new clients registering each month. One highlight for the quarter is the Hempfield Pantry received a \$3,000 Grant from the Abby Longenecker Foundation to support children. This program provides extra food distribution for families with children during the summer months when kids are home from school.

Special Requests for Hempfield include:

One- and two-pound packages of rice, canned carrots, canned mixed vegetables

Special Requests for Manheim include:

Applesauce, soup, canned fruit, diapers, reusable grocery bags

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:

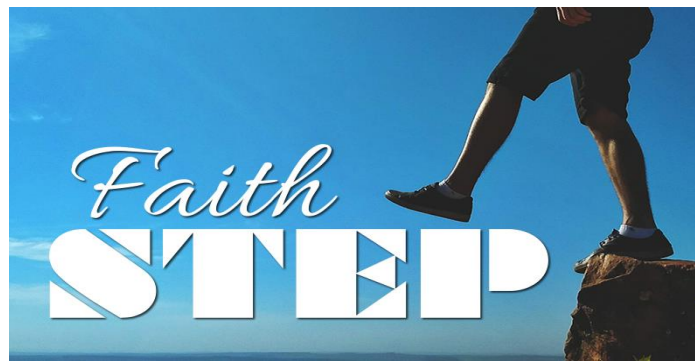
Hempfield Area Food Pantry - 85 East Brandt Blvd., Landisville, PA 17538

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.



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?

Send your submissions to the church office to include them each month. Let's encourage others by sharing our steps of faith.

Throughout my journey in life, many people are surprised to learn that I am largely introverted. Despite singing in choir, leading worship, or singing an occasional solo, my comfort often rests in the quiet of being in the background and sharing my thoughts, ideas, convictions, only when someone asks.

While it doesn't happen too often, I occasionally share the inner machinations of my mind on Facebook as means for people to perhaps know me a little better. When I post, it is for the simple purpose of sharing a thought, reflection, or maybe a testimony of something that impacted me. Below is one of those reflections I shared this past spring.

Excerpt from a posting on February 26th, 2024.

My fifth decade on this earth and I am still learning basic principles of life. I understand the output you get is largely based on the input you put in. If I put bad gas in my car, it will not run effectively.

After an impactful sermon by Laura talking about Lent and about how we give something up, so you have more room for God in its place, I challenged myself to change my inputs.

For several years now, I have been struggling emotionally and mentally to be hopeful and face each day with anticipation or excitement. As someone who just desires to love and respect people, the state of the world and the country has worked to counter that.

I realized quickly that I was putting bad gas in my car metaphorically speaking. My morning routine was the same for all those years. Get up, feed the cats, make coffee, and sit down and read my four news apps and scroll through Facebook. I was starting my day filling up on the very thing that was working against my sense of hope and being excited to start the day.

So, I flipped the script. I did most of the same things but replaced scrolling through news and social media with reading scripture. To my surprise (ok, not really) my mood changed. I found myself spending more time in prayer, and each day feeling an air of excitement. And what I thought was a random choice of scripture for the week, (1st and 2nd Peter) spoke exactly to the very items and circumstances that had been my barriers to be hopeful.

Everything came full circle that Sunday when the youth introduced the church to a new song by King and Country called "Burn the Ships" and shared the story behind it. In short, we need to burn the ships so we don't go back and can move forward.

The song, coupled with a sermon that spoke to me several times throughout, had me ready to face the week and a life, renewed, refreshed, and ready to move forward in a new direction!

My challenge for myself (and maybe you) moving forward is to:

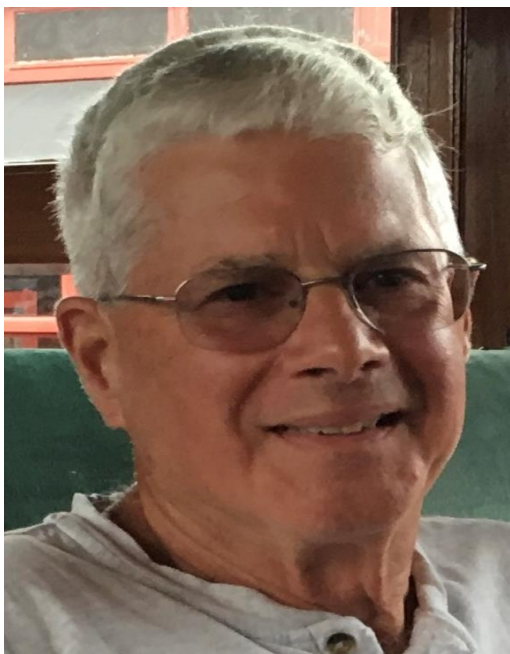
- Make sure the right things are being inputted into your life.
- Realize answers, hope, and happiness aren't found in apps (except maybe the Bible app)
- If you truly want to move forward and not be dragged down by the past, BURN YOUR SHIPS!

Deus Benedicat Tibi!

Darren Meiser

who's who

*Let's meet some of the individuals who make up this community called
Hempfield Church of the Brethren.*



Finding My Way Joel Kettering

I was born and raised in a family of strong Christian values and attended Brethren churches from birth to the present. I was the oldest of three. My mother taught in public education schools and was very active in Brethren churches. My father was a Brethren minister, serving churches in Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. He was a brother to Henry Kettering, a long-time member of Hempfield Church. Jim Kettering and Mary Ellen McEvoy are my cousins.

After graduating from high school in Ohio, I attended McPherson College. After one year with a low grade point average, and realizing I was on the wrong career path, I entered 1-W Service. Upon completing my service, I moved to Lancaster County and was employed by Richard Heagy Meats. After attending local farmer's markets for two years, I again realized I was on the wrong career path. I then enrolled in the Industrial Arts Education Program at Millersville University.

After completing my Undergraduate and Graduate Certifications I was employed by Hempfield School District as a classroom teacher and Department Supervisor for thirty years. My hobbies include gardening, helping my wife with her flower beds, fishing, archery hunting, biking rail trails, and traveling in our motor coach with my wife and two Scotties-Grace and Tucker.

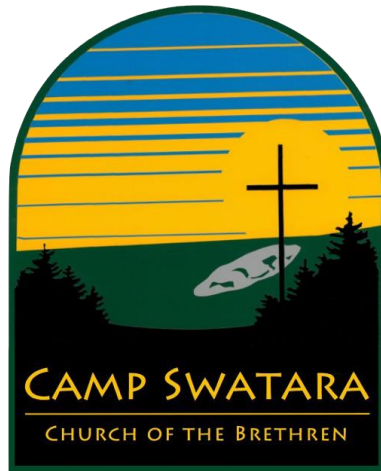
I met my wife, Penny, in Ohio, and in March 2024, we will celebrate fifty-eight years of mutual committed marriage. I say "mutual committed" because there were times when one or both of us were sideways in the ditch. Through God's grace and mutual commitment, we always found a path back to the road. Together, we have two daughters, Lesley and Lisa. They have blessed us with three grandchildren. We have truly been blessed in many ways and give thanks to our creator daily.

We visited Hempfield after feeling a need to become more connected to a church body and after our visit we knew that our search was over.

After moving my membership, I joined the choir. Shortly thereafter, I was asked to be a deacon. I agreed and have been blessed by this experience. Becoming a Deacon has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and use my God given skills to connect with church members on my Shepherding list, many of whom I did not know. I am reminded of the biblical passage that states, "Having the faith of a mustard seed moves mountains." How true in my situation. God has given me a sense of personal gratification that far out-ways what I give to those I visit.



Hempfield Church of the Brethren supports a wide group of outside ministries with the Outreach dollars that you give. Look here each month to read a bit about those ministries – perhaps get involved if the Spirit leads....



Located at the foot of beautiful Blue Mountain in northwestern Berks County, Pennsylvania, Camp Swatara provides opportunities in the natural setting for persons of all ages to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, so that they may live their lives for Him in total discipleship.

FAITH FORMED. MEMORIES MADE. GOD GLORIFIED.

Summer Camp

Are you excited for Summer Camps?! All the while we will be building friendships, making memories, molding our faith and loving every second of it! We invite you to scout out our program guide and find which camps you want to take part in this summer. Be sure to look at our awesome year-round programs as well. We don't want you to miss anything that camp has to offer.

The Family Campground At Camp Swatara

Come camp with friends or family at our campground! We have tent sites, rustic cabins, electric, water and sewage options. You can swim in the pool, hike our trails, play in the splash pad and so much more!



2024 Church World Service Ministry Update

Greetings. Last year Hempfield COB added refugee support to our giving ministries, coordinated by Church World Service (CWS).

A January delivery to the CWS warehouse included 13 twin sized blankets created by the ladies sewing group, a set of dishes, various kitchen items, and a coffee maker. These deliveries are made when sufficient donations accrue.

Donations to CWS serve to assist refugees and immigrants who are relocated to Lancaster County and supported by CWS. Immediate services include providing housing, food, and clothing; placement in ESL (English as a Second Language) and cultural orientation classes; facilitating medical appointments; enrollment of children in school; and assistance to obtain social security cards, and similar registrations. Longer term services include budget reviews, work readiness support, continued ESL training, and limited financial support. See more detailed information at <https://cws Lancaster.org/resettlement-services/>.

HCOB supports the ministry by donating needed goods to CWS for distribution as needed to client refugees. Requested goods include **gift Cards to local merchants including transportation, kitchen needs, clothes – particularly warm winter clothes, hygiene goods (toothpaste, body lotion, brush or comb, shampoo, conditioner, towels, washcloths, soap, deodorant, toothbrush)**

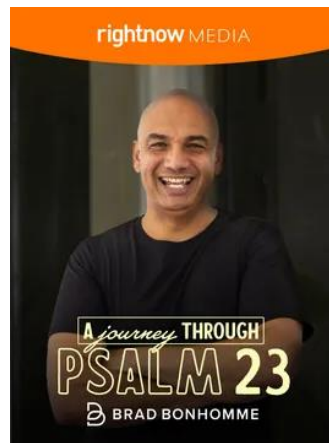
If you have a donation and are unsure if it is needed, feel free to contact anyone on the Outreach Team (Darren Meiser, Janice Haldeman, Jen Houck, Pete Cope, E Haldeman).

Thank you for your support of this important Ministry.

SUNDAYSCHOOL

Current Study...

A Journey Through Psalm 23



BRAD BONHOMME

Description

Join Brad Bonhomme on a verse-by-verse journey through one of the most celebrated passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. David—poet, shepherd, and king—illustrates in this psalm how God meets our physical, spiritual, emotional, directional, relational, and eternal needs. These truths bolster our trust and confidence in His goodness to us, in this life and the next. In this six-part series, discover the depths of your Heavenly Father’s affection for you. Rest in the presence, protection, and provision of Jesus. And join Brad in boldly proclaiming that you are under the expert management and compassionate care of the Good Shepherd.

May 5th – Psalm 23:4

May 12th – Psalm 23:5

May 19th – Psalm 23:6

May 26th - Memorial Day Week-end (No class)

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
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	Skeppack (Collegedale, 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)

May Calendar

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

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 11:00am - 12:00pm Congregational Gathering 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	29 Doug's Day Off	30 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	1 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 9:30am - 10:30am Moms Connect	2 9:00am - 11:00am The Faithful - Women's Bible Study 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 9:15pm - 10:15pm Softball Game vs. Dove Red	3 Softball Game - vs. Chiques Blue 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP - Day of Prayer	4
5 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Care of Church Community Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	6 Doug's Day Off	7 6:30pm - 7:30pm Softball Game vs. Manheim Brethren 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	8 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group 6:00pm - 8:00pm Houck - Gym 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	9 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	10 9:15pm - 10:15pm Softball Game vs. White Oak Orange	11
12 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	13 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	14	15 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 Laura Out 6:30pm - 7:30pm Popsicles at the Playground 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal 9:15pm - 10:15pm Softball Game vs White Oak Orange	17 Irene Off Laura Out 8:15pm - 9:15pm Softball Game vs. Dove Red	18 Hats Off to Women Laura Out
19 Laura Out 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	20 Doug's Day Off Irene Off 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team	21 6:00pm - 7:00pm Education Team 6:30pm - 7:30pm Softball Game - vs. Chiques Blue	22 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	24	25 4:00pm - 8:00pm Rohrer Family Event
26 Emmy Out 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship - Communion	27 Doug's Day Off Memorial Day - Church Office Closed	28 6:30pm - 7:30pm Softball Game vs. Dove Red 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	29 Doug Vacation 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 Doug Vacation 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm - 7:30pm Softball Game vs. White Oak Gray	31 Doug Vacation	1



11-11
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"... Through the night with the
light from a bulb ..."

Now

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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