The Mempfield Merald

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



December 2024

Participate in the Plan

2 Corinthians 5.17-19: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

The piece below was written for the December 2014 Herald, my second ever piece submitted for our church newsletter. What is similar from then until now? How have we grown? How have things changed or remained the same? We face much change and uncertainty, growth and hope as we move forward. What I said then, I'll highlight here, "*I am encouraged that we can do all that is needed as Jesus calls us forward. How is He calling you to participate*?" Why repeat this? It still holds true. Your brother in Christ, Pastor Doug.

From December 2014:

I spent the past weekend in DC with our youth, youth advisors, and the Lititz COB youth. We helped pack up over five hundred lunches and Thanksgiving dinners as well as hand out clothes and blankets to those who otherwise did not have. We spent time together, prayed together, worked together, and participated in a three-hour church service led by our brothers and sisters at St Stephen Baptist Church. The warm welcome we receivedhugs from men and women we just met-allowed the youth to feel at home in a place they may otherwise never experience. While the news shows us the turmoil and racial tensions found in Ferguson, we worked alongside our brothers and sisters-black, tan, brown, fair-skinned to meet those in need. In Jesus Christ, there is no Jew nor Greek, no white nor black, no Republican nor Democrat-all are one in Jesus Christ our Lord. If we are to continue the ministry of reconciliation, we must put Christ's priorities ahead of our own, consider others greater than ourselves, face and sacrifice our own pride and shame for the greater good of the Kingdom. As we make peace with our brothers and sisters created in the image of God, we tear down the walls the enemy wants in place. What can you do to further

this plan of reconciliation, to further the Kingdom of God begun by Jesus? What can we as Hempfield COB do? How can we sharpen and encourage one another? Looking ahead, I pray we move forward as a unified, well-trained, Holy Spirit-filled body that continues to welcome and love those around us and meet the needs of those who lack. As I have started meeting with those in our body, I am encouraged that we can do all that is needed as Jesus calls us forward. How is He calling you to participate?

For the youth page:

In past two months, we have accomplished a great deal of work and service. We raised over \$3,000 dollars at the Eastland Alpaca Open house over two weekends. We participated in feeding those in need with St Stephen Baptist Church in DC. We had a great time at the Jr High District Retreat at Camp Swatara. And we are ending the month of November with an event called Fully Alive not just existing at Lititz COB with Lititz and Lancaster youth. We've begun to rearrange the youth room and hold cell group there on Monday nights. As of now, no major events are planned for December. Enjoy time with family, play in the snow, and find some rest – you guys are doing awesome!!



HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

As we head into the Christmas holidays, we offered a Parents' Night Out...a time for parents to entrust their children with loving caregivers while they enjoy a few hours to themselves. Children enjoyed a pizza supper, and then we were off and running. Our youngest friends enjoyed playtime and crafts in the nursery while our older friends split time running off energy in the gym and then playing board games in the narthex. Later we all came together for a Thanksgiving craft, parachute time for everyone, and then we enjoyed a Veggie Tale movie as we waited for parent pick up. What a joy to support families in this way! And as always, a special thanks for those who helped make the night possible!

December is full of sights and sounds of Christmas in celebration of Jesus' birth. You'll see beautiful Gingerbread Creations in the Narthex at the beginning of the month as our All Christmas Church Fellowship happens on Sunday, December 1st. Check out the various teams' imaginative creations and vote for your favorite two creations. Voices will fill the sanctuary this month. Not only will there be caroling in the sanctuary following the first Sunday service, children will be sharing some favorite VBS songs in combination with Christmas carols with the congregation during the December 15th service. In addition, the children and youth will share their interest and talents of music with the choir and other musicians on December 22nd. December will end with a special Children's Message from Lori Greenly on the fifth Sunday.

Fun Memories from Parents Night Out in November









Messages in December

December 1



The Lord is My Shepherd

Psalm 23:1; Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor: Doug Hinton

For the season of Advent, we look to the arrival of the Good Shepherd, weaving Psalm 23 together with the Advent narratives of Matthew and Luke. A sheep under a shepherd's care, entrusts her whole life – provisions, protection, guidance and growth – to the skill of the one who calls her by name. In a time that challenged Joseph's moral understanding and uprightness, he entrusted himself and Mary to His Lord: to provide, to protect, to make a way that was yet not seen. As his faith overcame his sight as he fully gave himself over to the Lord. What can we learn from this today?

December 8



He Makes Me Lie Down in Green Pastures

Psalm 23:2; Luke 2:7 (surrounding verses) **Pastor: Doug Hinton**

Throughout these accounts of Mary and Joseph leading up to and including Christ's birth, we see times to safety in travel, safety among threats, and safety among the 'new.' Traveling to Bethlehem for the first census, Mary (far along in her pregnancy) and Joseph make their way back to his family's hometown. After arriving, she gives birth to Jesus and lays Him in a manger. There was a time when Jesus fully relied on His earthly parents. No matter what would come, Mary and Joseph sought to provide for and nurture Him so that in His human form, He felt safe and cared for. If we can understand this in an human way, how much more does God care for us? How can we recognize His provision for us? How much more so if Christ is who He said He was?

December 15



He Guides Me.....For His Name's Sake

Psalm 23:3; Luke 2:26-56 Pastor: Laura Meiser

On this third Sunday of Advent, we welcome our children as they open up our time of worship with a very special SCUBA Christmas Celebration. We will revisit some of our favorite VBS songs as we are reminded that in Christmas time as in all time, God is a friend we can trust. (Thanks, God!) As children head up to Children's Church after their (audience participation) time of sharing, we will explore what it looks like to experience soul restoration through Simeon's story and what that looks like today. Just as our children's expressed trust in God, so did Simeon trust God for something that seemed rather audacious. We can trust God to lead us in paths of righteousness too.

December 13



Even Though I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death

Psalm 23:4; Matthew 2:13-23 Pastor: Doug Hinton

A Blue Christmas service allows us to enter into the 'other' side, the other emotions of the holiday season. Many experienced loss this year: maybe of a loved one, a job, an expectation. What do we do with these emotions? How can acknowledging them help us navigate an otherwise joyful season when we do not feel that joy? Tonight, we acknowledge that even when we walk through the darkest valleys of life, the Lord leads, guides, corrects and equips us. Will you join us that we may seek His presence together?

December 22



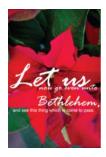
Anointing & Provision Among Enemies

Psalm 23:5; Matt 2:1-12

Pastor: Doug Hinton

"You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows." Today, we look at the Magi, those who visited Jesus up to two years after He was born. One of the gifts was myrrh, an oil present now and also at Jesus's death. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." The Magi came to Jesus to bless, but not all felt that way. King Herod sought to take the Boy's life. What do we do with that? How can this story help us rest in the Good Shepherd's care? What can we learn from the Magi and what can we bring

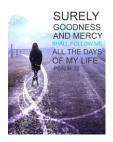
December 24



Shepherds Hear if First Psalm 23; Luke 20:1-20 Pastor: Doug Hinton

The Lord is my Shepherd! After Jesus birth, the shepherds heard the good news first! What?!? Let's rejoice tonight that the Good Shepherd entered into the world to make a way like no other. We'll seek to engage all ages through hymns, songs, Scripture and activity to bring the story to life

December 29



Testify to God's Goodness

Psalm 23:6; Luke 2:25-38

Pastor: Doug Hinton

My hope for this Sunday is that we can get 2-3 individuals to testify to God's work in their lives or the life of the church over the last year. "Surely, goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life..." As we seek to live in the Eternal Kingdom of the Lord our God through Jesus Christ, we see glimpses now of that eternal hope. Let's testify to them today!

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 8.

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! December 11.



YOU ARE INVITED TO EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND PRAISE

A worship experience designed to offer people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to use their gifts and talents as praise to God.



WHEN: December 6, 2024 WHERE: Hempfield Church of the Brethren 1186 Stevens Street Manheim, PA 17545 TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Our December service will include our annual Christmas drama. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us!!!!



DID YOU KNOW?

It is our desire to keep you each informed of all the things that you need to know about The Hempfield Church of the Brethren. Below are some things that are always available to you and how to access them quickly and easily. If you have other questions, please feel free to ask. We want you all in the KNOW.



Are you familiar with RightNow Media? It is a wonderful resource for Bible Studies and other materials. The church has a membership for their site and you can have access to it as well. If you'd like the information of how you can access all of this information, see Pastor Doug for login information.



Breeze is our online church management database. You can (and should) have your own login to the system that will allow you to have access to contact information for our church community and to keep your own information active and current. To create your own account, simply visit the church website at <u>www.hempfieldcob.org</u> and click on the Member's Directory link at the top of the page. If you already have an account and password, you can log in from

there. At the bottom of that screen you'll see a place to "create an account". Follow that link to set yourself up - easy as that!. Once your account is created, you will see several tabs across the top of the page - go to the one that says "my profile". That will show you want is already loaded into Breeze for you and will give you the place to edit any incorrect information. In addition, if you'd like to have ready access to Breeze from your smart phone, simply go to the App Store on your phone and download the Breeze app. You will then be able to log into information at your fingertips. If you have questions, contact Irene in the church office.



www.hempfieldcob.org is the address for our church website. If you haven't visited there lately, you really should! There is a lot of great information to be found there.

- On the front page you will see scrolling pictures of different upcoming events and other fun times in the life of the church.
- You can follow the tabs on the top of the page to all of our social media platforms where things are posted regularly.
- There is basic information about our church.
- The "Events" tab will lead you directly to the church calendar so you can know many of the meetings and events happening in the life of the church. If you have church-wide events that you'd like added to the calendar, contact Irene in the church office.
- The center of the main page gives the church's vision statement and the pane to the left will give you the title of the upcoming service and a place to access the past services.
- If you click on "Our Church" you can find all kids of information about our ministries and staff. There is also a link under that tab that says "Sermons". There you will find the YouTube videos of past services. The most recent service is typically posted there early in the week following.
- The "Donate" tab takes you directly to screen to be able to give directly online. The dropdown box will allow you to also designate what fund you want that donation to go to.
- The last tab at the top of the page, "This Sunday" takes you to the information and downloadable version of the bulletin for the upcoming service.
- Near the bottom of the page, there are scrolling boxes that highlight other happenings in the life of HCOB. If you click on any of the boxes it will give you update information and registration links. The Herald box will give you links to the most current and previous two issues of the newsletter.
- Basic directions and contact information can be found at the very bottom of the page.

The website is a wonderful resource for much of the information you need to know about what is happening at HCOB!!



Looking for places to plug in, meet new friends and connect? Watch this space for opportunities to join in the fellowship.



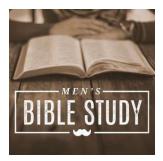
The Quilting and Sewing ministries at Hempfield COB

For many decades, Hempfield Church of the Brethren has had some type of sewing groups. The earliest sewers sewed "layettes" for babies, as well as making comforters and quilts. The days of making baby clothing are far gone, but Hempfield continues to have a wonderful <u>comforter</u> ministry, and our <u>quilters</u> support the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction.

Any of you who may be available on the <u>second Wednesday mornings of each month</u> are invited to come and join us, beginning at 8:00 AM to 11:00, and put together comforters with us. Mary Ellen McEvoy ALSO is always looking for people to knot the smaller baby comforters at their homes during the month. If you are interested in either of these, please get in touch with Mary Ellen... she is very happy to show you what to do!

****Show quilts** On all of the other Wednesday mornings, also from 8:00 to 11:00, we have a small but mighty group of ladies who hand quilt. Arlene Slotter creates the vast majority of quilt tops that our group has quilted. Hand quilting is a very slow process, and it is not unusual for our group to take five to six months to complete a queen or king size quilt. I am in charge of the quilting ministry here at Hempfield, and if you would like to learn how to quilt, or if you know how and are interested in joining us, please make sure to contact me.

We would ask for your **<u>prayers</u>** for all of the sewers and quilters as we continue these ministries, and if God is calling you to help in some way with one or both groups, please see Mary Ellen McEvoy or Deb Bendit after the church service.



The **Men's Bible Study** meet every other Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

We will be looking at Scriptures around Biblical manhood 10/9 - Genesis 2: In the beginning - what can we learn? 10/23 - Psalm 112: The Man Who Fears the Lord 11/6 - 1 Corinthians 7:1-16: Husband and Wife 11/20 - Ephesians 5:25-33: Love your wife as Christ loved the Church 12/4 - 1 Peter 3:7 - Loving Wife & Prayer Life

Wednesdays, 6pm, The Gathering Place.

As we gather, we'll read through the Scriptures (and I encourage you to read them beforehand), wrestle with questions we may have, look at the context of the passages, discuss what we understand, pray for one another, continue to get to know each other, and see how we can grow into the men God calls us to be.

Small Group @ The Schott's



Fall Study: Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table by Louie Giglio Description from RightNowMedia:

In this six-session video Bible study, bestselling author and pastor Louie Giglio unpacks Psalm 23 to offer insight into how to overcome the enemy's lies and find peace and spiritual security in any circumstance or situation.

We've all been in circumstances that cause our minds to spin with thoughts that are unproductive, destructive, and harmful. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and wonder why we keep falling into the same thought patterns. We need to recognize these thoughts are not from God, but from an enemy lurking who wants to seize every opportunity to lie his way into our minds.

Rooted in the timeless truth of Psalm 23, the Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table video study offers biblical guidance on how to:

- Cancel the lies that will wreck your life and take the empowering steps to live fully alive in Christ
- Restore peace and rest in your life by taking authority over your thoughts
- Break free from the endless cycle of destructive thinking and recapture your emotions
- Embrace the true purpose behind your journey through challenging circumstances

You can find freedom from the battles in your mind if you allow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to lead the battle. Learn how to find encouragement, hope, and strength no matter what valleys you face.

Meet the following Sunday's at 4 PM. All are welcome to enjoy a meal and fellowship after the study around 5:15 PM. Children are welcome. Transportation for youth kids up to church is available as well. If you are interested in joining us (even for some of the sessions), please contact Emmy Schott (717-333-8216).



Do you like to sing? Perhaps this ministry is a great place to fellowship and build lasting friendships with others that like to sing too. Consider becoming involved in the church choir. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm (first 2024-2025 rehearsal is Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 7:00pm). Come join the fun!!

Questions? Contact Laura Meiser



Hempfield COB is celebrating 50 years as an amazing congregation this year. Many exciting things are being planned to help make this year a special time of remembering and looking forward. Check here for exciting things to be aware of and involved in!

"Continuing Forward for the Glory of God and Our Neighbor's Good."

Did you know... Hempfield Church of the Brethren is turning 50 years old! We will celebrate this milestone during the next months with some extra-special events.



Merry Christmas, Hempfield COB! The 50th Anniversary Team is giving out specially-made ornaments to celebrate 50 years as a congregation. These have been designed by the committee, and printed out by Carl Polonchak on his 3D printers, and we pray that they will bring you joy as you remember our amazing church family, and recommit yourselves to glorifying the Lord and loving and serving our neighbors.

You may pick up your ornament before or after church during the month of December. We have made one per family, but if you would like additional ornaments to give as gifts, please contact any member of the 50th Anniversary Team for additional information.

The 50th Anniversary Team: Galen Brumbaugh, Sue Brubaker, Cherl Myers, Tom Connelly, and Deb Bendit



Our church "Pictorial" will be given to each family (depending on the printer's schedule) at the end of the year or beginning of 2025.



A beautiful tree has been promised to celebrate our 50th anniversary, and it will be planted at the proper time during the next year. We hope that this will be the cornerstone of a future prayer and meditation garden.



Additional activities are being planned for the next months, and it is our prayer that you will joyfully join in all these events with our church family, and prayerfully invite some friends who might be searching for Jesus and a church home.

who's who

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

With a little twist for December, here is a little game for you to play....

Can you match the little know fact with the Leadership Team Member that it goes with?? See how many you can match!

1 Laura Meiser	A. First Job was at Darrencamp's Market
	B. Has over \$100 in Bi-Centennial Quarters
2 Demons Kettering	C. I was a member of my high school's synchronized
2 Penny Kettering	swim team the Dolphins
	D. I have a meal worm farm for my blue bird friends!
3. Al Houck	E. Although I'm quite a rule follower and do not enjoy
	heights at present, as a child had a dangerous
	penchant for walking the peak of the sloped roof just
4. Donna Reed	outside my bedroom window. That is, until our next
	door neighbor happend to look out her window as she
	was talking to my mother on the telephone. Let's just
5 Ron Myer	say my career as a tightrope walked ended before it
	really ever got started.
	F. Grew up on a farm in Lanc Co that my dad and his two
6 Bev Moyer	brothers farmed.
	G. In kindergarten I took two items for show and tell
7 Deb Bendit	that today, would have likely resulted in my
7 Deb Benan	suspension or expulsion. The first item was a pig's
	tail that I took to school in a Swiss miss hot chocolate
8. Darren Meiser	box. The second item were cow eyes that that I
	carried in a ziploc bag. Needless to say my
	grandfather was a farmer who delighted in his
9 Doug Hinton	grandson having the most unique items for show and
	tell.
	H. In my entire life I have had only 3 stitches on my body
10 Irene Hershey	and they were on the ridge of my nose.
	I. In my youth I took horseback riding lessons and
11 Francis Cab att	learned to ride on John Wayne's horse.
11 Emmy Schott	J. When on vacation, you will sometimes find me
	spelunking.
	K. I danced in "The Nutcracker Suite" with my
	daughters when I was 40 years old.
	-



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....



The Outreach Team will have two great opportunities to support disaster relief in December. The first opportunity is a volunteer event held immediately after the service on **December 8th** to assist with filling clean up buckets to replenish depleted supplies at the CWS warehouse after the two hurricanes this fall. The Outreach Team will be bulk purchasing all the contents however will need some assistance in filling the buckets with supplies and preparing them for transport. The second will be through donations to the Love Offerings collected during the month of December which will go to Church or the Brethren Hurricane Response. Any questions, feel free to reach out to a member of the Outreach Team.



The LOVE OFFERING for December will be going to support Church of the Brethren -Hurricane Response. Please feel free to use the envelopes titled Love Offering available on the table in the narthex. Checks may be made payable to Hempfield Church of the Brethren with Hurricane response in the memo line.

Hurricane Response

The official annual hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin is from June 1 to November 30. In the past three years this area has been struck by massive hurricanes: Hurricane Matthew (2016); Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria (2017); and Hurricane Florence in 2018. Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children's Disaster Services have been, and are, responding to these storms, serving the needs of survivors, both for the short and the long-term. Up-to-date information is available on the BDM and CDS Facebook pages.

How you can help after a hurricane:

• Give to Hurricane Response online or send a donation to

Emergency Disaster Fund Hurricane Response Church of the Brethren 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL 60120

- Build CWS Kits. For additional information, contact 410-635-8797 or gthompson@brethren.org.
- Pray for all those impacted and those who are serving them
- Plan a fundraiser
- Volunteer with BDM to work on disaster recovery projects (tgoodger@brethren.org or 410-635-8730). Find additional volunteer opportunities through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)



Current Study...



God gives His best gifts to us in unexpected ways. The Christmas season is a reminder of the gift that God gives to us through his Son Jesus. The prophet Micah gives Israel hope while they are under the threat of violence and oppression, sharing God's promise that from the insignificant and inconsequential town of Bethlehem will come the world's greatest blessing, who is Christ the Lord. When the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, comes his greatness will span the

entire world. The unexpected is what God does best.

Dec. 1st – Micah 5:2-5 – The Hope (No Class – Christmas activity)

Dec. 8th – Luke 1:25-38 – The Promise

Dec. 15th – Mathew 1:18-25 – The Commitment

Dec. 23rd – Luke 2:8-20 – The Gift

HEMPFIELD 2024 DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

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

Week	Pray for this church				
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)				

Please pray for the congregations and their communities.

December Calendar

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

Detember 2024									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1 All Church Event 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship - 1st Sunday of Advent - Communion 4:00pm - 5:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Performance 6:00pm - 8:00pm No Youth Group		Movement 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	4 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 6:00pm - 8:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm - 7:30pm	6 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP Christmas Program	7 8:30am - 10:00am QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal			
8 2-Cent-A-Meal Offering 9:00am - 11:15am QuintEssentially Brass Performance 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	9 Doug's Day Off 2:00pm - 4:00pm Brethren World Mission 6:30pm Worship Team		11 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property	12 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	13 Blue Christmas	14 Deacons Meeting - Fruit Baskets			
15 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	Irene Off	Education Team 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	18 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	20	21 Fisher Family - All Day			
22 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	Doug's Day Off	24 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT 7:00pm - 8:30pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	25 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed	26 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed	27	28 10:00am - 5:00pm Davis Family Event			
29 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	30 Doug's Day Off	31 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	1 Office Closed 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30pm - 7:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	3 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	4			

December 2024

The Hempfield Herald



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

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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