

THY Kingdom Come and *we bow down*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Isaiah 6:1-5

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Revelation 4:9-11

We bring our series of “The Kingdom of God” to a close this month. As we look at the Scriptures above, we see Isaiah confess not only his sin, but the sins of his countrymen, in an act of awe, fear, and humility. We see the throne again in our passage from Revelation. At the sound and worship of the living creatures, the twenty-four elders bow low, laying their crowns before the Lamb of God. The Kingdom of God is one of power in humility, service in love, truth spoken in grace, holiness in the midst of the corrupt and dark. Markers of this Kingdom remain: joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Through this past year, we've looked at parables of the Kingdom, disciplines and gifts in the Kingdom, and inviting people into the Kingdom. Through the summer, we took an assessment of our Spiritual Gifts, recognizing that mercy, service, and shepherding are our top three as a body. With that knowledge...

We will move into next year with a preaching theme of “Sharing your Story of Faith.” Within our gift set, how do we communicate the story of Christ in our lives? Where do we do this? With whom? What shapes our demeanor? How did Jesus and the disciples share their faith with those around them? How was it modeled? What role does the Bible and the Biblical accounts play in our own sharing? There's no other way to see true peace, true life come to this earth unless we learn to live as Kingdom people and communicate that people to others through action and word. We are already beginning to see the harvest come forth – let's go out and get some more!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Doug

Associate Pastor of Discipleship

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we find light at a premium. The sun rises later each morning and sets earlier each afternoon. Its position on the horizon is low. It is at this time that one might find oneself both coming and going in darkness. And yet, it was into a similarly dark world that God sent the promise and hope of a new future for his people.

For centuries, God’s people have been people of light, nightly lighting simple oil lamps, certainly to see but also as a reminder of God’s provision. He lit their way through the wilderness. He provided oil for the widow who had nothing left. And even in the darkness of the intertestamental period, with silent voice, he was steadily lighting up the world, inch by inch. Promise by promise. All with a whisper of something new.

We welcome in the Advent season not as a few calendar weeks with which to complete our holiday tasks but rather because we, too, are people of the light. Advent, it seems, means “coming” or “arrival” and it is in these days that we celebrate the light that Jesus brought into the world through his humble birth in Bethlehem, his presence with us now through the Holy Spirit, the helper, who dwells within believers, and the promise of his future return in glory.

So many years ago, God’s people groaned in unrest and uncertainty. Their world was messy and oppressive. They looked for a mighty warrior to save them as the prophets had promised. The world, however, missed the whimper of a tiny babe born to set them free. In the darkness they were blinded to a new possibility. To the idea that God’s ways were quite different than worldly expectations. That God was doing something new and wholly unexpected.

If we’re honest, our world is not so very different than the world two thousand years ago. My challenge to you is this—in this season of hustle and indifference, of family and frenzy, of hope and also pain, would you purpose to slow down? A candle doesn’t stay lit when we are running through the world with it. If a candle is to stay lit, it needs to be still. Purpose to pause. To be still. Call on the Lord and trust that he will show up. That he will speak to your heart. And there shall be joy in the morning.

All the best to you...

Pastor Laura



HCOB Children's Ministry Happenings

As I reflect over the past year, I have seen God move in big ways among our Children's Ministry- from the transition in coordinators, to the planning and preparing for big events, to the quieter moments spent with the children on Sunday mornings. This group of children genuinely enjoys being together while learning about God. They are full of energy, questions, joy, and a love for Jesus and each other.

-In Children's Church, we learned about God through learning about the life of the prophet Elijah. We learned that God will take care of us and provide exactly what we need, just as he provided enough food and water for Elijah and a widow in their time of need. As we learned of Elijah challenging false prophets, we enjoyed a reminder to serve God only. We read of when Elijah was running for his life and his faith was wearing thin. God spoke to him in a whisper and helped guide his way. Lastly this month, we learned of how Elijah was a great friend, even in his final moments before God carried him into heaven.

-Also, this month, we learned about Advent. We discussed what the season of Advent means, how long it lasts, and different ways we can prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. We also made some props for the Advent worship service, with the theme of "lay down your crowns." God has blessed us with many amazing skills and qualities, and it is important to remember to praise and thank God for making us the way that He has.

It is always a joy to see the children involved in the Sunday morning service. With the help of our children, we gave glory to God by laying down our crowns. The children labeled their crowns with a skill that God has given them, or a special way that God has made them. Some examples we came up with: "good at soccer/baseball/basketball/field hockey; friendly; just the way I am, special." It is always good to remind ourselves that while we can be proud of the things we can do and the way that we are, these things are only made possible through God.

Messages in December

December 7



Authority, Amazement, & Faith

Matthew 8:5-13

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Who is the one that oppresses you, robs you of the good life you deserve, holds authority over you as a conqueror? It can be hard for us to imagine being conquered as Americans, but not always hard for us to recognize the ways in which we are robbed of 'the good life' (or maybe our neighbors) because of boundaries of wealth, education, and class. As a Jew, Jesus lived as a conquered man in the world's eyes, subservient to Roman authority, at their beck and call. But, His sight was different. When approached by a Roman Centurion to heal his servant, Jesus is willing to go with this man. But the man recognized an authority in Christ never seen in another. What can we learn about casting down our crowns through the Centurion's actions and speech? What can we learn from Christ when it comes to sight, action, and judgement? Where is Christ calling us to grow today?

December 12



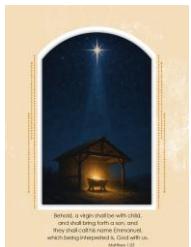
Blue Christmas – The Hope We Carry

Psalm 42; Luke 2:22-40

Pastor: Laura Meiser

While Christmas is a joyous time in which we anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, if we're honest, we may not exactly feel like celebrating. What do we do with the very real experiences of grief, loss, sorrow in the midst of both the physically darkest days of the year held in tension with this season of light and hope. We hope you'll join us to this very special service in which we'll sing, pray, lament and contemplate the hard things, all the while walking as people with a hope in the Living God who walks with us.

December 14



He Came with a Whimper

Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:1-20

Pastor: Laura Meiser

While we know the Christmas story by heart, how often do we take time to examine it? We know the kingdom of God came to earth not with a battle cry, but through a baby's cry in the night. He came in an unassuming place, in an unassuming way and yet he was exactly who God said he'd be. Who do we expect Jesus to be? What does his birth tell us about how we are called to participate in the kingdom of God now all these years later.

December 21



The Temple Official and The Interruption

Mark 5:21-43

Pastor: Doug Hinton

Jarius, a temple official, comes to Jesus to heal his daughter. On the way to his house, a woman touches Jesus's garment to be healed. Last week we looked at a governing official submit himself to Jesus; this week a religious official and a 'random' woman. Are we willing to submit our politics, our understandings of faith, and our very lives to the Master's Hand? Are we willing to reach out in faith, to ask the questions we seek answers, to be obedient to Jesus's words to us? How must we cast down our crowns today?

December 24
Christmas
Eve



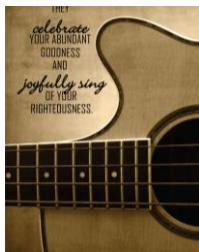
He is Here! We Come to Worship

Matthew 2

Pastor: Doug Hinton

This Christmas Eve, we walk with the Wisemen who have traveled months to pay homage to this baby born King. Coming full circle from our first Sunday in Advent, we bow with the wise men through a skit, video, and brief message to celebrate the Light coming into the World, the One who can draw all people together, the One who makes a way for us to God, Jesus Christ our King!

December 28



Testify & Celebrate

John 1:14-18

Pastor: Doug Hinton

We have seen His glory and out of the fullness we have received grace upon grace – so we celebrate what God has done and is doing! Hempfield has had a full year! Partnering with TNT, we saw seven young men baptized in the spring; we baptized two beyond that. Pastor Laura Meiser and our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Monica Lantz started on the same date. We've donated food, gathered men for an event, watched women grow in small group studies, witnessed met needs with our building and pavilion, and welcomed new members into the body. We are turning in toward our communities and watch Christ move through our neighbors. There is much to celebrate! How have you witnessed God move in the last several months? What story do you or can you share with others? This Sunday will be a testimony Sunday – a time for members of the body to share what the Lord has done and rejoice! Before we delve into 2026, let's praise God for His goodness in 2025!

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 4.

Where: Library

When: After the church service



tabulator

REMINDER: TABULATORS FOR DECEMBER 2025 ARE DAVE DUM AND RICK SCHAILDE. If you are not available for a particular Sunday, please check the list and secure your own coverage.



Federal government support continues to decline as the federal food assistance program SNAP payments for 2 million Pennsylvanians have been halted. Local support for our efforts to combat food uncertainty continues to become more critical. There are many ways that we can communicate the growing needs of our community.

Special Requests for Hempfield include:

black beans, canned chicken (small size), canned tuna, chick peas, chicken rice soup, chunky soups, cream of celery soup, dry beans, lentils - 1 pound bags, pancake syrup

Special Requests for Manheim include:

applesauce, beef stew, cereal, crackers, diapers

Both Pantries need mac and cheese, canned meat (chicken, Spam and tuna), pasta, pasta sauce, 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.

We encourage you to pray for our neighbors and community who might be struggling in many ways during this time. Ask God how he might want YOU to be involved in supporting those in need. May we follow the example of those who have gone before us in caring for others. We will be providing other opportunities for your prayer and involvement.



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us Sunday, December 7, 2025 following the morning service for great fun, food, fellowship, caroling and GINGERBREAD HOUSES!! There will be 2 sign-up sheets available in the Narthex. Please let us know if you'd like to fellowship around the meal. We'd also like you to sign up to participate in Gingerbread House making. Participate in some or participate in all. Everyone is welcome!



The Force for Food team would like to thank Ronald Myer for his 20 years of service with the ministry. In August of 2005, Force for Food was born when Ronald along with his wife Julie, Pete Cope, Butch Nachbar, Gerry Shuman, and Dick & Jean Caldwell started meeting with a vision to find ways to directly help meet the needs of the poor and increase awareness of the hunger problem in the community.

Ronald & Julie have been faithful supporters of the food pantries, community meals and the turkey drives. Ronald has decided to step away

from the team, while Julie continues on, and we are grateful for his commitment to help meet the needs of the hungry. 



- EXCITING NEWS -

The "GIVING TREE" is coming back for the Holiday Season!

The Deacons will sponsor this activity and our fundraising will now go through the end of November. You can designate your money for the "GIVING TREE" on your offering envelope or put your donation in the provided envelope marked "GIVING TREE" and your name. The Deacons will match the funds raised up to \$1,000 from the Benevolent Fund. The envelopes will be available for taking from the tree beginning Dec. 7 until all funds are exhausted. The funds can be used to help an individual, family or any organization needing financial support.

Please join us in being the hands and feet of Jesus to help support our neighbors and friends this holiday season.



Featured Hymn Writer

December 2025

CELEBRATING CLASSIC CHRISTMAS CAROL COMPOSERS

Issac Watts and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Watts was an English hymnwriter, minister and theologian who penned more than 700 hymns, including one of the most beloved carols throughout the entire world. Few exist who have never sung "Joy to the World". In addition, he also wrote "At the Cross", Am I a Soldier of the Cross", "Jesus Shall Reign, Wher'ere the Sun", "Oh God Our Help in Ages Past", When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", and a multitude of other hymns sung to this day. Born in 1674, he was known for educational works on logic, grammar, philosophy and astronomy. He was also a dissenter, a protestant who disagreed with the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, as was his father, who was a clothier, jailed for his dissenting beliefs. Strongly influenced by his father, he served as a pastor for most of his life, beginning at Mark Lane Chapel in London in 1702. Gifted from childhood, he mastered Latin, Greek and French by age 16. Later challenged by his father to improve congregational singing which often lacked passion and expression, he adapted the Psalms to worship to make them comprehensible and emotional for all people of the day. A single man, in 1712, he was overtaken by chronic illness and eventually taken in and cared for by close family friends till he passed away years later in 1748. An enormous list of hymns he wrote are still used in church hymnals today.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine in 1807 and passed away in 1882. Poet, educator and linguist, he became the most famous poet in the 19th century. He graduated from Portland Academy, traveled extensively throughout Europe and later taught at Bowdoin College. Two of his most famous poems still taught in schools today are "Evangeline" and "Paul Revere's Ride". He was known for his translations of European literature, such as Dante's and Goethe's, into English. He was a nature lover and beauty and sentiment were traditional themes in his poetry. Prose writing included "The Courtship of Miles Standish" and "Hyperion". Influenced by Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge and inspired by Romantic poetry of his day, he coined many expressions we still make use of today, like "ships that pass in the night". He was a classmate of Hawthorne and taught Thoreau at Harvard later in his career. Sadly, his life turned tragic when he lost his wife in a house fire in 1861, and two years afterward, also lost his son from Civil War injuries. Soon afterward, his health began to decline, and upon his death years later, he was mourned by millions throughout not only America, but the world. One of our most beloved Christmas carols, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", written on Christmas Day in 1863 in remembrance of both his wife and son, was adapted from Longfellow's poem and set to music by John Calkin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Current Study...



Who exactly is Jesus? What kind of God would come to earth as a human? As Christmas approaches, the season of Advent offers us a chance to reflect on our savior, his purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him. Join pastor Derwin Gray in this five-session Advent study as he unveils King Jesus—the God-man who defied expectations, the king of all creation who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend to sinners who wants to lift us up.

Dec. 7th – **Gingerbread House Fellowship Luncheon**

Dec. 14th – **The Rejected King** – Pastor Doug

Dec. 21st – **Our Friend the King** – Rich Bushong

Dec. 28th – **The Counter-culture King** – Pastor Laura

Jan. 4th – **The Lowly King** – Galen Brumbaugh



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:

December 7th - 11 am - Gingerbread Event

December 7th - 6-8 pm - Youth Group

December 14th - 6-8 pm - Youth Group

December 21st - 5-8 pm - Youth Group Christmas Party

December 28th - NO Youth Group - Merry Christmas!

January 4th - 6-8 pm - Youth Group





Reaching Out ... Impacting People ... Making a Difference

OUTREACH

Ministry

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....

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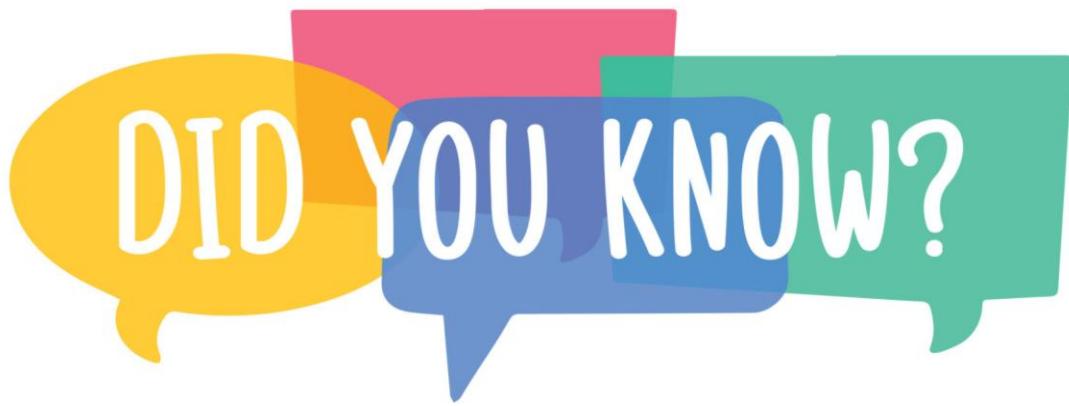
Bible2School

Bible2School, a public school ministry, equips communities to provide free Bible classes to children DURING their public school day.

It's a fully legal elective program that can happen anywhere, in any state. The children walk or are bused to a nearby church or partner location where trained volunteers engage the children in lively worship, Bible stories, lessons, activities, and prayer. Learn how you can engage with our mission of teaching truth and inspiring hope to children in public school.

(Bible2School.com)

Stephanie Smith, Chief Operating Officer will provide an update on Bible2School ministries during worship on November 19.



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.



Tithe.ly (formerly 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 www.hempfieldcob.org 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 what 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 Tithe.ly from your smart phone, simply go to the App Store on your phone and download the Tythe.ly app and download the church app.. You will then be able to log into information at your fingertips. If you have questions, contact Irene in the church office.

NOTE: If you are using Breeze to send out a mass email to the congregation, please use the "Directory" tag that you'll find in the system. The "HCOB Family" tag no longer exists. Thank you!



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 kinds 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!!



ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK???

Help spread the word about events and topics of interest at HCOB – it's simple! When you see a post from either the main HCOB FaceBook page or the HCOB Kids FaceBook page, just take a second and "share" that post. At the bottom of the post there should be a space that says "share" – click on that and it will share that post on YOUR FaceBook page so that it now reaches everyone you know. If we all did that, the good news of HCOB could be spread far and near. Help let the community know of the great opportunities that they can be a part of. Share, share, share.

December Calendar

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

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 NO Youth Group 9:30am - 11:00am 1st Sunday of Advent - Communion - Sunday Worship 4:00pm - 5:45pm QE Brass at Good Shepherd	1 Doug's Day Off 5:00pm - 8:00pm Rice Event 7:00pm - 9:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	2 6:00pm - 7:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT 6:30pm - 8:30pm WORDD Fellowship Rehearsal (Tentative)	3 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 9:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal - Gathering Place 7:15pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	5 Laura's Day Off 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	6 All Church Event Prep
7 Blood Pressure Check Family Christmas Event 8:30am - 11:00am QE Brass at Hempfield COB 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	8 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	9 ✖ 10:15am - 11:15am Staff Meeting 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	10 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property 7:15pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	12 Laura's Day Off 7:00pm - 8:00pm Blue Christmas	13
14 2-Cent-A-Meal Offering 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	15 Doug's Day Off 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brethren World Mission 7:00pm - 9:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Rehearsal	16 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	17 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 6:00pm - 8:00pm QuintEssentially Brass Performance 7:15pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	19 Laura's Day Off 7:30pm - 9:30pm QE Brass at First Reformed	20
21 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 5:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party	22 Doug's Day Off	23	24 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:00pm - 8:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed	26 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed Laura's Day Off ✖ Tabulator Reminder	27
28 NO Youth Group 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship	29 Doug's Day Off	30 6:30pm - 8:30pm TNT	31 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	1 Office Closed 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	2 Laura's Day Off	3

At this holy Christmas season may you experience:

The wonder of Mary
The obedience of Joseph
The joy of the angels
The eagerness of the shepherds
The determination of the Magi and
The peace of the Christ child.



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

East Petersburg, PA 17520

P.O. Box 246

Hempfield Church of the Brethren