

Sabbatical/Sabbath Rest

Pastor Doug Hinton

As Doug and family are away enjoying a fabulous trip together, he sent some reflections from days gone by in his ministry. **Below is his first Herald article as our Senior Pastor.** Please continue to lift Doug and family up in your prayers.

Keep Your Behavior Excellent

Pastor Doug Hinton

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 PETER 2:11-12

One Lord. One Body. One Call. We are being called as ministers of reconciliation. We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the son of God and son of man, who taught people to live as God would live. The One who did not sin nor was any deceit found in His mouth. The One who walked with the refuse of society and shared meals with them. The One who shared meals with the elite and convicted them of their abuses of the poor and helpless. The One who first submitted to God and *then* the human authorities above Him. Entrusting Himself to the Father, He was crucified by the human authorities above Him. Through His blood being shed on the cross, He reconciled all humanity back to God. But when He died, and darkness covered the land, the story came to a rest: until the third day when he fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and rose again! After doing so, His promised was fulfilled on Pentecost as the church, that is Christ's body, Christ's representatives, Christ's mouthpiece, was filled with the Holy Spirit!

Early followers of 'the Way (of Christ)' did not mind living different than the society in which they lived. In fact, it was their 'otherness' that often drew people to Christ. They lived holy, set-apart lives as individuals *and* as a community: giving up their possessions so that no one had need, healing the sick, learning the apostles' teachings, being joyful whether in prisoned or free, and sharing meals together. It was a daily transformation: having their minds transformed by the teachings of Jesus and *then* putting them into practice. Like Jesus, many of the apostles were killed for their faith, proclaiming the freedom they had in Christ until their last breath. When they were falsely accused, they did not return insults or abuse. Some, when they were put to death, prayed that their persecutors would be forgiven of their sin. You see, even in their death and imprisonment, they lived holy, set-apart lives. They only had one desire: that any person within earshot might be reconciled back to God through Jesus Christ. They 'kept their behavior excellent' in hopes that when Christ 'visited' them, they would be saved.

- What first step do you need to take to grow in your walk with Christ? Join a small group, form a small group, have daily Bible study, seek and join an outreach ministry; these are just a few ideas.
- What *fleshly lusts* may you need to turn away from to strengthen your witness for Christ? What is causing you to stumble, be stagnant, or stale in your walk? Who do you need to seek forgiveness from? How can the church walk with you in this process?

As you ponder these questions, I pray we can continue to grow in *excellent behavior*. Living as a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD among our society, keeping our integrity intact, and proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, that those around us may be reconciled *in the day of visitation*.

Associate Pastor of Discipleship

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.” (Isaiah 43:10)

I don't know what it is about the last few weeks of August. The light begins to hit a little differently as the sun rises and sets. Our children are getting excited about new teachers and new friends and new opportunities. On the other hand, for some of us back to school means returning to an empty nest. It's a little bittersweet, this growing and changing, all moving towards what's next.

The life of the church is like that too. We're poised for Rally Day which kicks off a new year of discipleship, fellowship and service. We look forward to special events and simply returning to our regular rhythms after a season of vacations, slower mornings and more relaxed rhythms.

For some, it's been a season in which we've been able to spend more time with God because external forces are not on our backs. Or you might be like me and realize that somehow in the beauty of this time of year and the expectations you needed to meet you are woefully behind where you intended to be in your scripture reading or devotional rhythms. Ouch. Or perhaps the spiritual disciplines that have served you well to this point, simply aren't meeting your needs now.

But what does God expect? Perfection? Or, perhaps, progress? A check list completed, or time spent with him? A long, detailed prayer or many breath prayers throughout the day?

I think it's both/and. Because time spent with the Lord, whatever it looks like, is time well spent.

In Isaiah 43:10 there are a few key words that clue us in to this. The Hebrew work for “know,” *yadha*, signals intimacy, such as the relationship between a husband and wife. We do not serve a far-off God, but rather a God who knows his people intimately. The word for “believe,” *aman*, tells us that God's words are faithful, confirmed. Enduring. And the word for “witnesses,” *ayd*, equates to testimony.

We are God's testimony in this dark and broken world. You are God's testimony. But, good news, we are never alone in this! God is present with each of us and he's so much more than can we imagine.

This fall, as you contemplate how God would have you interact with him, be that personally or as you opt into the various Bible and book studies that will be offered, know that God is for you. He just desires your proximity to him and that can happen in so many different ways. You are chosen by God and you're part of his story. That is something to celebrate!

In Christ,
Pastor Laura



With the beginning of September comes Back to School season! We ended the month of August with a Back to School Blessing during one of our worship services. We continue to pray over our children and youth as they are adjusting to new classrooms and classmates, new teachers, new school content, and new routines. We also continue to pray over parents and families as they lead their children through this season of change. Thank you to those who helped us by jotting down your prayers for our children and youth in this Back to School season. It was a joy to be able to learn what you are praying over, and in turn, be able to pray over those things together as a congregation.

In Children's Church in August, we finished up a multi-year journey through our curriculum, Faithweaver NOW. With the arrival of September, we are beginning a new curriculum, entitled Simply Loved. This curriculum is designed to grow our children's faith in God and friendship with Jesus as they experience Bible truths and solidify their understanding of how the Bible is constructed. We are excited to incorporate some group worship elements as well as some Memory Verse strategies!

Children's Church will be held on the following schedule for the school year (September-May):

- First Sunday: Preschool/Kindergarten Class & Elementary Class
- Second Sunday: Preschool/Kindergarten Class & Elementary Class
- Third Sunday: Preschool/Kindergarten Class & Elementary Class
- Fourth Sunday: Children Remain in the Service

Additionally, the Nursery will not be regularly staffed with volunteers. If a need should arise on a Sunday morning, we have a list of volunteers who are willing to step in on the morning of. I can also contact these volunteers during the week if I am made aware of a Nursery need during the week, prior to Sunday morning.

Rally Day is right around the corner! Games and activities are being prepared by the Education Team. We are excited to gather everyone together for food, fellowship, games, and welcoming Pastor Doug back from sabbatical on September 13th!



Harvest Fest is also in the initial planning process! Please join us on Sunday, October 18th at 3:30 for this annual event that always proves to be a fun time!



For our mega-planners, I also wanted to communicate our VBS dates for 2027! Crave VBS will take place at Hempfield Church of the Brethren on June 13th through June 17th. This whimsical theme promises for lots of creative ways to stir up a hunger for Jesus!

Upcoming Dates:

-9/13- Rally Day

-10/18- Harvest Fest

-12/6- All-Church Meal and Gingerbread Competition

Your sister in Christ,

Monica

Messages in September

September 6



Come and See

John 1:46; John 4:27-37; Matthew 20:1-10

Pastor: Laura Meiser

As Jesus began his earthly ministry, a common invitation found in his early interactions with those who would become his followers was simple: “Come and see.” In fact, throughout the pages of scripture, we see this invitation phrased in a variety of ways from very different people: the woman at the well, Mary grieving over the death of her brother, and even at the tomb after Jesus has been resurrected. Come and see. We are invited to a life lived with Christ, through the highs and the lows. But our assignment doesn’t stop there, for Jesus himself directed Mary Magdalene and the other women quite specifically: “Go and tell.”

How can we best share our stories? How can we invite those around us into life with Christ? And how can we honor Christ well in all of these.

September 13
Rally Day



And the Stories Live On

Pastor: Laura Meiser

September 20



Sabbatical Reflections

Pastor: Doug Hinton

September 27



Identifying Your Testimony

Pastor: Doug Hinton

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 **October 4.**

Where: Library

When: After the church service



It is coming to that time of year when we make sure that our church directory is update with all your latest information. If you have changed something (i.e. phone numbers, address, etc.), please send a note to Irene at office@hempsfieldcob.org.



Fellowship and Hospitality will be holding another Safe Serve Training Saturday September 19th 9-11. If you are interested in this training, please sign on the sheet located on the Narthex table.



It's that time of year! Time for choir rehearsals to begin again, that is. We are looking forward to beginning weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings beginning September 9 at 7:15 PM and we need YOU! If you love to sing, we hope you'll plan to join us—music reading NOT required. For more information, contact Pastor Laura.



CHANGE IS AFOOT!!

Renovations in the Church Office area have begun! There are some wonderful changes on the horizon and your patience is much appreciated. Not only that, but there is space for you to help. Helpers to help in the transitions are needed. Please reach out to Carl Polonchak and let him know that he can count on YOU.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

RALLY DAY IS COMING!!

Plan to fellowship, enjoy great food, and be a part of RALLY DAY 2026 on Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Our morning service will be followed by a delicious meal as well as inter-generational activities and games. **** If you are interested in playing in the corn hole tournament, pick your partner and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. ****

F&H will provide chicken, baked beans, chips, desserts, drinks, plates, utensils and cups. **The congregation is asked to bring fruit, fresh vegetables and salads enough to feed 10 people.** If you are bringing a salad with a mayonnaise-based dressing, please put it in a cooler with an ice pack.

- Please wash fresh fruit before you cut it.
- If you plan to eat any leftovers from the meal, (etc. chicken or covered dishes) please bring a cooler with an ice pack or ice to transport the food properly.
- No serving utensils needed.
- Please drop off your food in the kitchen BEFORE the morning service.
- We will serve the food from the Fellowship Hall
- Leftover Chicken Barbecue can be obtained for a donation.

All meals will be served out of John Naas Hall. Outside seating will be available at the Pavilion.



Offering tabulators for 2026

Cycle A: January, April, July, October

Dan Witter

Deb Bendit

Cycle B: February, May, **August**, November

Gary Shenk

Darren Meiser

Cycle C: March, June, September, December

Dave Dum

Rick Schaidle

Alternates:

Justin Kleinfelter, Jim Kettering, Tom Connelly, Wes Bowers

We heartily thank these individuals for their willingness to help in this important work of the church. You are a vital part of the ministry of the church. With the accurate nature of the work they do each Sunday, only those scheduled should be present as they count the offerings. If you cannot be available on the weeks that you are scheduled, please make arrangements to obtain coverage for yourself from another tabulator or substitute volunteers. Please don't leave your partner alone with the job. Blessings and thanks to all who volunteered. If you are interested in helping, please see Justin Kleinfelter.



Help Wanted: **FINANCE TEAM**. We are seeking individuals to help guide and be a steward for the Church's finances. Experience is not needed, but must be willing to learn and share ideas. Anyone interested in hearing more, please contact Justin Kleinfelter. 717-585-3472

A photograph of a man in a green and blue plaid shirt, seen from the side, tending to a white sheep in a field. The sheep is standing near a wooden fence. In the background, there are trees and a cow. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

*When you need a helping hand, or know someone who
does in our church community, please let us know.*

Call: (717) 638-0181 extension #12

Email: ShepherdHands@hempfieldcob.org

IN THE Shepherd's HANDS.

PSALM 23



Featured Hymn Writer

September 2026

Daniel Whittle

For the month of September, we honor Daniel Whittle, an evangelist, Civil War veteran and writer of approximately 200 gospel hymns. Uncertain as to why, but Whittle used the pen name of El Nathan on most of his compositions. He was born in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts on November 22, 1840. He was named after Daniel Webster, a man deeply respected by his father, in a Christian household with 3 brothers. His own conversion ironically occurred in a bank vault, after he moved to Chicago where he was involved in the banking industry. He would later become a major in the Union Army and was wounded at Vicksburg. He married Abbie Hanson the night before leaving for active duty. He also accompanied General Sherman on his March to the Sea. He credits attending to a dying young soldier during battle with his personal turning point to Christianity. After the war, he became an evangelist and a musician, partnering with Dwight Moody, Phillip Bliss and James Granahan. Moody encouraged him to become a full time evangelist after returning to Chicago. He toured with revival meetings all across the U.S. and England. His daughter Mary set many of his later hymns to music, and he was adamant that each piece must carry his message of God's love. Moody said at the time that Whittle produced the best hymns of the century. Most familiar to today's audience are these hymns: "I Know Whom I Have Believed", "Moment by Moment", "There Shall be Showers of Blessing" and one of his own favorites, written in 1875, "Christ is All".

On his deathbed, he summoned the strength to write a final hymn, the last 2 verses of which are these words;

"Then shall I see His face, His beauteous image bear;
I'll know His love and wondrous grace, And in His glory share."
"So sing my soul in praise, as bells chime o'er and o'er;

The coming of the Lord draws near,
When time shall be no more."

Whittle died on March 4, 1901 near his home in Massachusetts moments after completing this hymn.



Current Study...



In the pages of Matthew's Gospel, we find the tax collector-turn-disciple present to us a snapshot of the life and teachings of Jesus. This certainly is not a complete biography nor an exhaustive collection of Jesus' teaching. Instead, we will be looking how Jesus' words transformed the lives of people in his day and how they can impact our modern day lives and faith.

- Sept 6 – Matthew 8:1-14, 14-17, 9:1-8 **Everyday Value**
- Sept. 13th - **Rally Day (No Class)**
- Sept 20th - Matthew 9:10-19, 23-26 **Mercy Extended**
- Sept 27th - Matthew 10:16-20, 26-34 **Loyalty Tested**
- Oct. 4th - Matthew 11:1-6, 16-24 **Comforting Doubts**
- Oct. 11th - Matthew 12:14 **Rejecting Legalism**
- Oct. 16th - Matthew 13:34-35, 36-43 **Judgement Coming**
- Oct. 25th - **Congregational Gathering (No Class)**



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:

Who We Are!

Mission Statement:

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

Vision:

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.

What These Mean:

When you are here at Hempfield Youth, you come with a fresh start. We care more about building a community now that grows in the future than we do about someone's past.

We live this way because Christ gave us all fresh starts by dying on the cross for our sins. We don't want to be an "exclusive club." Instead, we want to be an open invitation to anyone who needs a place to feel loved, cared for, and like they have a purpose.

Christ calls us to love, and we hope that you know His love through how we live, and that we can grow together to be better than we were yesterday.

We hope we can grow with you!



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

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....

Engage: Global Mission Gathering United in Mission

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. —Revelation 7:9

Sunday, Sep. 20, 2026 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Lancaster Church of the Brethren
1601 Sunset Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601

Guest Speakers:

Joel Peña, Country Advisory Team member, Venezuela
Eric Ramirez, Country Advisory Team member
Rebecca Dali, Co-Pastor Panther Creek COB

Hosted by: Global Mission and Lancaster Church of the Brethren.
event formerly known as Mission Alive

Free and open to all

For more information contact:

Carole Davenport CDavenport@brethren.org
Phone: 847-429-4376 (M-F 8:00 AM-4:30 PM CT)
or after hours 847-764-9149



Church of the Brethren





TNT Prayer Letter—July 2026

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thank you! We are so grateful for your faithful prayers for TNT Youth Ministry. Every time we see God move in the life of a student, we're reminded that none of this happens apart from Him. Thank you for standing with us as we serve young people throughout our communities and the public schools we have the privilege of partnering with.

Summer is always a unique season for TNT. While our schedule looks a little different, ministry certainly doesn't slow down. In fact, we've already seen God at work in incredible ways, and we wanted to share just one story that reminds us why we do what we do.

A Story of God's Faithfulness

A few years ago, a young man named Larry first came to our Hempfield Youth Center for one simple reason—he loved playing basketball.

Like many students, he wasn't looking for church. He wasn't looking for a Bible study. He simply came because there was a place where he felt welcomed.

Over time, relationships began to form. Volunteers invested in him, encouraged him, and invited him to church. Larry accepted that invitation, and little by little, God began transforming his life.

Today, Larry faithfully attends Hempfield Church of the Brethren. He's involved in the youth group, serves in the children's ministry, sings in the choir, and has publicly declared his faith through baptism.

Just a few weeks ago, the church held its annual Youth Sunday. During the service, Larry stood before the congregation and preached the message, sharing from the book of Jonah and boldly proclaiming what God had been teaching him.

What an incredible reminder that God is still changing lives.

This is why TNT exists—not simply to host youth centers, but to introduce students to Jesus, connect them with the local church, and watch God continue the work He begins.

Thank you for praying. Larry's story is one of many, and your prayers are part of what God is using to make stories like his possible.

Praises

Harbor Ann Has Arrived!

We're excited to share that Nikell Martin, our former Elementary Coordinator, and her husband Blake welcomed their daughter, Harbor Ann, on June 20th. Mom and baby are both doing well, and we are so thankful for God's goodness to their family. Thank you for praying for them!

- **Summer Discipleship**

One of our favorite parts of the summer is watching our volunteers continue investing in students outside of weekly programming. Many of our small group leaders have already met with students for coffee, meals, games, and conversations about life and faith. It is such a blessing to serve alongside volunteers who faithfully disciple students all year long—not just during TNT events.

Prayer Requests

- **Pray for Favor**

As we prepare for another school year, we ask you to pray for continued favor with our local schools. We never want to take for granted the opportunity God has given us to serve on public school campuses. It truly is a privilege.

Please pray that God would continue opening doors, strengthening relationships with school administrators and staff, and allowing TNT to be the hands and feet of Jesus in each school we serve. Pray that every interaction would point students toward the hope found in Christ.

- **Pray for Our Release Time Expansion**

This fall, we're excited to expand our Release Time Bible Education program in Ephrata!

We'll be adding:

- 4th Grade at Fulton Elementary
- 3rd and 4th Grade at Clay Elementary
-

Please pray that God would provide the volunteers, teachers, and resources needed to serve these additional students well. Pray for wisdom as we work through the many details over the coming months.

We also ask you to pray specifically that God would open the door for a Release Time program at Highland Elementary. We would love the opportunity to share the Gospel with even more elementary students, and we're trusting God to lead each step.

Thank you for faithfully standing with TNT through prayer. Your partnership means more than we can express. We are continually encouraged knowing there are people across our communities faithfully asking God to move in the lives of students.

May God continue to receive all the glory as we seek to see Christ magnified in the lives of the next generation.

September Calendar

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

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Pastor Doug Sabbatical 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group Swim at Barnes' Pool	31 Pastor Doug Sabbatical	1 Pastor Doug Sabbatical 7:00pm - 8:30pm Deacons Meeting	2 Pastor Doug Sabbatical 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting	3 Pastor Doug Sabbatical 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	4 Laura's Day Off Pastor Doug Sabbatical 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	5 Pastor Doug Sabbatical
6 No Youth Group Pastor Doug Sabbatical 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship	7 Labor Day (Church Office Closed) Pastor Doug Sabbatical	8 Pastor Doug Sabbatical	9 Pastor Doug Sabbatical 8:00am - 11:00am Sewing Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Stewards of Property 7:15pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal	10 Pastor Doug Sabbatical 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11 Laura's Day Off Pastor Doug Sabbatical	12 Pastor Doug Sabbatical
13 2-Cent-A-Meal Offering 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship - Rally Day 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	14 Doug's Day Off 6:30pm Worship Team	15  10:15am - 11:15am Staff Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm TNT 6:30pm - 7:30pm Education Team	16 HERALD DEADLINE 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:15pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal	17 6:00pm - 7:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality Team 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	18 Laura's Day Off	19 Parents Night Out 8:00am - 12:00pm Safe Serv Training
20 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 1:30pm - 5:30pm Kettering Event 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	21 Doug's Day Off 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brethren World Mission 6:30pm - 8:00pm Outreach Team	22 6:00pm - 8:00pm TNT 7:00pm - 9:00pm Leadership Team	23 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:15pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal	24 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	25 Disaster Relief Auction Laura's Day Off	26 Disaster Relief Auction
27 9:30am - 11:00am Sunday Worship 11:00am - 3:00pm Ebersole Event 6:00pm - 8:00pm Youth Group	28 Doug's Day Off	29 6:00pm - 8:00pm TNT	30 8:00am - 11:00am Quilting 7:15pm - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal	1 6:00pm - 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	2 ANE District Conference Laura's Day Off 6:45pm - 7:45pm WORDD FELLOWSHIP	3 ANE District Conference



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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