

## A Garden Lamentation

I come to the garden alone. And there, I am at peace. I cannot make it rain. I cannot stop the rain. I am happy when the wasps and butterflies come and I accept that they are not meant to stay. Each sprout surprises me, even if I planted the seeds. Even if I do nothing, things will grow—pumpkins from last year’s compost, dandelions that give the bees the first food of the spring, and unknown weeds that startle me with purple blossoms. In the garden, surrounded by the goodness of growing things, I am also good.

When I leave the garden, I ask, “Am I good?” It is an endless question: *Am I a good driver? Am I a good neighbor? Am I a good mother? A good daughter? A good person?* It is a type of beseeching prayer—I want to be good. I want to be very, very good. At the very least, I want to be good enough to be at peace.

Instead, peace eludes me. So, I pursue goodness. I eat my vegetables, call my mother, and go to yoga. I write the city council thank you notes and give apologies generously. I pick up sidewalk trash and return library books. I do morning devotionals and evening prayers. Does this make me good? Peace comes and then goes, like the monarch butterflies among the milkweed.

I cannot stop the erratic weather of climate change or the extinction of species. I worry about these things. I pray about them. I feel bad when I drive my fossil-fueled car and good when I plant milkweed for the monarchs that will pass through. It takes four generations for the monarchs to reach Oyamel fir forests. Peace is a long journey too. Maybe I am not the generation who will arrive but it is enough to be going in the right direction. I do not doubt that each monarch butterfly is good. I will think about that more when I return to in the garden and am at peace.

—Gimbiya Kettering  
Washington, D.C.

“Depart from evil, and *do good*; seek peace, and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14, *NRSVue*).  
Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111;  
Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

August 18, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Ed Beachley, Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "Sing to His Name" (Martin)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy. Let us join our voices in giving thanks.

**All:** *The works of God are all around us. Those who share in God's work lack for nothing.*

One: We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful. We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.

**All:** *Holy and awesome is God's name. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.*

One: Come, then, as wise and faithful people. Come as a beloved community of the redeemed.

**All:** *We are amazed that God remembers us. We reach out to the God who cares for us.*

**\*HYMN #66**

*"O worship the King"*

[Verse 1]

*O worship the King, all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his power and his love;  
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.*

[Verse 2]

*O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.*

[Verse 3]

*Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,*

*it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.*

[Verse 4]

*Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;  
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of steadfast love, your works delight our hearts and expand our thoughts. Your grace and mercy draw us together to praise you and to celebrate your wonderful deeds. Dwell among us today, and reign within the lives of each one gathered here, helping us to grow in discernment and understanding. Grant wisdom and courage that we may walk in your ways and keep your commandments. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

As we make melody to God with our hearts and voices, let our hands also be employed in service. We here offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor that God may bless and multiply the good to be accomplished through them and us. May our riches be employed for the common benefit of all God's children.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to, or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

**Offertory** "Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide" (Hughes)

**\*Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. Amen.

## SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.  
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.  
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

### HYMN #356

*“Breathe on me breath of God”*

*[Verse 1]*

*Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*

*[Verse 2]*

*Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*[Verse 3]*

*Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*

*[Verse 4]*

*Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      A selection from Twelve Duets      (Mozart)  
Dave Shane, Euphonium and Chris Stockslager, tuba

**SCRIPTURE READING**      Ephesians 5:15-20      NT 194

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**MESSAGE**      “Read the Directions”      Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #86**      “Now thank we all our God”

*[Verse 1]*

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,  
who, from our mothers’ arms, has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*[Verse 2]*

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us safe in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world in the next.*

*[Verse 3]*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

### \*BENEDICTION

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.  
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**\*POSTLUDE**      “Sing to the Lord a New and Glorious Song”      (Smith)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~





Hagerstown  
Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown, Maryland  
21740  
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday  
Flexible hours  
(appointments welcome/  
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship  
at 8:30 AM  
Sunday School at 9:30 AM  
Worship and Facebook Live  
at 10:45 AM

[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

[www.facebook.com/  
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe  
Pastor

Allyson McPeak  
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Don Rowe  
Interior Esthetics  
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and  
Rejoice in your participation with us in  
worship. It is our prayer that you will  
experience the presence of God's Spirit and  
that it will equip you for service and ministry  
in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and  
Cluster Leaders are available after worship  
and during the week to listen and assist you in  
your Christian pilgrimage.*

### **THE ANNOUNCER August 18, 2024**

**If you placed someone** on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

**If you or a loved one** has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

**"Take a Moment"** Let this be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer beginning Sunday, August 18 - Sometimes God, I wish I could look into the future and be assured that all things will work out for good in my life. But since I can't, I will put my trust in you to lead me...to open the doors that will lead to where you want me to go. I know that I still need to make the decision to follow your leading. So, I will seek you today and listen for your voice speaking to my soul. Persuade me to choose your guidance. I know your love is always with me...I cannot be separated from it. Thank you, God, for this promise. It gives me hope to step out in faith as I face this and every day. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Ed Beachley for being our worship leader today and to Chris Stockslager and Dave Shane for sharing special music with us this morning.

**Attendance.** Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Harold and Hilda Brumbaugh from their daughter Chris Ellis.

**Non-Delegate Registration forms** can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall for those wishing to attend the 2024 District Conference on October 11th & 12th. The church office does not register non-delegates. The deadline to submit your registration form is September 14th.

**Curt Wood, a retired Hagerstown Police Officer** who now teaches at Tech High will be presenting a presentation on Safety Measures on Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall for those wishing to attend or you can email Jan Young if you are attending. Light refreshments will be served. This presentation is being presented for the Community Breakfast Team but anyone is welcome to attend.

**HCOB Student Scholarship Fund**—The Service & Outreach Team is inviting students to apply for our yearly distribution of funds from the Student Scholarship Fund. A letter of interest needs to be addressed to Suzie Wolfe, Chair, by **August 31, 2024**. Please include where you will be attending and what your major is. Also, please include the school's address.

**Attention!** The Altruistic Room is currently unavailable for use. Please do not enter or use the room until further notice. Thank you!

**The Christian Education Ministry Team** will host the annual "Teacher and Volunteer Appreciation Sunday" on Sunday, September 8th. Light refreshments will be served to everyone immediately following the early service and again before the start of the late service. CEMT encourages those teaching on September 8th to end class a little early, perhaps by 10:20, allowing ample time to eat and fellowship together.

**It's time again for our annual School Kit** collection for Church World Service. This is the time of year when so many stores have their back-to-school items on sale at very reasonable prices. A list of school kit items is enclosed in your bulletin. Please contact Sue Vanderveer if you have questions. Her contact information is in the directory.

**The 54th Annual Dunker Church Service** will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 3:00 pm at the little white "Dunker Church on the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD. Guest Speaker will be Gene Hagenberger and the Back Row Singers from HCOB will be presenting special music during the service. All are welcome!

**Save the Date!!** - Please save the date for our Community Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat which will be held on Saturday, October 19th from 1-4 pm. The Service & Outreach Team needs your help.

**CDS Training**—For those who are 18 years or older, and have a heart for children, and may be interested in becoming Children's Disaster Services volunteers, training will be held at the Frederick Church of the Brethren on September 27-28, 2024, Friday 4:30pm—Saturday 5:30pm. Information can be learned at: <http://www.brethren.org/cds>. For those wishing to register, click on the following link: <https://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html>.



**The grief journey after losing a loved one** is very painful, difficult, and lonely. Since everyone grieves in his or her own way and time, there is no magical endpoint to the grieving process. Fortunately, we have GriefShare, an encouraging seminar offering support after the death of a loved one, no matter how recent. It provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as support from others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Our fall session of GriefShare will begin on **Monday, September 9, and continue through December 2, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Mullendore Room.** You may join the program at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attend at least 3 weeks. Cost of the program is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials. Register at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

**Field of Hope/Growing Project.** Field of Hope pledge forms can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall for anyone desiring to make a pledge.

**Cash for Causes/Martin's Gift Card Program.** Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution. To purchase a card, please contact Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

**Printed copies of Leadership and Ministry team meeting minutes** are available in the west entrance. The holders are located on the wall beside the bulletin board.

**Offering drop-off box** is located in the west entrance by the double doors. This box can be used to drop off your offering or order forms. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**Please remember** to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or [secretaryhcob@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com).** Thank you!

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, August 18**

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

### **Monday, August 19**

Church Office Closed

6:30 pm Deacon Meeting/Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, August 20**

Pastor Vacation

5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts Auditions/Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, August 21**

Pastor Vacation

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

6:30 pm GriefShare\_Loss of a Spouse/Mullendore Room

### **Thursday, August 22**

Pastor Vacation

### **Friday, August 23**

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office

1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

### **Saturday, August 24**

Pastor Twyla's day off

### **Sunday, August 25**

Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

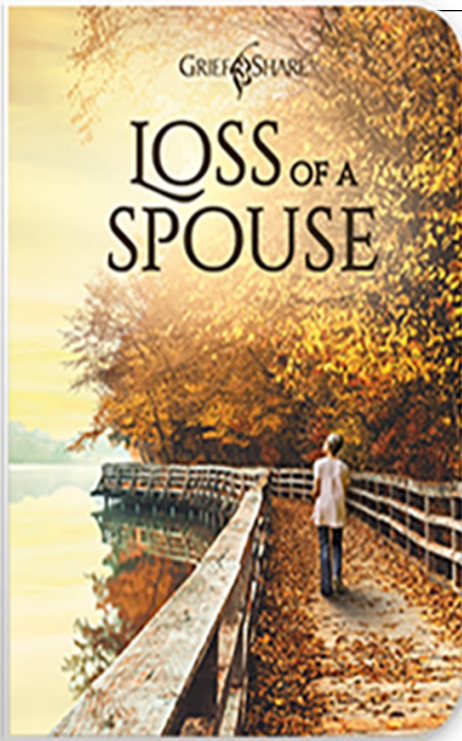
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

*Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.*

You may mail your offering to  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
OR  
you can make a secure offering  
donation on our website using  
PayPal [www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

The church calendar is online at  
[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org).  
Click the calendar tab.



**Grieving the death of a spouse?**  
*Or do you know someone who is?*

The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one—they've lost an entire lifestyle once enjoyed with that special person.

We hope you will consider joining the HCOB GriefShare Team for a special 2-hr seminar which will address the challenges of this type of loss.

You may wish to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you. If you have questions, please see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

Date: Wednesday, August 21  
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Place: Mullendore Room

Register at [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org)



## **School Kits 2024 Annual Drive**

Each kit needs the following:

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (remove pencils from the package)
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Cotton/canvas bags have already been made and are available to pick-up.

Optional: Loose school kit items may be placed in a large Ziploc type bag to keep them together. Remove the air, seal the bag and place inside of the cotton/canvas bag.

Value: \$15.00

Processing fee: \$2.00 per kit

**Money for school kits can be placed in the offering. Please use a pew envelope and write "School Kit" on the outside, or write on your check "School Kit".**

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Vanderveer.