

## Building with Truth and Grace

Daddy was a carpenter. He loved to make things. He showed me the rewards of applying creativity, knowledge, and skill to fixing, designing, and building. He taught me to take things apart to see how they worked and to find joy in making things “the right way” to serve their purpose in beautiful and lasting ways.

Mama was a pastor. She lived to open people’s hearts to God’s healing and reconciling love. In word and deed she taught me that tenderness and justice were of a piece—the personal *and* public expressions of love. She was also the bravest communicator I’ve ever known. When she sensed tension in relationships, she moved in . . . to listen and understand, trusting the Spirit to lead.

I worked my way through seminary as a carpenter. Paired with my studies of scripture, theology, and pastoring, the life lessons overflowed! I quickly discovered that homeowners didn’t always want to know *all* the problems with their homes or pay me to fix everything I found. I also learned that church members and congregations can have pain they don’t feel ready to acknowledge, let alone examine or tend.

Ephesians speaks powerfully in words both beautiful and ridiculous: “Speak the truth . . . we belong to each other!” But also: “Speak only in ways that build each other up.” After 25 years in ministry I still feel stretched to both speak truth and bear grace. But my parents and countless others have shined light on this constant challenge.

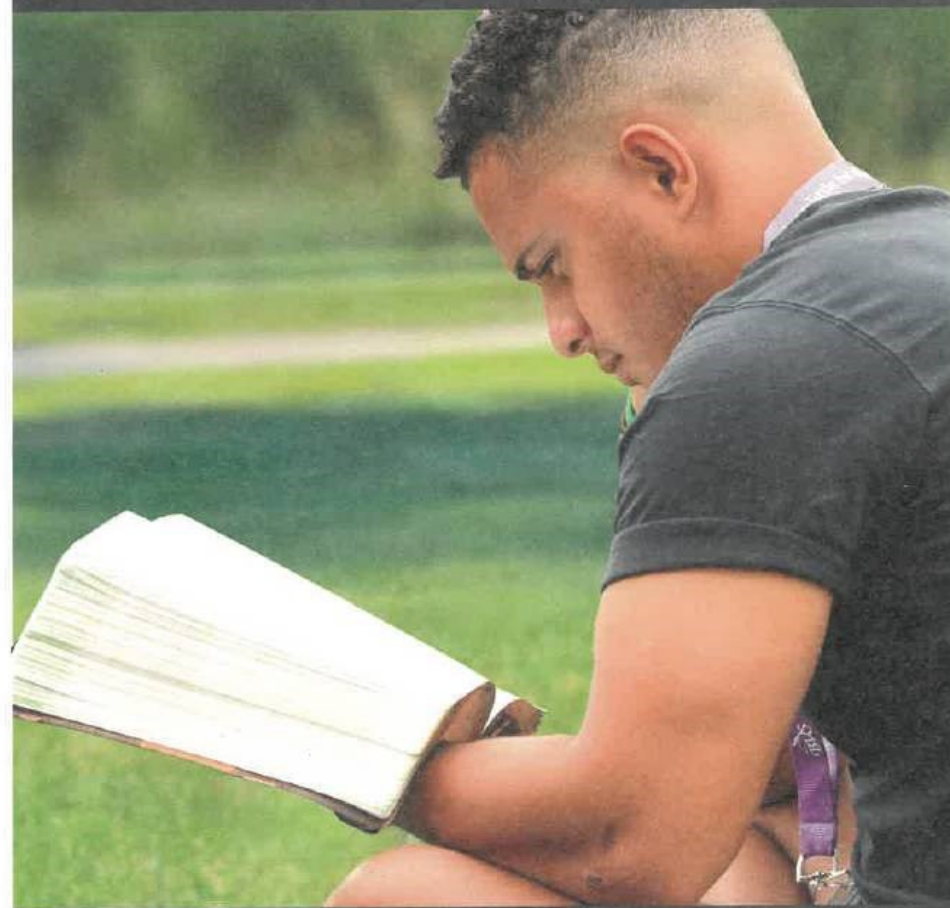
Following Jesus takes a desire to grow, courage to learn another’s truth, patience to be kind, and persistence in the pursuit of justice and dignity for all. It can feel impossible when we’re going it alone . . . but in community, and with practice, God’s gifts of creativity and grace abound!

—Ken Miller Rieman  
South Bend, Indiana

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, *so that your words may give grace* to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29, NRSVue). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51.

August 11, 2024. Photo by Glenn Riegel © Church of the Brethren.  
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So that your words  
may give grace



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

August 11, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Kathy Kelsey, Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "When There's Love at Home" (Wilson)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Wait for God, who deals gently with us. Watch for God's appearance among us.

*All: Out of the depths we cry out to God. Will God hear the voice of our supplications?*

One: In all times and places, we can rely on God. We can know steadfast love, here and now.

*All: We keep our mourning watch together. We will support one another as we seek to know God.*

One: Find hope in God's power to redeem us. Give thanks for the new day God promises to us.

*All: Life's battles cannot destroy us. The losses we suffer are not the last word.*

**\*HYMN #17**

"We gather together"

[Verse 1]

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing.  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.*

[Verse 2]

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine.  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!*

[Verse 3]

*We all do extol thee, thou Leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation.  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

We come to you, holy God, with our many needs. Some of us are people in authority with weighty decisions to make. Some of us are fighting battles we cannot win. Some have faced unexpected losses that tear at the very fabric of life. There are broken relationships among us, feelings we do not want to admit, realities we do not want to face. There are also joys we have not really celebrated, reasons to give thanks to which we have never given voice. We come, O God, to be lifted out of our ruts and routines, seeking instead to find fullness of life with you. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Freely we have received. Thus, we freely give: grace upon grace. Let us express our love and appreciation to God, by extending the grace and mercy of God to a hungry world.

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** "A Summer Morning" (Macklin)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We bow before you and thank you for the privilege to participate in your acts of kindness and love here on earth. May these gifts truly become instruments of your purposes here in our church, our community, and around the world. 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.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"When I Say Jesus"  
Elaine Smith

(Johnson)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### HYMN #145 *"There's a wideness in God's mercy"*

[Verse 1]

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.*

[Verse 2]

*There is a welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good. There is a mercy with the Savior, there is a healing in his blood.*

[Verse 3]

*But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own, and we magnify the strictness with a zeal God will not own.*

[Verse 4]

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind, and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*

[Verse 5]

*If our love were but more simple we should rest upon God's word, and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.*

### SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (Kathy-One, Twyla-Two)

One: Put away your lies and speak the truth to one another because we are all part of one another.

Two: When you are angry, don't let it carry you into sin. Don't let the sun set with anger in your heart or give the devil room to work.

One: If you have been stealing, stop. Thieves must go to work like everyone else and work honestly with their hands so that they can share with anyone who has a need.

Two: Don't let even one rotten word seep out of your mouths. Instead, offer only fresh words that build others up when they need it most. That way your good words will communicate grace to those who hear them.

One: It's time to stop bringing grief to God's Holy Spirit; you have been sealed with the Spirit, marked as His own for the day of rescue.

Two: Banish bitterness, rage and anger, shouting and slander, and any and all malicious thoughts—these are poison.

One: Instead, be kind and compassionate. Graciously forgive one another just as God has forgiven you through the [Jesus Christ].

Two: So imitate God. Follow Him like adored children, and live in love as the Anointed One loved you—

One: so much that He gave Himself as a fragrant sacrifice, pleasing God.

## MESSAGE

*"Woven Together"*

Pastor Twyla Rowe

### \*HYMN #444

*"Lord, I want to be a Christian"*

[Verse 1]

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

[Verse 2]

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

[Verse 3]

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

[Verse 4]

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart,*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

### \*BENEDICTION

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

*Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

### \*POSTLUDE

*"Unity and Brotherhood"*

(Chesterton)

*(Call to Worship & Opening Prayer, "Led by Love", by Lavon Bayler, p. 128)*

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

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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 11, 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 11 - God, I bring before you in these moments all that makes me who I am. I lay open before you, all of my emotions, my attitudes and my motivations for why I do and say what I do and say. You know when and why I am feeling emotions such as joy, sadness, frustration, anxiety, and peace. You are in the midst of all that emotion with me... celebrating the positive feelings with me...and encouraging me during the rise of negative emotions. I cannot hide from you the anger that may arise as an extension of negative feelings...sometimes even emerging through my words and actions to strike out at others. Warn me, O God, when I am tempted to allow anger to create brokenness with others. Forgive me and show me the way through the anger that I might yield to, and set me free from it. Heal the wounds that may have been a result of my anger. Make me, Lord, more like you. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Kathy Kelsey for being our worship leader today and to Elaine Smith 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.

**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.

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

**Junior Church** will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a special time together. (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

**Susan Hughes will be set up in the west entrance** today with cantaloupes for donation from 9:30 am until after the 10:45 am worship service. All proceeds will go to the Good Samaritan Fund. First come first serve.

**The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings** will be held today. The screenings will take place in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore Room before the 10:45 AM worship.

**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.

**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.

**Newsletter Deadline!** All articles should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant **no later than August 15th**. Thank you!

**The Mary Martha Group** will not be gathering the month of August but will resume in September. Held the third Tuesday of each month in the Altruistic Room, noon—2:00 pm.

**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>.

**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.

**The Church Directory.** Now is a good time to update your information in the church directory. Please send any changes/updates/additions to [secretaryhcob@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com), or leave a note in Allyson's mailbox. Also, if you're not on the birthday and anniversary lists, please email that information, too! Please include the year, even though it is not published. If we don't have the year, that piece of software defaults to the year 1900. Thank you!

**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.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, August 11**

Junior Church

8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

### **Monday, August 12**

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday, August 13**

6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Wednesday, August 14**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

6:30 pm HCOB Softball/Field 1

### **Thursday, August 15**

12:00 pm Newsletter deadline

### **Friday, August 16**

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office

1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot

### **Saturday, August 17**

Pastor Twyla's day off

10:00 am Baby Shower/Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, August 18**

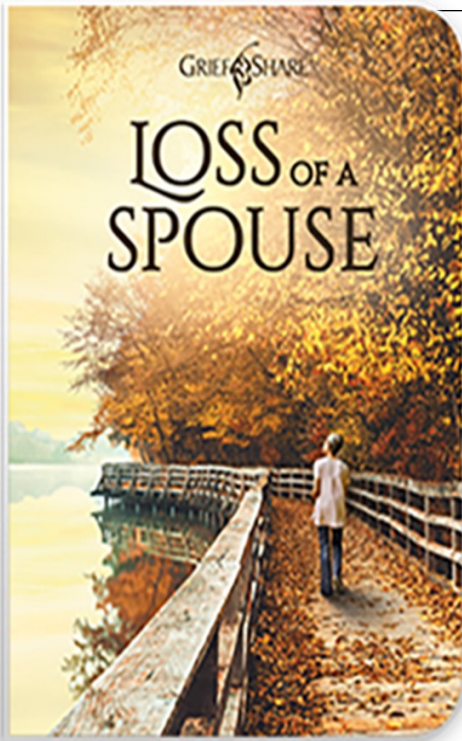
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

*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.