

Whom Will You Serve?

A few of us may have made our first commitment to follow the Lord on this day. For most of us, we likely made that commitment and were baptized some years or even decades ago. In the scripture text, Joshua asks the people of Israel to choose whom they will serve. The Israelites served the Lord for generations, but the question is still put to them because, although the Lord had been faithful to the people, still they were unclear in their commitment and still served other gods.

On the cover of this bulletin are two men with smiling faces. What do you see when you look at them? You do not need to know the two men in the photo to see the joy of those who chose to serve the Lord wholeheartedly. Since I do happen to know the two men in the photo, Athanasus from South Sudan and Sandy from the Dominican Republic, I know something of how they live their lives. I know each has been Brethren for some years, is a leader in their church, and exhibits a passion for serving the Lord. I know something of how the Lord has blessed each. Whatever their internal struggles, I am sure when asked, both will enthusiastically say that they will serve the Lord.

What about us? What about you? When strangers see you, when a friend or colleague sees you, when you examine your own life, is it clear whom you serve? Likely if we are honest, we do not always serve the Lord as well as we might wish. Yet each day is an opportunity to **remember** what the Lord has done for us and recommit to serve the Lord so we can say with confidence and joy, "We serve the Lord!"

—Eric Miller
York, Pennsylvania

"Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, *we will serve the LORD*" (Joshua 24:15, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** 1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

August 25, 2024. Photo by Global Mission © Church of the Brethren.
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We will serve the Lord

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

August 25, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Julie Herman, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Praise the Lord, Who Reigns Triumphant" (Paxton)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: How beautiful are the places where you dwell, O Lord!

All: *This house cannot contain your glory; even the heavens are bursting with the goodness of your presence!*

One: Happy are those who find their strength in you.

All: *Hear our prayers this day, Holy God, as we proclaim your praises to all the earth!*

***HYMN #120** "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty"

[Verse 1]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

[Verse 2]

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

[Verse 3]

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

[Verse 4]

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! All Thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

***OPENING PRAYER**

In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week,

needing to feel the soothing presence of God. Lord, be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls. Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

The church is not a private club that we maintain for our own benefit. It is a mission outpost, constantly enlisting us and our resources for the spreading of good news and the increase of God's reign of love. Our offerings of ourselves and our resources are one measure of how seriously we take our call as ambassadors for Christ.

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 "How Dear to Me Is Your Dwelling" (Powell)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Gather the gifts of our hands and hearts, living Spirit. Use these gifts to build not monuments to your distant glory, but testaments to your intimate love. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "He Smiled on Me" (O'Hara)

Burt Young, Vocal & Becky Jackson, Piano

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"The Prayer Perfect" (Stenson)

HYMN*“God Is in His Holy Temple”**God is in His holy temple, Earthly thoughts be silent now,
While in reverence we assemble, And before His Presence bow.**He is with us now and ever, When we call upon His name
Aiding every good endeavor, Guiding every upward aim.**God is in His holy temple, In the pure and holy mind;
In the reverent heart and simple; In the soul from sense refined.**Then let every low emotion, Banished far and silent be,
And our souls in pure devotion, Lord, be temples worthy thee!***SCRIPTURE READING** 1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11, 22-30, 41-43 OT 311

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a

distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

MESSAGE*“Sacred Spaces”*

Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #430“God Be with You”**[Verse 1]**God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
may the Shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.**[Verse 2]**God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.**[Verse 3]**God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.**[Verse 4]**God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.****BENEDICTION***After the Benediction, you may be seated.**Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.****POSTLUDE***“The Dwelling Place of the Most High”*

(Paxton)

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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

[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 25, 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 25 - Holy Creator God, as I come to you in prayer this day, I also worship you. This is a sacred time when you and I connect. It is a specific time when I offer you my praise and thanksgiving. It is a time when I am filled with deep humility as I recognize how much I really need you in my life. I am very grateful for my church where I can worship you with my church family; and at the same time, I am grateful that I can worship you at any time and in any place. You are awesome and omnipresent...hallelujah! I lift to you now the prayers in my heart...knowing you will respond...for the many people who need your healing of body, mind and/or spirit. I offer to you in these sacred moments...myself...as an offering to serve others as you call me to do. This is my prayer that my worshipful heart brings to you now. Amen.

Our thanks to Julie Herman for being our worship leader today and to Burt Young and Becky Jackson for special music 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.

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.**

Curt Wood, a retired Hagerstown Police Officer who now teaches at Tech High will be presenting a presentation on Safety Measures this 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.

MUSIC PROGRAM KICKOFF—We are kicking off our music program and inviting all music makers – singers and ringers – to come together on Thursday, September 5th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. The evening will begin with a potluck style supper, followed by planning for the year ahead. If you're thinking about joining, or have a musical gift to share, this would be a great time to get started! Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 12th with Praise Band at 5:30, Brethren Bells at 6:30 and Temple Choir at 7:30.

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.

Volunteers In Mission—Tri-State Hope Builders—On September 28, 2024 the VIM team (Volunteers In Mission) through Tri-State Hope Builders will be headed to Hindman in Eastern Kentucky. We will be helping to build new homes. From HCOB Gary & Sue Wright and John & Jenny Ferguson will be joining this team. We are staying in the Hindman, United Methodist church. This is what happened; on July 28, 2022, historic flooding impacted Hindman Kentucky. They had 14-16 inches of rain in a few days. Forty five people lost their lives. So many lost everything, their homes, vehicles, all their belongings and their loved ones. (Tri State Hope Builders) is accepting donations for building material, gas and food. To become a supporting member of the team, donations may be made to HCOB with Kentucky Mission written in the memo. Donations should be made by September 8th. Please keep us in prayer for safe travel and safety while building. *Thank you, Gary, Sue, John & Jenny.*



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. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

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.

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

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.

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.

CALENDAR

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

Monday, August 26

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, August 27

6:30 pm Reorganization/Leadership Team Meeting/Fellowship Hall
 7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts Auditions/Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 28

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
 10:30 am Caring & Sharing/Mullendore Room
 12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, August 29

6:30 pm Safety Measures Presentation/Fellowship Hall

Friday, August 30

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office
 1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)
 4:30 pm Fellowship Hall in Use/Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, August 31

Deadline for Scholarship Fund application
 Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, September 1

Food Pantry Sunday
 8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
 9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
 10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room
 10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

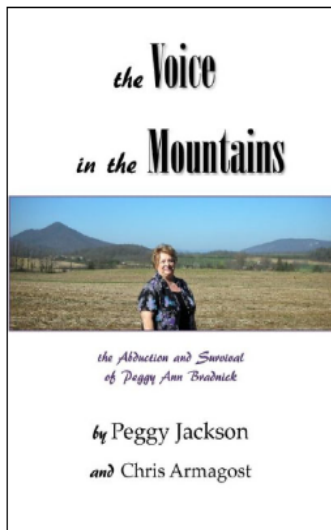
You may mail your offering to
 15 S. Mulberry Street,
 Hagerstown MD 21740
 OR
 you can make a secure offering
 donation on our website using
 PayPal www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
 Click the calendar tab.

LOST & FOUND

An XL Blue HCOB sweatshirt and a Large Grey HCOB T-Shirt were found in the Micah's Backpack room on the 3rd floor. If either one are yours, please claim them. Thank you!

The Novel Bunch presents...



the Voice in the Mountains

In the spring of 1966, in Shade Gap, PA, 17-year old Peggy Ann Bradnick got off the school bus with her siblings, only to be abducted by a masked man with a shotgun. Her 8-day ordeal sparked a multi-state manhunt and made international headlines.

This is Peggy's story in her own words. It is one of forgiveness and grace. Peggy Ann Bradnick Jackson is a woman of great faith whose quiet strength will astound you.

Even though this book focuses on a horrible crime, it is not graphic or gory. But it is a compelling story of a former victim turned survivor. And after 50-plus years, Peggy Jackson received a commendation from the FBI last year.

In the words of Mr. Lloyd Dell, a radio broadcaster who covered the story at the time:

"Peggy, through her speaking engagements and her life, shows mature Christian love, exhibiting mercy and grace to all, even those like William Hollenbaugh who have wronged her through the years."

And the dedication page states:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."
~Romans 8:28

Peggy will be our guest author on Saturday, November 16, to discuss her book and answer your questions. We invite the congregation to meet Peggy Jackson and hear her story.

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Luncheon to follow.

NOTE: If you have any questions or need assistance acquiring the book, call Jenny Ferguson at 301-964-1779. Please return the section below if you plan to attend.

NAME _____ I plan to attend _____ YES

Preferred contact information: Phone _____ OR

Email _____

Book Club Team: *Jenny Ferguson, Kristal Bricker, Debbie Nycum, Kay Ogilvie, Jan Young



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.