

## Every good gift comes from heaven

For more than 40 years, since my wife and I first served as Peace Corps volunteers in East Africa, I have been closely connected to people in local communities who face poverty and resource limitations with illimitable reserves of hope, resilience, creativity and, yes, joy. Quilts from New Windsor were a special treat. Families always received these items with radiant smiles and sparkling eyes.

I have visited Ukraine five times since the war started in February 2022, and the challenges there for humanitarian workers are of a different order entirely. What to make of offering relief in a developed country with multi-lane superhighways, vast shopping malls, large universities, and hospitals? As we sought to serve the most vulnerable, how to go about identifying those in greatest need? Can such people ever experience the true joy of a simple gift?

During my most recent trip to Ukraine I brought with me a single quilt, one that had been lovingly stitched by a church worker's young granddaughter and her friends and family. On the quilt were many words of encouragement: "We love you!" "family," "faith," "prayer," "strength." I prayed with the Ukraine team that God might reveal to us a family—and he did!

Oksana and her husband, Sergiy, are staying in a church shelter in Uzhghorod with their two small children and another on the way, having escaped the war in the east. The quilt we presented to them brought tears of joy and words of gratitude—people in America care about them!

*"Slava bogu!"\**

—Charles Franzén  
Westminster, Maryland

\*Praise the Lord! (Ukrainian)

*"But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves" (James 1:22, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.*

September 1, 2024. Photo of Brethren Disaster Ministries project by Benjamin Hoffmann © Church of the Brethren, Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

---

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

September 1, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Don Rowe, Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (Douglas)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.  
God has given us birth by the word of truth.

*All: We are drawn to God as to a lover.  
We leap for joy when we know God's care.*

One: Every perfect gift comes to us from God.  
God's image is a part of each one of us.

*All: God's grace has been poured into our lives.  
Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.*

One: Who will dwell on God's holy hill?  
Those who walk uprightly and speak the truth.

*All: We will honor God by honoring our neighbors.  
We will act toward them as we wish to be treated.*

**\*HYMN #117** "Fairest Lord Jesus"  
[Verse 1]

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and Mary's Son, thee will I  
cherish, thee will I honor thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

[Verse 2]

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of  
spring. Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

[Verse 3]

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host. Je-  
sus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav'n can boast.*

[Verse 4]

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of all the nations, Son of God and Son of Man, glory and hon-  
or, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Our hearts overflow with longings too great for words, gracious God. You have been so good to us, yet we are dissatisfied. We have many things to enjoy, but seldom have we found our home with you. Meet us here to anoint us with the oil of gladness. Awaken us with singing and speak your truth to draw us away from the lure of wickedness. May this time of worship help us to become a wise and understanding people, eager to live as the body of Christ, making a difference in the world as Jesus did so long ago on the Galilean shore. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Let us not forget that the bounty we enjoy is only loaned to us for a little while, to be managed to the glory of God. Every generous act of giving is prompted by God's own generosity toward us. We are invited to return the first fruits of our labors that, through the outreach of our church, God may accomplish much good for those who most need to know that someone cares.

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** "Just As I Am" (Paxton)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the bounty you entrust to our stewardship, O God of light. You have reached into the shadows, where we often flee, to rescue us and give us your work to do. As you have freed us from the chains of sin, we seek to offer healing to others as we listen and share and do. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Abide with Me and "I'll Fly Away"  
The Backrow Singers

## 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

### HYMN #516

*“Just as I am, without one plea”*

*[Verse 1]*

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*[Verse 2]*

*Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of ev'ry blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*[Verse 3]*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*[Verse 4]*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*[Verse 5]*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*[Verse 6]*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken ev'ry barrier down. Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

NT 42

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to

me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

### MESSAGE

“Spiritual Contamination”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

### \*HYMN #389

*“Take my life”*

*[Verse 1]*

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*[Verse 2]*

*Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.*

*[Verse 3]*

*Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.*

*[Verse 4]*

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose, ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.*

*[Verse 5]*

*Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.*

*[Verse 6]*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.*

### \*BENEDICTION

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

### \*POSTLUDE

“Rise, Go Joyously Into Life”

(Smith)

*(Worship Resources: “Led By Love”, Lavon Bayler, p. 134-135)*

~~~~~

\*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 September 1, 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, September 1 - You have given me a fresh new day, O God, for I give you praise and thanksgiving. As Summer nears its end, I anticipate the transition of the season into Autumn, bringing with it the changing of the colors of the leaves, cooler temperatures, and different seasonal activities. Likewise, changes occur occasionally in my life; some for which I am grateful; and others that I am not. When I struggle with change, feed my spirit with your spiritual nutrients that will give strength and wisdom for my journey down the unknown path. Filter out the evil contaminants that may lead me astray. Stay near to me, precious Lord, for all of my life journey. For it is only with you walking with me, that I find confidence, hope and joy, even when I face change. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Don Rowe for being our worship leader today and to The Backrow Singers for special music.

**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.

**Fellowship Time** will be held today in the Mullendore Room from 10:20 am until 10:40 am. Cookies and coffee will be served. All are welcome!

**Today is Food Pantry Sunday.** Thanks to all for your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community. All items collected will be going to our September Community Breakfast.

**September is Alzheimer's and Drug Awareness Month**—arrangements have been placed in the sanctuary and fellowship hall recognizing these awarenesses and offering our support and prayers to those effected by these challenges.

**September Tidings** are now available. If you did not receive an electronic copy please notify the Church office and you will be added to the emailing list. Printed copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall.

**MUSIC PROGRAM KICKOFF**—We are kicking off our music program and inviting all music makers – singers and ringers – to come together this 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" next 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.*

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

## **CALENDAR**

### **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

### **Monday, September 2**

Church office closed  
Labor Day

### **Tuesday, September 3**

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, September 4**

Administrative Assistant/Work from Home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### **Thursday, September 5**

5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall  
6:00 pm Music Program Kickoff/Fellowship Hall

### **Friday, September 6**

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

### **Saturday, September 7**

Pastor Twyla's day off

### **Sunday, September 8**

Junior Church  
Teacher/Volunteer Recognition Sunday  
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

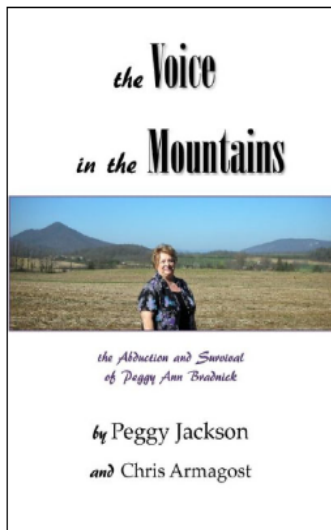
*Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.*

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.



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

**Please place in the designated basket in the west entrance once filled out. Thank you!**

***"Can't we do something to help?"***

It all began with a Sunday School study about world hunger – and the question, "Can't we do something to help?"

And so, in 2006, the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, near Myersville, Md., began a fundraising project that now involves the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren and nine other churches in our area. Members join in a few events a year to raise money to help poor farmers in one spot on the planet learn new technologies to raise more and better crops to feed their communities.

At HCOB today and the next two Sundays, you have the opportunity to help raise money for this year's project in the Lower Chaco region of Paraguay. There, our money is being used by site leaders from Church World Service and a local organization called Pastoral Social Diocesana de Benjamin Aceval to work with about 200 families to reinvigorate worn-out soil, and improve livestock farming and beekeeping. There's also a special emphasis on recruiting native women to manage community water resources.

How can YOU help?

For as little as \$62.50 for a quarter-acre, \$125 for a half-acre or \$250 for a whole acre, you can "buy" the land that's been donated over near Myersville on which a farmer will grow crops that will be sold to help us raise the \$20,000 or more our group raises every year – this year, to help in Paraguay!

Please write a check, payable to HCOB with the words "Growing project" on the memo line, and put it in the offering plate by or before Sunday, Sept. 15. (Add a little fun by teaming up on the donation with others in your Sunday School class, as our own Ordinary People Class does year after year! Already, it plus five of our HCOB families have made donations, totaling three of the more than seven acres we hope to achieve!!)

Or, if you have a love of baking, please consider talking to Suzie Wolfe about bringing a homemade cake or a pie on Sunday, Sept. 22, for us to take – or your family to bring! -- over to Grossnickle that afternoon for our annual Harvest Festival! There, on THE farm, starting at 2:30 p.m., there'll be hay rides, scarecrow-making, free dishes to try of the Paraguayan and American style, a little talk about the work in Paraguay, AND the auction of cakes and pies, with all that money going to the project!!

Thanks! Gracias! Aguyjevete!

-- Arn Platou, HCOB's rep on this project



## ***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.