

Invitation to listen and respond

The International Day of Peace is observed worldwide on September 21 each year. This day was established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution to remember and strengthen the ideals of peace within and among all nations and peoples. This day provides a date on which we can share our common humanity worldwide, showing our commitment to building a culture of peace, irrespective of culture and creed.

Our reading from the prophet Isaiah gives us a vision of the invitation and implications of working for peace. Working for peace can invite suffering for the sake of peace. The prophet invites servants to speak God's word to sustain the weary.

Although the prophet's call may sound like a lament, it is undoubtedly an invitation for the use of soft power as distinct from military power. Instead of crushing the wicked, the prophet's invitation is for us to listen; instead of hiding from suffering, we are invited to take courage in the face of suffering as we confront the forces of evil. Instead of striking back, we are asked to turn the other cheek.

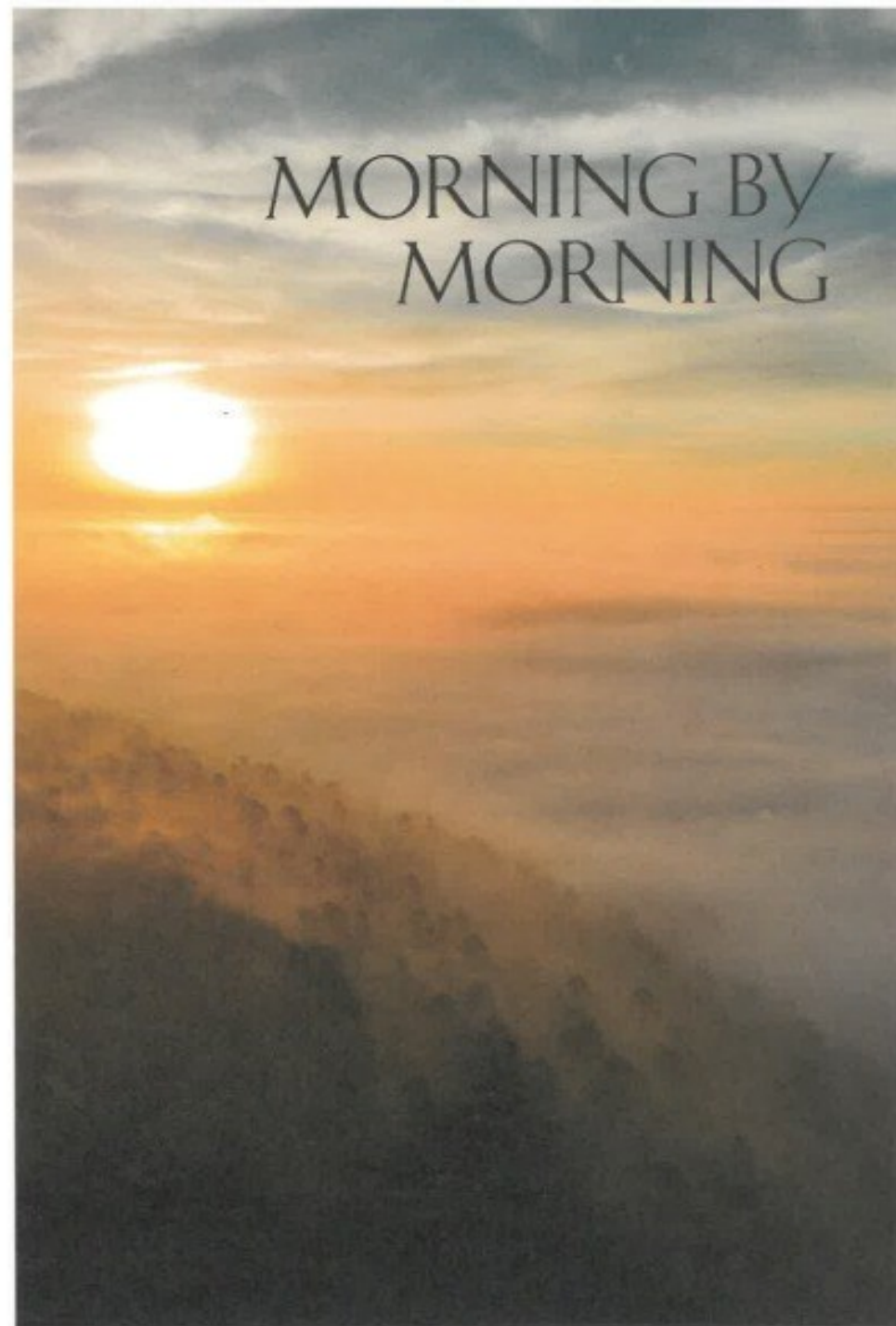
History is replete with examples of men and women who turned the other cheek, taking on a nonviolent posture, like Jesus, who first modeled that to us. Their hopeful vision empowered them to endure struggles, to pour out their lives as they became light to the nations.

Where have you seen hostility and aggression in your community? Could that be an invitation for you to participate with the Creator to bring peace to where you are planted?

— Samuel Sarpiya
Toronto, Canada

"The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. *Morning by morning* he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught" (Isaiah 50:4, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

September 15, 2024, International Day of Peace. Photo © Benjamin Hoffmann. Used by permission. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #357 *"O Master, let me walk with thee"*

[Verse 1]

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free. Tell me thy secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

[Verse 2]

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love. Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

[Verse 3]

Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,

[Verse 4]

in hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way, in peace that only thou canst give; with thee, O Master, let me live.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:27-38

NT 43

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MESSAGE

"Time to Grow Up"

Pastor Steve Robison

***HYMN #539**

"Make me a captive, Lord"

[Verse 1]

Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free. Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conqu'ror be. I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand.

Imprison me within thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.

[Verse 2]

My heart is weak and poor until it a master find. It has no spring of action sure, it varies with the wind. It cannot freely move till thou has wrought its chain.

Enslave it with thy matchless love, and deathless it shall reign.

[Verse 3]

My pow'r is faint and low till I have learned to serve. It wants the needed fire to glow, it wants the breeze to nerve. It cannot drive the world until itself be driv'n.

Its flag can only be unfurled when thou shalt breathe from heav'n.

[Verse 4]

My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine. If it would reach a monarch's throne it must its crown resign. It only stands unbent, amid the clashing strife, when on thy bosom it has leant, and found in thee its life.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

***POSTLUDE**

"Walking With the Master"

(Smith)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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

[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 15, 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 15 - God, I never can be absolutely sure of what each day will bring. I am always hopeful for days full of happy and fulfilling things. Yet, I know, that at any moment, something unexpected and out of my control can happen; or challenges that were present yesterday can continue today... tomorrow...and maybe longer. Remind me to live each moment of each and every day with the assurance that you are with me during the highs and lows of life. I know You are faithful and You walk with me through my challenges. I trust you to guide me and encourage me. I ask now, God, that you will guide, comfort, and heal those I think of now who may be feeling like Job, because of turmoil, illness and loss. Also, help me to be a good friend that offers Spirit led encouragement and support. This is my prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our thanks to Sandy Clipp for being our worship leader today and to our Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

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.

Would you like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special event in a loved one's life? The Flower & Altar Committee has openings on October 6th, 20th, and the 27th. If you are interested, please contact Ann Parker at 240-291-8521.

Pastor Twyla will be away on vacation this week through the 22nd. If you are in need of regular pastoral care, please contact your deacon. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Eddie Edmonds his information can be found in the church directory.

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.

If you have a mailbox at the church, please check it weekly. Mailboxes are now labeled for the incoming Deacons and ministry team members.

LOST & FOUND—A Respirator Fit Card was found in the church lobby area with the name "Keith McCormick" on it. A tote/bag was left in one of the church pews after Mike Buhrman's funeral service. If you have lost these items or know the person they belong to, please contact the church office to retrieve them. Thank you!

The 54th Annual Dunker Church Service will be held today 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 Backrow Singers from HCOB will be presenting special music during the service. All are welcome!

Newsletter Deadline! All articles should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant **no later than today, September 15th.** You can submit articles by email or leaving a note in Allyson's mailbox. Thank you!

Junior Church will be held next Sunday, September 22nd 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.**

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>.

Fellowship Time is held the first Sunday of each month in the Mullendore Room from 10:20 am until 10:40 am. Cookies and coffee are served. All are welcome!

The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings are held the second Sunday of each month. The screenings 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.

GriefShare 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 has begun and will continue each Monday 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.

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.

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.

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**. Thank you!

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 15

Pastor Vacation/Pastor Steve Robison/Guest Preacher
 8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
 9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
 10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline
 3:00 pm 54th Annual Dunker Church Service/Sharpsburg, MD

Monday, September 16

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed
 6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room
 6:30 pm Deacon Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 17

Pastor Vacation
 12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Altruistic Room
 5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room
 6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting/Mullendore Room
 (Room location could change)
 7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 18

Pastor Vacation/Administrative Assistant/Work from home
 12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, September 19

Pastor Vacation
 5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
 6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room
 7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 20

Pastor Vacation
 8:00 am Bulletin prep. Time/Church office
 1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parkin Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, September 21

Pastor Vacation
 12:00 pm Ashby Wedding Rehearsal/HCOB—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 22

Pastor Vacation/Junior Church
 Guest Preacher/Pastor Eddie Edmonds
 8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
 9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
 10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
 2:30 pm Ashby Wedding/HCOB
 2:30 pm Field of Hope/Myersville, MD

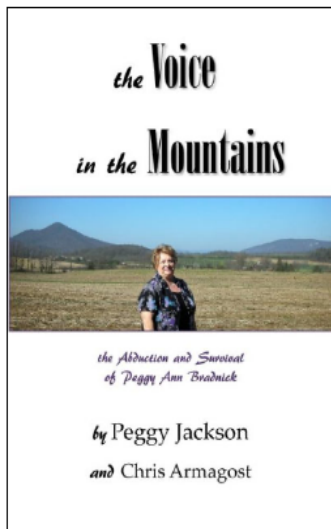
Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

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.

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

**** If you are unable to read the book, there is also a movie on Amazon Prime called "Cry in the Wild: The Taking of Peggy Ann" that tells Peggy Jackson's story****

**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 today, 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