

## To sow God's way

**Does it matter to God how we plant the seeds?** Yes, it does matter to God how the seeds are planted. His word reminds us to do it well for “we do not know which will prosper” (Ecclesiastes 11:6).

**What does it mean to sow wisely?** “He who wins souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30).

**Should it be tangible?** “Wisdom and knowledge should be the stability of your times” (Isaiah 33:6).

**Do our lives reflect that honorable living of tomorrow’s harvest?** Living in obedience should reflect that.

These are important questions we must ask daily in God’s presence to be guided and be the people he calls.

To live and sow his way is another way of living for me because it is soul living, and kingdom-purposed. I personally have been doing my best to sow God’s way. I want my life to be his reflection so that when I get home to him, I will be welcomed. I know that the labor is plenty, so I make sure to do my part daily with humility and grace that God provides. Love, peace, kindness, joy, and long-suffering are the fruits sown and I know how great the harvest will be. Even when I am no more, for God is faithful.

*Pray with me:* Lord, we are asking these questions to make sure that our daily living remains in your way, doing your will with the great commission by being good stewards of sowing in peace. Guide us to sow wholeheartedly without holding back what you provided for us to serve. Lead us to sow wisely so our lives may be examples of kingdom living. Teach us to sow beautifully so the harvest can be plentiful for those who need it. In Jesus' name, Amen!

— Founa Augustin Badet  
Delray Beach, Florida

“Peacemakers who *sow in peace* reap a harvest of righteousness” James 3:18, NIV). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1; Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54; James 3:13–4:3, 7-8a (18); Mark 9:30-37.

September 22, 2024. Photo of Haiti project by Global Food Initiative © Church of the Brethren.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

September 22, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Diana Shepherd, Worship Leader

**PRELUDE** "Immortal, Invisible" (Smith)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. Happy are those who find delight in God's law.

All: *God is always nearer than our next breath. We gather to become more aware of that presence.*

One: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous. They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

All: *There is always more to discover than we know. God is our teacher and helper and judge.*

One: Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve. Learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

All: *We seek to do good and not harm all our days. We would open our hands to the poor and needy.*

**\*HYMN #70** "Immortal, invisible, God only wise"

[Verse 1]

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious,*

*thy great name we praise.*

[Verse 2]

*Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might, thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains*

*of goodness and love.*

[Verse 3]

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish,*

*but naught changeth thee.*

[Verse 4]

*Great God of all glory, great God of all light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor*

*of light hideth thee.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

You watch over us, O God, and show us the way to prosper in life, not so much in things as in relationships that contribute to our wholeness and well-being. Thank you for meeting us here and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder and conflicts. We submit ourselves to you for instruction. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

With free-will offerings, we will sacrifice to God, giving thanks for mercies too abundant to count. We want to share all that has been entrusted to our keeping that God may be praised, and peace may come to all God's people.

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** "Autumn Glory" (Riggs)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. We who have spent much on our own pleasures are pleased to share that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. Amen.

**TEMPLE CHOIR ANTHEM** "O Word of God Incarnate" (How)

**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 #525**

*“How bless’d are they”*

*[Verse 1]*

*How bless’d are they who, fearing God, from sin restrain their feet,  
who will not with the wicked stand, who shun the scorner’s feet.*

*[Verse 2]*

*How bless’d are they who make God’s law their treasure and delight,  
and meditate upon that word with gladness day and night.*

*[Verse 3]*

*Their lives are nourished like a tree set by the river’s side  
its leaf is green, its fruit is sure, so all their works abide.*

*[Verse 4]*

*The wicked, like the driven chaff, are blown across the land.  
They shall not gather with the just, nor in the judgment stand.*

*[Verse 5]*

*The way of sinners, far from God, shall surely be o’er thrown.  
But God will guard the righteous well; their way is watched and known.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 1:1-6

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Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**MESSAGE**

*“The Believer Tree”*

Pastor Eddie Edmonds

**\*HYMN #447**

*“O Jesus, I have promised”*

*[Verse 1]*

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.  
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

*[Verse 2]*

*O let me feel thee near me, the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within,  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*

*[Verse 3]*

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control,  
O speak, and make me listen, thou Guardian of my soul.*

*[Verse 4]*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**\*POSTLUDE**

*“God Sends Us Along”*

(Loree)

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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 September 22, 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 22 - Great God, I step out in faith today on this adventure called life. I don't know all that lies ahead, but of one thing I am certain; and that is, that you will be with me. Please send your Holy Spirit to guide each action I take and to flow through each word I say. May your Spirit inspire me to take risks when it's necessary...so I can grow more fully into the person you created me to be; and so I can help make the lives of others better. Protect and guide me when the way seems rocky. I put my trust in you, O God, today and every day. With anticipation and joy, I offer this prayer. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Diana Shepherd 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.

**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.

**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.**

**The Service & Outreach Team** will once again be having our large community event—**Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat—on Saturday, October 19th from 1-4 pm.** We need many helpers. We will have bingo, children's games, and crafts for the children. We will have hotdogs, chili, chips, popcorn, water, snow cones, and cotton candy. There will be a cake walk. We will have a costume parade for the kids and of course, Trunk or Treat. Do you love to meet new people and share the good news about our Lord and Savior? Here's your opportunity. We also need adult and children's prizes for bingo. If you have any appropriate items, you no longer use, please donate them for this event. We also need cakes for the cake walk, and cookies and candy. If you would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat, let us know. There are sign-up sheets available in the west entrance. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Service & Outreach Team.

**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>.

**Non-Traditional Fall Love Feast** will be held Sunday, October 6th during both worship services.

**Fellowship Time** will be held Sunday, October 6th in the Mullendore Room from 10:20 am until 10:40 am. Cookies and coffee are served. All are welcome!

**The Mid-Atlantic District Conference** will be held on October 11th and 12th at Brownsville Church of the Brethren.

**The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings** will be held Sunday, October 13th. 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. Held the second Sunday of each month.

**Deadline for bulletins and newsletters.** Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to [secretaryhcob@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com). Thank you!



**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](http://griefshare.org). If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

**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.

## CALENDAR

### 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

### Monday, September 23

Church office closed  
 6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### Tuesday, September 24

6:30 pm Leadership Team/Room 302  
 7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, September 25

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

### Thursday, September 26

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

### Friday, September 27

8:00 am Bulletin prep. Time/Church office  
 1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)  
 4:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts Meeting/Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, September 28

Pastor Twyla's day off

### Sunday, September 29

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.*

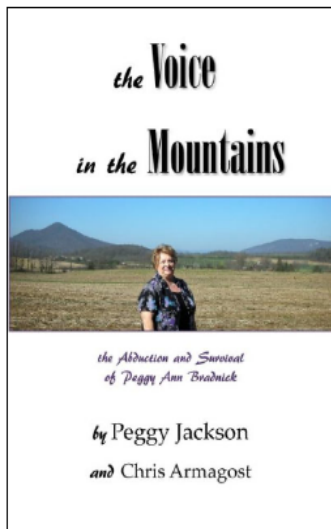
You may mail your offering to  
 15 S. Mulberry Street,  
 Hagerstown MD 21740  
 OR  
 you can make a secure offering  
 donation on our website using  
 PayPal [www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

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

**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

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!**