

## Do not be far from me

One of the most important moments in our life together as a church is the children's moment during worship. Many adults are uncomfortable bringing a story or life lesson to the children. Why? Because young people are full of unregulated, gloriously random questions. We adults don't always know how to handle those questions. We are too tuned in to the larger environment of being in front of our whole community. But how does it feel when a child draws near to the story teller? Is it to learn more? Is it to be the first one to say "Jesus" or "love" when asked any question? I believe that for both the storyteller and the child, it is a feeling of safety.

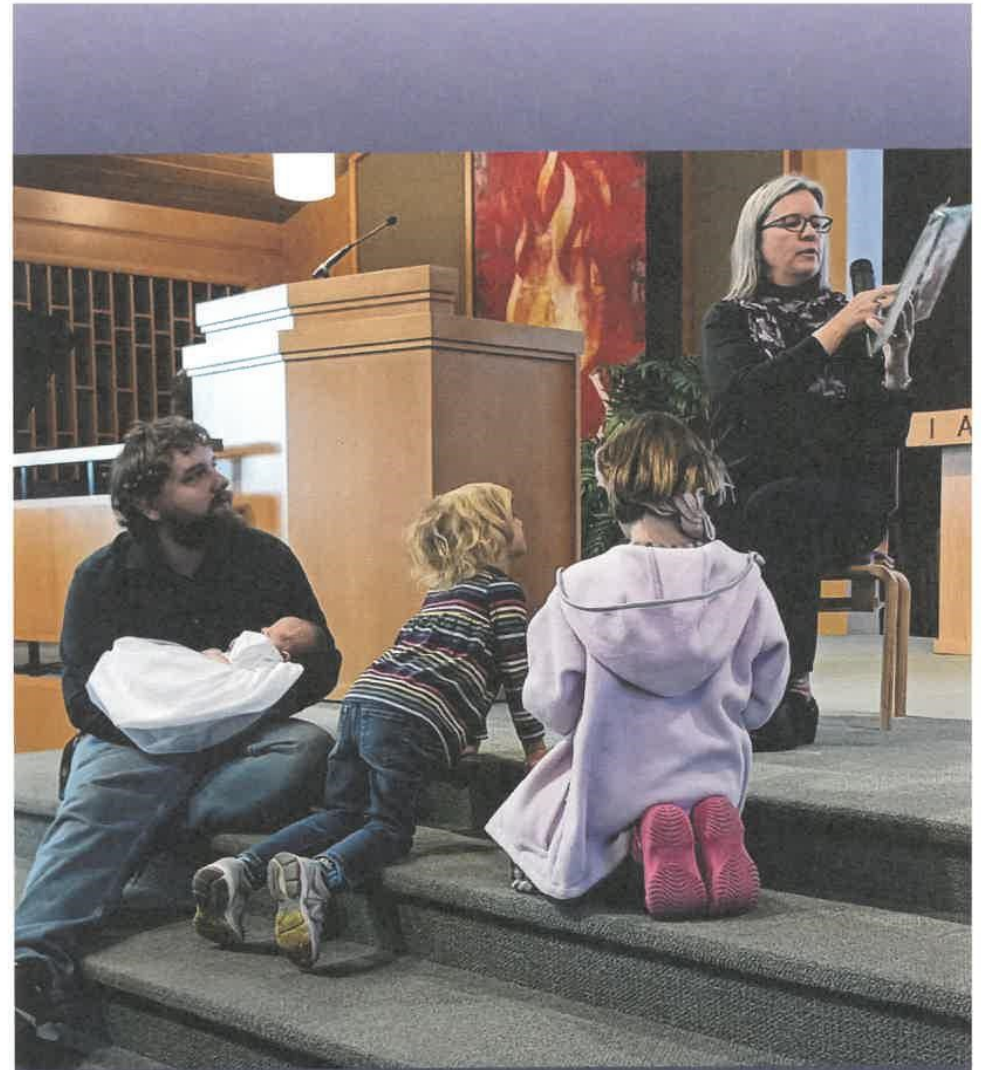
We draw close to one another when our nervous systems are shouting for peace. And when all around us, chaos is raising its angry and threatening fist toward the safe places of our lives, we look up to God with our own raised fists and palms and cry, "Do not be far from me."

Psalm 22 is a calamitous and aggressively bleak poem that speaks our overwhelm. Our children and our grownups feel the chaos and uncertainty of their personal and global surroundings. Children instinctively know to draw near to safety. Sometimes, gathering up close on the chancel steps on a Sunday morning, next to an adult who is saying something, feels like drawing close to God. It feels like a moment when God has prepared the reach toward us, for our safety and calm. "Do not be far from me," our aching and waiting hearts say.

—Amy S Gall Ritchie  
North Manchester, Indiana

*"Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help"* (Psalm 22:11, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15; Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31.

October 13, 2024. Photo © Anna Lisa Gross. Used by permission.  
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*Do not be far  
from me*

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

October 13, 2024

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Chris Stockslager, Worship Leader

**PRELUDE** "I Surrender All" (Thyngerson)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, all who look for God with unseeing eyes. Come, all who listen for God but hear nothing.

All: *Oh, that we knew where to find God! We want to hear and understand God's word.*

One: The word of God is living and active. It pierces and judges and opens us to God's grace.

All: *We cannot hide from God who knows us. God understands our thoughts and intentions.*

One: Leave everything to follow Jesus in this hour. This is the time to embrace new ways.

All: *Here we set the patterns for everyday life. Here we are strengthened for every day's challenges.*

**HYMN #565** "My faith looks up to thee"  
[Verse 1]

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine. Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.*

[Verse 2]

*May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire. As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.*

[Verse 3]

*While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide. Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.*

[Verse 4]

*When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll, bless'd Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove. Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

We seek to gather as children of your realm, reigning God. This is the time and place of your dominion. We recognize that you, not we, prescribe the rules under which life can be rich and full and free. Help us in this hour to embrace the best we know. Open our thoughts and feelings so we may learn better ways. We approach you with boldness, daring to question and make requests, knowing that your grace and mercy exceed our wildest imagining, and your guidance is ever available to those who ask. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Jesus said to the young questioner who asked about eternal life: "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." As long as our reliance is on things we have accumulated, our Christian discipleship is threatened. We give out of thanks to God and concerns for our neighbors.

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** "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" (Peterson)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. Thank you, God, for the wealth you have entrusted to us. As we share a portion of that wealth, we pray that it may never become the object of our affection. Keep our focus on people and relationships and lasting values, rather than on the possessions we accumulate. We dedicate our time, money, and ourselves to the reign of God among us, praying that all whom our gifts may reach may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Amen.

**MORNING ANTHEM** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Owenby)  
Temple Choir

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*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 #545

*“Be thou my vision”*

*[Verse 1]*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*[Verse 2]*

*Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word; I ever with thee, and thou with me,  
Lord. Thou my great Father, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling,  
and I one with thee.*

*[Verse 3]*

*Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight. Be thou my dignity, thou my delight, thou  
my soul’s shelter, thou my high tower. Raise thou me heav’nward,  
O Pow’r of my pow’r.*

*[Verse 4]*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou  
and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*[Verse 5]*

*High King of heaven, when vict’ry is won may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s  
Sun! Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31

NT 46

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’ ” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and

said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

### MESSAGE

“Ruler or Ruled?”

Pastor Eddie Edmonds

### 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

“Epilogue of Praise”

(Ritter)

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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      October 13, 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 for the week beginning Sunday, October 13 - God, as I look around me, I can't help but see all that I have, and I give you thanks. I confess that I can be very possessive of my stuff...my financial resources, my material wealth, my time and my talents. Please forgive me when my grip is so tight on all that I have and when my desire for more is strong; and therefore, I neglect Jesus' teaching to surrender all that is necessary...freeing me to follow him without restraint and to serve others. I pray for those who are poor. I pray for those who don't know you. I ask for your guidance as I seek to give of what I have to help others with these needs. I pray for my church family as we seek to wisely, according to your call, use what is given for your purposes. I pray especially now for those who have experienced great losses due to the recent hurricanes. Comfort them and help them to rebuild their lives. Oh, Lord, hear my prayer. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Chris Stockslager for being our worship leader today, to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem and a special thanks to Pastor Eddie Edmonds for being with us today while Pastor Twyla is away.

**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.

**The Flower & Altar Committee** is looking for one or two volunteers to help with Sunday flower sponsors and parament changes for the months of May and November. If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay.

**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 Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings** will be held today. 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.

**Ministry Team CBM Report Deadline**—All Ministry Team Congregational Business Meeting reports are **due on or before October 15th** to the Administrative Assistant. Please email the report to me or place in my mailbox. Thank you!

**The Christian Education Team** will be meeting in the Mullendore room on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:30 pm, and will be a combined meeting with Sunday School and Junior Church Teachers. If you have any questions, please see Brenda Shane. Thank you!

**Newsletter Deadline!** All articles should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant **on or before October 15th.** You can submit articles by email or leaving a note in Allyson's mailbox. Thank you!

**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.

**Our November Congregational Business Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 3rd in the Fellowship Hall, following the late service. We will have a covered dish carry-in meal. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken, drinks, and paper products. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Please sign up and bring a side dish to share. Thank you!

**Remembrance Sunday, November 3rd.** Please invite family and friends to come and join us in our worship service on November 3rd as we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have passed in the last year.

**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.

**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!

**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](mailto:secretaryhcob@gmail.com).** 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.

**Don't forget to check your church mailbox** for the third quarter contribution statements. Please help us save money on postage by checking your mailbox. Thank you!

**GriefShare®** 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.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, October 13**

Pastor Eddie Edmonds On Call/Junior Church

Pastor Eddie Edmonds/Guest Preacher

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, October 14**

Church office closed

6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### **Tuesday, October 15**

Ministry Team Reports Deadline for CBM

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/HCOB

12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting/Mullendore Room

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, October 16**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

10:30 am Caring & Sharing/Mullendore Room

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### **Thursday, October 17**

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

### **Friday, October 18**

8:00 am Bulletin prep. Time/Church office

1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

### **Saturday, October 19**

Pastor Twyla's day off

1:00 pm Community Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

### **Sunday, October 20**

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

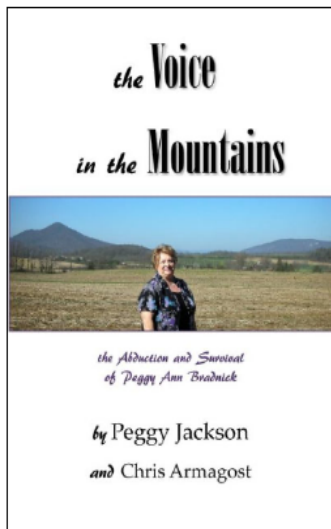
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

*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.

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!**



GRIEF SHARE

# SURVIVING the HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and while most of us look forward to the holidays, they are a time when the complex emotions of grief hit even harder. Consequently, grieving people need encouragement and support to make it through this season. This may be the first holiday after a loved one's passing, or perhaps it's been years since a loved one's death. Regardless of the time that has gone by, emotions can blindsides a person who has suffered a loss. While Thanksgiving and Christmas focus on family gatherings, traditions, expectations, social events and "cheer," it's difficult to feel cheerful when that special someone is no longer here. However, the emotional fallout can be lessened somewhat by knowing what to expect and by being prepared.

The GriefShare team is planning a special event entitled **Surviving the Holidays** on Wednesday, November 6, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. You do not need to be part of the current GriefShare group to attend, and we encourage you to invite family and friends to attend with you. There is no cost to attend this event. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to participate in our **Surviving the Holidays** evening, register at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). If you have any questions, please direct them to Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

### Surviving the Holidays

**Date:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Mullendore Room

*Light refreshments will be served.*