



Tidings

December 2024



Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren is to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and glorify the Lord by striving to live as Christ lived experiencing the power of God's healing in our lives. We seek to nurture our faith community through prayer, music and the proclaimed Word, while enthusiastically reaching out to others with compassion, respect and love for everyone so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.

VISION STATEMENT

The Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, A Living Peace Church: A caring community gathered round the Risen Christ that
 ...Welcomes the stranger
 ...Empowers our neighbors
 ...Embraces the diversity among all people as we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
 15 South Mulberry Street,
 Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
 Telephone: 301-733-3565
 secretaryhcob@gmail.com

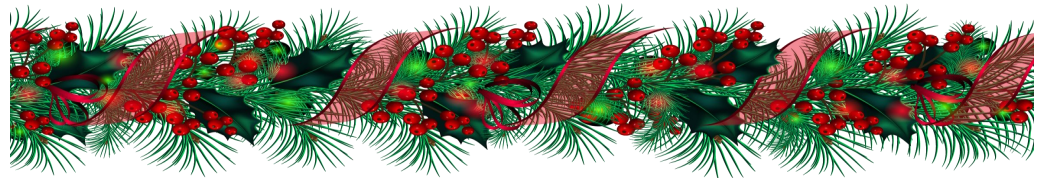
Office: Tuesday—Friday
 Flexible hours
 (appointments welcome/
 call ahead)

Praise Worship 8:30 AM
 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Worship and Facebook Live at 10:45 AM

<http://www.hagerstowncob.org>
facebook.com/hagerstowncob

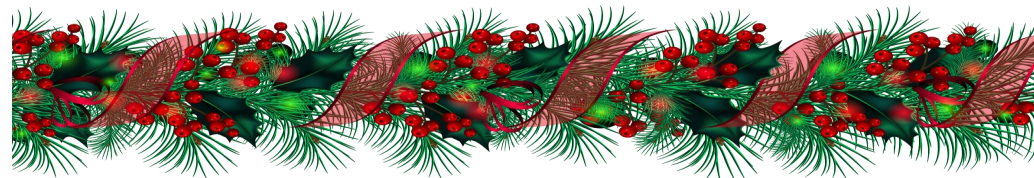
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May the Joy of Christ be born again
 in your heart this Christmas.

Merry Christmas! from the staff at
 Hagerstown Church of the Brethren,
 Allyson, Burt, Don, Pastor Twyla



"Christmas Time"

By Lenora McWhorter

At Christmas, lights burn brighter,
 and friendly hugs get even tighter.
 The spirit of Christmas fills the air,
 and people seem to really care.

Merry hearts are filled with cheer.
 Families and friends all draw near.
 The streets around are all filled
 despite the cold winter chill.

Everywhere there's smiling faces,
 giving and receiving warm embraces.
 And for a time, sadness disappears.
 Peace, joy and hope replaces fear.

All because God's love came down
 and filled the earth all around.
 So, we celebrate at Christmas time
 our Savior and Lord, holy, divine!

We honor Jesus throughout the year
 so, the Christmas spirit will linger near.
 For the story of His birth is ours to tell
 that Jesus became our Emmanuel!



Christmas Eve Service

Everyone is invited to the Christmas Eve celebration service of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and worship the newborn King through a traditional service of singing carols, listening to the angelic voices of the choir and the heavenly tones of the bell choir and the organ, and hearing the Christmas story, and we will also celebrate communion. Symbolizing the Light that came to the world on that holy night long ago, we will hold light high as we recommit our faithfulness to carry the light into the world. The Christmas Eve offering will be going to the Good Samaritan Fund and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come...let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

Sundays in December

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
12/01/2024	Twyla Rowe	Brenda Shane	“Hope”	Luke 21:25-36	Emma Lyles	Advent 1/Fellowship Time/ Advent Christmas Dinner
12/08/2024	Twyla Rowe	Larry Wisherd	“Love”	Luke 3:1-6	Virginia Nalley	Advent 2/Junior Church/ Parish Nurse
12/15/2024	Twyla Rowe	Eunice Plank	“Joy”	Luke 3:7-18	The Graham’s	Advent 3
12/22/2024	Twyla Rowe	Jack Finniff	“Peace”	Luke 1:39-45	Diana Shepherd	Advent 4/Junior Church
12/24/2024	Twyla Rowe		“Good News!”	Luke 2:1-14		Christmas Eve/Bread & Cup Communion
12/29/2024	Pastor Eddie Edmonds	Lisa Bussard			Chris & Kristal Bricker	New Year’s!

Both services follow same sermon & text. All information subject to change without notice.



**Bread and Cup
Communion**

**Christmas Eve
Service
December 24, 2024
All are invited.**



**Christmas Caroling
at Fahrney-Keedy**

Sunday, December 8th
at 2:00 pm

We will meet at Fahrney-Keedy and begin caroling in the Chapel, then caroling through the village. Please join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Ferguson.

2025 Pocket Directory

Our pocket directory is a year-round work in progress. Updates are added as we are made aware of them, but with our busy lives, sometimes we don't remember to pass our changes along to the church office.

Do you have any changes to your information that need to be included in the 2025 edition? If you do, either email, call, or leave a note for Allyson no later than **December 15th**. Directories will be printed after the first of the year.

Thank you!
secretaryhcob@gmail.com



Holiday Schedule


*Pastor Twyla will be on vacation
December 2nd—December 4th
&
December 26th - December 31st.*

*The Administrative Assistant will be on
vacation December 25th— December
31st.*



December 15/ 3:00 PM @ St. Ann Roman Catholic Church
“Noel We Sing”

December 26th/ 4:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church



James & Laura Minnick
11017 Clinton Ave. (40)

Remove email:
larnoahark@verizon.net

Nancy Mullinex
New phone number
240-203-2674

Larry & Theresa Messer
Remove phone #
301-739-8222

Add: 301-465-9952

Kaye Rhodes
New email:
imkayel@yahoo.com

Please email any changes to Allyson at
secretaryhcob@gmail.com
or place a note in her mailbox

Inclement Weather Policy

If inclement weather is forecasted be sure to:

- Check your email—we will send out a group email as quickly as possible if the decision to cancel in-person worship is made.
- Check our Facebook page—Hagerstown Church of the Brethren (facebook.com/hagerstowncob) we will post updates there as well.

If we do hold in-person worship, and if you are uncomfortable driving in bad weather, please join us on Facebook Live. Be safe first and check your email!



Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings

Our Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings are held the second Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore Room before the 10:45 AM worship.



From HARC News:

Good news! The Salvation Army shelter for women and children has reopened! As we enter the cold weather season, we are grateful to our friends at Salvation Army for providing this important service for women and families who have nowhere else to go. Along with this news, we have an updated Homeless Street Guide, provided by the Homeless Coalition, and HARC has updated our list of Washington County Shelters, which has more details.

If you would like a copy of the list, please stop by the church office.



Home Communion & Anointing

Persons desiring a pastoral visit, home communion, spiritual direction, or a service of anointing, are invited to call the church office at 301-733-3565.

Anointing with oil for the healing of body, mind or spirit is offered upon request. Please contact the pastor to receive this ministry of healing and faith commitment.

Intercessory Prayer is an important ministry of our congregation. If you have a prayer request, contact Judy Dahlhamer at 301-797-1326.



A Stocking for Jesus

*We celebrate each Christmas
Jesus Christ's great birth,
We remember the gift He is to us
and that our souls have worth.
Let us watch all through the season
for gifts to Jesus we would give,
we'll put them in His stocking
And know that He still lives.*

-Unknown Author

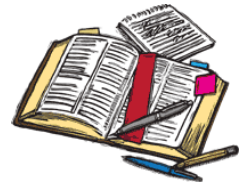


The first Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items, place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food.

We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community!

Just a reminder - all items should be either dry, boxed, or in cans. Please do not bring in anything in a glass jar that could break and injure a recipient or our volunteers.

Daily Bible Reading



DECEMBER

- ◇ 1 Malachi
- ◇ 2 Acts 19-20
- ◇ 3 1 John 4-5
- ◇ 4 Deuteronomy 23-25
- ◇ 5 Nehemiah 5-9
- ◇ 6 Psalm 140-142
- ◇ 7 Song 1-2
- ◇ 8 Revelation 1-6
- ◇ 9 Acts 21-22
- ◇ 10 2 John
- ◇ 11 Deuteronomy 26-28
- ◇ 12 Nehemiah 10-13
- ◇ 13 Psalm 143-145
- ◇ 14 Song 3-4
- ◇ 15 Revelation 7-11
- ◇ 16 Acts 23-24
- ◇ 17 3 John
- ◇ 18 Deuteronomy 29-31
- ◇ 19 Esther 1-5
- ◇ 20 Psalm 146-148
- ◇ 21 Song 5-6
- ◇ 22 Revelation 12-17
- ◇ 23 Acts 25-26
- ◇ 24 Jude
- ◇ 25 Deuteronomy 32-34
- ◇ 26 Esther 6-10
- ◇ 27 Psalm 149-150
- ◇ 28 Song 7-8
- ◇ 29 Revelation 18-22
- ◇ 30 Acts 27-28
- ◇ 31 *****

Check out the church calendar at www.hagerstowncob.org
Click the calendar tab!



JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church will be held the second & fourth Sunday of each month. This is open to ages Kindergarten through Grade 6.

We will gather in the Rainbow Room (#205) 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, or parents may accompany them.

Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance.

Christian Education Ministry Team

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). If you can't pick them up on a Sunday, we can make arrangements to leave cards in a church mailbox or snail mail them to you.

December 2024 Schedule

Please check the weekly bulletin and the online calendar for changes as they happen. Our schedule is subject to rapid changes.

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent/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
12:00 pm Advent Christmas Dinner/Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 2

Pastor Vacation/Church Office Closed
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, December 3

Pastor Vacation
7:00 pm Hag, Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

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

Friday, December 6

Hood & Forsythe Wedding Rehearsal Dinner/HCOB
8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, December 7

Hood & Forsythe Wedding/HCOB
Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent/Junior Church
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
2:00 pm HCOB Caroling at Fahrney-Keedy

Monday, December 9

Church Office Closed
6:30 pm Deacon Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 pm Hag, Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 11

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

Thursday, December 12

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

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

Pastor Twyla's day off
8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Breakfast is open to the public 9-10:30am)

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent
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 "Noel We Sing" HCA Concert
@ St. Ann Roman Catholic Church

Monday, December 16

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302
7:00 pm Hag, Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 18

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
4:00 pm Kiwanis Club Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

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

Saturday, December 21

Pastor Twyla's day off
12:00 pm Christian Ed/Christmas Party "Happy Birthday
Jesus"/Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm Poinsettia delivery/HCOB
6:00 pm Adult Sunday School Christmas Party/Fellowship
Hall

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent/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, December 23

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve
7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25

Church office closed for Christmas Holiday
Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

Thursday, December 26

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

Friday, December 27

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, December 28

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

Sunday, December 29

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, December 30

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation
Church office closed

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve
Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation
6:30 pm Leadership Team/Room 302
7:00 pm Hag, Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall



A Stocking for Jesus

*We celebrate each Christmas
Jesus Christ's great birth,
We remember the gift He is to us
and that our souls have worth.*



*Let us watch all through the season
for gifts to Jesus we would give,
we'll put them in His stocking
And know that He still lives.*

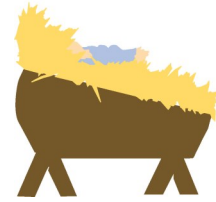
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Community Breakfast Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 14, 2024
9:00—10:30 am

Our next Community Breakfast will be held in March. There will be no Community Breakfast held the months of January and February. Thank you for your continued support to this wonderful ministry!



*Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

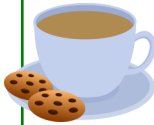


Homebound
MINISTRY

We are reaching out to our homebound members through phone calls, cards, or personal visits. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please contact Mary Means.

Fellowship Time Sunday, Dec. 1st

We're in need of volunteers to provide goodies for Fellowship Time, held the first Sunday of each month from 10:20 am—10:40 am. Goodies may be your favorite recipe or a delicious store bought treat. Suggestions include cookies, muffins, or doughnuts (3-4 dozen of whatever you choose) and may be dropped off in the Mullendore Room (the room behind the wing of the sanctuary) that morning. Beverages and paper products are provided. Please sign up on the sheet located in the west entrance, or contact Kristal Bricker or Amy Hardy. Thank you for help-



Save the Date!

Our service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 9-16, 2025. For all those who have volunteered in the past or plan on volunteering in 2025, please add this week to your calendar. Thank you for your continued support!



If you watch us live on Facebook, please click the "like" button. This will aid us in keeping attendance.
Facebook.com/hagerstowncob

HCOB Website Update


In the next week or two, our website will be updated to a new design with additional information but it is still a work in progress. If you find any information incorrect or missing, please contact Mary Early at—webmaster@hagerstowncob.org. Also, if you have photos that you think could improve any of the pages, you may send them to the same address.



Please remember to use the mailboxes in the hall outside the church office if you are giving Christmas cards to your church family. Please check your mailbox often. You never know what might be in there. Blessings & Have a Merry Christmas!


- Your Spiritual Nurture Team

The Puzzle Page for December 2024

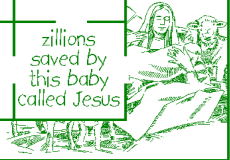


The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter **A** and finishing with a word starting with the letter **Z**.



	angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	easel
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg	fast
holy	glory	flocks	Earth	feathers	gap
inn	jacket	grapes	peace	quiet	hat
Joseph	king	Lord	only	righteous	shepherds
kelp	loop	Mary	night	unique	tidings
last	maze	paper	wise men	virgin	water
open	nest	word	eXcitement	young	zillions saved by this baby called Jesus



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, feathers, gap, holy, glory, flocks, Earth, feathers, gap, inn, jacket, grapes, peace, quiet, hat, Joseph, king, Lord, only, righteous, shepherds, kelp, loop, Mary, night, unique, tidings, last, maze, paper, wise men, virgin, water, open, nest, word, eXcitement, young, zillions saved by this baby called Jesus

Yuletide GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



What you do:

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6 NIV



Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
15 South Mulberry Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740



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Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson N. McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics Technician

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

December 15, 2024 @ NOON

BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.
All articles submitted for inclusion in the
Tidings are subject to editing.
All dates and times listed are subject
to change without notice.

**2025 Annual
Conference Logo**

