

## God said go, so I went!

If my life were an album, “Where I send you, you must go,” would certainly be a fitting title. Growing up Brethren, I learned to appreciate the value of service at a young age. When I was old enough to start going on workcamp trips, or FaithX as we now call it, I jumped at the opportunity to serve. God sent me to New Orleans, Louisiana; Portland, Oregon; and Lybrook, New Mexico. I traveled on my own as the only youth attending from our congregation. Yet, God said go, so I went!

Later, I applied to several very competitive colleges and was devastated when I didn’t get accepted into any of them. Instead, I decided to accept a call to serve with Brethren Volunteer Service. I had planned to join BVS *after* college, but God’s plan said otherwise. After careful discernment and a somewhat impatient waiting time at orientation, I was placed at Creation Justice Ministries in Washington, D.C. Again, God said go, so I went!

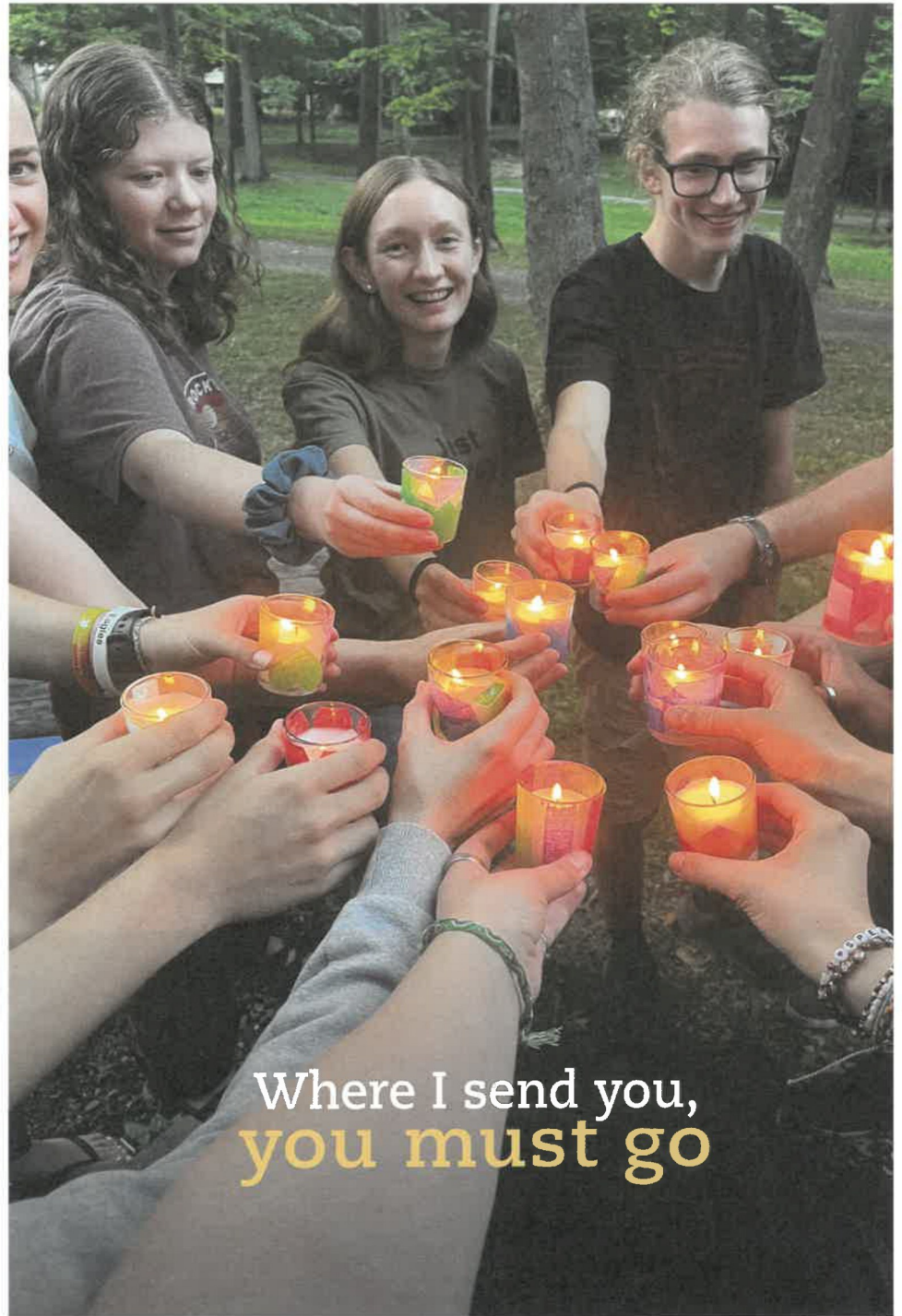
Finally, after college graduation, when I was qualified to serve at an international project, I chose the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan. While waiting for documents to be in order, I went to serve with Brethren Community Ministries (bcmPEACE) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania as an interim assignment. Five months at bcmPEACE turned into ten, and seven more months waiting on my paperwork for ARI had me seriously doubting where God was trying to send me.

When the waiting became too much to bear, I decided that if I didn’t hear from Japan the following day, I would find another project. In the middle of the night, I was woken up by an email notification informing me that my paperwork was ready! As I sit writing this reflection from the library of ARI, I am reminded of how powerful God’s call is. If God sends you somewhere, then by all means, go!

—Chloe Soliday  
Saxton, Pennsylvania

“The LORD responded, ‘Don’t say, “I’m only a child.” *Where I send you, you must go*; what I tell you, you must say” (Jeremiah 1:7, CEB). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13; Luke 4:21-30.

February 2, 2025, Service Sunday. Photo of Brethren Volunteer Service orientation by Benjamin Hoffmann © Church of the Brethren. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2025 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



Where I send you,  
you must go



*Even if they do, they'll only get mad.  
You'd do better to find someone else—  
someone older, someone younger,  
someone more articulate,  
someone with more courage,  
someone with more faith.*

*But still, we hear our call and your promise.*

*Forgive our feet of clay—  
when we try and evade your call,  
when we make excuses,  
when we doubt your presence,  
when we reject your prophets,  
when we reject ourselves.*

*In the opportunities and challenges in our lives,  
help us see that you are there,  
and help us respond in faith, hope, and love.*

**HYMN #505**

*"I am thine, O Lord"*

[Verse 1]

*I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me.*

*But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.*

[Verse 2]

*Oh, the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend, when I kneel in  
prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend!*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.*

[Verse 3]

*Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the pow'r of grace divine.*

*Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine.*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**MORNING ANTHEM**

*"On Eagle's Wings"*

(Hayes)

**SCRIPTURE READING** Jeremiah 1:4-10

OT 698

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

**MESSAGE**

"God Knows Our Capabilities" Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #395**

*"Here I am Lord"*

[Refrain]

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

[Verse 1]

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.*

*All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.*

*I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.*

*Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

[Refrain]

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

[Verse 2]

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.*

*I have wept for love of them. They turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.*

*I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

[Refrain]

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*[Verse 3]*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.*

*I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.*

*Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.*

*I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?*

*[Refrain]*

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

**\*POSTLUDE**

*“Scherzo”*

*(Ridout)*

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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  
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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 February 2, 2025**

**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 on Sunday, February 2 - God, who calls me by name to serve in the worst of times and in the best of times, I humble myself before you in prayer. You place on my heart your confidence in me using my talents to fulfill a specific call to work beside Christ to help build Your kingdom. I confess, I'm not always excited about jumping into the opportunities put before me. I sometimes look for and make excuses for choosing not to do something. Forgive me, God, when I too quickly dismiss your call to serve. Send your spirit to convict me to come in prayer to you for wisdom when making these decisions. Remove my anxieties and apprehensions when I feel challenged; and at the same time, I know you need me to do or say something. I am Yours, O God...so, take me, mold me and use me. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Don Rowe for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem. A special thanks to Becky Jackson for filling in for Burt while he 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 flowers on the altar this morning** are to celebrate Chris Herman's birthday from his loving wife, Julie and son, Brennan.

**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.

**Small Good Samaritan bags** of food can be found in the west entrance closet. Please feel free to give a bag to someone on the parking lot who is asking for help.

**The 2025 pocket directory** is available this morning. Copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall. Please check your information and advise the church office if any changes need to be made. Updates to the directory will be published in the monthly newsletters so you can update your copy of the directory. **Note: Printing started on 1/21/25. Any changes or additions after that date are not in the directory.**

**The Property & Finance Ministry Team** has been researching a new database software for the church. With approval from the Leadership Team, they have chosen Breeze and will be implementing this new software in the coming weeks. Breeze includes a more efficient payment processor for giving your offering online and the fees are cheaper than PayPal. We will discontinue use of PayPal once Breeze is available. The manner in which you give through our website will stay the same, the processor will be Breeze instead of PayPal. We will keep you updated as we get closer to the roll-out of Breeze. If you have any questions, contact Chris Stockslager.

**breeze** It's time to sign up for a Patron ad for in the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response auction booklet. Patron ads are for those individuals who want to support disaster relief. The annual auction is the district's largest fundraiser for this. Patron ads can be purchased for ten or more dollars. Please contact Daryl Long or Arn Platou to place your ad, but do it quickly. We have an early deadline this year and all checks and forms need to be in Elgin before **February 7th** to be included in the booklet. Checks need to be made out to HCOB.

**HCOB T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, tote bags and hats are now on sale.** The Service & Outreach Team are taking orders through February 26th. The colors offered for shirts, sweatshirts, & hoodies are gray, royal blue and orange. Pricing starts at \$20.00. The tote bags (14x13x6.5) come in all black, black & gray, and black & blue. The cost for the tote bags is \$25.00. Two types of adjustable hats are also for sale. The cost for the hats is \$18.00. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Please contact Suzie Wolfe if you have any questions.

**Prayer Walk**—The Service & Outreach Team will be having our annual Prayer Walk on Saturday, February 8, 2025. We will be preparing 160 bagged meals which we will be distributing to our neighbors in the downtown area. We are in need of hats, gloves, socks, blankets and small personal-care items. If you would like to donate any of these items, a box will be available in the west entrance.


**It's almost here!** Our week to staff the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 9-16, 2025. We need to cover all roles Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday that week. The most important responsibility we have is providing an evening meal each of those days. The Tuesday meal and servers are covered, and the

Thursday meal is covered. We need servers Thursday, and we still need meals/servers on Sunday and Saturday. Also looking for volunteers to assist with Search, Laundry, and Hospitality. At this time of the shelter season, supplies are getting low. You will find a list of REACH needs in this bulletin. Starting February 16, and through March 9, we will be collecting donations of items on this list. Donations will be taken to REACH during our week at the shelter. Any donations will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Sandy Clipp at 240-291-8753 if interested in serving at REACH or if you have any questions.

**Bread & Soup Sunday**—The Spiritual Nurture Team would like to have a fun Bread & Soup Sunday after church on February 16th, to celebrate Valentines Day and the love for our congregation. If you would like to attend, please see the sign up sheet in the west entrance and Fellowship Hall. Sign up to bring a soup, bread, or dessert as well.

**We're in the season for high heating costs.** We remind everyone to please keep doors closed to the sanctuary, fellowship hall, church entrances, hallways, and church office. All classroom doors (2nd and 3rd floor) should stay open. Thank you for your awareness and cooperation.

**If you have changed your email address,** and would like to continue to receive the bulletins, eTidings, and other church related news as it happens please send the change to secretaryhcob@gmail.com.

 We grieve many things in life, but the loss of a loved one is probably the most devastating. There is no magical timeline that points to the end of the grieving process, and healing from that loss often can last our lifetime. However, HCOB offers GriefShare, a worldwide, faith-based, grief recovery support group ministry for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend. GriefShare is a series of 13 weekly sessions that put grief into context in an understandable, life-affirming and manageable process, even if the loss is not recent.

**Our spring session of GriefShare will begin on Monday, Feb. 17, and continue each Monday evening through May 12,** but you may join the program at any time during the 13 weeks. If you were a previous participant in the GriefShare program and wish to repeat the classes, our team (\*Pastor Twyla, \*Debbie Nycum, Cinnamon & Brian Shay, Deb Long, Robin Davies, Brenda Shane) encourages you to do so.

**Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Mullendore Room**

There is no cost to attend. However, if you decide to participate, we ask you to consider giving a \$10 donation to offset the cost of a workbook and commit to attending at least 3 consecutive classes. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one and you are interested in this program, register at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). If you have questions, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, February 2

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, February 3

Church office closed

### Tuesday, February 4

6:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting/Room 302

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Zoom

### Wednesday, February 5

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### Thursday, February 6

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

### Friday, February 7

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office

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

### Saturday, February 8

Pastor Twyla's day off

10:00 am Prayer Walk/HCOB

### Sunday, February 9

Pastor Vacation after Worship/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

*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.

## 2024/2025 Reach's Cold Weather Shelter Needs List

*Donations are accepted Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.  
Thank you for your generous support!*

### Personal Care

Women's Underwear (sm-med)

Mens Boxers (M-XL)

Belts (of any size)

Deodorant

Flip-Flops (For Showers)

Hand Warmers

Ponchos

Shaving Razors

Individual Sized Hygiene Items  
(Shampoo, Toothpaste, Conditioner,  
Lotion)

### Miscellaneous

XL Food Storage (Plastic containers or  
Tupperware - can be new or slightly  
used!)

Twin or Twin XL Comforters

### Cleaning Supplies

39 Gallon Trash Bags

13 Gallon Trash Bags

Napkins

Laundry Pods

Toilet Paper

Tissues

Paper Towels

Mold & Mildew Cleaner Spray

### Food & Drink

Coffee & Tea Bags

Sugar

Creamer

Cereal

Granola/ Snack Bars

Pop-Tarts

Oatmeal (Single Packs)

(Items in **BOLD** are those which we are in greater need!)

\*Due to an abundance of supply: No bar soap or feminine pads please ☺

\*\*Due to limited storage space, we cannot accept clothing donations unless specifically noted on the list. Please take clothing donations to Trinity Lutheran Clothing Bank (Potomac & Randolph).