



Tidings

March 2025



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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The Pastor's Pen

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

It was a short time ago when we were in the advent season, we were reminded of these words from Isaiah. John the Baptist referred to them as he began his mission for God by preaching about a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He paved the way for Jesus to begin his ministry among the people of that day.

Here we are now, on the doorstep of another season of Lent and these words from Isaiah call us to a time of preparation again. Ash Wednesday is on March 5 this year. We will gather for worship that evening which will serve as a reminder of our own mortality and the need for reconciliation with God. It marks the beginning of the season of Lent, which is the 40-days leading up to Easter, is a season of reflection on our relationship with God.

The Bible does not explicitly mention Lent. Every day we should have in mind and work on our relationship with God; but, this is a time we have traditionally set aside specifically for remembering the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Lent is often referred to as a wilderness period. It is a season of reflection that challenges us to practice self-discipline, to ask for forgiveness and seeking repentance and for the strengthening of faith. The hope is that we emerge from the season with a renewed, stronger, faithful relationship with God.

Many people choose to give-up something during this time. The discipline of doing this is thought to call us to give more attention to seeking God. However, the practice of giving-up something should include a plan of what we might add to our lives to improve our faithfulness to God. I came across a list of suggestions written by a Baptist pastor in Richmond, Virginia, Matt Smethurst. I am going to share these with you to inspire you to consider how you might add something to your journey of faith:

Having given up junk food for a healthy diet, what will you do with the energy you gain?

Having given up reading magazines, what will you read now?

Having given up Facebook, to whom will you devote meaningful conversation?

Having given up lunch, how will you rely on God for the strength of "food from heaven"?

Having given up TV as a default activity, how will you use that time to cultivate quality family time?

Having given up isolation, how will you immerse yourself in community?

Having given up shopping, will you see those who need clothing in your city?

Having sacrificed whatever form of selfishness you indulge, how will you meet the needs of others?

The practice of giving something up for Lent is a way of entering into the wilderness with Jesus. We don't ever enter a period in the wilderness alone. Jesus is with us and will help us. Make it your plan and goal to know Christ more fully, and trust him to lead you. Seek to replace that thing with devotion to Christ—his Word and his mission. Don't be afraid if God leads you to give up and take up more as you continue your faith journey even after the season of Lent comes to an end. Remember, God gave us a Living Savior to help us on the journey.

Blessings, Pastor Twyla





Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
03/02/2025	Twyla Rowe	Ed Beachley	"Listening"	Luke 9:28-36	Kathy Kelsey	Transfiguration Sunday/ Fellowship Time
03/09/2025 Lent 1	Twyla Rowe	Julie Herman	"Temptation"	Luke 4:1-13	Karolyn Martin	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
03/16/2025 Lent 2	Twyla Rowe	Rebecca Jackson	"A Line in the Sand"	Gen. 15:1-12; 17-18	Bob & Judy Long	
03/23/2025 Lent 3	Twyla Rowe	Diana Shepherd	"Should We Wait?"	Luke 13:1-9	John & Jenny Ferguson	Junior Church
03/30/2025 Lent 4	Twyla Rowe	Robin Davies	"Out with the Old and in with the New"	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Janet Goller	

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



- Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 5th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Lenten Services will be held on March 19th & 26th; April 2nd & 9th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speakers are as follows:
 - March 19—Esther Boleyn
 - March 26—Ella Amaya
 - April 2—Suzie Wolfe
 - April 9—To be announced

Director/Co-Director Needed for VBS

The Christian Education Ministry Team is looking for a Director or Co-Directors for this year's Vacation Bible School, tentatively scheduled for the week of June 23rd. The candidate need not have prior experience, just a love for children and a desire to help them learn about and experience God's love. As Director (or Co-Directors), you will be surrounded by a "village" of volunteers who will work alongside you to support you and help make VBS a fun and memorable experience. If you are interested, please reach out to any CE member: Deb Long, Tina Mills, Tracie Poteet, Kay Ogilvie, or Brenda Shane. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Inquirer's Class

An Inquirer's class is being scheduled for those who are interested in: being baptized, joining the church, by transfer of letter, learning more about the Church of the Brethren, or taking a refresher course. The class will be held for six weeks on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30) beginning March 2 and going through April 6. The classroom is yet to be determined. Pastor Twyla will be teaching the classes. At the end of the six weeks, you will be asked if you want to join HCOB and a date will be scheduled to receive new members during worship. Five people have already expressed interest in taking the class. If you are interested, please tell Pastor Twyla.

breeze

HCOB has implemented Breeze as our new church management software. This provides a more efficient way to give your offering online. We have discontinued use of PayPal. If you had a recurring payment to the church set up in PayPal, access your PayPal account and discontinue the payments. You can set up new one-time or recurring payments in Breeze by visiting hagerstowncob.org and clicking on the Donate button. If you have questions, contact Chris Stockslager.



Our service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 9-15. All critical roles are covered!! What a blessing! If anyone is interested in providing an activity (i.e. bingo, games, music, haircuts, etc) one of our nights, please let me know. Donation collection boxes will remain in the West Entrance until March 9. Thank you to everyone for your support of this important outreach ministry. *Sandy Clipp*



The Service & Outreach Team will be collecting the large tissue boxes (9"x4 1/2"x3") for the residents of Fahrney Keedy. We ask that you wrap the tissue boxes in spring colors (no bows or ribbons needed). The Team will take the tissues to Fahrney Keedy on Saturday, March 22nd when we host their monthly birthday party. There will be a box for the tissues in the west entrance from March 2nd to March 16th. Thank you so much. The residents love the soft tissues.



Community Breakfast

Saturday, March 8th
9:00—10:30 am

Our Community Breakfast is held the second Saturday of each month.



The Service & Outreach Team asks that you save the dates for the following two important events. Community Picnic: Saturday, 06/07/25 and the Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat: Saturday, 10/18/25. We need your help with these events.

Lent





Shepherd's Spring 35th Anniversary Celebration will be held May 17th. The planning team is needing volunteers to help with planning and coordinating the event. If you would like to join the Shepherd's Spring planning team, please contact David Rogers, SS Board of Directors at 703-623-2887 or derogers47@gmail.com



Registration is open!
Main Hike:
 Saturday, May 31, 2025

Challenge Hike:
 Saturday, May 17, 2025

<https://harccoalition.org/hike/>



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.

Daily Bible Reading



MARCH

- ◇ 1 Numbers 14-15
- ◇ 2 Numbers 16-17
- ◇ 3 Numbers 18-20
- ◇ 4 Numbers 21-22
- ◇ 5 Numbers 23-25
- ◇ 6 Numbers 26-27
- ◇ 7 Numbers 28-30
- ◇ 8 Numbers 31-32
- ◇ 9 Numbers 33-34
- ◇ 10 Numbers 35-36
- ◇ 11 Deuteronomy 1-2
- ◇ 12 Deuteronomy 3-4
- ◇ 13 Deuteronomy 5-7
- ◇ 14 Deuteronomy 8-10
- ◇ 15 Deuteronomy 11-13
- ◇ 16 Deuteronomy 14-16
- ◇ 17 Deuteronomy 17-20
- ◇ 18 Deuteronomy 21-23
- ◇ 19 Deuteronomy 24-27
- ◇ 20 Deuteronomy 28-29
- ◇ 21 Deuteronomy 30-31
- ◇ 22 Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 90
- ◇ 23 Joshua 1-4
- ◇ 24 Joshua 5-8
- ◇ 25 Joshua 9-11
- ◇ 26 Joshua 12-15
- ◇ 27 Joshua 16-18
- ◇ 28 Joshua 19-21
- ◇ 29 Joshua 22-24
- ◇ 30 Judges 1-2
- ◇ 31 Judges 3-5



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.

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.

Cash for Causes/ Martin's Gift Card Program

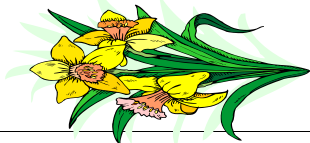
Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution.

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.

Easter Flowers Order Form

Your name: _____
Amount enclosed _____

The Easter season is approaching and it is time to order Easter flowers. Everyone is invited to purchase a flower for Easter morning. Flowers are as priced below and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. Form may be either placed in the offering or mailed to: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St., Hagerstown MD 21740.



All orders must be received by March 16. Payment must accompany this form. We need to order early so the greenhouse can place the order with its supplier and get our flowers here on time.

Lilies: White only [] Number of plants \$11.50/each

Mums: Yellow [] Number of plants \$10.00/each
Purple [] Number of plants \$10.00/each

Large Daffodils: [] Number of plants \$12.50/each

“Mini Gardens” [] Number of pots @ \$11.00/each
(Mini daffs and violas in the same planter)

(please print)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN TRIBUTE TO: _____

THANKS TO: _____

The Novel Bunch presents...

Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen

by Susan Gregg Gilmore

Sometimes you have to return to the place where you began to arrive at the place where you belong.

This novel focuses on a young girl's attempt to escape the confines of her hometown and find her place in the world. In the early 1970s, the town of Ringgold, Georgia, has a population of 1,923, one traffic light, one Dairy Queen, and one Catherine Grace Cline. The quick-witted, extremely stubborn daughter of Ringgold's third-generation Baptist preacher, Catherine Grace feels trapped in her small-town life and longs for more.

Every Saturday afternoon, she sits at the Dairy Queen, eating Dilly Bars and plotting her getaway to Atlanta, where she feels her life will be transformed and she will find happiness. When the dream becomes a reality with the help of a family friend, Catherine Grace immediately packs her bags and leaves behind her family and the boy she loves to claim the life she's always imagined. But before things even begin to get off the ground in Atlanta, tragedy brings Catherine Grace back home. As a series of extraordinary events unravel to alter her perspective and bring sweeping changes to Ringgold, Catherine Grace begins to wonder if her place in the world may actually be, against all odds, right where she began. The major theme of this novel is forgiveness, which causes the reader to ponder...how do we really forgive?

“Readers of Southern stories will enjoy the poignant self-discovery journey of this lovable heroine.”—Tampa Tribune

Date: Saturday, May 17

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Place: Fellowship Hall

Light refreshments 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





HCA
HAGERSTOWN
CHORAL ARTS
INC.

Presents

**THE ROAD
HOME**

**Featuring
Randall Thompson's
"Frostiana" and
other works to lead
you home...**

HAGERSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
15 S. MULBERRY STREET
HAGERSTOWN

MARCH 2, 2025
3:00 PM

FREE CONCERT WITH
GOOD WILL
OFFERING

March 2025 Schedule

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

Saturday, March 1

Pastor Twyla's day off
10:00 am Prayer Walk/HCOB

Sunday, March 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
3:00 pm HCA Concert/ HCOB Sanctuary

Monday, March 3

Church Office Closed
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 4

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday/Administrative Assistant Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary

Thursday, March 6

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

Friday, March 7

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

Saturday, March 8

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

Sunday, March 9

First Sunday in Lent/Junior Church/Daylight Saving Time
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, March 10

Church office closed
5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 11

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 12

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 13

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

Friday, March 14

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

Saturday, March 15

Pastor Twyla's Day off
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, March 16

Second Sunday in Lent
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, March 17

Church office closed/St.Patrick's Day
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 18

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Altruistic Room or Mullendore Room
5:00 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm Christian Ed. Meeting/Room 302
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 19

Administrative Assistant Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 20

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

Friday, March 21

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

Saturday, March 22

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 23

Junior Church/Third Sunday in Lent
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, March 24

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

Tuesday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 26

Administrative Assistant Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 27

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

Friday, March 28

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

Saturday, March 29

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, March 31

Church office closed
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

SAVE THE DATE

Our May Congregational Business Meeting will be held on May 4, 2025

The Puzzle Page for March 2025



"Friends"

Look up the verses below to find the missing person in each pair of friends. Write the circled letters on the blanks at the bottom.

David &	— — — — ○ —	2 Samuel 15:37
King Agrippa &	○ — — — —	Acts 25:13
Naomi &	○ — — — —	Ruth 1:22
Paul &	— ○ — — —	Acts 16:25
Joshua &	— — — ○ —	Numbers 14:6
Peter &	— — — ○ —	Luke 5:8-10
Job &	○ — — — —	Job 2:11
Elijah &	— ○ — — —	2 Kings 2:1-14
Zophar &	— ○ — — —	Job 2:11
Jonathon &	— — — ○ —	1 Samuel 18:1
Peter &	— — — ○ —	Luke 5:8-10
Jesus &	— ○ — — —	John 11:20
Jesus &	— — — ○ —	John 11:5
Timothy &	— — — ○ —	2 Timothy 1:1
Jesus &	○ — — — —	John 11:5
Mary &	— — — — ○ —	Luke 1:39-40
Job &	— — — ○ —	Job 2:11
Aaron &	○ — — ○ —	Exodus 4:27
"	— — — — —	"
	— — — — —
		Proverbs 17:17a

Make a Friendship Bracelet

You will need:

- 2 colors of embroidery floss or yarn
- scissors
- a friend

Here's how to make it:

1. Cut a 24" piece of each color floss or yarn.
2. Each person takes an end of both pieces in one hand.
3. Hold the two pieces together and pull to tighten.
4. Each person twists their end to the right. Keep it tight.
5. When it's twisted as much as it can be, fold the twisted rope in half.
6. Twist to the right again.
7. Tie around your friend's wrist.
8. Make another for yourself.

Answer: Hushai; Festus; Ruth; Silas; Caleb; John; Bildad; Elisha; Job; David; James; Mary; Martha; Paul; Lazarus; Elizabeth; Eliphaz; Moses

"A friend loves at all times"

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

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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)

Praise Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 AM
Worship and Facebook Live at 10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org
www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob

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**

March 15, 2025 @ NOON

BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
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2025 Annual
Conference Logo

