

Shouts of joy

Loud, extravagant, uninhibited joy! The 2023 centenary celebration of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) was a months-long party that made its way around the country to various regions of EYN, with events mixing worship and song, dance and prayer, preaching and proclamation. What scripture could be more appropriate than Psalm 126 to accompany an image of joy from that celebration? For the people of EYN had gone out with tears not very many years before, and God brought the church back from the brink. Now, Nigerian Brethren are celebrating God's faithfulness in bringing growth to their church.

The psalm, reimagined:

When the Lord restored the fortunes of EYN, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the people of Nigeria, "The Lord has done great things for them."

ZME, the women's choir, sang, "The Lord has done great things for us."

Men's choirs sang, "The Lord has done great things for us."

Youth groups and evangelism teams danced and rejoiced.

We prayed during so many years of suffering and loss and grief,
"Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Sahel,
like the lifegiving rainy season that refills the wells of northeast Nigeria."

We who have wept so many tears, we who lost everything,
we who were kidnapped by Boko Haram, we who were displaced in IDP
camps,

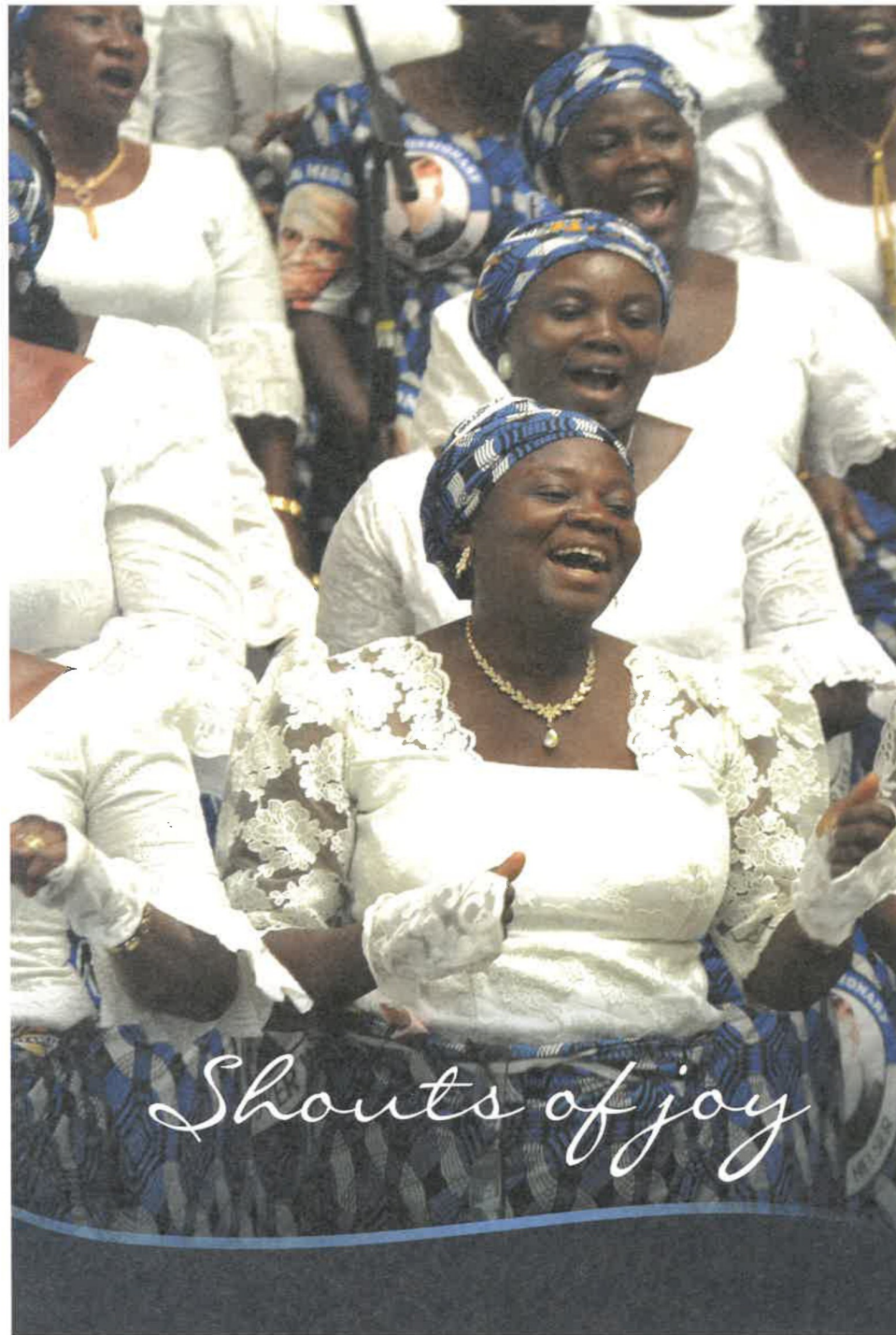
may we, who have sown in tears, reap with shouts of joy.

Truly, those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

—Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford
Elgin, Illinois

"Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with *shouts of joy*; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them'" (Psalm 148:1, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8.

April 6, 2025, Fifth Sunday of Lent. Photo of EYN Centenary by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford © Church of the Brethren. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2025 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

April 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday in Lent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD LAST WEEK?

PRELUDE "Looking Toward the Cross" (Smith)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Brenda Shane, Worship Leader

One: Spring is breaking forth!

All: In all the land, new life is happening!

One: Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy

All: Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.

One: Let us worship God with a full sense of joy and expectation.

All: Let us open our hearts, our spirits, our souls, to God's lavish love.

***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, unhasting, 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**

Creator God, this is the day that You have made! This is the day you have called Holy: the Sabbath day, a rest day, a time-out, out of the world and into the presence of God: a day for rejoicing. Make us glad this morning in the House of the Lord. Remove from us our distractions, our heart-worries, our to-dos and should-haves and all the constant stress and strain. And in its place, O God, give us more of You. Here in your House, our hearts are filled with peace our mouths with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy. Fill us to brimming and overflowing with the joy of the Lord: A good measure of God, pressed down, shaken together and running over. We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed, to be together in the House of the Lord!

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

The most lavish gifts we can bring are never enough to thank God for all we have received. Yet the tiniest offerings we present do not escape God's notice when presented with full commitment and devotion. Let us give as we are able.

You are invited to place your offering in the plate at the front of the chancel during the offertory or after the service. If you are watching on facebook live or the HCOB webpage, we virtually pass the offering plate to you. You can prepare your offering to be mailed or to be dropped off at the church this week; or you can use Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory "Lenten Meditation" (Denton)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Receive our costly offerings and our best efforts, here dedicated for your use. May Christ be proclaimed and the poor be saved from the terrors of suffering and neglect. Fill the hearts of all your children with laughter and joy. To that end, bless our offerings. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "Calvary Medley" (Arr. Allen)
Temple Choir

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 #110 *“Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing”*

[Verse 1]

*Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God
and King, the triumphs of his grace.*

[Verse 2]

*Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music to the sinner’s ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.*

[Verse 3]

*He speaks, and list’ning to his voice new life the dead receive, the mournful, broken
hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.*

[Verse 4]

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth
abroad the honors of thy name.*

[Verse 5]

*Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever giv’n by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav’n.*

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 126

OT 572

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

MESSAGE

“Anticipating Joy”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #427

“You shall go out with joy”

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.
There’ll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap,
will clap their hands.*

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands.*

*The trees of the field will clap their hands,
while you go out with joy.*

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

*POSTLUDE

“Let There Be Joy”

(Miller)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Fifth Sunday
in
Lent

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

[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 April 6, 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 for the week beginning on Sunday, April 6 - Loving God, this day was made by you and given as a gift to me... so I am going to rejoice and praise you! It's an amazing feeling to get out of bed in the morning and to be welcomed by your love for me. Your love has no limits. I can see that as I gaze on all that you created. I am reminded of the unfathomable depth of your love every Easter season. How can I not rejoice! It's because of your love that I can begin each day anew... leaving the old behind...to walk afresh in hopefulness and peace. Thank you, God, for loving me. Amen.

Our thanks to Brenda Shane for being our worship leader today and to the 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.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ed Brewer, by Donna Brewer and family.

Our Lenten Service will be held on April 9th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Bea Van Norden.

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. All items collected will go to Holly Place.

First Quarter Contribution Statements can be found in the church mailboxes. If you do not have a church mailbox, your statement will be mailed. If you're new to HCOB and have been using an envelope and didn't receive a statement, please email or call the church office.

Love Feast and Good Friday. You are invited to attend the following worship events as a time for personal reflection:

- *April 17th (Maundy Thursday) at 7:00 PM – Love feast and Communion in the Fellowship Hall.
- *April 18th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary- Good Friday service.
- *Both Love Feast and Good Friday Services will be on Facebook.

Let's help get our college students across the finish line!! It's that time again. The Christian Education Ministry Team is asking for donations that we will assemble into care packages for our college students. We are preparing for four students. The care packages are our way of showing love and support to our students as they prepare (or cram, perhaps!) for final exams as the spring semester comes to a close. We are asking for donations of non-perishable, pre-packaged, single serve items. (PLEASE...no homemade goods. Save those for when the kids come home at the end of the semester.) We are looking for items that would include chips, Doritos, cookies, crackers (again, single serve bags or packages, please), bottled water, granola bars, candy, gum, mints, microwave popcorn, etc. We know studying for finals can be stressful and we want to ease the stress as much as we can. So please use your imagination and add items like bubbles, Play Doh, a stress ball, etc as you see fit. There will be a specially-marked box in the lobby area of the West Entrance. Please have all donations to the church by Sunday, April 27th. If you have any questions, please direct them to any member of the Christian Education Ministry Team (Brenda Shane, Debbie Long, Tina Mills, Tracie Poteet, or Kay Ogilvie). Thanks for your help!

The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 27th at 9:00 am, Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined service at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.

Our May Congregational Business Meeting will be held May 4, 2025. We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our 10:45 am Worship and following lunch, we will have our Congregational Business Meeting.

The Novel Bunch Presents... Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen by Susan Gregg Gilmore. Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend, please see the insert in the latest Tidings or you can find copies of the sign up sheet on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

When you leave items at the mailboxes for someone else to retrieve, please call or email them to alert them the item is there. Remember you may need to follow up with them to make sure they've gotten the item. Thank 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.

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. 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**. Thank you!

Warm, sunny weather is here! We want to take this opportunity to remind you that in the warm weather many of the neighborhood children ride bikes, trikes, skateboards, and scooters, on our parking lot. They're often low to the ground and moving fast so please be on the lookout for them when you visit the church. When on foot, please also be on the lookout for cars speeding through the parking lot to "beat the light" at the corner.

Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and at other convenient locations around the church. To assist our financial secretary, we ask that you use an envelope and please put your name and envelope number on the outside. Here's a tip - take a few envelopes home and stick one of those return address labels we all get on the outside. Then all you need to add is your number. Having your name and number on the outside of the envelope is a huge help to our offering counters. Thank you!

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent/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, April 7

Church office closed

6:30 pm Griefshare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, April 8

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 9

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 Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 10

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 11

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, April 12

Pastor Twyla's day off

8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Breakfast open to the public 9-10:30 AM)

Sunday, April 13

Junior Church/Palm Sunday

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 Easter Egg Hunt/Linden Hall Farm

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
Breeze www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

Hygiene Kits Are Needed

The Service and Outreach Ministry Team and Sue Vanderveer are asking for supplies for Hygiene Kits. Kits are put together and delivered to Church World Service which will then send them to areas of need in the United States and other parts of the world.

Items needed are:

Hygiene Kits – you will need:

- ◆ One hand towel measuring approximately 15” x 28” to 16” x 32” (no fingertip or bath towels)
- ◆ One washcloth
- ◆ One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth, no pocket combs or picks, rattail and combs without handles are acceptable)
- ◆ One nail clipper removed from the package
- ◆ Ten standard size Band-Aids®

We have a supply of soap and toothbrushes, we are not in need of those things this year.

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Tubes of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added by others to the Hygiene Kit just prior to shipment. Items may be placed in the collection container in the West Entrance. Contact Sue Vanderveer if you have questions.

Hygiene Kit value: \$15
Processing/Shipping Cost: \$2 per Kit
Thank you!

Watch for a collection box in the west entrance, or contact Sue Vanderveer if you want to donate items.



The Christian Education Ministry Team is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for ALL children on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 2 PM at Linden Hall Farm (Brian and Nicole Forsythe’s farm) located at 10226 Downsville Pike, Hagerstown MD.

We are in need of:

- Volunteers to fill eggs (see the tote in the west entrance)
- Volunteers to help the day of the hunt. We’ll need folks to help hide the eggs, give out snacks and drinks and help with a craft.

We are also asking for donations of:

- Bottled water (small, please)
- Individual sized bags of various snacks
- Cash contributions that will be used to purchase special prizes.

While we can’t provide a number of children who will attend, we do not anticipate a large number, perhaps 20 or so.

All children are encouraged to bring a friend. (Grandparents, your grandchildren are also welcome!)

Please have all donations brought to the church by Friday, April 10th.

If you’d like to help or have any questions, please see any member of the CEMT; Kay Ogilvie, Tina Mills, Tracie Poteet, Debbie Long, or Brenda Shane.

Thank you for helping us offer the children an afternoon of fun!!



Plant sale petal power!



This spring, let's harness the good in God's earth to help families who lose their homes to flooding and other disasters.

By planting a few extra perennials or annuals, or veggie, herb, berry and other plants, or groundcovers, trees, and shrubs, each of us can **GROW** money for Brethren Disaster Ministries!

Please pot and label each plant. Bring it to Arn Platou at HCOB on Friday, May 2, at a time to be announced or bring it to the **Plant Sale** at our District COB's Disaster Response fundraiser at Carroll County Ag Center no later than 9 a.m. on Plant Sale day, Saturday, May 3.



And, **stay awhile!** You may find new plants, as well as quilts and crafts to love and take home!!

Questions? Email Arn Platou at Arnwrite@myactv.net