

Children of God

When presented with the picture on the cover, I was delighted to recognize it, and the children holding hands, immediately. I was blessed to have visited the Church of the Brethren in Spain through FaithX, and to witness boundless energy, joy, and laughter, as they scurried innocently around the church. In that space, surrounded by parents and extended family who embody and model biblical hospitality, these kids are loved, nurtured, and safe. And I caught myself wondering how these excitable, happy children might grow in faith if they continue to be raised and viewed as beloved children of God.

As a youth leader, I often contemplate the challenges facing young people early in spiritual formation and how to best walk alongside them. There is an anxiousness, an angst or troubledness, that surfaces with so many youths I've encountered. I remember beginning a lesson during a church lock-in around the biblical command to love our neighbors as ourselves and being floored by the first question from one of my middle school students, "What if we don't love ourselves?" Ponder that for a minute.

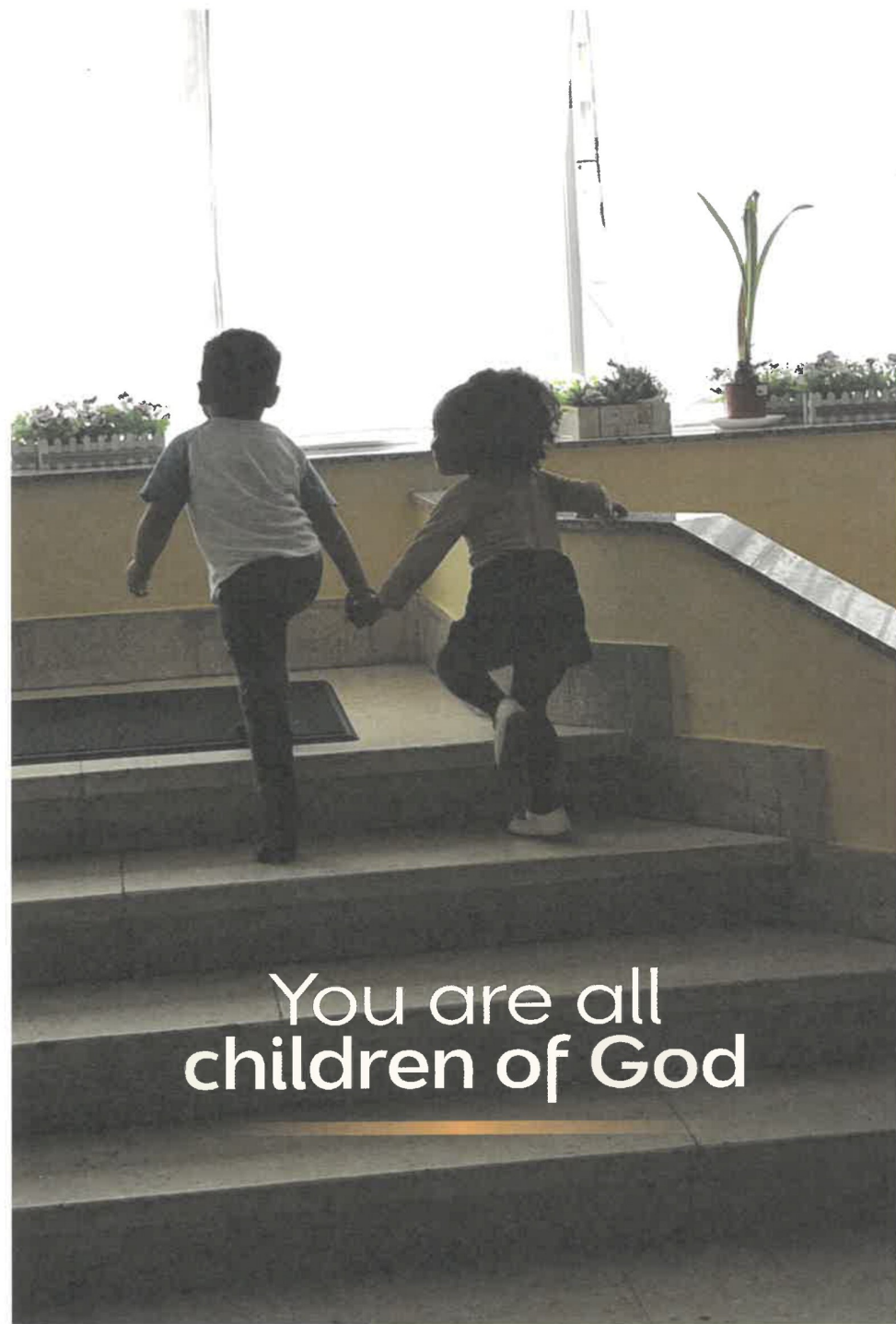
The lesson quickly pivoted to exploring the knowledge that we are each made in God's image and the small steps we might take to transform self-perception. We talked about starting our days with self-affirmations and the importance of lifting up one another. I left that day with the reminder to clothe myself with Christ for the ambitious and rewarding work of recognizing everyone I meet as a child of God.

Of course, remembering that we are all children of God through faith in Jesus is not just a lesson to benefit children and youth. We would each be well-served to keep this in mind as we attempt to walk through the world similarly to the children pictured, hand in hand.

—Colin Scott
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

"But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus *you are all children of God* through faith" (Galatians 3:25-26, *NRSVue*).
Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43; Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39.

June 22, 2025. Photo by Smith Gameti © Church of the Brethren.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

June 22, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Virginia Nalley, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "We Live By Faith" (Smith)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We come together as the family of faith.

All: We assemble to honor the Living God.

One: Through Christ we become God's holy household.

All: In Christ we are bonded together to be God's people.

One: Our worship is united into oneness by the Holy Spirit.

All: In communion with the Holy Spirit, let us celebrate our unity.

***HYMN #4** "Unto Thy Temple"
[Verse 1]

*Unto thy temple, Lord, we come with thankful hearts to worship thee, and pray that
this may be our home until we touch eternity;*

[Verse 2]

*the common home of rich and poor, of bond and free, and great and small; large as
thy love forevermore, and warm and bright and good to all.*

[Verse 3]

*And dwell thou with us in this place, thou and thy Christ, to guide and bless. Here
make the wellsprings of thy grace like fountains in the wilderness.*

[Verse 4]

*May thy whole truth be spoken here, thy gospel light forever shine, thy perfect love
cast out all fear, and human life become divine.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

We gather today as fellow travelers. Some of us are on the mountaintops of life, celebrating milestones. Some of us are traveling the deepest and darkest of valleys. But we gather together today, regardless of where we are on our journey, seeking the same thing: God's presence. Lord, we gather seeking you on our journeys. Be with us today in this worship in a way that gives us hope for the future. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Look around us today, at this gathering. We are a community of people who want to follow Jesus. We share so much with those early Christians who "struggled in the work of the gospel" but also found joy in the Lord, joy in the life they shared together. No matter what we are carrying this morning, or what we face, we are not alone. At this moment in our worship, we're invited to share what we have so that others will find the same welcome, and the same joy that we have known. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshipping with us on Facebook Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory "I Am A Child of the Father" (Birchwood)
***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray: Receive these offerings that we bring today O God as a sign of our gratitude for all that you have done and all that you have given us. Bless these gifts to your work of building your kingdom. Amen.

CONSECRATION OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Introduction of Teachers and Helpers

VBS Teachers and Helpers Response:

We have heard God's call to teach and lead Vacation Bible School for our church.

We teach, trusting in God's support, sustaining grace and empowerment for this task.

We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives.

We teach, depending on our church family to uphold us in prayer, love and support.

Congregational Prayer: Loving God, you have entrusted us with the message of your love for everyone. We ask for your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners together. Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart those who would serve in our Vacation Bible School. May they serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered here, enabling them to be channels of your grace.

We pray all these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Also, God, we pray for each child who attends. May each one be blessed by your presence through our service to them; and may each one carry your teachings from this experience. Amen.

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.

CALL TO PRAYER #353 “Lord, listen to your children”

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace!

(x2)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING ANTHEM “My Song Will Be for You Forever” (Haas)
Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 3:23-29 NT 189

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

MESSAGE “United and Free” Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #306** “In Christ there is no East or West”

[Verse 1]

*In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love through-out the whole wide earth.*

[Verse 2]

In him shall true hearts ev’ry where their high communion find.

His service is the golden cord close binding human kind.

[Verse 3]

Join hands, then, people of the faith, whate’er your race may be.

All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

[Verse 4]

In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North.

All Christly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE “The March of Faith” (Taylor)

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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

[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 June 22, 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 Sunday, June 22 - My Lord...my God, with all that is in me I praise your holy name. In the good times, I feel the energy of your smile and joy, sending my spirit soaring to incredible heights. In the stormy times, I know you are there...even though I may be unable to feel your presence, especially when the intensity of the storm is wildly turbulent. The warmth of your comforting arms and the security of your guiding spirit, can calm the storms that can strike at any time. I know I am covered everyday with your love protecting me from harm and helping me to rise above the lies that try to tell me that you do not care and attempt to pull me away from you. Forever I will remain faithful and put my trust in you. Amen.
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 arrangement on the altar is to the Glory of God and in loving memory of mother Gladys Kershner and mother-in-law Catherine Gehr, by Nancy Gehr.

Our thanks to Virginia Nalley for being our worship leader today and to our Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205) or The Children's Sunday School Room (Room #203).** (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

The VBS Team will be setting up the Fellowship Hall for VBS after the 10:45 am worship service today. Anyone who can join us will be appreciated.

Vacation Bible School starts tomorrow! June 23rd through the 27th from 6-8PM each evening. Experience Jesus through music, stories, science activities, games, and snacks.

In partnership with World Mission, our kids and adults have the opportunity to donate to Operation Kid - Kid. A \$5 donation can provide \$70 of new warm clothing and blankets for a child in North America. Questions Contact Kathy Kelsey

HCOB has a YouTube Channel! Moving forward, all service will be uploaded to YouTube. This change is necessary due to Facebook's updated policy, which now only retains uploaded videos for 30 days. We have also met our goal of 50 subscribers! More information will be available in the coming weeks when we are ready to start streaming the services through YouTube. For the time being, we still encourage you to subscribe to the channel if you haven't done so already and share it with others and you can do so by going to www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Fellowship Time — 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 helping to make Fellowship Time possible!

Annual Conference will be held July 2—6, in Greensboro, North Carolina. The theme this year is "Faith Working Through Love". Please remember to pray for your delegates, Ginny Nalley, Kathy Kelsey, and the conference.

The Church Directory. Summer is almost here and that's a great time to update your information in the church directory. If you have recently changed phone numbers or emails, please send any changes/updates/additions to the administrative assistant at secretaryhcob@gmail.com or leave a note in her mailbox.

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.

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.

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.

Church mailboxes. Everyone is welcome to use the mailboxes. If you would like to be added or taken off the list, please contact Mary Means. If you have a mailbox, we ask that you be willing to monitor it. Any mail that is left in the mailboxes after a three-month period will be disposed of. The mailboxes are located in the hallway of the church office.

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!

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!

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.

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!

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.

CALENDAR

Sunday, June 22

Junior Church

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 Summer Handbell Ensemble/Choir Room

Monday, June 23

Church office closed

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School/HCOB

Tuesday, June 24

5:30 pm P&F Meeting/ Edna Horst Room

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School/HCOB

Wednesday, June 25

Administrative Assistant Work from Home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School/HCOB

Thursday, June 26

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School/HCOB

Friday, June 27

8:00 am Bulletin prep. Church office

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

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School/HCOB

Saturday, June 28

Pastor Twyla's Day off

Sunday, June 29

Guest Organist/Cheryl Wilson

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
Breeze www.hagerstowncob.org

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