

When I feel most alive

The times when I've felt most alive are often when I'm in touch with nature, or very in touch with my own body in time and space.

When I am being held in a loving embrace, I feel alive. I can often feel the other person's heartbeat, and my own, which makes the feeling all the more profound.

I feel alive when my bare feet are touching the ground, when the sun is on my face, when I feel raindrops on my head or wind on my cheeks, when I am looking up at the open sky—either in the full light of the sun, or at night, with the vast darkness and pinpricks of light from the stars.

I feel alive when I wake up from an especially restful nap, and when I sit on my front step in the fresh air, with a cup of coffee or tea in my hand, facing the morning sun. When I am seeing a friend I haven't seen for a long time, or when a relationship that has been broken experiences repair and reconciliation, I feel alive, grounded, and deeply grateful. When I can climb out of my own oppressive thoughts and be present to another person in all their humanity, I feel more alive.

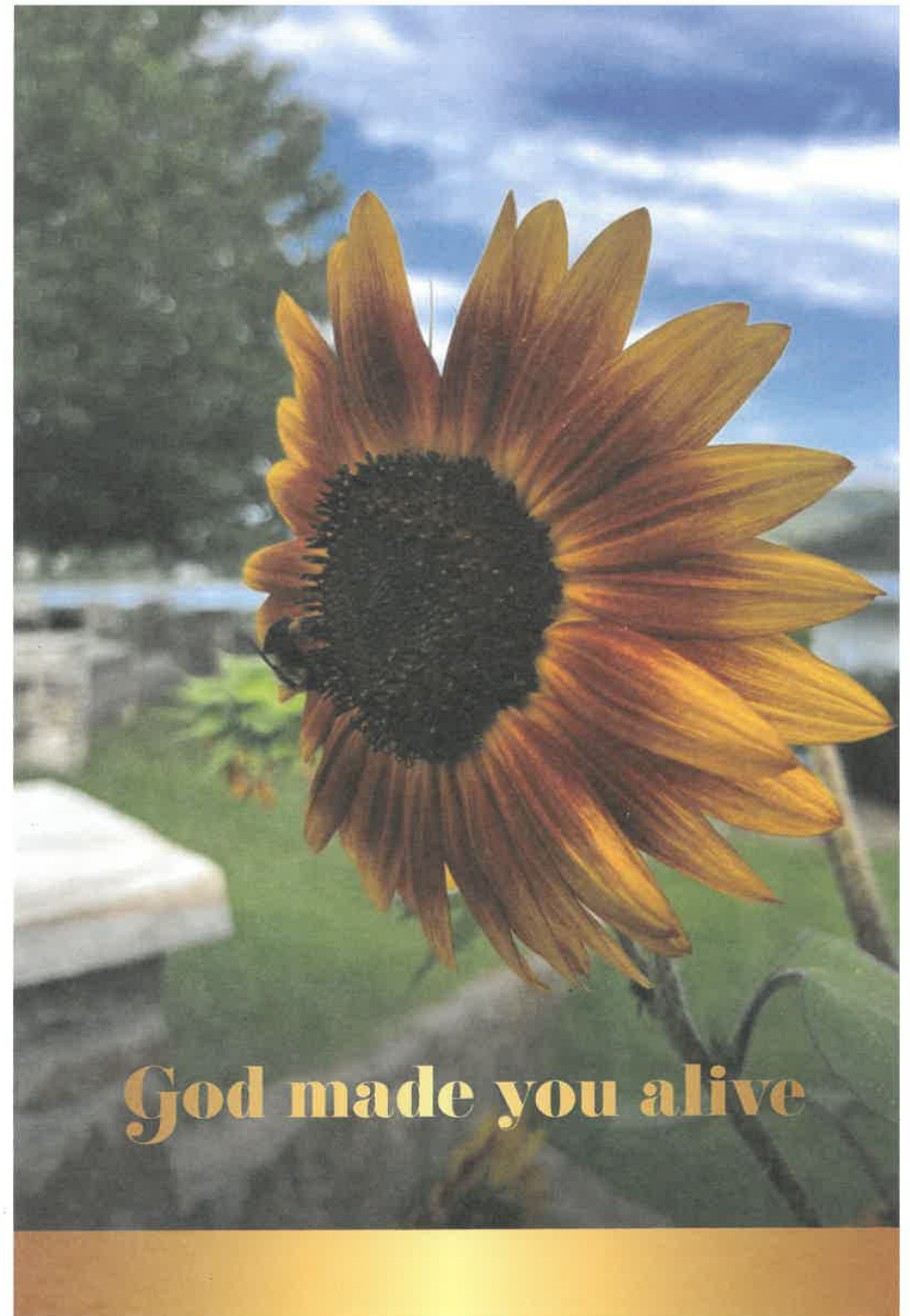
And sometimes it's simply a moment of noticing the intricate details of a sunflower and a bumble bee.

When do you feel most alive?

—Tina Rieman
North Manchester, Indiana

"And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made you alive** together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses" (Colossians 2:13, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

July 27, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ed Beachley, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "The Sanctuary of Prayer" (Scott)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

***HYMN #11** "Sweet hour of prayer"

[Verse 1]

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne make all my
wants and wishes known; in seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found
relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

[Verse 2]

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, the joys I feel, the bliss I share, of those
whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face, and gladly take
my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

[Verse 3]

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my petition bear to him
whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And since he bids me
seek his face, believe his word and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my ev'ry care, and
wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people. When we call out to You, You answer. When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble, You are there, standing beside us.

And so we come before You with gratitude and praise, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives. Open our eyes to see and know You here among us; open our ears to recognize Your voice. And then send us out from

here, to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Our Father"

Duet: Don and Twyla Rowe

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Having received the grace of God in the redemption of Christ, we live strengthened in the faith, with hearts overflowing with thankfulness. From the depths of our hearts, we offer to God the very best we have. May our offering be a true act of worship and thanksgiving.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on YouTube. 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 "Take Time to Be Holy" (Smith)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Before you, O God, we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We lay our gifts before you in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings. May these offerings continue the transforming work of your Spirit in and through our congregation. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on YouTube 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)

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(By Thom Shuman)

One: Our Father who art in heaven:

*All: remind us this day
that you are not only creation's Architect,
but you are the Babe who cried for food,
the teenager who knew loneliness,
the adult who felt the rejection of loved ones.*

One: Hallowed by Thy name:

*All: yours is the name spun by the stars;
yours is the name whispered by the dying;
yours is the name written on our hearts.*

One: Thy Kingdom come:

*All: may it be a kingdom of peace, not prejudice;
may it be a kingdom of sharing, not grasping;
may it be a kingdom of hope, not hurting.*

One: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:

*All: may your Word be more than print on a page;
may your justice be more than a wish in our hearts;
may your will become our deepest desire.*

One: Give us this day our daily bread:

*All: let us taste it in the kisses of loved ones;
let it fill us in the empty moments of our lives;
let it slip out of our hands to mend the brokenness of our world.*

One: And forgive us our debts as we forgive others:

*All: may those who have hurt us find a welcome in our hearts,
even as we have found our home in yours.*

One: And lead us not into temptation:

*All: turn our hearts from the seductions of our world;
and the simple pleasures that turn us from you.
Keep us from thinking we are so important
that we ignore those around us.
Help us to always bring others to you in prayer,
before we bring ourselves,
as we do in these moments:*

One: (Prayers are lifted for others)

One: But deliver us from evil:

*All: not just great evils of war and hunger,
but from ingratitude, self-love, pride,
all those little evils that do such great harm.*

One: For thine is the kingdom:

*All: our heart's true longing;
and the power:
which you set aside to serve us in weakness;*

One: and the glory:

*All: which we would mirror in our lives,
our bodies, our minds, our souls,
this day and every day.*

One: Forever and ever.

All: Amen

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 11:1-13

NT 72

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

MESSAGE

"Prayer"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN**

“The Lord’s Prayer”

*Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed by Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen.*

***BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

POSTLUDE

“Teach Me How to Pray”

(Southbridge)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



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 **July 27, 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, July 27 - Almighty and Most Holy God, in these moments, and every time when I come to you in prayer, I am aware of your presence. I know you are listening to the words I say, the thoughts I have, and even the emotions I feel. Admittedly, that doesn't always feel comfortable to me because I know some of those things may not please you. But if I am honest with myself, the intimacy this creates between us, makes me realize how much I need you...and how much you want to help me on my life journey. In these moments of prayer I give you my praise because you are God, and I thank you for your love and many blessings. I pray for others who need healing of body, mind, and spirit that you can provide. I pray for peace. I pray for the church. I pray for direction in my life. Thank you, God, for prayer...an open door to you. May this time and all my times of prayer be a blessing to 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.

Our thanks to Ed Beachley for being our worship leader today and to Pastor Twyla and Don for special music this morning.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by the children and grandchildren of Karolyn Martin, Happy Birthday.

We are now streaming our services through YouTube! If you have not done so already, subscribe to HCOB's YouTube Channel and share it with others. You can do so by going to: www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Sleep in Heavenly Peace—Jenny Ferguson is collecting used or new children's books for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The children love to receive a book along with their new bed. There will be a box set up under the table in the west entrance, marked for the children's books. You will make the children so happy! Thank you!

Please check your church mailbox for the second quarter contribution statement. Please help us save money on postage by checking your mailbox. Thank you!

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.**

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and 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. All items collected will be going to Holly Place. Thank you!

We will be welcoming new members to our congregation during the late service on Sunday, August 24th. If you have taken the class and are interested in joining, please let Pastor Twyla know by Sunday, August 17th.

HCOB is going to a Flying Boxcars Game on Friday, August 8th. Game starts at 6:30 pm. We are in section 213, undercover so we will be in the shade. Tickets are \$10.00 per person as long as we have at least 20 people sign up. Jenny and John Ferguson will be collecting the money. If you plan to attend the game, please put your money (check or cash) in an envelope with your name on it and leave in their mailbox. Jenny will pick them up tomorrow, July 28th.



The Church Directory. Now is 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.

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!

Our fall session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, September 17, and continue each Wednesday evening through December 17, from 6:30—8:30 in the Mullendore Room. There will be no class on November 26 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. You may join at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. Cost is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation towards materials.



The grief journey after losing a loved one is very painful, difficult, and lonely. Since everyone grieves differently, there is no magic endpoint to the grieving process. Fortunately, HCOB offers GriefShare, an international, faith-based 13-week seminar offering support after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend, no matter how recent. The GriefShare ministry team provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. As a participant, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as gain support from others also in their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information with them and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

*We also will offer two special 2-hr evening seminars:

1. *Loss of a Spouse*—Wednesday, August 13, 6:30—8:30 pm (see separate listing)
2. *Surviving the Holidays*—Monday, November 3, 6:30—8:30 pm

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 27

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, July 28

Church office closed

Tuesday, July 29

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, July 30

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Friday, August 1

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, August 2

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, August 3

Food Pantry Sunday

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

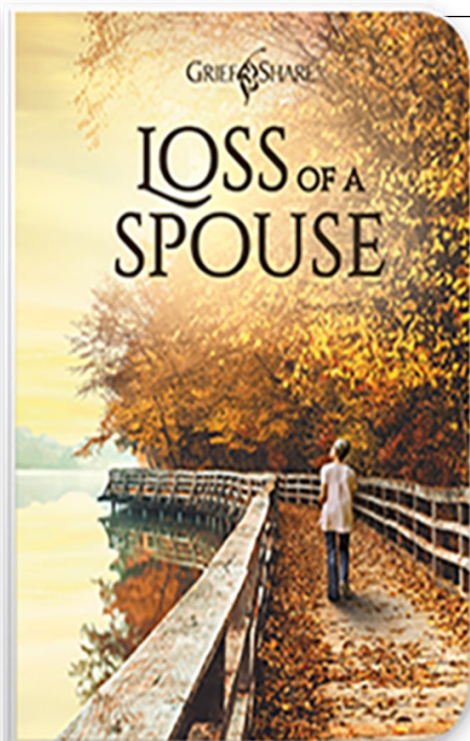
10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

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.



Grieving the death of a spouse?
Or do you know someone who is?

The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one—they've lost an entire lifestyle once enjoyed with that special person.

We hope you will consider joining the HCOB GriefShare Team for a special 2-hr seminar which will address the challenges of this type of loss.

You may wish to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you. If you have questions, please see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

Date: Wednesday, August 13
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Mullendore Room

Register at www.GriefShare.org