

Bless the Lord

Call to worship

One: Gather around, friends, and hear the word of God.

All: **Bless the Lord! All that is within us, bless God's holy name.**

One: Remember the One who forgives us and heals us.

All: **We sing praise to the Holy One who seeks justice for the oppressed.**

One: Give thanks to our God who is merciful and gracious.

All: **May we be like our God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Invocation

Gracious and loving God, we gather with joy to worship you this day. We come to sing and to pray, to hear your word and to enjoy the fellowship of our sisters and brothers. We welcome your presence with us in this holy place. Open our eyes to see your grace; open our ears to hear your call; open our hearts to receive your love so that we may worship with joy. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (*Hymnal: A Worship Book*, No. 71)

—Christy Waltersdorff
Lombard, Illinois

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Psalm 103:1, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17.

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Bless the Lord

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

August 24, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Diana Shepherd, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "I Will Bow and Be Simple" (Paxton)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With great rejoicing we come to the house of the Lord today!

All: God is our refuge and our stronghold.

One: The power and love of God flow through this gathering.

All: We place our whole trust in God's mighty compassion for us.

On: Come, let us worship the Lord!

All: Let us celebrate the presence of God here in this place and in all our lives.

HYMN #43 "Christ is our cornerstone"
[Verse 1]

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build. With his true saints alone
the courts of heav'n are filled. On his great love our hopes we place of present grace
and joys above.

[Verse 2]

Oh, then with hymns of praise these hallow'd courts shall ring. Our voices we will
raise, the Three in One to sing, and thus proclaim in joyful song both loud and long
that glorious name.

[Verse 3]

Here, gracious God, do thou for evermore draw nigh. Accept each faithful prayer, and
mark each suppliant sigh. In copious shower on all who pray each holy day thy
blessings pour!

[Verse 4]

Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we implore, and may that grace, once
giv'n, be with us evermore, until that day when all the bless'd to endless rest are
called away!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, whose power and mercy have extended to all ends of creation,
pour your love on us this day that we might be healed and be made ready to
serve you by serving others in this world that you have created. In Jesus'
Name, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

HYMN #165 "A mighty fortress is our God"
[Verse 1]

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he amid the flood of
mortal ills prevailing, for still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and
pow'r are great, and arm'd with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

[Verse 2]

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right
man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
Jesus, it is he! Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must
win the battle.

[Verse 3]

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear,
for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The prince of darkness grim, we
tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word
shall fell him.

[Verse 4]

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the
gifts are ours, through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal
life also. The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever!

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Our gifts speak where we cannot go. They witness to people we will
never meet. They praise God who has provided for us every day of our
lives. Let us give thanks through our offerings.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a vir-
tual offering plate to those worshiping with us on YouTube 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 website.

Offertory "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (Arr. Wagner)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. O God, we cannot forget all of your benefits. Accept our offerings as expressions of praise and acts of true worship. We pour out our thanks for all you have given us and for all you do for us. We are grateful for the opportunities you grant us to help others. May healing come to all who suffer and freedom be granted to those weighed down and bent over with heavy burdens. Use us and our gifts to bring changes for good that you intend for our world. Amen.

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

Congregational Welcome: We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may all increase in the knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

"More of You – Medley"

(Arr. Leatherman)

Elaine Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 71:1-6

OT 536

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

MESSAGE

"Asking for Help"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #328

"O God, our help in ages past"

[Verse 1]

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;*

[Verse 2]

under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure.

Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

[Verse 3]

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

[Verse 4]

*A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

[Verse 5]

Time, like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away.

We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

[Verse 6]

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!*

BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE

"The Power and the Glory"

(Smith)

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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
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21740
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Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and YouTube Live at
10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

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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 August 24, 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, August 24. This prayer comes from the scripture for Sunday's worship service, Psalms 71:1-6. It's a Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help. "In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb. My praise is continually of 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 Diana Shepherd for being our worship leader today and to Elaine Smith for special music this morning.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mike Hovis and Joni Kline, from Nancy Hovis and family

If you would like to place flowers on the altar September 7th, please contact Wanda Winner.

This morning during the late service, we will be welcoming Gary & Sue Wright, Rebecca Jackson, Becky Ernst, and Wilma Moore as new members to our congregation.

Susan Hughes and Jeremy Springer have cantaloupes in the west entrance **today** starting at 9:30 am. She gets them in Shippensburg, PA at a Mennonite farm and they are very tasty. Once again she will be taking donations for the cantaloupes and all proceeds will go to the Good Samaritan Fund.

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.**

There will be a brief Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, September 7th in the Sanctuary following the 10:45 service. All are encouraged to attend.

Non-Delegate Registration forms can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall for those wishing to attend the 2025 District Conference on October 10th & 11th. The church office does not register non-delegates. The deadline to submit your registration form is September 17th.

NEEDED—If you have a small or medium sized dresser and or two (2) lamps and two (2) end tables to donate to a good cause, please call Jan Young. Her number is listed in the church directory. Thank you!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace—Jenny Ferguson is collecting used or new children's books for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, please keep them coming. The box will stay under the table in the west entrance. If you could only see their faces when they get a bed and pick a book. Thank you!

MUSIC PROGRAM – Music rehearsals will begin on September 4th with Praise Band at 5:30, Brethren Bells at 6:30 and Temple Choir at 7:30. If you're thinking about joining, or have a musical gift to share, this would be a great time to get started! See Burt with any questions.

The 55th Annual Dunker Church Service will be held Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 3:00 pm. The Dunker Church is located on the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Widows/Widowers Luncheon—You are invited to attend a luncheon for the Widows/Widowers at Hagerstown COB. The luncheon will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 12PM in the Fellowship Hall. We ask ALL that attend to bring a pot luck dish to share. We will provide paper goods and drinks. A sign up sheet will be placed in the west entrance for everyone to please sign up so we can get a head count. If you have questions, please contact Robin Davies, Ann Platou, Suzie Wolfe or Mary Means.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE HUNGRY on Saturday, Sept. 20? If so, how about filling up with an \$8 foot-long cold-cut sub, a \$6.50 fresh turkey and provolone sandwich, a \$5 country ham sandwich and/or a quart of chicken noodle soup for \$9 -- all to benefit Growing Hope Globally?!!! In this year's project, youth in Sierra Leone and Liberia are going to help grow a food reserve for their communities. See Arn for order forms!! **Order deadline Wednesday, Sept. 10.**

The Service & Outreach Team will once again be having our large community event—Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat—on Saturday, October 18th from 1 to 4PM. We need many helpers. We will have bingo, children's games, and crafts for the children. We will have hotdogs, baked beans, chips, popcorn, water, snow cones, and cotton candy. There will be a cake walk. We will have a costume parade for the kids and of course, Trunk or Treat. Do you love to meet new people and share the good news about our Lord and Savior? Here's your opportunity. We also need adult and children's prizes for bingo. If you have any appropriate items, you no longer use, please donate them for this event. We also need cakes for the cake walk, and cookies and candy. If you would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat, let us know. There are sign-up sheets available in the west entrance. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Service & Outreach Team.

GriefShare® 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 (*already passed*)
2. *Surviving the Holidays*— Monday, November 3, 6:30—8:30 pm

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 24

Junior Church/Welcoming New Members

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Monday, August 25

Church office closed

Tuesday, August 26

6:30 pm Reorganizational Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 27

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Friday, August 29

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, August 30

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, August 31

Deadline for Student Scholarship Fund Application

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

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.