

## Awakened by the adventure

Recently our family took a road trip to Schwarzenau, Germany. There was excitement in the car as we traversed the open roads. It was not so much the destination that energized our conversations as it was the beauty of the countryside—rolling fields, livestock and wildlife grazing in pastures, meandering streams and quaint villages.

A passage from John O'Donohue in *To Bless the Space Between Us* aptly describes the spirit of our outing:

*Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

In Schwarzenau, we walked along Alexander Mack Straße to the Eder Brücke. We made our way through undergrowth to reach the stream. Within minutes our young adult sons were wading in the water looking for stones and taking photos. I too removed my shoes and took the plunge into the cold water. This reminded me of numerous occasions in their childhood and mine of creek-stomping at Camp Bethel. The cold water as well as our playful adventure was refreshing.

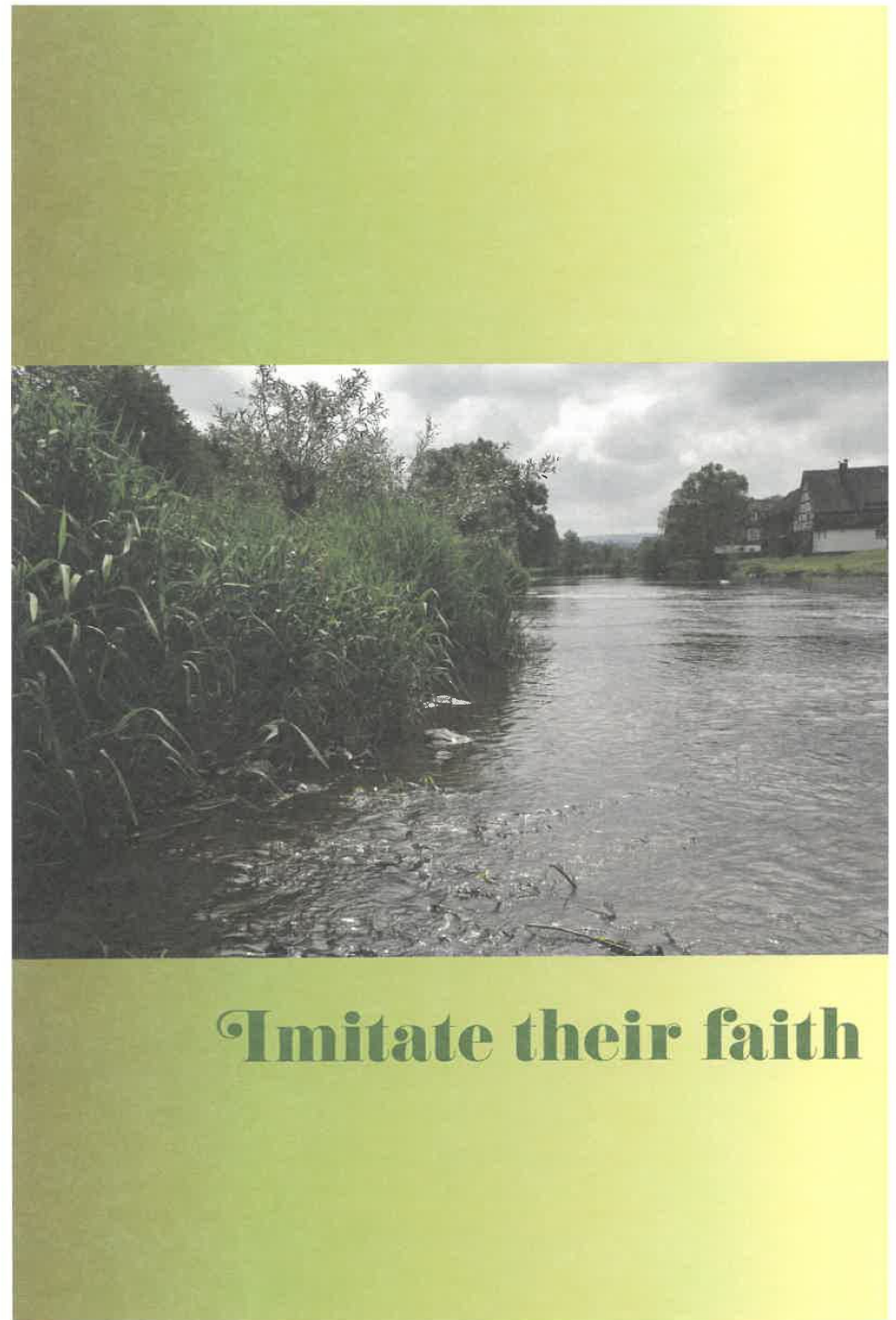
The cold water was also bracing. As I stood in the Eder River, I recalled how our spiritual forebears risked their lives to step into these waters and be baptized. They held nothing back. May we as a church embrace such courage. May we imitate their adventurous faith and be "home in a new rhythm." May we continue the work of Jesus.

—Glenn McCrickard  
Westminster, Maryland

"Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and *imitate their faith*" (Hebrews 13:7, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.

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August 31, 2025. Photo of Eder River © Matt McCrickard. Used by permission.  
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## Imitate their faith

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

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August 31, 2025

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE**                      “Let Praise Ring Forth”                      (Broughton)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      Julie Herman, Worship Leader

One: With all your strength, sing aloud to the Lord, who has brought you here and blessed you.

*All: Our voices shall shout forth praise and thanksgiving to God.*

One: With all your heart, reach out in service to those in need, remembering God's mercy in your own life.

*All: Our lives shall be witnesses to the love of God which has been lavished upon us.*

One: Come, let us worship the Lord with Great joy!

*All: Let us bring all that we have and all that we are to God in gratitude.*

**HYMN #6**                      “Here in this place”

[Verse 1]

*Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame.*

*Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

[Verse 2]

*We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old - who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong. Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.*

[Verse 3]

*Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth.*

*Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you. Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

[Verse 4]

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place, the new light is shining; now is the Kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in – and hold us forever, gather us in – and make us your own.*

*Gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of your presence in this time or worship. We have come to listen and to receive your counsel. Melt our stubborn hearts to remove the barriers that keep us from seeing your glory and doing your will. Challenge all that is worthless and unprofitable in our lives, that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD**

**PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN'S BIBLES**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION**

Poem by Nancy Gingrich

They give of their talents – they give of their time  
For all their hard work – they receive not a dime  
They study, they research, and strive to prepare  
Our lessons each week and they lead us in prayer  
From the oldest of us, to the smallest of tots  
They teach us each week and we value them lots  
Now let's thank our teachers and honor their cause  
And celebrate them with a round of applause!

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                      “I Can Only Imagine”                      (Mercy Me)  
Dennis Browne

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Through our offering, we extend to the world God's banquet invitation. As we reach out to people who have not known our advantages, we are blessed. Let us not neglect to do good and to share generously what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual 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** "He the Banquet Spreads Before Us" (Mansfield)  
**\*Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life, we invite those who live in poverty to share in our wealth. We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters who lack food and shelter, or medical care. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor. 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.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**HYMN #369** "Lord, whose love in humble service"

[Verse 1]

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;  
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone,  
but heart, consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.*

[Verse 2]

*Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread.  
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

[Verse 3]

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height  
and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 14:1, 7-14

NT 77

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

**MESSAGE**

"Walking Humbly"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

**HYMN #499**

"Lord, speak to me"

[Verse 1]

*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone. As thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.*

[Verse 2]

*O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet. O feed me, Lord, that I may feed thy hung'ring ones with manna sweet.*

[Verse 3]

*O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the Rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the trouble sea.*

[Verse 4]

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart, and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.*

[Verse 5]

*O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er flow in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.*

[Verse 6]

*O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when and where,  
until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.*

## **BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

## **POSTLUDE**

“The Lord Is on My Side”

(Birchwood)

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\*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 YouTube Live at  
10:45 AM

[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://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 31, 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 on Sunday, August 31 - I humbly come into your Holy Presence now, Almighty God, to bring you praise and thanksgiving. On this day, which is a gift from you, I will be looking for you in the beauty of nature, the love and fellowship with friends and family, and the opportunities I am given to share your love and care. I also come to you in these moments with concerns for those who need your special care, healing and protection in their lives. I trust you to be close to them and provide the care they need. I am aware of my own needs, too. So, I humbly ask for your forgiveness for my sin, your guidance with my decisions, healing of health and relational issues, and growth in my spiritual journey. I know I am forever blessed because you are with me. Thank you, Precious, Lord. 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 Julie Herman for being our worship leader today and to Dennis Browne for special music this morning.

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are given to the Glory of God and in appreciation of Suzie Wolfe for all her dedication to the Service & Outreach Committee, and all the church functions she eagerly pours her heart into. God Bless you always.

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

**There will be a brief Congregational Business Meeting** next 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 this Thursday, 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](http://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



**Washington Goes Purple**  
Prevent Addiction.  
Eliminate Stigma.

September is National Recovery Month. HCOB supports the efforts of Washington Goes Purple—a substance abuse educational movement to engage our community in preventing addiction and eliminating the stigma of seeking help. Our neighbors struggling with substance use and mental health issues need our prayers and support.

## **CALENDAR**

### **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](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

### **Monday, September 1**

Church office closed/Labor Day

### **Tuesday, September 2**

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Wednesday, September 3**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
5:30 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Thursday, September 4**

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

### **Friday, September 5**

8:00 am Bulletin prep/church office  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

### **Saturday, September 6**

Pastor Twyla's day off

### **Sunday, September 7**

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 & YouTube Live  
[www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)  
12:00 pm Special Congregational Business Meeting/Sanctuary

*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](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

The church calendar is online at  
[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org).  
Click the calendar tab.