



# Tidings

August 2025



*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren is to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and glorify the Lord by striving to live as Christ lived experiencing the power of God's healing in our lives. We seek to nurture our faith community through prayer, music and the proclaimed Word, while enthusiastically reaching out to others with compassion, respect and love for everyone so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.*

## VISION STATEMENT

*The Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, A Living Peace Church: A caring community gathered round the Risen Christ that  
...Welcomes the stranger  
...Empowers our neighbors  
...Embraces the diversity among all people as we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.*

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
15 South Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
Telephone: 301-733-3565  
secretaryhcob@gmail.com

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

Praise Worship 8:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Worship and YouTube Live at 10:45 AM  
<http://www.hagerstowncob.org>  
[facebook.com/hagerstowncob](https://facebook.com/hagerstowncob)  
[www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](https://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

## In This Issue

Sundays in August .....	2
Widows/Widowers Luncheon .....	2
Thank You .....	3
Attendance/Offering .....	3
GriefShare_Loss of a Spouse .....	3
Birthday/Anniversary .....	4
Prayer Concerns .....	4
Sympathy .....	4
August Schedule .....	5
Annual Conference Wrap Up .....	6&7
Puzzle Page .....	8

## The Pastor's Pen

*"This is the day tat the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."  
Psalm 118:24*

Sooo...what have you been up to this summer? It's been a rather laid-back summer for Don and I. All of our vacation times have been scheduled for some times between Fall and Spring. Highlights for us were attending our grandson, Owen's, high school graduation and graduation party. I can't believe we have a grandson going off to college later in August. He grew up too fast! We also spent a lot of time in my favorite room of our house, our sunroom...watching the world go by in our backyard.

I have had plenty of time to reflect on things, including retirement. After 34 years...30 years of working six-days- a-week, most weeks, I am noticing during the relaxing moments of this summer that next year I'm going to have more time...lots of time on my hands...time that I am not used to having. I wonder what I am going to do with it. I don't want to waste it.

Some of you have asked me what my plans are after my retirement. I honestly don't know what to fully expect yet. I'm looking forward to spending more time with Don, and having new adventures together. We want to spend time with friends. I'm looking forward to enjoying hobbies and doing projects around the house. We are not planning world travels; but we do hope to do some traveling in the U.S. I'm not expecting to do interims; but we do expect after about a year, to settle in at HCOB and be helpers with you in the ministries here.

I have been talking to God a lot about what's to come. I know God has more for me to do; it will just be different. As I have shared with you many times over in sermons... God calls all of us to live our faith every day. We should look for the everyday moments that could be opportunities to serve others; and then, follow through with taking that opportunity to be Jesus' presence to those who need us. I'm expecting God to lead me to new every day opportunities...where I'm not serving in the role as pastor. But, I will always be a servant of God. This is God's plan for all of us.

This summer will soon come to an end and things will get busier at the church again. I'm looking forward to the planning that comes for special days; and I'm looking forward to serving as your pastor as we do the work of Jesus, together.



YouTube

We are now streaming our services through YouTube! If you have not done so already, subscribe to our YouTube channel and

share it with others. You can do so by going to:  
[www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](https://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Please remember that tracking attendance through YouTube is a little different than it was on Facebook. Instead of clicking the "Like" button, we kindly ask that you type your name in the comment or chat section during the live stream, or after , so we can include you in the attendance. If you do not do so, we have no way of knowing if you are watching or not.



**CENTERED  
ON CHRIST**

**2025 Mid-Atlantic District  
Conference**

**October 10 & 11**

**Union Bridge Church of the  
Brethren**

## Sundays in August

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
08/03/2025	Twyla Rowe	Don Maas	"Pleasing God"	Luke 12:13-21	Brenda Shane	Fellowship Time/Food Pantry
08/10/2025	Twyla Rowe	Eunice Plank	"Stain Removal"	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Daryl Long	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
08/17/2025	Twyla Rowe	Sandy Clipp	"Fanning the Flames"	Luke 12:49-56	Doris Smith	
08/24/2025	Twyla Rowe	Diana Shepherd	"Asking for Help"	Psalms 71:1-6	Ed & Eunice Plank	Junior Church/Welcoming New Members
08/31/2025	Twyla Rowe	Julie Herman	"Walking Humbly"	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Kathy Kelsey	

Both services follow same sermon & text.  
All information subject to change without notice.



### HCOB is going to a Flying Boxcars Game!

If you bought tickets, the game is:  
Friday, August 8th at 6:30 pm.  
We are in section 213.

### Welcoming New Members



WELCOME  
New Members

We will be welcoming Wilma Moore, Becky Ernst, Rebecca Jackson, and Gary & Sue Wright as new members to our congregation during the late service on Sunday, August 24th.

### Fellowship Time



August 3, 2025  
10:20—10:40 am  
Mullendore Room



### 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.

### SAVE THE DATE

Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat  
October 18, 2025

### Hagerstown Church of the Brethren Student Scholarship Fund

The Service & Outreach Team is inviting students to apply for our yearly distribution of funds from the Student Scholarship Fund. A letter of interest needs to be addressed to Suzie Wolfe, Chair, by August 31, 2025. Please include where you will be attending and what your major is. Also, please include the school's address.

### 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 in the Fellowship Hall**. We ask **ALL** that attend to bring a pot luck dish to share. We will provide paper goods and drinks. We will have a great time together. 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.



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 (see separate listing)
2. *Surviving the Holidays*—Monday, November 3, 6:30—8:30 pm



HCOB received several thank you letters this past month:

- ◆ Fahrney Keedy \$700 contribution to the Fahrney Keedy Benevolent Fund, with a note stating “Thank you for such wonderful support! We appreciate you!”.
- ◆ REACH of Washington County donation of \$546.52, with a note stating “Thank you for being a wonderful partner in serving those in need! We appreciate you!”.

The family of Betty Jane Hutzler would like to thank her church family for their cards, prayers, phone calls and visits before and during her stay at Williamsport Retirement Home. We would also like to thank Pastor Twyla for the lovely “Celebration of Life Service” and the Deacons for the delicious meal following the service. Betty Jane loved her church family. She will be missed so much.



The first Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items, place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food.

**All items collected will be going to Holly Place.**

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.

## JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church will be held the second & fourth Sunday of each month. This is open to ages Kindergarten through Grade 6.

**We will gather in the Rainbow Room (#205) or the Children’s Sunday School Room (Room #203) for a special time together.**

Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going, or parents may accompany them.

Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance.

*Christian Education Ministry Team*

## 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!

## 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.

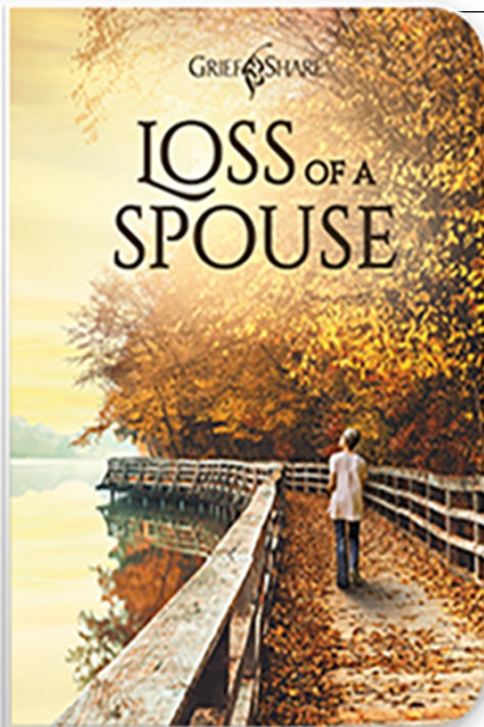
To purchase a card, contact Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). If you can’t pick them up on a Sunday, we can make arrangements to leave cards in a church mailbox or snail mail them to you.

## Daily Bible Reading



### AUGUST

- ◇ 1 Isaiah 59-63
- ◇ 2 Isaiah 64-66
- ◇ 3 2 Kings 20-21
- ◇ 4 2 Chronicles 32-33
- ◇ 5 Nahum
- ◇ 6 2 Kings 22-23  
2 Chronicles 34-35
- ◇ 7 Zephaniah
- ◇ 8 Jeremiah 1-3
- ◇ 9 Jeremiah 4-6
- ◇ 10 Jeremiah 7-9
- ◇ 11 Jeremiah 10-13
- ◇ 12 Jeremiah 14-17
- ◇ 13 Jeremiah 18-22
- ◇ 14 Jeremiah 23-25
- ◇ 15 Jeremiah 26-29
- ◇ 16 Jeremiah 30-31
- ◇ 17 Jeremiah 32-34
- ◇ 18 Jeremiah 35-37
- ◇ 19 Jeremiah 38-40; Psalms 74, 79
- ◇ 20 2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chron. 36
- ◇ 21 Habakkuk
- ◇ 22 Jeremiah 41-45
- ◇ 23 Jeremiah 46-48
- ◇ 24 Jeremiah 49-50
- ◇ 25 Jeremiah 51-52
- ◇ 26 Lamentations 1-2
- ◇ 27 Lamentations 3-5
- ◇ 28 Ezekiel 1-4
- ◇ 29 Ezekiel 5-8
- ◇ 30 Ezekiel 9-12
- ◇ 31 Ezekiel 13-15



## 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](http://www.GriefShare.org)



## August 2025 Schedule

*Please check the weekly bulletin and the online calendar for changes as they happen. Our schedule is subject to rapid changes.*

### 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 & YouTube  
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

### Monday, August 4

Church office closed

### Tuesday, August 5

5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room  
7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

### Wednesday, August 6

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### Friday, August 8

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

### Saturday, August 9

Pastor Twyla's day off

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

### Sunday, August 10

Junior Church

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 & YouTube  
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

### Monday, August 11

Church office closed

### Tuesday, August 12

5:30 pm Service&Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room

### Wednesday, August 13

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
6:30 pm GriefShare Loss of a Spouse/Mullendore Room

### Friday, August 15

Assumption of Mary

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office  
12:00 pm Newsletter deadline  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

### Saturday, August 16

Pastor Twyla's day off

### Sunday, August 17

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 18

Church office closed

### Tuesday, August 19

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room or  
Altruistic Room  
6:30 pm CE Meeting/ Room 302

### Wednesday, August 20

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### Friday, August 22

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

### Saturday, August 23

Pastor Twyla's day off

### 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 Leadership/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  
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)

## Home Communion & Anointing

Persons desiring a pastoral visit, home communion, spiritual direction, or a service of anointing, are invited to call the church office at 301-733-3565.

Anointing with oil for the healing of body, mind or spirit is offered upon request. Please contact the pastor to receive this ministry of healing and faith commitment.

Intercessory Prayer is an important ministry of our congregation. If you have a prayer request, contact Judy Dahlhamer at 301-797-1326.



## Community Breakfast

Our Community Breakfast will be held  
Saturday, August 9th  
9:00—10:30 am  
Our Community Breakfast is held the  
second Saturday of each month..

## Elections and appointments

*Annual Conference moderator-elect:* **Dennis Beckner**, Columbia City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren

*Program & Arrangements Committee:* **Amber T. Harris**, Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren, Durham, N.C.

*Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee:* **Harry Biddle**, Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.

*Review & Evaluation Committee:* **Ilexene Alphonse**, Miami (Fla.) Haitian Church of the Brethren; **Lupita Ortiz Cruz**, Mt. Hermon Church of the Brethren, Bassett, Va.; **Chris Douglas**, Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.; **Anna Lisa Gross**, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind.; **Daniel L. Rudy**, Monte Vista Church of the Brethren, Callaway, Va.

*World Council of Churches delegate, affirmed:* **Linetta Alley**, Linville Creek Church of the Brethren, Broadway, Va.; *alternate:* **Nadine Monn**, Living Stream Church of the Brethren

*Mission & Ministry Board, Area 1:* **Eric Ramirez**, Ebenezer Church of the Brethren, Lancaster, Pa.; *Area 4:* **Sarah Mason**, Monitor Church of the Brethren, McPherson, Kan.; *affirmed:* **Daniel Landon Butler**, Ivester Church of the Brethren, Grundy Center, Iowa

*Bethany Seminary trustees, affirmed:* **Katharine “Katy” Gray Brown**, Manchester Church of the Brethren, N. Manchester, Ind.; **John D. Miller Jr.**, York (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren; **Dennis Webb**, Naperville (Ill.) Church of the Brethren

*Eder Financial board, affirmed:* **Jan Fahs** and **Katherine Haff**, both of Manchester Church of the Brethren; **Derrick Petry**, Beavercreek (Ohio) Church of the Brethren

*On Earth Peace board, affirmed:* **Stephen Niamke**, Roanoke, Va.



Moderator Dava Hensley presides over the 2025 Annual Conference, with moderator-elect Don Fitzkee (at right). Also assisting the moderator was Annual Conference secretary David Shumate. Photo by Glenn Riegel

## Conference renews status for three agencies, approves study committee recommendations

The 2025 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren renewed the agency status of Bethany Theological Seminary, Eder Financial, and On Earth Peace, and approved numerous recommendations from study committees.



Delegates vote using green cards to signify approval. Photo by Keith Hollenberg

**Renewal of agency status:** Delegates approved renewal of status for the three Conference agencies in separate votes. Covenant agreements for the three were presented as information. The covenants were established between the Standing Committee of district delegates and the agencies following a 2022 polity update.

An agency is “an organization recognized by Annual Conference which pro-

vides a ministry on behalf of the Church of the Brethren that Annual Conference cannot or does not choose to provide or accomplish itself.” Agencies report to Annual Conference, exhibit and provide equipping sessions, and are authorized to publicly identify themselves as agencies of the Church of the Brethren.

The only significant questions regarding agency status came during discussion of On Earth Peace in a session marked by high emotion on the part of people both supporting and opposing the renewal of agency status, as well as about the broader work to support immigrants.

**Query: Concerns about Current Practices Related to Matters of Sexuality:** After energetic discussion, the delegates referred this query—from Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren and Illinois and Wisconsin District—to the new Review and Evaluation Committee. The vote approved the Standing Committee recommendation to that effect, and also the recommendation that the concerns of the query be accepted as a legitimate question.

The query asks how the church can move forward in a manner that reflects greater mutuality and space for differing understandings about sexuality among individuals and congregations.

**Query: Reducing Harm: Interim Steps to Reduce Suffering:** The Standing Committee’s two-fold (continued on p.2)



Photos by Donna Parcell

For more: [www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2025](http://www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2025). Order the video Wrap-Up and Sermons at [www.brethrenpress.com](http://www.brethrenpress.com). The Annual Conference Press Team included Jan Fischer Bachman, Karen Garrett, Keith Hollenberg, Donna Parcell, Frank Ramirez, Alane Riegel, Glenn Riegel, Laura Sellers, Frances Townsend, with Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, editor.





**Preachers** (from left): Moderator Dava Hensley spoke Wednesday; Lupita Ortiz Cruz brought Friday's message; guest speaker Gennifer Brooks preached on Saturday; Thursday's Cowbell Service featured (from left) Tony Price, Becky Baile Crouse, and Josiah Ludwick; Dave Kerkove gave Sunday's closing sermon. Photos by Glenn Riegel

(continued from page 1)

recommendation was adopted with more than two-thirds majority. The query from the Arlington Church and Mid-Atlantic District raises concerns about the treatment and suffering of LGBTQ+ people, asking what can be done about outdated language and science in previous years' Conference statements.

Discussion was lengthy and passionate, with much personal and vulnerable sharing. Also expressed was weariness with the 40 years of conflict in the church since the 1983 paper on human sexuality.

*The full text of the decision:*

"1. We lament that conversion therapy was considered a safe or viable option in previous Annual Conference statements, and do not endorse 'conversion to heterosexual orientation [as] another option' (Human Sexuality from a Christian perspective, 1983).

"2. We acknowledge that Annual Conference's position statements should reflect 'the denomination's current best discernment of the way of life God calls us to live' (2025 Annual Conference booklet, p.66), and recognize that some existing position statements on human sexuality appear out of step with current realities and merit further discernment. In the interest of unity and care for all in the body we await the Spirit's leading for renewed study. While the current statements on human sexuality remain on record, we seek to honor and love all in the body by lifting up guidance that builds safer and more compassionate communities, including:

- 'challenging openly the widespread fear, hatred, and harassment of [people in

the LGBTQ+ community],'

- 'advocating the rights of [LGBTQ+ people] to jobs, housing, and legal justice,' and

- 'engaging in open, forthright conversations with [people in the LGBTQ+ community]...stop alienating one another and instead venture toward understanding.' (All quotes from Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective, 1983)

"As Paul counseled a divided church, 'If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it' (1 Corinthians 12:26, NIV)."

**Calling Denominational Leadership:** Eight recommendations from this study committee of Eric Bishop (chair), Erika Clary, and Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred were adopted, with one amendment.

The committee was formed in 2023 in response to recognition by the Nominating Committee—which prepares the Annual Conference ballot—of significant challenges in the nominating and elections process. The committee's report provides extensive research into the process and concerns.

The recommendations that were adopted range from reducing the required minimum number of nominees to fill ballot positions, to referrals to the Review and Evaluation Committee to consider a slate, among others. As a whole, they encourage the church to continue to seek a diverse leadership and to share greater gratitude with those willing to serve who are not ultimately chosen.

**Breaking Down Barriers:** The four recommendations brought by this study

committee of Jeanne Davies, Brandon Grady, and Dan Poole (chair) were adopted without amendment.

The committee's reporting since its formation in 2022 offers detailed information identifying multiple barriers to full and equal participation in events such as Annual Conference.

*The final decision:*

- Refers to the Review and Evaluation Committee a review of processes and language used in Annual Conference.

- Asks Conference planners to uphold statements and policies that remove barriers to participation.

- Revises eligibility for the Annual Conference Travel Scholarship to those traveling 1,200 miles or more.

- Refers to the Mission and Ministry Board and other leadership consideration of two new options for Annual Conference: 1. a biennial conference with a different staffing arrangement; and 2. alternate years of an in-person and online Conference, with the fully online year for business only and the in-person year for other Conference functions.

**Standing with People of Color:** The final report of this group made no recommendations but commended its work to develop study materials, lists of resources, and practices for healing racism as tools for the church to continue a much-needed effort. The group was formed in 2022 to carry out a study/action process to identify and dismantle racism and other oppressions in the church, among other measures. See [www.onearthpeace.org/swpoc](http://www.onearthpeace.org/swpoc).

Find full business items at [www.brethren.org/ac2025/business](http://www.brethren.org/ac2025/business).

## By the numbers

**1,342 people registered** including 409 delegates and 933 nondelegates (52 virtual)

**3 fellowships were welcomed:**

- **Iglesia del Salvador Viviente** in McFarland, Calif., Pacific Southwest District
- **Monte de Dios** in Eden, N.C., Virginia District
- **The Way** in Roanoke, Va., Virginia District

**\$52,216.17 total offerings:**

- **\$17,032.78** for the **Witness to the Host City** to benefit Backpack Beginnings
- **\$19,054.56** for **Annual Conference:** \$11,941.13 for operating expenses and \$7,113.43 for efforts toward full participation
- **\$16,128.83** for the **Core Ministries** of the Church of the Brethren

**\$13,790 raised by the Silent Auction** for Annual Conference efforts to break down barriers and expand welcome and access

**116 units** collected by the Blood Drive

**40 to 50 people** attended a vigil sponsored by the Gun Violence Prevention Action Team

**2.6 percent** increase in cost of living adjustment to minimum cash salary table for pastors

# The Puzzle Page for August 2025



## REFRESHING ★ SUMMER ★ ACTIVITY

Try this activity with your Sunday school. It's a fun way to give people more than just a cold drink. It helps them learn about the Bible and your church.

### What you need:

- Bottled water
- Tubs or ice chest filled with ice
- Printed labels or cut pieces of paper the same size as the existing water-bottle label
- Permanent markers (if you're not using preprinted labels)
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Clear packing tape
- Poster board
- Adult supervision

### What to do:

1. On labels or pieces of paper, write a verse about the living water Jesus gives us (for example, John 4:13-14; John 6:35; Revelation 22:17). Also include your church's name and contact information, as well as an invitation to worship or to an activity.
2. Either laminate the new labels or cover them in clear contact paper (to keep them from getting soggy).
3. Tape the labels to the back of the bottles.
4. Make a "FREE Water!" poster.
5. Find a park, local festival or corner where people pass by needing a cold drink. Be sure to have adult supervision.

## The Water of Life

To beat the summer heat, we're often refreshed by a cold drink. Complete the puzzle below for a reminder of what Jesus offers us when we thirst.

KEY:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

"

$\frac{19+4}{}$	$\frac{10-2}{}$	$\frac{10+5}{}$	$\frac{10-5}{}$	$\frac{18+4}{}$	$\frac{1+4}{}$	$\frac{20-2}{}$		$\frac{8+1}{}$	$\frac{12+7}{}$																
$\frac{18+2}{}$	$\frac{1+7}{}$	$\frac{10-1}{}$	$\frac{20-2}{}$	$\frac{18+1}{}$	$\frac{20-0}{}$	$\frac{26-1}{}$		$\frac{6+6}{}$	$\frac{5-0}{}$	$\frac{10+10}{}$															
$\frac{4+4}{}$	$\frac{8+1}{}$	$\frac{8+5}{}$		$\frac{1+2}{}$	$\frac{10+5}{}$	$\frac{15-2}{}$	$\frac{1+4}{}$		$\frac{0+1}{}$	$\frac{7+7}{}$	$\frac{1+3}{}$														
$\frac{26-3}{}$	$\frac{7+1}{}$	$\frac{20-5}{}$	$\frac{2+3}{}$	$\frac{21+1}{}$	$\frac{6-1}{}$	$\frac{19-1}{}$																			
$\frac{21+2}{}$	$\frac{9+0}{}$	$\frac{18+1}{}$	$\frac{10-2}{}$	$\frac{7-2}{}$	$\frac{15+4}{}$		$\frac{10+2}{}$	$\frac{7-2}{}$	$\frac{17+3}{}$																
$\frac{6+2}{}$	$\frac{11-2}{}$	$\frac{11+2}{}$		$\frac{20+0}{}$	$\frac{2-1}{}$	$\frac{9+2}{}$	$\frac{8-3}{}$		$\frac{22-2}{}$	$\frac{11-3}{}$	$\frac{2+3}{}$														
$\frac{3+3}{}$	$\frac{22-4}{}$	$\frac{5-0}{}$	$\frac{1+4}{}$		$\frac{3+4}{}$	$\frac{7+2}{}$	$\frac{9-3}{}$	$\frac{9+11}{}$		$\frac{14+1}{}$	$\frac{8-2}{}$														
$\frac{23-3}{}$	$\frac{12-4}{}$	$\frac{8-3}{}$		$\frac{21+2}{}$	$\frac{4-3}{}$	$\frac{20-0}{}$	$\frac{10-5}{}$	$\frac{20-2}{}$		$\frac{13+2}{}$	$\frac{4+2}{}$														
$\frac{5+7}{}$	$\frac{12-3}{}$	$\frac{9-3}{}$	$\frac{6-1}{}$																						

Revelation 22:17, NIV

Answer:  
"Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17, NIV



Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
15 South Mulberry Street  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

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Praise Worship 8:30 AM  
Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 AM  
Worship and Facebook Live at 10:45 AM

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