

Follow me

"Follow me!" the young child insists. Because we love them, we follow, high-stepping, twirling, climbing, and skipping. Our energy level is not as high as this little one, but we do our best to follow.

"Follow me!" Jesus said. Because we love him, we follow, offering a cup of water, feeding those who are hungry, visiting the prisoner, and bending to wash feet. Our devotion to that which is holy may not be as strong as Jesus', but we do our best to follow.

Follow the Leader is a child's game. We choose to play because we are confident whatever the leader does, we can imitate. The young child is footloose and fancy-free. There is a spirit of joy in following their lead.

Following Jesus is not a child's game. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are asked to imitate Jesus. We may not be confident in our ability to do all that Jesus asks, especially when Jesus asks us to carry the cross. A cross is heavy. A cross is an instrument of dying. To carry our cross reminds us we are putting to death our own desires in order to be followers of Jesus. Our path may not be as footloose and fancy-free as a child's game, yet when we follow Jesus, we will find that our path is filled with a spirit of joy.

—Beckie Miller Zeek
Duncansville, Pennsylvania

"Whoever does not carry the cross and *follow me* cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

September 7, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Larry Wisherd, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “The Mighty Hand of God” (Koury)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is like a potter who shapes and forms our lives.

All: We have been called to be faithful to God's intention.

One: God seeks for us to be vessels of compassion and service.

All: We have been given multiple opportunities to witness to God's love.

One: Come, let us worship the Creator who has given us life.

All: Let us send our praises to God who knows us totally and loves us.

HYMN #36 “God of our strength”
 [Verse 1]

God of our strength, enthroned above, the source of life, the fount of love, O let devotion's sacred flame our souls awake to praise thy name.

[Refrain]

God of our strength, we wait on thee, our sure defense forever be.

[Verse 2]

To thee we lift our joyful eyes, to thee on wings of faith we rise. Come thou, and let thy courts on earth ring out thy praise in days of mirth.

[Refrain]

God of our strength, we wait on thee, our sure defense forever be.

[Verse 3]

God of our strength, from day to day direct our thoughts and guide our way. Oh, may our hearts united be in sweet communion, Lord, with thee.

[Refrain]

God of our strength, we wait on thee, our sure defense forever be.

[Verse 4]

God of our strength, on thee we call. God of our hope, our light, our all, thy name we praise, thy love adore, our rock, our shield, forevermore.

[Refrain]

God of our strength, we wait on thee, our sure defense forever be.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, all creation is your handiwork; your touch gives life to all that is. You who shape and form us by the breath of your Spirit and the touch of your grace, you alone are able to call forth from the depths of our being the beauty of your Spirit in us. May we in this celebration, surrender more deeply to your loving touch, as you fashion and form your heart's desire in us. This we pray in your Spirit. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

When we perceive all the good we may do for Jesus Christ, we are eager to share. Jesus welcomes into discipleship those willing to give up all their possessions. What we give today is a symbol of our fuller devotion of all we have and all we are toward the realization of God's reign among us.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshipping 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 Folds and Guides Me” (Martin)

***Doxology #119** “Praise God from whom”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray: Loving God, there is no way we can settle accounts with you. We have no way to repay you for all we have received from your hands. Yet we want to give our best to the work you call us to do through this community of seekers. We enter, with renewed commitment and confidence, the costly venture of spreading love through your world. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM “Song of Fellowship” (Besig)
 Temple Choir

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 #504

“Have thine own way”

[Verse 1]

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after thy will,

while I am waiting, yielded and still.

[Verse 2]

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Search me and try me, Master, today!

Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,

as in thy presence humbly I bow.

[Verse 3]

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!

Power all power surely is thine!

Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

[Verse 4]

Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Hold o’er my being absolute sway!

Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see

Christ only, always, living in me!

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 18:1-11

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The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my

voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

MESSAGE

“Finding the Potter’s House” Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #565

“My faith looks up to thee”

[Verse 1]

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine. Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

[Verse 2]

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire. As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

[Verse 3]

While life’s dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide. Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

[Verse 4]

When ends life’s transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll, bless’d Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove. Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.

BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE

“New Faith, New Life”

(Ritter)

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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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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 September 7, 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, September 7 - You are the joy of my life, O Lord. Waking up every morning to your glorious presence and feeling your presence welcoming me to this day gives me peace...assuring me that this will be a good day. I know I do not need to fear what today or tomorrow will bring because you are by my side every day. But you know me...even better than I know myself, Lord, and you know anxiety and fear can unexpectedly arise within me and get the best of me. Help me if I should be overcome by painful or distracting circumstances that hide your presence from me right when I need you most. Touch others, who I hold dearly in my heart, with comfort, peace and healing. I ask to be molded by your holy hands as you lead me this day in all your ways. 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 Larry Wisherd for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God.

There will be a brief Congregational Business Meeting today in the Sanctuary following the 10:45 service. All are encouraged to attend.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Thanks to all for your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community.

Junior Church will be held next Sunday, September 14th for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. We will gather in the Rainbow 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.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

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!

The 55th Annual Dunker Church Service will be held next 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.



Our fall session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 17, and continue each Wednesday evening through Dec. 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 toward materials. The grief journey is painful and lonely. But the GriefShare ministry provides a supportive environment for anyone who has lost a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other family member or friend. 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 a special 2-hr evening seminar, Surviving the Holidays, on Monday, November 3, from 6:30—8:30 p.m.

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.



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, 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

12:00 pm Special Congregational Business Meeting/Sanctuary

Monday, September 8

Church office closed

Tuesday, September 9

6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, September 10

Administrative Assistant/Work from Home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, September 11

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 12

8:00 am Bulletin prep/church office

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

Saturday, September 13

Pastor Twyla's day off

8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Doors open to the public at 9AM)

Sunday, September 14

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 Live

www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

3:00 pm Dunker Church Service/Antietam National Battlefield

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.