



Tidings

October 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
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

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The Pastor's Pen For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

As I pondered what to write for this month's Pastor's Pen, I found myself led with curiosity to revisit what I wrote for my first article as your interim pastor. The first article was basically an introduction to Don and I; but the second article began addressing the time of transition the congregation was beginning to go through. You said goodbye to your previous pastors, welcomed me, and were engaged in the process of finding a new pastor. I read what I wrote then and felt led to share it again because circumstances are similar at this time. The congregation has changed and grown since then, so some of you will be reading this for the first time. I wrote the following for the October 2019 newsletter.

Have you ever felt disappointed over something? If not, you are one of the luckiest people in the world. Don and I were disappointed when the vacation we had planned for August 2019 had to be postponed until another year. We were planning to take two weeks and ride our motorcycles to Nova Scotia. We had money put back for the trip and we were having fun checking out websites for places we could tour. Unfortunately, when elements of my job were changed, we felt some uncertainty about the future. So, as much as we hated to do it, we felt it would be wise to postpone the trip for another year.

The Bible contains stories of many people who experienced disappointment. I think of Sarai and Hannah who were unable to bare children; Job, who lost everything as the devil tried to break his faithfulness to God; Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers; and Moses, who came down from the mountain with the tablets of God's commandments only to find that the Israelites were worshipping a golden calf. As you can see, we're in pretty good company when it comes to dealing with disappointment.

The reasons for our disappointments are that we set high expectations on people and circumstances. I believe those expectations are greater when it comes to the church. We expect our programs to succeed. We expect worship services and sermons to move us. We expect our pastors to have all the answers and remain with us indefinitely. We expect our church buildings to last forever. We expect everyone to be of one mind in regards to issues and scriptures. But the reality is that even though we follow the One who is perfect...the church is not perfect.

The question then is how will we deal with our disappointments? Will we say things that are hurtful and regrettable; or will we participate in dialogue that heals and builds up the church? Will we distance ourselves from those we blame for our disappointment; or will we confront in love those with whom we differ and seek understanding? Will we withhold our time, talents and resources, making it more difficult to sustain our ministries and create new ones; or will we honor our covenant to support the church? Will we be patient and committed to the church we love?

When we listen to the stories of our bible heroes, we find that they were faithful to their commitment to God; and they turned to God for help in dealing with their disappointments. They may not have always gotten the exact results they were seeking, but God provided what was needed. I took my vacation disappointment to God, which did not end with us getting to take our planned trip; but we did get a less expensive vacation trip and better yet...I was called to serve as your interim (and unknown at that time, your permanent pastor).

While the experience of disappointment is not something to be denied; neither should it take priority over our commitment to the church and to God's call to ministry through the church. Holding on to and feeding disappointments with the church does nothing but weaken and tear her down. On the other hand, looking to God for ways to turn our disappointments into something positive will lead to success in helping to build the kingdom of God; and, that's what it is all about...isn't it? Let us never allow our disappointments keep us from our commitment to doing God's will together.

And now...I want to add to this that I know you are bound together by God's love as a family, and although transition is upon you again because of my upcoming retirement, and some of you may be feeling disappointed and anxious, I am confident that together you will navigate the challenges that come with it. Take everything to God in prayer. Communicate with one another with openness and love. And, always continue the work of Jesus. With God's help, you've got this.

Blessings and Love, Pastor Twyla



Sundays in October

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
10/05/2025	Twyla Rowe	Eileen Smith	"Is It Worth Trying?"	Luke 17:5-10	Karolyn Martin	Love Feast/Fellowship Time/Food Pantry
10/12/2025	Twyla Rowe	Candice Summers	"The Tenth Leper"	Luke 17:11-19	Sandy Clipp	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
10/19/2025	Twyla Rowe	Linda Baker	"Don't Be Discouraged"	Luke 18:1-8	Chris & Kristal Bricker	
10/26/2025	Steve Robison	Amy Hardy	"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall"	Luke 18:9-14	Don & Roberta Maas	Junior Church

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

Fall Congregational Business Meeting November 2, 2025

Our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2nd. We will have a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 AM service and the Business Meeting will follow. Sign-up sheets can be found in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken, drinks, and paper products. Please sign-up so we know how much chicken to buy and bring a dish to share. Thank you!

Ministry Chairs

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Your report for the Congregational Business Meeting are due to the church office no later than October 15th.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Non-Traditional Fall Love Feast



Our Fall Love Feast will be held on Sunday, October 5th during both worship services. It will follow the practice we did during the pandemic. The deacons chose to do this because of the many positive responses they received following those times we did these creative services during the pandemic. We heard the request to consider doing it for more of the fall love feast services. Like at our Maundy Thursday service, we will observe the traditional worship experience. We hope everyone will mark their calendars and plan to join their brothers and sisters for this significant time of remembrance of Jesus, his life, his death and his call to our lives.



Our fall session of GriefShare has begun and will 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.



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 4 pm. 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.



**CENTERED
ON CHRIST**

The 2025 Mid-Atlantic District Conference will be held October 10 & 11 at Union Bridge Church of the Brethren. 124 S. Main St., Union Bridge, MD 21791

This year's theme is "Centered on Christ" based on Colossians 1:16-19

More information can be found at:
www.madcob.com/districtconference/



Remembrance Sunday November 2, 2025

Please join us for a special Service of Remembrance worship service on Sunday, November 2, 2025 as we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have passed in the last year.



HCOB received a thank you letter from Bridgewater College for the donation of \$600.00. "Your support ensures the Bridgewater College continues to make the very best opportunities possible for our students so that they can become the best version of themselves, positioned for a lifetime of success and ready to make a positive impact on the world."

It brought me great joy to receive birthday cards and notes in remembrance of my 98th birthday. Thank you so much. Time passes so quickly. God bless each one of you. *In Christian Love, Nancy Gehr*

Thank you so much for accepting my membership back into my home church today. I was overcome by the outpouring of love and support! What a wonderful group of people you all are! I am very happy to be among you for the rest of my life. *Fondly, Marsha Fuller*

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Clergy Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication, and multiple blessings provided by these special people.

It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation, and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

Please take this time to personally thank our pastor for her hard work and to lift her and her family in prayer.

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



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 for the months of Oct., Nov., and Dec., will be going to our guests at the Community Breakfasts.**

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.

Growing Hope Global Family Fun Harvest Festival

Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, held at the Grossnickle Farm, at 11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, Md., on Sunday, Oct. 12. The annual festival, which is in its 20th year, will begin at 2:30 p.m. with hay wagon rides leaving the barn. Then, beginning at 3 p.m., there's to be an outdoor worship and dedication program, followed by plenty of delicious foods, all at no charge. There will be American as well as special dishes made with recipes from Sierra Leone, one of the African countries where our fundraising will help communities learn to grow and store food for lean times of the year. The afternoon will also feature time for children to make scarecrows and to learn games that children play in Sierra Leone. And, for all, there will be a lot of sweet, sweet fun in the day's prime fundraising event: the live and silent auctions for cakes and other baked goods made by members of area churches supporting Growing Hope Globally!! For more information and/or rides to/from Harvest Festival, call Arn Platou at 301-

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, please 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



OCTOBER

- ◇ 1 Malachi
- ◇ 2 Luke 1; John 1
- ◇ 3 Matthew 1; Luke 2
- ◇ 4 Matthew 2
- ◇ 5 Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
- ◇ 6 Matthew 4; Luke 4-5
- ◇ 7 John 2-4
- ◇ 8 Matthew 8; Mark 2
- ◇ 9 John 5
- ◇ 10 Matthew 12; Mark 3; Luke 6
- ◇ 11 Matthew 5-7
- ◇ 12 Matthew 9; Luke 7
- ◇ 13 Matthew 11
- ◇ 14 Luke 11
- ◇ 15 Matthew 13; Luke 8
- ◇ 16 Mark 4-5
- ◇ 17 Matthew 10
- ◇ 18 Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9
- ◇ 19 John 6
- ◇ 20 Matthew 15; Mark 7
- ◇ 21 Matthew 16; Mark 8
- ◇ 22 Matthew 17; Mark 9
- ◇ 23 Matthew 18
- ◇ 24 John 7-8
- ◇ 25 John 9-10
- ◇ 26 Luke 10
- ◇ 27 Luke 12-13
- ◇ 28 Luke 14-15
- ◇ 29 Luke 16-17
- ◇ 30 John 11
- ◇ 31 Luke 18

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 7th at 9:00 AM
Sunday School Orchestra

The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 7th. There will be no

October 2025 Schedule

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

Wednesday, October 1

Admin. Assistant Vacation
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
5:30 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Outside Church office
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Thursday, October 2

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

Friday, October 3

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

Saturday, October 4

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, October 5

Love Feast/Food Pantry
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, October 6

Church office closed

Tuesday, October 7

6:30 pm Worship Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, October 8

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting/Room 302

Thursday, October 9

5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room
5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room
7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, October 10

District Conference/Union Bridge COB
8:00 am Bulletin preparation/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, October 11

District Conference/Union Bridge COB

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, October 12

Junior Church
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)
2:30 pm Growing Hope Global Family Fun Harvest Festival/Grossnickle Farm

Monday, October 13

Church office closed/Columbus Day
12:30 pm Book Club Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 15

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
Ministry Team Chair Reports Deadline
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Thursday, October 16

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

Friday, October 17

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

Saturday, October 18

Pastor Twyla's day off

1:00 pm Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat/HCOB

Sunday, October 19

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, October 20

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed

Tuesday, October 21

Pastor Vacation
12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, October 22

Pastor Vacation/Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Thursday, October 23

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

Friday, October 24

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

Saturday, October 25

Pastor Vacation
10:00 am Birthday Party/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 26

Pastor Vacation/Junior Church/Pastor Steve Robison_Guest Preacher
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, October 27

Church office closed

Tuesday, October 28

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, October 29

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

Thursday, October 30

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

Friday, October 31

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

The Novel Bunch presents...

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post

by Allison Pataki



This book is historical fiction and reimagines the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the Postum Cereal Company, which eventually became General Foods. The book explores Post's life journey from her beginnings of gluing cereal boxes as a young girl to help her father, to becoming the very wealthy and influential businesswoman, socialite, and philanthropist whose legacy as a presidential hostess helped to shape the political scene in Washington, DC. It also delves into Post's personal life, her four marriages, and her professional challenges as she built her own influence. The novel is set against the backdrop of early 20th century America, and it examines the complexities of wealth, power, and changing roles for women. Pataki's story chronicles Post's rise to become one of the wealthiest women in the United States, her inheritance of a vast fortune, and it also highlights Post's acquisition of Russian art and jewelry that now forms the core of the much-visited Hillwood Museum outside of Washington.

Date: Saturday, November 1

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Place: Fellowship Hall

Light refreshments to follow.

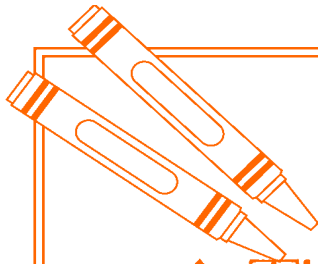
NOTE: If you have any questions or need assistance acquiring the book, call Jenny Ferguson at 301-964-1779. Please return the section below if you plan to attend.

NAME _____ I plan to attend _____ YES

Preferred contact information: Phone _____ OR Email _____

Book Club Team: *Jenny Ferguson, Kristal Bricker, Debbie Nycum, Kay Ogilvie, Jan Young

The Puzzle Page for October 2025



Just for KIDS

A Time for Everything

In the fall we move our clocks back an hour. The weather gets cooler and it gets dark earlier. As the seasons change, we have faith that God's planning and timing is perfect. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV), God tells us there's a time for everything.

Fill in the blanks using the clock code below.

build	dance	die	everything	laugh	gather
⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚
give up	hate	heal	heaven		mend
⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚		⌚
peace	refrain	speak	throw away		uproot
⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚		⌚

There is a time for _____, ⌚
 and a season for every activity under _____, ⌚
 a time to be born and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to plant and a time to _____, ⌚
 a to kill and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to tear down and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to weep and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to mourn and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to scatter stones and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to embrace and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to search and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to keep and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to tear and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to be silent and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time to love and a time to _____, ⌚
 a time for war and a time for _____, ⌚

Answers: everything, heaven, die, uproot, heal, build, laugh, dance, gather, refrain, give up, throw away, mend, speak, hate, peace.



Make a Scary Snack—

EDIBLE SPIDERS!

They may sound creepy, but these snacks are yummy.

Here's what you need:

- round crackers
- peanut butter

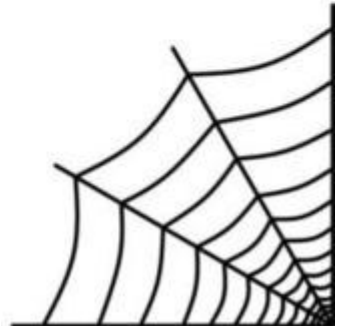
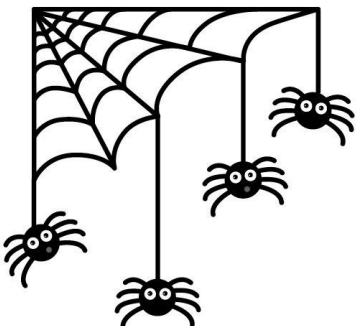
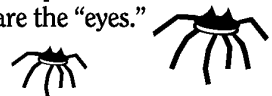
(Caution!: If you're allergic to nuts, you can use marshmallow cream instead of peanut butter.)

- chocolate chips
- mini-pretzel sticks
- knife



How to make them:

1. Check with a grown-up before you start.
2. Take one round cracker and spread peanut butter (or marshmallow) on it.
3. Push 8 pretzel sticks into the peanut butter. These are the "legs."
4. Put a second cracker on top. (You may need to add a little more peanut butter first.)
5. Using a little peanut butter as "glue," stick 2 chocolate chips on top of the crackers. These are the "eyes."



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL—
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



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.

Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
301-733-3565

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

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

www.hagerstowncob.org
www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson N. McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics Technician

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

October 15, 2025 @ NOON

BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.
All articles submitted for inclusion in the
Tidings are subject to editing.
All dates and times listed are subject
to change without notice.

**2025 Mid-Atlantic District
Conference Logo**



**CENTERED
ON CHRIST**

**2025 Annual
Conference Logo**

