

Keeping the faith

Our district has three dozen congregations and projects scattered over two states and some 50,000 square miles from north to south and east to west. Some are located in large cities or their suburbs. Some are in smaller cities. Many are out in the country or in very small towns, where water towers and grain elevators on the horizon signal that you're drawing near.

They range across the spectrum theologically, and they differ in style and personality. The buildings range from small to large, wood or stone or brick.

For all their differences, they all have at least one thing in common: These are often not easy times. Almost all have a smaller attendance than they did in the past. The pandemic delivered a beating. Aging buildings require increasing time and work. For some, finances can be a stretch, and most no longer have full-time pastors.

Those are realities. Yet in the midst of challenge, they have—like the apostle Paul—kept the faith. They worship. They fellowship. They pray. They support one another. In small ways, and sometimes in disproportionately large ones, they have had a positive impact on their communities.

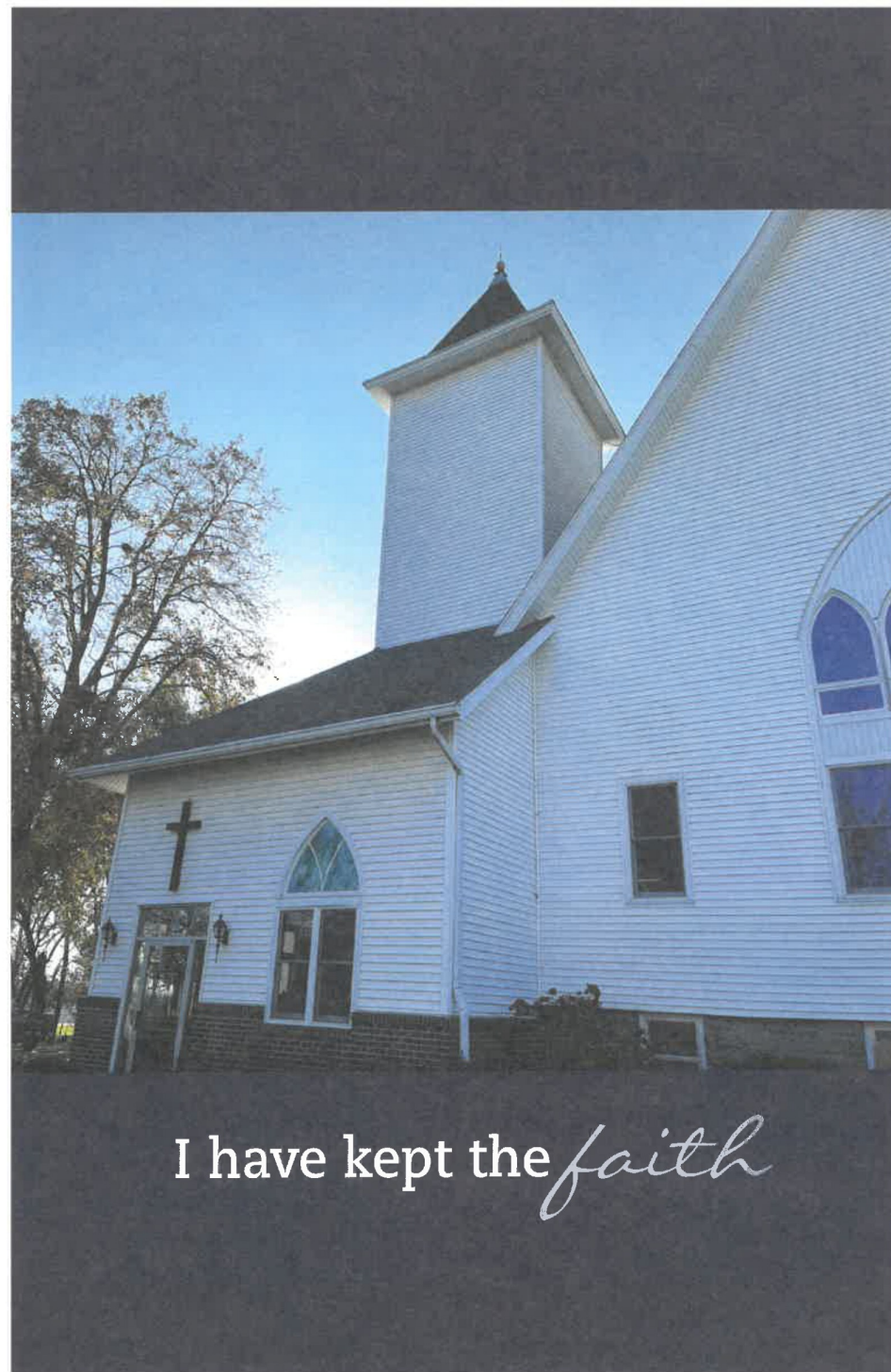
One congregation is celebrating its 105th anniversary this year. Others have been serving their communities for more than 175 years. With God at their side, they continue to do the work of Jesus and live out their calling.

The same call comes to each of us: For as long as God gives us, we run the good race. We keep the faith.

—Walt Wiltschek
Lombard, Illinois

"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; *I have kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14.

October 26, 2025. Photo of Lanark (IL) Church of the Brethren © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2025 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



I have kept the *faith*

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

October 26, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "A Mighty Fortress" (Arr. Wold)

CALL TO WORSHIP Amy Hardy, Worship Leader

One: This is God's house, a holy temple. We are in the midst of God's dwelling place.

All: My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of God. My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

One: Happy are those whom God has chosen to be here. Blessed are all whom God has forgiven and named.

All: Our voices rise in praise of God's awesome deeds. Mountains and seas bow down before the Creator.

One: God crowns the year with a bountiful harvest. Flocks and grain fill the meadows.

All: God's presence is felt to the ends of the earth. All creation is God's dwelling place, God's home.

HYMN #46 "I sing the mighty power of God"
[Verse 1]

*I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command and all the stars obey.*
[Verse 2]

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*
[Verse 3]

*There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne.
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
there's not a place where that we can flee but God is present there.*

OPENING PRAYER

To you, O God, shall our vows be performed. To you we sing our praises and utter our prayers. Come among us to renew your covenant and offer your signs. Pour out your Spirit on your people gathered here, that we may dream and prophesy and follow the vision you set before us. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

The threshing floors are full of grain, the vats overflow with wine and oil, the technology of our day puts the world at our remote control. The choices are so abundant and the possibilities for good and evil so extensive. Will we use the vast resources God puts at our disposal for selfish pleasure or for greater good? The church seeks to exercise wise stewardship to proclaim the reign of 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 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" (Douglas)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You have dealt wondrously with us, gracious God. We have gathered in your temple to praise you and to join in efforts to share faith with one another and with the world. Through our offerings, we wish to extend the witness made here into our neighborhoods, and, in ever-widening circles, to the ends of the earth. Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen.

HYMN #145 "There's a wideness in God's mercy"
[Verse 1]

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.*
[Verse 2]

*There is a welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good.
There is a mercy with the Savior, there is a healing in his blood.*

[Verse 3]

*But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own,
and we magnify the strictness with a zeal God will not own.*

[Verse 4]

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*

[Verse 5]

*If our love were but more simple we should rest upon God's word,
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.*

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

MORNING ANTHEM "Just As I Am" (Martin)
Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 18:9-14 NT 81

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

MESSAGE "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall" Pastor Steve Robinson

HYMN #505 "I am thine, O Lord"
[Verse 1]

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me.

But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

[Verse 2]

*Oh, the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend, when I kneel
in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend!*

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

[Verse 3]

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the pow'r of grace divine.

Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE "God Is My Strong Salvation" (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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(Worship resources by Lavon Bayler, "Gathered by Love", for the year C)



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

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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 October 26, 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, Oct. 26 - In the quiet of my heart, I hear you call my name, O God; and I draw near to you in prayer now. Just as the trees shout to your glory through the bright colored leaves that adorn them; I shout my praises to you from my heart full of love. With eyes of faith, I can see you all around me and I can feel the warmth of your presence leading me. While the sufferings, sorrows and injustices of the world are horridly great, you help me to see that goodness, healing and generosity exists in this world too. You, the light of the world, makes this possible through your church that grows in faithfulness and love...even as it endures hardships and trials. So, I pray for your church...that she will be bound tightly to you and that in so doing, she will be your living and growing presence in the world. I pray that the world will be changed by your light shining through the church...and through me. 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 Amy Hardy for being our worship leader today, to Pastor Steve Robinson for being with us while Pastor Twyla is on vacation and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the first birthday of Maelynn Marie Shay, given by “Mi Mi and Paw Paw” AKA Brian and Cinnamon Shay.

The Service & Outreach Team thanks all our members and friends who helped us make the recent Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat a great success. Thank you for helping us with set up and clean up, made and helped serve the food, helped with the bingo, children's games and crafts, made goodies for the cake walk, ministered to our guests and donated items for the bingo prizes. We cannot thank you enough. Thanks so much for making this a great community event.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205) or The Children's Sunday School Room (Room #203).** (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

Our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held next 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 have been placed 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!

Remembrance Sunday—November 2, 2025—Please join us for a special Service of Remembrance Worship Service next Sunday as we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved one who have passed in the last year.

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community! **All items collected will be going to the guests at our community breakfasts.** 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. Thank you!

The Service & Outreach's Christmas project this year is called “Holiday Care Package”. If you would like to fill a one-gallon zip plastic bag with care items, we will distribute them to our December breakfast guests. You can pick a man, woman, girl or boy. Suggested items are hats, gloves, socks, personal-care items, granola bars, Christmas cookies and a Christmas card. Any items you wish to make our guests feel special would be great. A box will be available to place your bags on the last Sunday in October and should be placed there by the end of November. We thank you in advance for your support.

Friends in Faith (Widows & Widowers) —Tuesday, December 2nd at 12pm we will be meeting for a pot luck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a fun time in fellowship with friends. A sign-up sheet will be in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Any questions, please contact Robin Davies, Suzie Wolfe, Ann Platou, or Mary Means.

The Mary Martha Circle has been working on a holiday craft and will be offering handmade holiday door hangers for sale beginning Sunday, November 23rd in the west entrance. The price of the door hanger is to be determined within the next couple of weeks. All proceeds will support one of our church ministries.

Third Quarter Contribution Statements can be found in the church mailboxes. If you do not have a church mailbox, your statement will be mailed. If you're new to HCOB and have been using an envelope and didn't receive a statement, please email or call the church office.

Fellowship Time—We are in need of volunteers to provide goodies for Fellowship Time, held the first Sunday of each month. Goodies may be your favorite recipe or a delicious store bought treat. Suggestions include cookies, muffins, or doughnuts (3-4 dozen of whatever you choose) and may be dropped off in the Mullendore Room (the room behind the wing of the sanctuary) that morning. Beverages and paper products are provided. Please sign up on the sheet located in the west entrance, or contact Kristal Bricker or Amy Hardy. Thank you for helping to make Fellowship Time possible!

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 Donnie Maas (240-866-1077). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and at other convenient locations around the church. To assist our financial secretary, we ask that you use an envelope and please put your name and envelope number on the outside. Here's a tip - take a few envelopes home and stick one of those return address labels we all get on the outside. Then all you need to add is your number. Having your name and number on the outside of the envelope is a huge help to our offering counters. Thank you!

Please remember to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com.** Thank you!

CALENDAR

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

6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting/Mullendore Room

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)

Saturday, November 1

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, November 2

Food Pantry Sunday/Remembrance Sunday/Daylight Saving Time ends

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)

12:00 pm Congregational Business Meeting/Luncheon/Fellowship Hall

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.

Please take note of the date change

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.

NOTE: New Date

Date: Saturday, November 15

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



GRIEF SHARE

SURVIVING the HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and while most of us look forward to the holidays, they are a time when the complex emotions of grief hit even harder. Consequently, grieving people need encouragement and support to make it through this season. This may be the first holiday after a loved one's passing, or perhaps it's been years since a loved one's death. Regardless of the time that has gone by, emotions can blindsides a person who has suffered a loss. While Thanksgiving and Christmas focus on family gatherings, traditions, expectations, social events and "cheer," it's difficult to feel cheerful when that special someone is no longer here. However, the emotional fallout can be lessened somewhat by knowing what to expect and by being prepared.

The Hagerstown Church of the Brethren GriefShare team is planning a special event entitled ***Surviving the Holidays*** on Monday, November 3, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. You do not need to be part of the current GriefShare group to attend, and we encourage you to invite family and friends to attend with you. There is no cost to attend this event. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to participate in our ***Surviving the Holidays*** evening, register at www.griefshare.org. For more information, contact Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

Light refreshments will be served.



It's Time to Place Your Poinsettia Order

You are invited again this year to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the church on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are **\$9.50 each** and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Please return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren no later than **November 23**. Your order may be placed in the offering or mailed to the Church Office: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St. Hagerstown MD 21740.

DEADLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

Payment must accompany this form.

If you order a poinsettia, please make sure either you or the person you gave it to removes it from the church at the proper time. Thank you!

Your name: _____

Number of plants:

- ☐ Red
☐ White
☐ Marble varieties

Total plants: _____ Amount attached at \$9.50 each: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

USE ADDITIONAL FREE SLIPS IF NECESSARY.

___ **IN MEMORY OF:** _____

___ **IN TRIBUTE TO:** _____

___ **IN THANKS TO:** _____

