

Always thankful

As we approach a set apart time of “Thanksgiving” on the yearly calendar once again, it’s okay to acknowledge that our human response to this holiday may also be fraught with disdain, prejudice, judgement or deep concern for the oppressive ugliness that hides behind festive cornucopia, bountiful tables, and family gatherings.

When my mom died in November 2022, I wrestled even more directly with the idea that we are supposed to be “always thankful.” The last thing on my mind in my mourning and the lament of those early days without her was finding cause for gratitude. And yet, when Paul wrote to the Colossians from his prison cell, he called them (and us) back to the foundational gratitude expected of us as followers of Jesus.

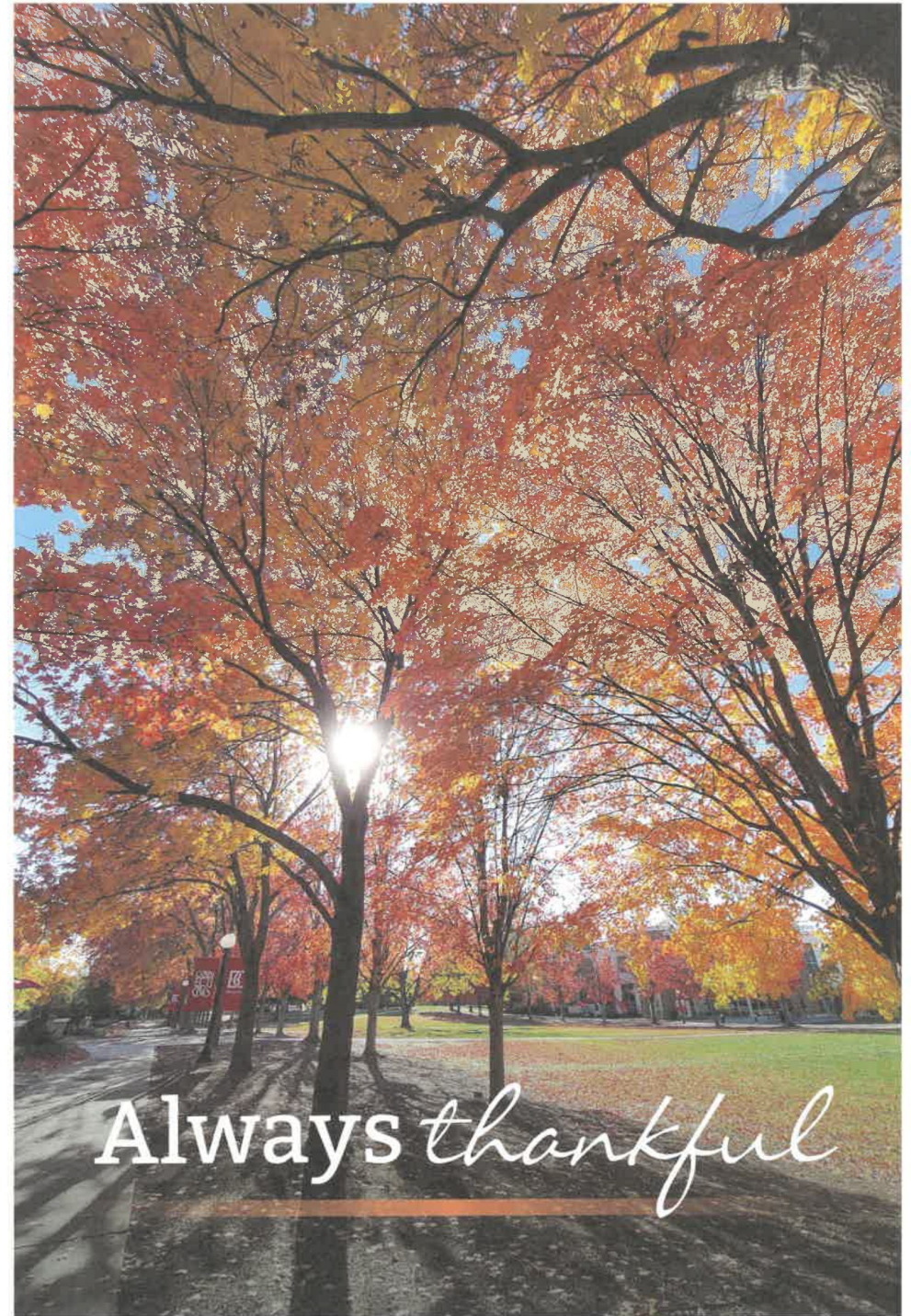
Colossians 1:15-20 is essentially a hymn about Christ’s work, a reminder that our thanksgiving is less about us and more about him as the first in and among everything, even our human understanding of collective sorrow and personal grief. By centering our love of Jesus and with spiritual understanding that we walk as God’s holy people, we are indeed thankful for the release of darkness and freedom that comes from living in his light.

It is in this fullness that we move through difficult days with strength and fortitude because of who God is, participating in Christ’s reconciling mission with “glorious might.” As you set your tables and hearts with a spirit of thanksgiving this week, may you also walk in the Light of Jesus, braiding your brokenness and our ancestral ache into belonging, gratitude, and freedom of being fully known and fully loved by our Lord and Savior. Amen.

—Angela Lahman
Peoria, Arizona

“We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens—always full of the joy of the Lord, and *always thankful* to the Father who has made us fit to share all the wonderful things that belong to those who live in the Kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:11-12, The Living Bible). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.

November 23, 2025, Thanksgiving. Photo © Benjamin Hoffmann. Used by permission.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

November 23, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” (Ashdown)

CALL TO WORSHIP Brenda Shane, Worship Leader

One: This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

One: Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us God’s loving ways.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

One: We find a home in God’s creation and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

One: The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

HYMN #94 “Come, ye thankful people”
[Verse 1]

Come, ye thankful people, come! Raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, doth provide for our need to be supplied. Come to God’s own temple, come. Raise the song of harvest home.

[Verse 2]

All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto God’s praise to yield; wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

[Verse 3]

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home, from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away, giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in God’s garner evermore.

[Verse 4]

Then, O church triumphant, come. Raise the song of harvest home. All are safely gathered in, free from sorrow, free from sin; there forever purified in God’s presence to abide. Come, ten thousand angels, come! Raise the song of harvest home.

OPENING PRAYER

O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You.

And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love.

We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy.

May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

The Bible speaks of first fruits offered before the altar of God. How would our lives change if our first thoughts on receiving a paycheck were of how we could honor and thank God? What if we always linked our material concerns with the spiritual? Does our gratitude begin to match God’s generosity?

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 “Nun danket alle Gott” (Lau)

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We rejoice in this opportunity to thank you, gracious God, with a portion of the bounty you provide for our use. We reach out for meaning and purpose in our unsatisfying lives. As we share materially in the work of your church, we are on a spiritual quest to discern your will for us and our world. Thank you for pointing us beyond food that perishes to feed on the bread of life. Amen.

HYMN #89

"For the beauty of the earth"

[Verse 1]

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

[Verse 2]

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and
flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise.*

[Verse 3]

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony,
linking sense to sound and sight: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise.*

[Verse 4]

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends
above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of
grateful praise.*

[Verse 5]

*For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above, off'ring up on ev'ry shore her
pure sacrifice of love: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

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

"Thank You, God"

(Lantz)

Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:25-35

NT 98

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are

you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

MESSAGE

"Wanting More"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

(inspired by Psalm 96)

One: Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, and within our homes,

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received,

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For Your continual provision in our lives,

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For the embrace of love,

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing through the night,

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.

All: The Lord be praised.

One: For the new life that beats within us now.

All: The Lord be praised.

One: In all things, we give You thanks and join with creation's song,

All: Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised!

HYMN #86

“Now thank we all our God”

[Verse 1]

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
who, from our mothers’ arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

[Verse 2]

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us safe in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world in the next.*

[Verse 3]

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE “Toccata on Praise God, From Whom All Blessing Flow”

(Burkhardt)

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

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 November 23, 2025

If you placed someone on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take A Moment" Let this be our daily Take a Moment prayer beginning on Sunday, November 23 - With a grateful heart, I come to you today, my Awesome God. I raise my voice and spirit in praise and thanksgiving to you for your marvelous works and generosity. Everything you do for me...the care you give...the love that you pour over me...the necessities you provide...the healing you deliver to me as needed are too numerous to name; but are appreciated more than words can express. My life would be empty and lack meaning without you and your guidance. My sin would eat away at my joy in life without your undeserved grace and forgiveness. Although it is inevitable that challenges will arise...I will not allow them to hold me down from embracing hope for better days ahead that I know you will provide. I pray for the poor, the spiritually lost, the grieving...the hopeless. May your presence and love pour over them and lead them to a better day. Thank you, God, for the promise of new and better days. Thank you, God, for everything! 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 Brenda Shane for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

The flower arrangement on the altar this morning is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of parents, CW4 Howard S. Henson and Lois Gaynell Brewer Kerns, by their daughter, Karolyn.

The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving!!

The Advent devotional, "Word Among Us", by John Fillmore is available this morning. Copies are on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall.

The Flower & Altar Committee has an opening on November 30th if you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory, celebration, or honor of a loved one. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Jackson at 703-863-7284 or at rebecca.jackson0314@gmail.com

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Children's Church 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 Tina Mills. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

Our annual Stewardship emphasis is underway. You should have received a letter with a pledge card, and a copy of the Gifts for the Body of Christ survey in your church mailbox. If you do not have a church mailbox, it will be mailed to you. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge to the church. All pledges are private. Please also fill out the Gifts of the Body of Christ survey. You may mail your pledge card and survey or place them in the Offering. Thank you for your financial support of the church and its ministries. Extra surveys and pledge cards can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.

The Hanging of the Greens will be held today directly following the late service worship. Please join us for some fun fellowship as we decorate our worship space for the Advent Season. Pizza will be provided for all volunteers.

The Mary Martha Circle Christmas craft is now for sale in the west entrance. The price is \$20.00. All proceeds will go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Our Advent Christmas Dinner will be held next Sunday, November 30th following the 10:45 service. Sign-up sheets are available in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Come celebrate with us!

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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 fill a bag for an adult or child. Suggested items are hats, gloves, socks, thin scarfs, hand cream, chap stick, toiletry items, children's books, coloring books, small toys, adult puzzle books and cards, granola bars, packaged cookies, snacks, and candy. We would be happy to receive small throw blankets which will not fit into the bags but will be distributed with the bags. Any items you wish to make our guests feel special would be great. Sample bags are on the table in the west entrance. A box is available in the west entrance to place your bags in 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.

A **"Happy Birthday Jesus" Party** will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 10AM—2PM in the Fellowship Hall. All children are invited and encouraged to bring a friend! There will be lots of fun and food. We will be decorating and baking cookies starting at 10AM. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Mills or any member of the Christian Education Ministry Team.

The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing on Sunday, December 7th at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no Morning Praise Worship. Sunday School and Late Service Worship will be held at regular time.

The Breakfast Team is asking for donations of winter coats and clothes for men, women, and children. Gently used Christmas Trees, ornaments and holiday items, as well as gently used kids toys for the Christmas Community Brunch on December 13th. Large Christmas items can be placed on the stage off the fellowship hall, please label the large items "for community". A box will be in the west entrance for smaller items. If you would like to donate cookies for the December 13th Breakfast they need to be bagged 4-6 cookies to a bag and then labeled what kind of cookie is in each bag. We would need them before the December 13th Breakfast. All cookies can be left in the west entrance in the designated box closer to December 13th.

SAVE THE DATE! HCOB's week to volunteer at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 8-15. For those of you who plan to volunteer, please make a note of these dates. More info to come in the new year. Thanks!

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.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 23

Junior Church/Poinsettia Order Deadline

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

12:00 pm Hanging of the Greens/HCOB

Monday, November 24

Church office closed

Tuesday, November 25

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, November 26

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving/Church office closed

Friday, November 28

Black Friday

8:00 am Bulletin prep./Church office

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

Saturday, November 29

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

12:00 pm Advent Christmas Dinner/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.

GIFTS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

2026



"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be Glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 4:10-11



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

As a Christian, I would like to give of myself to be used by God, through active participation in the life and ministry of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. The following are opportunities for me to give of myself and by checking, I commit to the importance of my participation:

- through corporate worship.
- through stewardship of financial resources.
- through prayer.
- through evangelism which shares the life and ministry of this congregation with others in the larger community.
- through fellowship with others on the journey of faith.

Through ministry in other areas of service in our church and community, I express interest in giving my time and talent helping with (check all that interest you):

SERVE ON A MINISTRY TEAM

- ___ Worship
- ___ Christian Education
- ___ Property and Finance
- ___ Service and Outreach
- ___ Spiritual Nurture
- ___ Special Committee
- ___ Delegate to District or Annual Conference

WORSHIP

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ___ Worship Leader | ___ Praise Band |
| ___ Usher | ___ Making Banners and/or |
| ___ Pianist | Worship Centers |
| ___ Church Choir | ___ Advent Wreath Lighting |
| ___ Handbell Choir | and/or Reading |
| ___ Sound Technician | ___ Flower & Altar Committee |
| ___ Drama Participant | ___ Help decorate for |
| ___ Skit Creator/Writer | special days |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- ☐ Sunday School Teacher
- ☐ Sunday School Helper
- ☐ Vacation Bible School Teacher
- ☐ Vacation Bible School Helper
- ☐ Nursery/PreK Attendant
- ☐ Sending cards/notes to college students
- ☐ Church Librarian
- ☐ Library Assistant
- ☐ Youth Club Teacher or ☐ helper ☐ organizer
- ☐ Children's Church Helper (once each month)

CHURCH PROPERTY

- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Small Repair Jobs
- ☐ Parking Lot maintenance
- ☐ Cleaning (storage rooms, kitchen, pew racks, walls, woodwork, Altar, etc.)
- ☐ Lawn Care
- ☐ Shrubbery & Flowers

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- ☐ REACH Cold Weather Shelter volunteer
- ☐ Community Breakfast
- ☐ Community Picnic
- ☐ Micah's Backpack
- ☐ Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat
- ☐ S&O Bulletin Board
- ☐ Other Outreaches

SPIRITUAL NURTURE

- ☐ Prayer Chain
- ☐ Kitchen helper
- ☐ Parish Nurse
- ☐ Greeter (Sunday School/Worship)
- ☐ Caring and Sharing
- ☐ Women's Circles
- ☐ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ☐ Over 80 Birthday
- ☐ Kids Birthday Cards
- ☐ Friends in Faith (Widow/Widowers)
- ☐ Book Club

OFFICE

- ☐ Making copies
- ☐ Collating bulletins
- ☐ Folding
- ☐ Running errands (Post Office, office supply store)
- ☐ Answering phone
- ☐ Labeling/Stuffing envelopes
- ☐ Administrative Assistant Substitute (cover for vacation days)

OTHER WAYS I CAN HELP



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 **TODAY (Nov. 23rd)**. 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 TODAY (Nov. 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:** _____
