



Tidings

December 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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"A Song was Heard at Christmas" By Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

A song was heard at Christmas
to wake the midnight sky:
a Saviour's birth, and peace on earth,
and praise to God on high.
The angels sang at Christmas
with all the hosts above,
and still we sing the new-born King,
his glory and his love.

A star was seen at Christmas,
a herald and a sign,
that all might know the way to go
to find the child divine.
The wise men watched at Christmas
in some far eastern land,
and still the wise in starry skies
discern their Maker's hand.

A tree was grown at Christmas,
a sapling green and young;
no tinsel bright with candlelight
upon its branches hung.
But he who came at Christmas
our sins and sorrows bore,
and still we name his tree of shame
our life for evermore.



A child was born at Christmas
when Christmas first began;
the Lord of all a baby small,
the Son of God made man.
For love is ours at Christmas,
and life and light restored,
and so we praise through endless days
the Saviour, Christ the Lord.

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Christmas Eve Service

Everyone is invited to the Christmas Eve celebration service of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and worship the newborn King through a traditional service of singing carols, listening to the angelic voices of the choir and the heavenly tones of the bell choir and the organ, and hearing the Christmas story, and we will also celebrate communion. Symbolizing the Light that came to the world on that holy night long ago, we will hold light high as we re-commit our faithfulness to carry the light into the world. The Christmas Eve offering will be going to the Good Samaritan Fund and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come...let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

Sundays in December

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
12/07/2025 No Early Service	Twyla Rowe	John Miller	"Prepare the Way"	Matthew 3:1-12	The Gingrich Family	Advent 2/Fellowship Time/ Food Pantry/ SS Orchestra
12/14/2025	Twyla Rowe	Candice Summers	"Wait Patiently"	James 5:7-10	Suzanne Buhrman	Advent 3/Junior Church/ Parish Nurse
12/21/2025	Twyla Rowe	Jack Finniff	"Save Us"	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Diana Shepherd	Advent 4
12/28/2025	Eddie Edmonds	Amy Hardy			Wilma Moore	Junior Church

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

2026 Pocket Directory

Our pocket directory is a year-round work in progress. Updates are added as we are made aware of them, but with our busy lives, sometimes we don't remember to pass our changes along to the church office.

Do you have any changes to your information that need to be included in the 2026 edition? If you do, either email, call, or leave a note for Allyson no later than **December 15th**. Directories will be printed after the first of the year.

Thank you!
secretaryhcob@gmail.com



Christmas Community Brunch

Saturday, December 13, 2025
9:00—10:30 am

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!

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.



Holiday Schedule

*Pastor Twyla will be on vacation
December 26th - January 4th*

*The Administrative Assistant will be on
vacation December 25th—December
26th; December 31st—January 1st*

Happy Birthday Jesus!!

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 Mary Martha Circle

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.

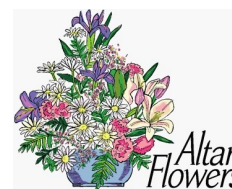


Bread and Cup Communion

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2025
All are invited.



Garrett Jessop
13301 C-Hunter Hill Dr (42)
Delete phone number listed
for him—not in use



Volunteer Needed

The Flower and Altar committee is looking for a volunteer for the month of January. If you're interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay.

Holiday Care Package

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.

Daily Bible Reading

DECEMBER

- ◇ 1 1 Corinthians 5-8
- ◇ 2 1 Corinthians 9-11
- ◇ 3 1 Corinthians 12-14
- ◇ 4 1 Corinthians 15-16
- ◇ 5 2 Corinthians 1-4
- ◇ 6 2 Corinthians 5-9
- ◇ 7 2 Corinthians 10-13
- ◇ 8 Romans 1-3
- ◇ 9 Romans 4-7
- ◇ 10 Romans 8-10
- ◇ 11 Romans 11-13
- ◇ 12 Romans 14-16
- ◇ 13 Acts 20-23
- ◇ 14 Acts 24-26
- ◇ 15 Acts 27-28
- ◇ 16 Colossians, Philemon
- ◇ 17 Ephesians
- ◇ 18 Philippians
- ◇ 19 1 Timothy
- ◇ 20 Titus
- ◇ 21 1 Peter
- ◇ 22 Hebrews 1-6
- ◇ 23 Hebrews 7-10
- ◇ 24 Hebrews 11-13
- ◇ 25 2 Timothy
- ◇ 26 2 Peter, Jude
- ◇ 27 1 John
- ◇ 28 2, 3 John
- ◇ 29 Revelation 1-5
- ◇ 30 Revelation 6-11
- ◇ 31 Revelation 12-18; 19-22



Sunday School Orchestra

Sunday, December 7th
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 Morning Praise Worship. Sunday School and Late Service Worship will be held at

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 Jan Young at 240-310-4101

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). 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.



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 Children's Church 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 month of December 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.

December 2025 Schedule

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

Monday, December 1

Church office closed

Tuesday, December 2

12:00 pm Friends in Faith (Widow/Widower) Luncheon/
Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 4

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

Friday, December 5

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

Saturday, December 6

Pastor Twyla's day off
10:00 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 7

Food Pantry Sunday
9:00 am Sunday School Orchestra/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)

Monday, December 8

Church office closed

Wednesday, December 10

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

Thursday, December 11

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

Friday, December 12

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

Saturday, December 13

Pastor Twyla's day off
8:00 am Christmas Community Brunch/Fellowship Hall
(Doors open at 9:00 AM to the public)

Sunday, December 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)

Monday, December 15

Church office closed
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 17

Administrative Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
5:00 pm Kiwanis Club Christmas Party/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Thursday, December 18

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

Friday, December 19

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

Saturday, December 20

Pastor Twyla's day off
2:00 pm Poinsettias being delivered/HCOB

Sunday, December 21

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)

Monday, December 22

Church office closed

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve/Administrative Assistant/Work from home
Bread & Cup Communion
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship/Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day/Church office closed

Friday, December 26

Church office closed/Pastor Vacation
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, December 27

Pastor Vacation

Sunday, December 28

Pastor Vacation/Junior Church
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)

Monday, December 29

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed

Tuesday, December 30

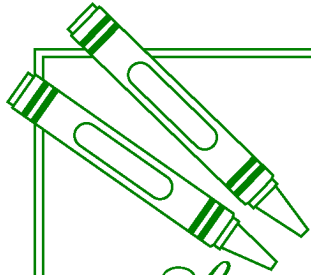
Pastor Vacation
6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, December 31

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed/New Year's Eve
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions



The Puzzle Page for December 2025



Just for KIDS

The Son of the Highest

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

12. taerg he
8. eh Jacob
13. gHhi father
7. aDvid give
10. bocJa great
3. reafth High
4. vieg David

2. noS forever
11. seouh end
5. northe Son
1. roevefr house
6. dingmok throne
9. den kingdom

"He will be _____₁₂ and will be called the _____₂
of the Most _____₁₃. The Lord God will _____₄
him the _____₅ of his _____₃ _____₇,
and _____₈ will reign over the _____₁₁
of _____₁₀ _____₁; his _____₆ will
never _____₉."

Luke 1:32-33, NIV

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High



PAPER BAG LUMINARIAS

Lead your family and friends to your house this holiday with luminarias celebrating Jesus' birth.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pencil
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Hole punch, tack or pushpin
- Sand
- Votive candles or tea lights

WHAT YOU DO:

- 1 Draw a simple picture, word or symbol of Jesus' birth on the bag; for example, a star, a manger, a heart, a lamb, a wise man or the word "JOY."
- 2 Using a hole punch or pushpin, punch holes along the drawing, leaving a little space between each hole. Punch all the way through both sides of the bag so you end up with the same design on both sides when the bag is opened. When using a pin, place a piece of cardboard under the bag or work on carpet so nothing gets damaged.
- 3 Open the bag and fill each luminaria with about two inches of sand. Then sink a votive candle or tea light in the center of the sand.
- 4 Place the luminarias along a walk, patio or porch. Have an adult light the candles.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



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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**

December 15, 2025 @ NOON

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

**2026 Annual
Conference Logo**

