

Happy tears

Daniela sped to the office of the Bernardo Kohler Center for Immigration, my Brethren Volunteer Service placement, as soon as I texted that her green card had arrived. After fleeing violence in her home country, she became a victim of a crime in the US, making her eligible for a U-Visa. U-Visa recipients typically wait more than ten years to receive a green card, which grants many benefits and protections.

When Daniela finally held her green card in her hands, she cried out, "gracias, Dios," "thank you, God," in between loud, wracking sobs. Her tears released years of fear, uncertainty, and longing. Deep joy sprang from deep suffering.

The people of Galilee in today's scripture also spent long years waiting for relief. They ached for a Savior who would bring not just spiritual redemption but also deliverance from the shadowy, death-dealing forces of oppression, first under the Assyrian Empire, and, by the time Jesus began his ministry, under Roman rule.

In Matthew 4, Jesus goes to Galilee to proclaim the good news that the kingdom of heaven is near. In Isaiah 9, the eponymous prophet alluded to this arrival, foretelling that the people of Galilee would rejoice before God when God "shattered the yoke that burdens them."

When Jesus came, he taught, healed, fed, and included diverse individuals with spiritual and physical ills. However, it seems to me that the light that dawned with Jesus is taking its sweet time to rise.

When I start to despair about the kingdom's long sunrise, I remind myself of all the people I have met who work to build a world that is more like heaven—a world where all are loved, valued, and cared for. May those of us who have joy in Jesus serve all who suffer, and let the happy tears flow.

—Marianne Fitzkee
Manheim, Pennsylvania

"You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; *they rejoice before you* as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder" (Isaiah 9:3, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23.

January 25, 2026. Photo of FaithX by Colby Patton. Used by permission.
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They rejoice before you



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP **10:45 AM**
January 25, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Contemplation on Jesus, I Come" (Scriveyner)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Chris Stockslager, Worship Leader

One: Jesus comes along side us and calls us by name:

All: "I hear you call to me, follow me."

One: A simple call. A hard call.

All: Because following requires leaving.

One: And we look around to see who else Jesus could be talking to.

All: And we look around to see the trappings of the life we know.

One: It's hard to leave our nets and walk away from the lake.

*All: But we have come this far, to this place, where we can listen
and be transformed.*

***HYMN #117** "Fairest Lord Jesus"
[Verse 1]

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and Mary's Son, thee will I
cherish, thee will I honor thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

[Verse 2]

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of
spring. Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

[Verse 3]

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host. Je-
sus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav'n can boast.*

[Verse 4]

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of all the nations, Son of God and Son of Man, glory and hon-
or, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving Savior, you call to us across deep waters and dark places. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find you; and may all things be according to God's will. In your beloved name we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Beside the lakeshore, long ago, Jesus called to his disciples: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people!" Jesus calls to us today: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." The ministry begun by the Sea of Galilee continues in our day when we proclaim the good news of God's love. Let us give with joy as we follow Jesus.

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 "Follow Me, I'll Guide Thee Home" (Shea)
***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O God, we have seen your glory, felt the touch of your love, and felt your presence with us. With joyful hearts, we offer you our gifts. Having heard your call, we offer you our lives and our service. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (Carter)

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.*

HYMN #357*"O Master, let me walk with thee"**[Verse 1]*

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free. Tell me thy secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

[Verse 2]

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love. Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

[Verse 3]

Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,

[Verse 4]

in hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way, in peace that only thou canst give; with thee, O Master, let me live.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 4:12-23

NT 3

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

MESSAGE

"Kingdom Fishing"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

HYMN #229"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore"**[Verse 1]*

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones. You only asked me to follow humbly.

[Chorus]

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my name. Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

[Verse 2]

You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons; but nets and fishes - my daily labor.

[Chorus]

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my name. Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

[Verse 3]

You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors to give others rest, and constant love that keeps on loving.

[Chorus]

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my name. Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

[Verse 4]

You, who have fished other oceans ever longed-for by souls who are waiting, my loving friend, as thus you call me.

[Chorus]

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my name. Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

BENEDICTIONAfter the Benediction, you may be seated.**Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.***POSTLUDE***"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

(Arr. Wagner)

*~~~~~***Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship**Thank you for joining us in worship today.**~~~~~*



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 January 25, 2026

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 the be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer for the week beginning on Sunday, January 25 - I woke up today, God, to a new day of joys and challenges. I look forward to the moments that I can see and feel your presence in my life. I anticipate that you will open my awareness to opportunities to answer your call to reach out to others. Sometimes, all that is needed is a kind word or a prayer. Help me to not take this lightly; but instead, see the power put forth through these efforts to extend healing and hope. Other times, more is required from me to answer your call. Admittedly, at some of those times, the call is a challenge for me to accept. I don't always feel I have the gifts required from me to do what you ask. And sometimes, I confess, I make other things or tasks a priority in my life because they are easier or more appealing to me. Send your Holy Spirit to move in me to trust your power to help me fulfill the tasks you ask of me. I want my life to glorify you and be a guide to help others to know you and all that you want to bring to their lives. This is my prayer, in Jesus' name. 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 Chris Stockslager for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

It's time to sign up for a Patron ad for in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response auction booklet. Patron ads are for those individuals who want to support disaster relief. The annual auction is the district's largest fundraiser for this. Patron ads can be purchased for ten or more dollars. Please contact Daryl Long or Arn Platou to place your ad, but do it quickly. We have an early deadline this year and all checks and forms need to be in Elgin before **February 6th** to be included in the booklet. Checks need to be made out to HCOB.

Valentine's Bread & Soup Luncheon—The Spiritual Nurture Team invites you to a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 15th directly following the late service worship. If you would like to attend, please see the sign up sheet in the west entrance and Fellowship Hall. Sign up to bring a soup, bread, or dessert as well.

New Year Update—I am so thankful to everyone that participated with the Children's Birthday cards, Over 80, and Homebound list. If you do not wish to continue participating with these ministries, please contact Mary Means.

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

2026 Altar Flowers—If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory, celebration, or honor of a loved one, the Flower and Altar Committee have the following Sunday dates available in 2026: **May 3, August 30, & November 29**. If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay at 301-730-8499 or email cinnamongirl@myactv.net

Our service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 8-15. We need to cover all roles Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday that week: Search, Laundry, Servers on Thursday. All meals have been covered! God is good! Starting February 15, and through March 8, we will be collecting donations of items for REACH. Donations will be taken to REACH during our week at the shelter. Please see attached list of items needed at REACH. Any donations and all volunteers will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Sandy Clipp at 240-291-8753 if interested in serving at REACH or if you have any questions.

Inclement Weather Policy—If inclement weather is forecasted, be sure to:

- * Check your email—we will send out a group email as quickly as possible if the decision to cancel in-person worship is made.
- * Check our Facebook page—Hagerstown Church of the Brethren (facebook.com/hagerstowncob) we will post updates there as well.

If we do hold in-person worship, and if you are uncomfortable driving in bad weather, please join us on YouTube Live. Be safe first and check your email!

We're in the season for high heating costs. We remind everyone to please keep doors closed to the sanctuary, fellowship hall, church entrances, hallways, and church office. All classroom doors (2nd and 3rd floor) should stay open. Thank you for your awareness and cooperation.

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.

Church mailboxes. Everyone is welcome to use the mailboxes. If you would like to be added or taken off the list, please contact Mary Means. If you have a mailbox, we ask that you be willing to monitor it. Any mail that is left in the mailboxes after a three-month period will be disposed of. The mailboxes are located in the hallway of the church office.

Because winter weather is here, we'd like to pass along a gentle reminder to drive slowly in our parking lot, especially when it's snow-covered or icy. Always be on alert for children, pedestrians, dogs, cats, and those less mindful than you are of the pavement surface conditions.

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!

Offering drop-off box is located in the west entrance by the double doors. This box can be used to drop off your offering or order forms. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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!

Our services are streaming through YouTube! If you have not done so already, subscribe to HCOB's YouTube Channel and share it with others. You can do so by going to: www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Printed copies of Leadership and Ministry team meeting minutes are available in the west entrance. The holders are located on the wall beside the bulletin board.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 25

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, January 26

Church office closed

Tuesday, January 27

6:30 pm Leadership Team/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, January 28

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, January 29

7:00 am	Elevator inspection/Church
5:30 pm	Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Brethren Bells/Choir Room
7:30 pm	Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 30

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, January 31

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, February 1

Food Pantry Sunday

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:15 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room

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

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.

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

2026 Disaster Response Auction

The 45th Annual Disaster Response Auction will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 7:00 a.m. at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland.



In 2025, a record high of \$96,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help survivors recover from many disasters all around our world.

During 2025 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts:

- California Wildfires
- Israel-Hamas War response in Gaza and West Bank
- Tennessee - Hurricane Helene Response – Rebuilding
- Hurricane Melissa Response in Cuba
- Summer 2022 Flooding Response in Kentucky
- Venezuela Flooding Response
- Deportation Defense Response
- Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda Churches
- South Sudan Church of the Brethren Mission
- Ecuador Humanitarian Relief
- Nigeria Crisis Response
- Child Life Disaster Relief
- Ukraine Response
- ...and much more!

Thank you for your support of our Disaster Response Program!

On the back of this page are many ways you can help make the Auction a success.

Put May 2nd on your calendar!



Come to the auction and invite your friends ...together we can make a difference to many people near or far recovering from disasters.

You can support Disaster Response in various ways:

- Prayer
- Donate as a Patron, Supporter or Sustainer for as little as \$10 and get your name printed with your church in the Auction booklet.
- Purchase church, business, or personal ad space in the Auction booklet Full page (\$160 black/\$200 color), Half Page (\$85 black/\$105 color), Third Page (\$60 black/\$75 color) and Eighth Page (\$25 black/\$35 color). Check with HCOB's auction team members Daryl Long or Arn Platou to order your ad. Thanks!!
- Make quilts, comforters and wall hangings or other handcrafts to sell.
- Donate special items such as high quality woodwork, paintings and artwork. Antiques, furniture, used cars or trucks, and collectibles also are a valuable donation.
- Encourage your church group or children's Sunday School class to collect items to make special gift baskets, school bags full of new books, etc. to auction off. Get creative!
- Contribute a gift certificate from your business for the auction.
- Donate quality auction items (value of \$10 or more) such as craft items, food, baked goods, flower and vegetable plants, trees and shrubs for booth sales.
- Groups and individuals can sponsor special events such as plays, dinners, and musical presentations to raise and provide monetary gifts to the auction.
- Volunteer to help at the Auction.

– Decide now how you can help!

If you have special items of high value to donate, tell HCOB's auction team members Daryl Long or Arn Platou as soon as possible before the Feb. 6 deadline, so they can email a photo and a description to our auction book designer!!

2026 Reach's Cold Weather Shelter Needs List

Personal Care

- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Lotion
- ◆ Tampons

Food & Drink

- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Coffee, Regular or Decaf
- ◆ Non-dairy Creamer
- ◆ Paper Plates of any size

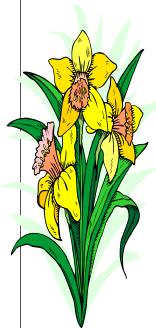
Thank you for your support!

Cleaning Supplies

- ◆ Napkins
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Laundry Pods

Your name: _____

Amount enclosed _____



The Easter season is approaching and it is time to order Easter flowers. Everyone is invited to purchase a flower for Easter morning. Flowers are as priced below and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. Form may be either placed in the offering or mailed to: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St., Hagerstown MD 21740.

All orders must be received by or on Sunday, February 22, 2026. Payment must accompany this form. We need to order early so the greenhouse can place the order with its supplier and get our flowers here on time.

Lilies: White only Number of plants \$12.25/each

Mums: Yellow Number of plants \$11.00/each
Purple Number of plants \$11.00/each

Pink Tulips: Number of plants \$11.00/each

“Pansy Gardens” Number of pots @ \$11.75/each
(Mini daffs and pansies in the same planter)

(please print)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN TRIBUTE TO: _____

THANKS TO: _____
