

God's requirement

What is a fitting payment for our transgressions?

What will make our relationship right with God after we harm our bond?

What must we offer as a sacrifice "for the sin of [our] soul"?

Unblemished and pure animals?

Burnt offerings by the thousands?

Rivers of oil?

Even a first-born child?

God's answer for reconciliation:

Demonstrations of justice, love, and kindness.

Recommitment to walk humbly with our creator.

Sacrificing of our time.

Giving of ourselves for our neighbor.

Reorientation to God and others.

Living a life of worship in action.

Not a request, an ask, or even a suggestion.

A never-ending requirement.

—Jenn Dorsch-Messler
Lititz, Pennsylvania

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and *what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*" (Micah 6:8, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12.

February 1, 2026, Service Sunday. Photo by Brethren Disaster Ministries.
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What does the Lord require of you but to
do justice and to **love kindness** and to
walk humbly with your God?

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

February 1, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Happy are we

All: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

One: Happy are we

All: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

One: Happy are we

All: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

One: Happy are we

All: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

Kathy Kelsey, Worship Leader

***HYMN #8**

"Brethren, we have met to worship"

[Verse 1]

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?

All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.

Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

[Verse 2]

Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sisters aided him.

Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?

Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.

Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

[Verse 3]

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?

Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?

Brethren, join your cries to help them, sisters, let your prayers abound!

Pray, oh pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

[Verse 4]

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too.

Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.

Christ will call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down.

Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

We have been called to lives of justice, love, and truth. We have been blessed to be a blessing. Let us generously offer all that we are and all that we have to further this beloved community of love, justice, truth, and blessing.

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 "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing.

Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

HYMN #444*"Lord, I want to be a Christian"**[Verse 1]**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**In my heart, in my heart,**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**[Verse 2]**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**In my heart, in my heart,**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**[Verse 3]**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**In my heart, in my heart,**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**[Verse 4]**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**In my heart, in my heart,**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.***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***"Blest Are They"*

(Haas)

Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

NT 4

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MESSAGE*"Goals and Graces"*

Pastor Twyla Rowe

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.

BENEDICTIONAfter the Benediction, you may be seated.**Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.***POSTLUDE***"Blessed Are You When People Revile You....Great Is Your Reward"*

The service music this morning is taken from "The Beatitudes" by Roberta Rowland-Raybold.

*Organ Reflections on the Blessings of Jesus.**~~~~~***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.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

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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 February 1, 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 this be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer beginning on Sunday, February 1 - My happiness is found in you, O God. As I follow the ways you have commanded me...to love You with all that I am, and to love my neighbor...I find peace and joy in my relationships. As I seek to walk in Jesus' footsteps...serving others and spreading the Gospel Message...I find purpose and fulfillment in my life. There is nothing more that I want to do than to please you and to be the person you created me to be; which most assuredly is an instrument of your love and a beacon for your light. May your Holy Spirit go with me today as I live for you. 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 Kathy Kelsey for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

The flowers on the altar this morning are to celebrate Chris Herman's birthday from his loving wife, Julie, and son, Brennan.

The flowers on the pedestal this morning are given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of our beloved brother Gerald L. Stevens from his sisters Diane Graham and Laura Minnick.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Thanks to all for your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community.

February Tidings are now available. If you did not receive an electronic copy please notify the Church office and you will be added to the emailing list. Printed copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall.

Please check your church mailbox for the 2025 Year-End contribution statement. All statements left in the mailboxes after today will be mailed. Please help us save money on postage by checking your mailbox.

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.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 18th at 7PM in the Sanctuary

- Lenten Services will be held on March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Our guest speakers are as follows:

- March 4—Chris Stockslager
- March 11—John Miller
- March 18—Brenda Shane & Becky Jackson
- March 25—Dennis Browne



Cookies are also needed for our Lenten services. Sign-up sheets can be found in the west entrance or fellowship hall closer to March.

Friends in Faith (Widows & Widowers)—Tuesday, March 10th at 12pm we will be having a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be in the west entrance and fellowship hall soon. Any questions, please contact Nancy Gingrich, Robin Davies, Suzie Wolfe, Ann Platou, or 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

Junior Church will be held next Sunday 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.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

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.

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.

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.

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, 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)

Monday, February 2

Church office closed

Tuesday, February 3

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, February 4

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, February 5

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

Friday, February 6

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

Saturday, February 7

Pastor Twyla's day off
9:30 am American Guild of Organists Cumberland Valley Chapter/Altruistic Room

Sunday, February 8

Junior Church
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Spiritual Nurture Meeting/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)
12:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting/Mullendore Room

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

<i>Easter Flowers Order Form</i>	
Your name: _____	
Amount enclosed _____	
	<p>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 <u>placed in the offering or mailed to: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St., Hagerstown MD 21740.</u></p> <p>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.</p>
Lilies: White only <input type="checkbox"/> Number of plants \$12.25/each	
Mums: Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> Number of plants \$11.00/each Purple <input type="checkbox"/> Number of plants \$11.00/each	
Pink Tulips: <input type="checkbox"/> Number of plants \$11.00/each	
"Pansy Gardens" <input type="checkbox"/> Number of pots @ \$11.75/each (Mini daffs and pansies in the same planter)	
(please print)	
IN MEMORY OF: _____	
IN TRIBUTE TO: _____	
THANKS TO: _____	