



# Tidings

January 2026



**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](https://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)  
[www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](https://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

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## *Search Committee's Pen*

### **Greetings, Church Family,**

The Search Committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the congregation and the Leadership Team for your support throughout the survey process. Your participation was tremendous and played a vital role in helping us complete all the information needed for the church profile. We want to share a bit of background on what has taken place so far, as well as what comes next.

Throughout the fall, our committee met regularly. Our first meeting was with Doug Veal, DEM, to review steps and requirements in the search process. We reviewed our previously submitted profile and discussed the best path forward to completing the 14-page profile by December. This profile offers a snapshot of who we are as a church and is designed to help potential pastoral candidates get to know us.

The congregational survey you completed provided essential information directly required for the profile. The Leadership Team also completed a separate set of questions, and their input was equally important. We are grateful for every comment that was submitted—your thoughtful reflections helped us enrich the profile and will continue to guide us as we begin conversations with candidates.

We also want to thank our Worship Ministry Team chairs, Chris Stockslager and Allyson McPeak, for gathering additional information we needed so promptly. Before submitting the final profile, we met with the Leadership Team for review and feedback. We are pleased to share that the profile was officially submitted during the first week of December.

**And now for some wonderful news:** Our profile has been approved and is now in circulation throughout the denomination. Doug shared that he feels we put together a great snapshot of our church—so thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort.

### **Next Steps**

In the immediate future, the Search Committee will be having additional conversations with church staff to gather further insight as we prepare interview questions for potential candidates. We will be working on this throughout January while we await word on any potential pastoral candidates from the district. Once we receive candidate profile/s, we will review them carefully and determine whom we would like to interview.

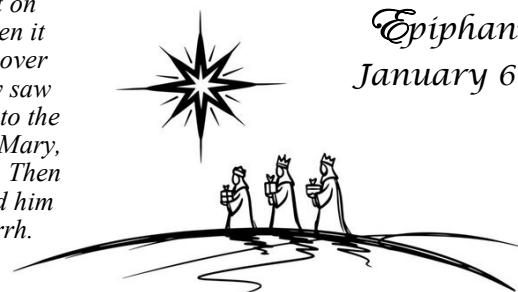
We will continue providing monthly updates to the Leadership Team. If you have any questions, concerns or want to provide any additional insight, at any point, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Search Committee: **Ed Beachley, Vince Bourdeau, Amy Clipp, Jack Finniff, Nicole Forsyth, Heather Kees, Ed Plank, and Eileen Smith.**

Most importantly, we ask that you continue to keep our church, our future pastor, and this entire process in your prayers.

*Happy New Year, The Search Committee*

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

*Matthew 2:9-11*



**Epiphany**  
January 6th

# Sundays in January



Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
1/4/2026	Dennis Browne	Wendy Browne	“Innovating to Zero”	Romans 5:5-10	Joanne Hilton	Fellowship Time/Food Pantry
1/11/2026	Twyla Rowe	Amy Hardy	“Jesus was Baptized”	Matthew 3:13-17	Amy Clipp	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
1/18/2026	Twyla Rowe	Larry Wisherd	“We are invited to Come and See”	John 1:29-42	Ginny Nalley	
1/25/2026	Twyla Rowe	Chris Stockslager	“Kingdom Fishing”	Matthew 5:1-12	Kirk & Diane Graham	Junior Church

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

## 2026 Pocket Directory

The 2026 Pocket Directory will be available on or before January 31, 2026. Copies will be available on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary & Fellowship Hall.

Please check your information and advise the church office if any changes need to be made.

Updates to the directory will be published in the monthly newsletters so you can update your copy of the directory.

## Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Patron Ad.

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.



We extend a welcome to our new member, Beth Davis-Reinhold. We welcomed Beth to the HCOB family on December 14th during our late service worship.

## 2026 Communion Dates

### Bread & Cup

June 2026  
December 2026

### Love Feast

April 2, 2026 — Maundy Thursday  
Love Feast & Communion/Feet washing

October 4, 2026 — World Communion Sunday  
Love Feast & Communion/Feet washing



## 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!

## Community Breakfast

There will be no Community Breakfast held the months of January and February. The next Community Breakfast will be held in March. Thank you for your continued support to this wonderful ministry!



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!

## Friendly Reminder:

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.

## Fellowship Time January 4, 2026-10:20 AM Mullendore Room

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!



## Daily Bible Reading

### JANUARY

- ◊ 1 Genesis 1-3
- ◊ 2 Genesis 4-7
- ◊ 3 Genesis 8-11
- ◊ 4 Job 1-5
- ◊ 5 Job 6-9
- ◊ 6 Job 10-13
- ◊ 7 Job 14-16
- ◊ 8 17-20
- ◊ 9 Job 21-23
- ◊ 10 Job 24-28
- ◊ 11 Job 29-31
- ◊ 12 Job 32-34
- ◊ 13 Job 35-37
- ◊ 14 Job 38-39
- ◊ 15 Job 40-42
- ◊ 16 Genesis 12-15
- ◊ 17 Genesis 16-18
- ◊ 18 Genesis 19-21
- ◊ 19 Genesis 22-24
- ◊ 20 Genesis 25-26
- ◊ 21 Genesis 27-29
- ◊ 22 Genesis 30-31
- ◊ 23 Genesis 32-34
- ◊ 24 Genesis 35-37
- ◊ 25 Genesis 38-40
- ◊ 26 Genesis 41-42
- ◊ 27 Genesis 43-45
- ◊ 28 Genesis 46-47
- ◊ 29 Genesis 48-50
- ◊ 30 Exodus 1-3
- ◊ 31 Exodus 4-6



## 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



### 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,



### 2026 Altar Flowers & Altar Flower Volunteer for January

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, May 31, August 30, September 6, November 29, & December 13.**

Also, a volunteer is needed for the month of January.

If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay at 301-730-8499 or email [cinnamongirl@myactv.net](mailto:cinnamongirl@myactv.net)



## 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.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

# January 2026 Schedule

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

## Thursday, January 1

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed

Happy New Year!

## Friday, January 2

Pastor Vacation

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

## Saturday, January 3

Pastor Vacation

9:00 am Baby Shower/Fellowship Hall

## Sunday, January 4

Pastor Vacation/Dennis Browne\_Guest Preacher

Food Pantry Sunday

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

9:45 am Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Kitchen

10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live

(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

## Monday, January 5

Church office closed

## Tuesday, January 6

Epiphany

5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room

## Wednesday, January 7

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

## Thursday, January 8

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

## Friday, January 9

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

## Saturday, January 10

Pastor Twyla's day off

## Sunday, January 11

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 Screenings

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live

(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

## Monday, January 12

Church office closed

## Wednesday, January 14

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

## Thursday, January 15

12:00 pm Newsletter deadline

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

## Friday, January 16

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

## Saturday, January 17

Pastor Twyla's day off

## Sunday, January 18

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 19

Church office closed/Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Tuesday, January 20

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room

6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

## Wednesday, January 21

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

## Thursday, January 22

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

## Friday, January 23

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

## Saturday, January 24

Pastor Twyla's day off

## 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 Meeting/Mullendore Room

## Wednesday, January 28

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

## Thursday, January 29

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

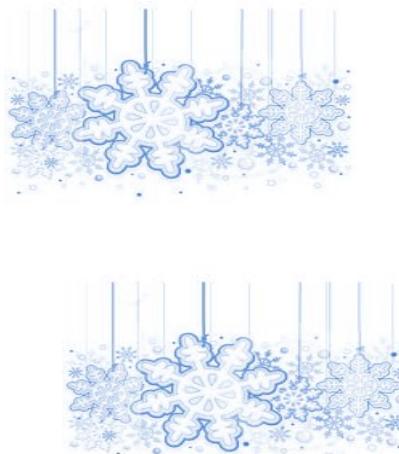
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

## Saturday, January 31

Pastor Twyla's day off



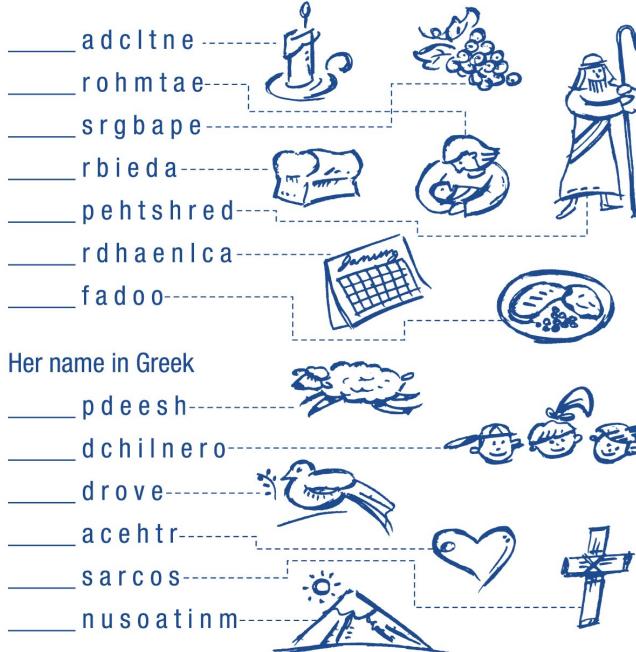
# The Puzzle Page for January 2026



## A caring disciple

In **Acts 9**, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.



Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

## NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

### What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

### What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an overhand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL—  
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!**

REMINDER :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER**

ARTICLES IS

**January 15, 2026 @ NOON**

2026 Annual  
Conference Logo



BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly  
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