



Tidings

February 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>
<www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob>

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The Pastor's Pen

"Do not worry about your life..." (Matthew 6:25)

These are words of encouragement from Jesus. It is only one line of a text found in Matthew 6:25-34 that discusses worry. Jesus tells us not to worry, and we receive it as encouragement...or maybe a suggestion. Yet read the words again, and you will hear that it is not offered as encouragement or a suggestion. The words, "Do not...", rather indicate a command.

In Philippians 4:6, Paul reiterates this command saying, "Be anxious for nothing." Interestingly, We are commanded to stop doing something we don't like doing in the first place; but how many of us respond to this command, myself included at times, saying, "that's easier said than done." Worry and anxiety rob us of sleep and healthy appetites. It redirects our positive attitudes towards negativity and mistrust; and often influences our productivity and our responsiveness in what we do and what we say.

There are a number of ways that we invite worry into our lives, maybe without even realizing it. Social media can be one thing that feeds our worry, and yet it is where many people turn for entertainment when they are bored or when they are seeking the latest information about something that concerns them. Where or to what do you turn to when your anxiety is high? In verse 33, following shortly after the command not to worry, we read that Jesus tells us where to turn when our anxiety gets out of control: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Author Chris Tiegreen wrote, "Consider what our worry says of our opinion of God. When we stress and strain over a situation, are we affirming God's providence and abundance? Are we embracing God's grace? No, our anxiety reveals our mistrust of God's sovereignty; it is an emotional slander of His character. We may justify our worry by observing all tragedies in the world around us, knowing that such may befall us as well. Yet God promises His sovereignty even over these, as well as His presence with us in the midst of them."

Worrying will not fix the things that cause our worry. If we instead take the energy that we put into worrying and use it for focusing and trusting God and for following His kingdom ways, things will get turned around. It begins with each and every Christian who surrenders their worry to God and places their trust in God's sovereignty. May we all stop putting our lives in the hands of our worry; and instead, put our lives in the hands of God. Amen.



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" - Matthew 4:1-4



Sundays in February



Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
2/1/2026	Twyla Rowe	Kathy Kelsey	"Goals & Graces"	Matthew 5:1-12	Ann Parker & Vince B.	Fellowship Time/Food Pantry
2/8/2026	Twyla Rowe	Beth Davis-Reinhold	"More of Jesus"	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Amy Hardy	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
2/15/2026	Eddie Edmonds	Linda Baker	"What the Church Must Remember"	Matthew 28:16-20	Sandy Clipp	Valentine's Luncheon
2/18/2026	Eddie Edmonds	Chris Stockslager	Ash Wednesday			Ash Wednesday
2/22/2026	Eddie Edmonds	Chris Stockslager	"God's Weather Report"	Matthew 5:38-48	Kathy Kelsey	Junior Church



• 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.

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.

Community Breakfast

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

Inclement Weather Information

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!



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.

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



2026 Altar Flowers & Volunteers Needed

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.**

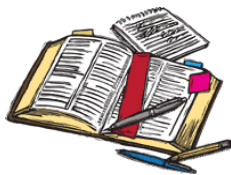
Also, a volunteer is needed for the months of January & October.

If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay at 301-730-8499 or email cinnamongirl@myactv.net

Friends in Faith

Friends in Faith will be having a luncheon on Tuesday, March 10th at 12PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share. Sign-up sheets can be found in the west entrance soon. Looking forward to seeing you there! Any questions, contact Nancy Gingrich, Robin Davies, Ann Platou, Suzie Wolfe or Mary Means.

Daily Bible Reading

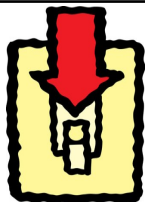


FEBRUARY

- ◇ 1 Exodus 7-9
- ◇ 2 Exodus 10-12
- ◇ 3 Exodus 13-15
- ◇ 4 Exodus 16-18
- ◇ 5 Exodus 19-21
- ◇ 6 Exodus 22-24
- ◇ 7 Exodus 25-27
- ◇ 8 Exodus 28-29
- ◇ 9 Exodus 30-32
- ◇ 10 Exodus 33-35
- ◇ 11 Exodus 36-38
- ◇ 12 Exodus 39-40
- ◇ 13 Leviticus 1-4
- ◇ 14 Leviticus 5-7
- ◇ 15 Leviticus 8-10
- ◇ 16 Leviticus 11-13
- ◇ 17 Leviticus 14-15
- ◇ 18 Leviticus 16-18
- ◇ 19 Leviticus 19-21
- ◇ 20 Leviticus 22-23
- ◇ 21 Leviticus 24-25
- ◇ 22 Leviticus 26-27
- ◇ 23 Numbers 1-2
- ◇ 24 Numbers 3-4
- ◇ 25 Numbers 5-6
- ◇ 26 Numbers 7
- ◇ 27 Numbers 8-10
- ◇ 28 Numbers 11-13

Check out the church calendar at www.hagerstowncob.org
Click the calendar tab!

 **YouTube** Check out our YouTube Channel and subscribe by going to:
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob



**PLEASE
TURN OUT THE
LIGHTS**

**Please remember
to turn the lights off
when you leave an
area in the church.
Let's all be mindful
of our utility costs.
Thank you!**

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.

2026 Pocket Directory

The 2026 Pocket Directory will be available in February. The church office apologizes for the delay. 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.

2026 Reach's Cold Weather Shelter Needs List

Personal Care

- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Lotion
- ◆ Tampons

Cleaning Supplies

- ◆ Napkins
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Laundry Pods

Food & Drink

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

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



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

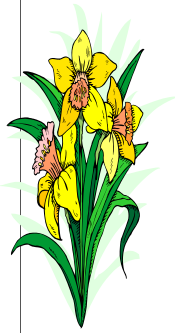
Purchase Martin's gift cards to take to the store to pay for your groceries or gas, and 5% of the face value of the gift card is a donation to the church and goes toward your yearly charitable contribution.

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.

Easter Flowers Order Form

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:** _____



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!!**

February 2026 Schedule

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

Sunday, February 1

Food Pantry

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
 9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
 10:20 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room
 10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube
 (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

Monday, February 9

Church office closed/Pastor Vacation

Tuesday, February 10

Pastor Vacation

Wednesday, February 11

Admin. Assistant/Work from home/Pastor Vacation

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, February 12

Pastor Vacation

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 13

Pastor Vacation

8:00 am Bulletin prep/church office

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

Saturday, February 14

Pastor Vacation/Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 15

Pastor Twyla Vacation

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

12:00 pm Valentine's Bread & Soup Luncheon/Fellowship
 Hall

Monday, February 16

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed/Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 17

Pastor Vacation

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Mullendore Room

5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room

6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, February 18

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant Work from home

12:00 pm Bulletin submission announcement deadline

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary

Thursday, February 19

Pastor Vacation

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 20

Pastor Vacation

8:00 am Bulletin prep/church office

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

Saturday, February 21

Pastor Vacation

Sunday, February 22

Pastor Vacation/Easter Flower Order Deadline/Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Monday, February 23

Pastor Vacation/Church office closed

Tuesday, February 24

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, February 25

Admin. Assistant Work from home

12:00 pm Bulletin submission announcement deadline

Thursday, February 26

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 27

8:00 am Bulletin prep/church office

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

Saturday, February 28

Pastor Twyla's day off


Fellowship Time

We're in need of volunteers to provide goodies for Fellowship Time, held the first Sunday of each month from 10:20 am—10:40 am. 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 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!



Our Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings are held the second Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore Room before the 10:45 AM worship.

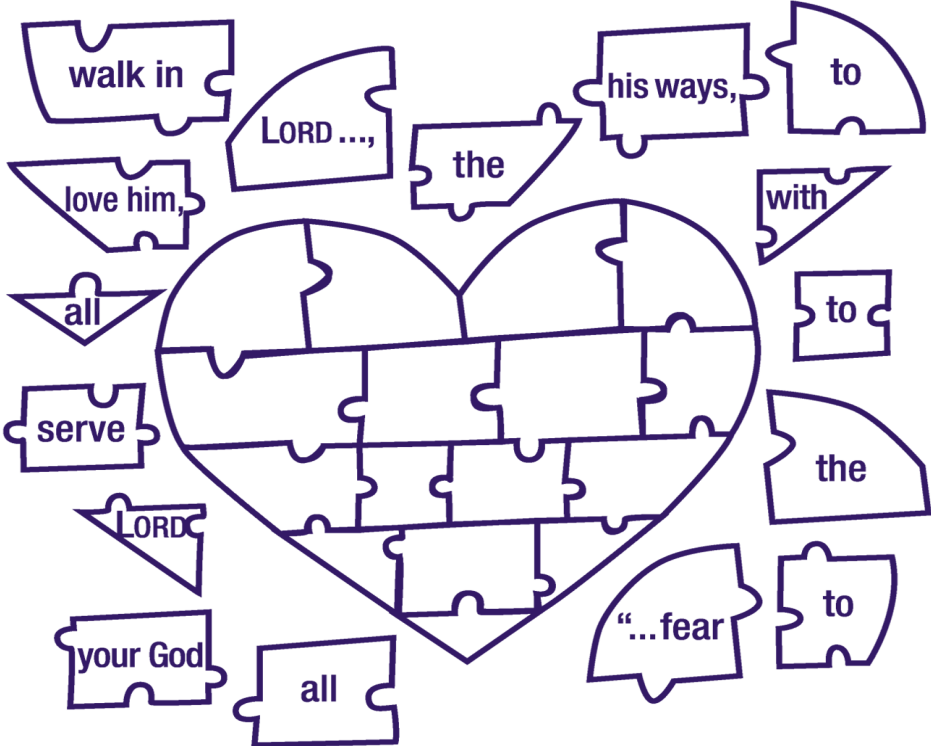
The Puzzle Page for February 2026



Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ..."

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ..., to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ... "

A JAR OF Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL—
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/call ahead)

Praise Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 AM
Worship and YouTube Live at 10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org
www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

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**

February 15, 2026 @ NOON

BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.
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

