



Tidings

March 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

Jesus said to Satan, "Away from me, Satan!" (Matthew 4: 10a)

We find ourselves in the season of Lent. It's a time of self-examination and repentance. We think of ourselves walking with Jesus towards Jerusalem where he will suffer and die...paying the ultimate price for our sin. While we know as Christians that confession and repentance of our sin should not be just a once-a-year practice, we recognize the opportunity more clearly during lent.

We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. There are many reasons why we sin. Sometimes we do it without thinking about it, and other times...well, we know what we are about to do is not pleasing to God and may cause problems...but we do it anyhow. The old saying, "The devil made me do it" can be our default excuse for our sin. We find ourselves at the booth of temptation...sometimes mesmerized by what is available there. It can look so good...so right, and Satan will gladly let us have it...saying it is free...but in reality, we sell our souls for the purchase of sin. We separate ourselves from God and the glorious gifts and promises he has for us when we cave-in to temptation.

We read temptation stories in the Bible. Adam and Eve gave into the serpent's temptation. David gave into the temptation of lust; and there were others. Even Jesus, before his ministry began, found himself in the desert for 40 days and nights, where he was tempted by Satan.

Temptation can be understood as...and should be understood as...in most cases of New Testament scripture as testing. To test, according to the dictionary, means "to take measures to check quality, performance, or reliability of something or someone, especially before putting it into widespread use or practice."

Did you ever think about the fact that the only way we even know about this experience is because Jesus had to tell the story to someone...most likely his trusted disciples. Remember, he was in the wilderness alone. He makes himself vulnerable later, then, by laying open his heart and inmost thoughts to tell this story. He tells us what he...God's own Son...went through. In telling his story, he commiserates with us and says he can help us through similar experiences. He gives us an example that encourages us so we too can turn away from giving into evil.

We learn that Jesus will not use whatever powers he possesses to satisfy his own needs; he instead relies on God to nurture and support him. Jesus wasn't willing to compromise his relationship with God and God's purposes for the enjoyment of using his power for his own glory. He chose obedience to God's plan. We learn then from Jesus' commitment to these ends that he is God's Son who can be trusted. He faced challenges that invited him to embrace an easier path, to buy into a worldview that idolizes power and guarantees official recognition. The story ends on a positive note. Jesus rejects Satan. He tells him to get lost... he has no power over Jesus.

Satan returns again and again with attempts to put us to the test...in hopes we will fail, so that evil can gain power over us. But the secret in keeping the tempter at bay is out: it is in being faithful to one's calling to be God's child...clinging steadfastly to that divine calling. We simply need to say "No" when evil comes knocking at our heart and mind's door. Thank goodness we have Jesus' help to do this.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Twyla





Sundays in March



Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
3/1/2026	Twyla Rowe	Julie Herman	“Got Any Questions?”	John 3:1-17	John & Jenny Ferguson	Fellowship Time/Food Pantry
3/8/2026	Twyla Rowe	Diana Shepherd	“Meeting Jesus at the Well”	John 4:5-42	Chris & Kristal Bricker	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
3/15/2026	Twyla Rowe	Robin Davies	“Don’t Waste Your Life on the Darkness”	Ephesians 5:8-14	Karolyn Martin	
3/22/2026	Twyla Rowe	Brenda Shane	“God Can Put Us Together”	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Emma Lyles	Junior Church
3/29/2026	Twyla Rowe	Jack Finniff	“The Whispers of God”	Matthew 21:1-11 & Isaiah 50:4-9	Diana Shepherd	Palm Sunday



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.



- Palm Sunday—March 29th
- Maundy Thursday/Love Feast will be held on April 2nd in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm
- Good Friday Service will be held on April 3rd in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Service is April 5th

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 and please bring a photo of yourself as a child. Sign-up sheets can be found in the west entrance. Looking forward to seeing you there! Any questions, contact Nancy Gingrich, Robin Davies, Ann Platou, Suzie Wolfe or Mary Means.



Our service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 8-15. All critical roles are covered! All meals are planned! What a blessing! Donation collection boxes will remain in the West Entrance until March 8. Thank you to everyone for your support of this important outreach ministry. Pray for a successful week and good weather. Sandy Clipp



Registration is open!

Main Hike:
Saturday, May 30, 2026

Challenge Hike:
Saturday, May 16, 2026

<https://harccoalition.org/hike/>



The Service & Outreach Team will be collecting the large tissue boxes (9"x4 1/2"x3") for the residents of Fahrney Keedy. We ask that you wrap the tissue boxes in spring colors (no bows or ribbons needed). We ask that the boxes be placed in the designated box in the west entrance by March 22nd.

APRIL 19 - SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for a special combined Sunday School session on April 19, 2026 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our special guest, Hannah, is a young lady with a heart for bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to places where it has not yet been proclaimed. She desires to see people from every tribe, tongue, and nation before the throne. Hannah will give a short power point presentation followed by a question and answer period. Hannah has traveled to the country of Chad twice, once for six weeks and again for four months. Chad is a country located in north-central Africa. She is expecting to leave for Africa later this year with Pioneer USA, a non-denominational missionary organization, for an indefinite term. Hannah’s mother, Kay Ann, grew up attending the Pipe Creek Church of the Brethren and attended Hagerstown Church of the Brethren in 1986-1987 while Guy Wampler was minister. The Kulp Bible School established in Kwarhi, Nigeria in 1960 (now Kulp Bible College in Mubai) is named after her grandfather’s uncle, who established a mission there in 1954. Her mother, Kay Ann, is also the niece of Carol Miller.

John Miller
Leadership Team Chair

GriefShare®

We grieve many things in life, but the loss of a loved one is probably the most devastating. As a result, the grief journey is a painful and lonely one. GriefShare is an international faith-based ministry that provides valuable tools to anyone who has lost a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other family member or friend, even if that loss is not recent. Our HCOB team offers a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief and where participants can find support in the company of others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become an even greater support for you.

Our spring session of GriefShare began on Monday, Feb. 16, and continue each Monday afternoon through May 11, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Mullendore Room. Cost of the session is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials. You may join the group at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. GriefShare recommends repeating the 13-week course a second time to absorb even more of the content, so if you have participated in GriefShare before and wish to attend again, we welcome you.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.



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

Daily Bible Reading



MARCH

- ◇ 1 Numbers 14-15, Psalm 90
- ◇ 2 Numbers 16-17
- ◇ 3 Numbers 18-20
- ◇ 4 Numbers 21-22
- ◇ 5 Numbers 23-25
- ◇ 6 Numbers 26-27
- ◇ 7 Numbers 28-30
- ◇ 8 Numbers 31-32
- ◇ 9 Numbers 33-34
- ◇ 10 Numbers 35-36
- ◇ 11 Deuteronomy 1-2
- ◇ 12 Deuteronomy 3-4
- ◇ 13 Deuteronomy 5-7
- ◇ 14 Deuteronomy 8-10
- ◇ 15 Deuteronomy 11-13
- ◇ 16 Deuteronomy 14-16
- ◇ 17 Deuteronomy 17-20
- ◇ 18 Deuteronomy 21-23
- ◇ 19 Deuteronomy 24-27
- ◇ 20 Deuteronomy 28-29
- ◇ 21 Deuteronomy 30-31
- ◇ 22 Deuteronomy 32-34, Psalm 91
- ◇ 23 Joshua 1-4
- ◇ 24 Joshua 5-8
- ◇ 25 Joshua 9-11
- ◇ 26 Joshua 12-15
- ◇ 27 Joshua 16-18
- ◇ 28 Joshua 19-21
- ◇ 29 Joshua 22-24
- ◇ 30 Judges 1-2
- ◇ 31 Judges 3-5



Community Breakfast

Saturday, March 14th
9:00—10:30 am

Our Community Breakfast is held the second Saturday of each month.

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

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.



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.

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. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of this ministry.

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.

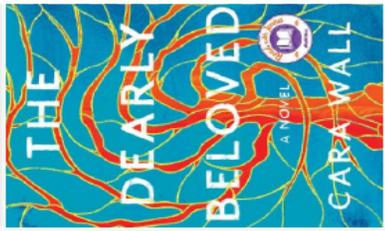
Intercessory Prayer is an important ministry of our congregation. If you have a prayer request, contact Jan Young at 240-310-4101

Save the Date

The Service & Outreach Team asks that you "Save the Date" for two important events coming up in 2026. The Community Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 13th, and the Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 17th.

The Novel Bunch presents...

The Dearly Beloved
by Cara Wall



"This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever."
—Jenna Bush Hager (A Today Show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection)

"The best book about faith in recent memory."
—Entertainment Weekly

This book is a character study about friendship, family, and faith. Charles and Lily & James and Nan meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to manage the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. However, their personal differences threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to follow his father as an esteemed history professor at Harvard until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. So, how can he fall in love with intellectual Lily after she tells him that she never will believe in God? And yet, how can he not believe?

James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his nervous mother. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan, the devout and beloved daughter of a Mississippi minister and debutante. Despite James's guarded optimism, Nan's gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. *The Dearly Beloved* follows these two couples through decades of love, friendship, jealousy, forgiveness, and commitment. Against the backdrop of conflict and change facing the city and the church's congregation, these four forge improbable paths through their evolving relationships as each struggles with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy. This book is a moving reflection on faith and reason, and the ways we find meaning in our lives.

Date: Saturday, April 25
Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Place: Fellowship Hall

*This is a book for men and women alike, so we encourage the men of the congregation to attend and offer their perspectives.
Light refreshments to follow.

NOTE: If you have any questions or need assistance acquiring the book, call Jenny Ferguson at 301-964-1779. Please return the section below if you plan to attend.

NAME _____ I plan to attend _____ YES

Preferred contact information: Phone _____ OR Email _____

Book Club Team: *Jenny Ferguson, Kristal Bricker, Debbie Nvcum, Judy Williams, Jan Younga

**HAGERSTOWN CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN**

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

**SUNDAY MARCH 29TH
BEGINS AT 2:00 PM**

**HOSTED AT LINDEN HALL FARM
10224 DOWNSVILLE PIKE
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740**

ALL ARE WELCOME



March 2026 Schedule

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

Sunday, March 1

Food Pantry Sunday
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

Monday, March 2

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, March 4

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin submission announcements
7:00 pm Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall/
Chris Stockslager Guest Speaker
Elaine Smith Special Music

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 8

Junior Church/REACH Week/Daylight Saving Time starts
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
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 Screening
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, March 9

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 10

REACH
12:00 pm Friends in Faith/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 11

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin submission announcements
5:00 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room
7:00 pm Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall/John Miller_Guest
Speaker

Thursday, March 12

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

Friday, March 13

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

Saturday, March 14

Pastor Twyla's day off/REACH
8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Doors open to the public from 9-10:30am)

Sunday, March 15

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

Monday, March 16

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm Deacon Meeting/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day
12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Room 208
5:30 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, March 18

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin submission announcements
7:00 pm Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall/Brenda Shane &
Rebecca Jackson_Guest Speakers

Thursday, March 19

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

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 22

Junior Church
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, March 23

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, March 25

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin submission announcements
7:00 pm Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall/Dennis
Browne_Guest Speaker

Thursday, March 26

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

Friday, March 27

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

Saturday, March 28

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube
2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt/Linden Hall Farm

Monday, March 30

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 31

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

The Puzzle Page for March 2026



When Jesus entered Jerusalem, a large crowd cheered for him. Complete this puzzle to discover what they used (also see John 12:13).

Directions: In the number grid below, draw lines by starting with the first number in each list and stopping at the last.

122-112-116-102-112
112-68-102
102-107-92-102
102-47-92

92-97-82-92
92-37-82
22-42-44-32-9-42
42-55-52-66-62-77-72

42-19-52-18-62-17-72
82-27-72-87-82
82-42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132



Answer key on back

HOSANNA BANNER

Offer Jesus our King praises by making this banner for Palm Sunday.

What you need:

- 6 sheets of green construction paper (8" x 11")
- Pencil
- Scissors
- 7 sheets of pastel-colored paper
- Rubber cement or glue
- 7 sheets of white cardstock (8" x 8")
- Hole punch
- Thin ribbon



What you do:

1. Fold the stack of green paper in half. Draw a palm branch on one of the folded sides and cut out all 12 branches.
2. On the pastel-colored paper, draw and cut out block letters to spell the word *Hosanna* – one letter per sheet. Then glue each letter onto a sheet of white paper.
3. Punch one hole in the top of each palm branch and two holes in each letter square (top left and top right corners).
4. Thread the ribbon through a palm branch, letter, palm branch, letter, etc. Tie a knot after each hole to keep the pieces from sliding.

Puzzle Page Answer Key



When Jesus entered Jerusalem, a large crowd cheered for him. Complete this puzzle to discover what they used (also see John 12:13).

Directions: In the number grid below, draw lines by starting with the first number in each list and stopping at the last.

122-112-116-102-112

112-68-102

102-107-92-102

102-47-92

92-97-82-92

92-37-82

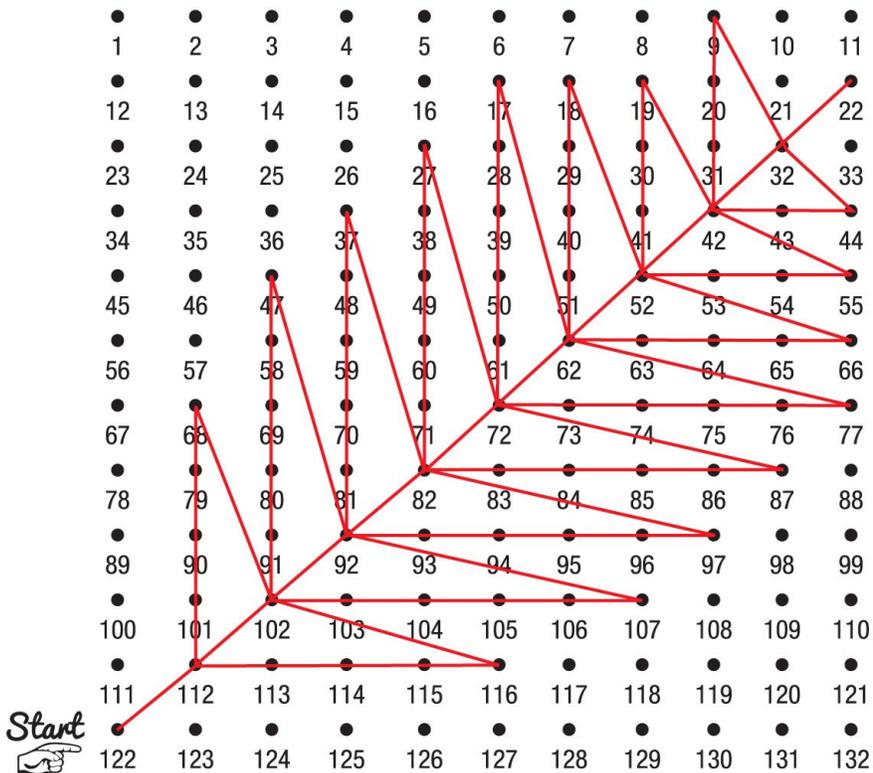
22-42-44-32-9-42

42-55-52-66-62-77-72

42-19-52-18-62-17-72

82-27-72-87-82

82-42



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

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

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
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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
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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**

March 15, 2026 @ NOON

2026 Annual
Conference Logo



BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
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