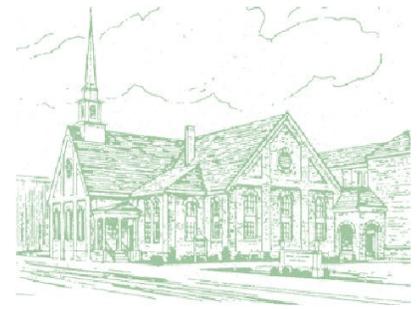




Tidings

April 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

“After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. (Matthew 28:1)

Jesus was gone...it was over. That's probably what Jesus' disciples and loved ones thought. Even though Jesus spoke of his resurrection prior to his death, what they saw with their own eyes, told them it was over. The world did not stop upon his death. There continued to be new days. Life would go on.

At dawn on the first day of the week after Jesus' death, two women journeyed to the tomb where they placed the body of Jesus. It was the first day of the rest of their lives, and things were looking and feeling very grim to them. The pain and emptiness that they felt inside was overwhelming. Maybe they were secretly hoping that when they got to the tomb they would find that all that had happened was just a terrible nightmare. Maybe they cursed the dawn of a new day and wished that they could go back in time to a happier day. But that was not to happen and thank goodness it didn't.

Things did get better for them. When they got to the tomb, they found it empty and they saw Jesus alive. Thank goodness that a new day had arrived. With it came new life and uncontrollable joy. The agony and grief that darkened their lives was gone.

Thank goodness for our new days too.

Our lives may get caught in the mire and muck of life, leaving us feeling like Job. When we are hurting or empty, we may curse the dawn of a new day. We may be tired of the repetition of life and fear the unknowns that await us. But wait! The good news is that life does not need to be this way. Just as the women discovered, we too can find hope and joy for our lives. All we need to do is look for Jesus...who is alive! Remember his painful journey and the glorious new day that came for him. It is because of him and what he did that we can have the same newness of life. Look for Jesus and he will show you the way.

Bring on the new day. With our eyes focused on the living Jesus we can face whatever the new day brings. Hallelujah! Jesus lives!

*Have a Blessed Easter,
 Pastor Twyla*



HOLY WEEK

A JOURNEY OF SACRIFICE, LOVE,
 AND REDEMPTION

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
4/5/2026	Twyla Rowe	Amy Clipp	“Christ is Risen!”	John 20:1-18	Wilma Moore	Easter Sunday/Fellowship Time/Food Pantry
4/12/2026	Twyla Rowe	Sandy Clipp	“Got Any Doubts”	John 20:19-31	Tina Mills	Junior Church/Parish Nurse
4/19/2026	Twyla Rowe	Jan Young	“Go Deeper”	1 Peter 1:17-23	Janet Goller	
4/26/2026	Twyla Rowe	Rebecca Jackson	“The Good Shepherd”	John 10:1-10	Ginny Nalley	Junior Church

***Maundy Thursday Love Feast,
Good Friday & Easter Sunday***

You are invited to attend the following worship events as a time for personal reflection:

- * April 2— Maundy Thursday/Love Feast at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.
 - * April 3— Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary
 - * April 5—Easter Sunday—He Is Risen!
- Both Love Feast and Good Friday Services will be on YouTube

NOTICE

Starting in 2026 Contribution Statements will now be emailed. If you do not have an email on file with the church office, your statement will be mailed or placed in your church mailbox. By doing this, it will help us save money in postage and paper and will be a more convenient way for you to have access to your statements. If you do not have an email on file with the church office and wish to receive your statement via email, please contact Allyson (secretaryhcob@gmail.com or 301-733-3565) and she will add your email to the list.

***Congregational Business Meeting
May 3, 2026***

Our May Congregational Business Meeting will be held on May 3, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a potluck lunch after the 10:45 AM Combined Worship Service and then the Congregational Business Meeting will follow.

***All Music Sunday—May 3rd
Sunday School Orchestra***

The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00 am, Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined worship service at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary. The Temple Choir, Early Service Praise Team, and the Brethren Bell Ringers will lead us in an inspiring musical worship service.

***Vacation Bible School
June 15th—19th***

The theme this year will be Tropical Trek. Sign-up sheets can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Please fill out and give to any CE Team member, place in the offering, or put in Tina Mills mailbox. The first meeting is Tuesday, April 7th in the fellowship hall. CE Team: Tina Mills (chair), Debbie Long, Brenda Shane, Kay Ogilvie, & Tracie Potet

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

Daily Bible Reading



APRIL

- ◇ 1 Judges 6-7
- ◇ 2 Judges 8-9
- ◇ 3 Judges 10-12
- ◇ 4 Judges 13-15
- ◇ 5 Judges 16-18
- ◇ 6 Judges 19-21
- ◇ 7 Ruth
- ◇ 8 1 Samuel 1-3
- ◇ 9 1 Samuel 4-8
- ◇ 10 1 Samuel 9-12
- ◇ 11 1 Samuel 13-14
- ◇ 12 1 Samuel 15-17
- ◇ 13 1 Samuel 18-20, Psalm 11, 59
- ◇ 14 1 Samuel 21-24
- ◇ 15 Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52
- ◇ 16 Psalms 56, 120, 140-142
- ◇ 17 1 Samuel 25-27
- ◇ 18 Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63
- ◇ 19 1 Samuel 28-31, Psalm 18
- ◇ 20 Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130
- ◇ 21 2 Samuel 1-4
- ◇ 22 Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21
- ◇ 23 1 Chronicles 1-2
- ◇ 24 Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87
- ◇ 25 1 Chronicles 3-5
- ◇ 26 Psalms 73, 77-78
- ◇ 27 1 Chronicles 7-10
- ◇ 28 Psalms 81, 88, 92-93
- ◇ 29 1 Chronicles 7-10
- ◇ 30 Psalms 102-104



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. We will need your help with these events.



World Vision Global 6k water walk/ run will be held on Saturday May 16th at Paramount Elementary School starting at 9:00AM—if you would like to participate or make donation you can go to: <https://global6k.worldvision.org/> and select teams 39506 or contact Mary Means.

Ed Poling Memorial HARC walk/run will be held on Saturday May 30th at Williamsport Zion Lutheran Church. If you would like participate or make a donation you can go to: harccoalition.org/hike/ or contact Mary Means.

Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction & Response Dinner

The Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at Carroll County Ag. Center in Westminster, MD and will start at 9:00 am. The Response Dinner will be held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Bush Creek Church of the

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



Community Breakfast

Saturday, April 11th
9:00—10:30 am

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



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.



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! **All items collected the months of April, May & June will be going to our Community Picnic.**

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.



Check out our YouTube Channel and subscribe by going to:

www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Check out our Facebook page. Sermons are posted weekly on our Facebook as well as photos from events happening at HCOB & more!

[Facebook.com/hagerstowncob](https://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

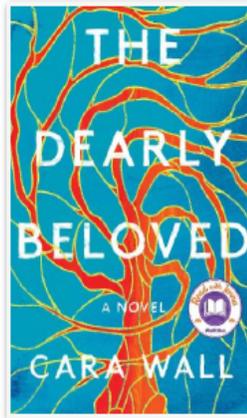
The Novel Bunch presents...

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 Nycum, Judy Williams, Jan Young

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 will 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.

Little Free Library



The Little Library is now up outside near the Washington Street entrance.

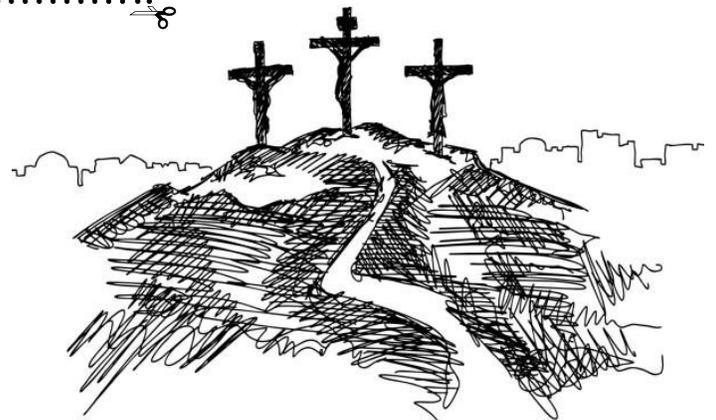
We filled it with 63 books last week.

In one week there were only 6 left.

We recently added an additional 20 books.

If you have children's books, adult books, magazines, Readers Digest, novels, craft books, etc., please feel free to put them in the Little Library, or drop them in the box marked "Books" in the west entrance under the table.

Thank you, Spiritual Nurture Team.



"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been

April 2026 Schedule

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

Wednesday, April 1

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
8:00 am Piano Tuning/Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary/Choir Room
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm Love Feast/Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 3

Good Friday
8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of parking lot (1-3PM)
7:00 pm Good Friday Service/Sanctuary

Saturday, April 4

Easter Flower Delivery/Pastor Twyla's day off/Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday/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, April 6

Church office closed/Easter Monday
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, April 7

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, April 8

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Annual Conference Briefing Recording/Mullendore Room (no delegate attendees)
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, April 9

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

Friday, April 10

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of parking lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, April 11

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

Sunday, April 12

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 Screening
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, April 13

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 16

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

Friday, April 17

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of parking lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, April 18

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, April 19

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Combined Sunday School/Fellowship Hall
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, April 20

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Room 208
5:30 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

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

Friday, April 24

Book Club Set Up/Fellowship Hall
8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of parking lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, April 25

Pastor Twyla's day off
10:00 am Book Club/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 26

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

Monday, April 27

Church office closed
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, April 28

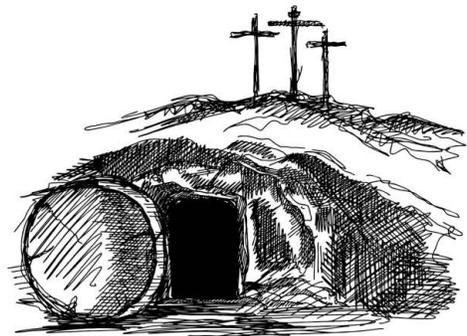
6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, April 29

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

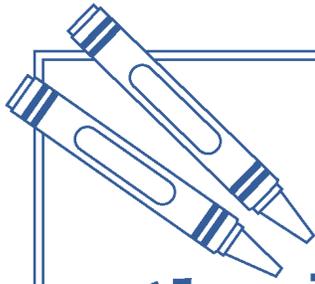
Thursday, April 30

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



“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.

The Puzzle Page for April 2026



Just for KIDS

Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.

10	16	5	28	18
4	22	26		
29	11	3	19	14
	27	2	8	
9	1	20	31	23
12	7	21	17	25
30	6	24	13	

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)

Answer: "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone." Zechariah 10:1



Save for a Rainy Day

Any day is a good day to start saving money for a rainy day. Make your own "Rainy Day Fund" bank.

Here's what you'll need:

- A clean plastic jar (peanut butter jars work well)
- Scissors
- Felt
- White glue
- Permanent marker



Here's how to make it:

1. Clean and remove the label from the plastic jar.
2. Cut out an umbrella shape from felt and glue it to the side of the jar.
3. Use the marker to write "Rainy Day Fund" on the jar.
4. Cut a slot in the lid (you may need an adult to help).
5. When you get your allowance or earn money doing something for someone, put the money in the lid's slot.
6. Save the money for something special or important. Spend money wisely and remember to give an offering to your church or Sunday school.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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**

April 15, 2026 @ NOON

2026 Annual
Conference Logo



BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.
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Tidings are subject to editing.
All dates and times listed are subject
to change without notice.