

The happy bus

When I was a young adult, I lived in the city of Chicago. I loved the excitement of city life, the variety of cultures, and the wealth of experiences. However, CTA bus rides were something to endure, as I moved around the city. I'd hope that the bus would come soon, hope to get a seat, and hope that traffic wasn't too bad. But I looked forward to riding on "the Happy Bus."

There was a bus driver on the CTA 151 (Sheridan) who sang out the upcoming stops as he drove, "Grand Ave! O-HI-o! On-TA-rio! E-rie!" He would greet each person as they got on the bus. Periodically he would announce, "This is the Happy Bus! And if you're not happy, we're sorry for you." I watched the driver create a community of ease and joy. When someone was crabby and refused to be charmed, we'd all think, "That's too bad. How can you not be happy on the Happy Bus? We're sorry for you."

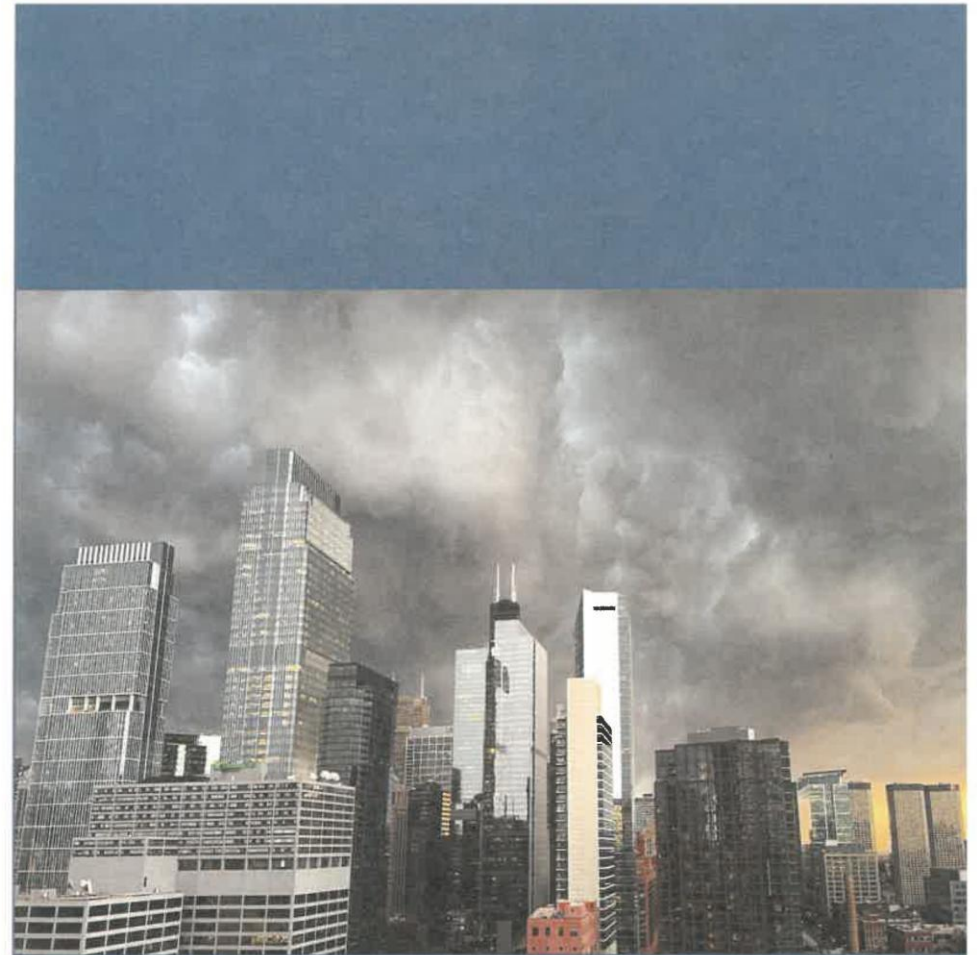
That bus driver's attitude affected everyone on the bus. He was able to change the entire atmosphere with his spirit. In the short time we spent on the bus, we were transformed from a disparate, tired group of riders into a community who smiled and laughed together.

At Pentecost, God's spirit was poured out upon the people. People from different cultures who spoke different languages were amazed because they were able to understand one another. People of many nations became one, unified by their experience of the Holy Spirit, transformed into a new community of mutual generosity, fellowship, and joy.

— Jeanne Davies
West Dundee, Illinois

"Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days *I will pour out my Spirit*, and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:18, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23; John 7:37-39.

May 24, 2026, Pentecost. Photo © Ellen Lennard. Used by permission.
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I will pour out my
Spirit

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING ANTHEM “Hymn For Worship” (Harlan)
 Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 2:1-21 NT 119

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

MESSAGE “Flames of the Spirit” Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #300** “O Holy Spirit, making whole”

[Verse 1]

O Holy Spirit, making whole thy church in body, mind, and soul, thou Light of life, thou Fire divine, inspire thy church and make it thine, till Christ shall rule in ev-ry heart, and Pentecost its pow’r impart.

[Verse 2]

Blow, Wind of God! in wisdom blow away all mists and clouds below! Dispel our error, doubt and fear, till truth shall make love’s message clear, and Christ shall rule in ev-ry heart, and Pentecost its pow’r impart.

[Verse 3]

*Burn, winged Flame, within each breast, until thy Spirit, ever bless’d, shall purge our live from dross and sin, and peace and pow’r abide within!
So Christ shall rule in ev-ry heart, and Pentecost its pow’r impart.*

[Verse 4]

*Inspire our lips with truth and love to speak thy language from above;
God’s message all may understand in ev-ry age and ev-ry land, till Christ shall rule in ev-ry heart, and Pentecost its pow’r impart.*

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

POSTLUDE “On the Day of Pentecost” (Paxton)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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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)

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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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.*

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 Sunday, May 24 - Holy Spirit, come today and fill me with the spiritual energy of fire and wind, so that I will live this day fully in God's will. I want to please him and show him I love him by being obedient to His commands. I want to travel the road of life that God has laid out for me. I want my relationship with Him to involve more than mere words. I want to be so close to God that when others hear and see me...they will see Him in me. Holy Spirit, come. I ask all of this not for my own selfish gain; but so, I can help make a difference in my corner of the world for God today. 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 Larry Wisherd for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my mother and father, Doris and Pete Wright; my grandparents, V. Merle and Helen Cowden; my great-aunt, Rachel Hiller; my godmother, Darlene Sparaco; and my aunt, Helen Caron given by Ann Bourdeau and family.

Junior Church will be held today 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.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Tina Mills. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**



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.

The Service & Outreach Team is organizing our Community Picnic which will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. We will need many of our members and friends to help us with this. We need help to set up on the parking lot at 8:30 am and take down at 1 pm. We need help with food servers, hospitality, welcome table, and a photographer. We also need 6 to 7 crockpots full of baked beans. They can be store-bought beans. We have decided not to have the clothing giveaway but if anyone would like to take on this task, that is okay with us. Sign-up sheets will be available on May 3rd. We appreciate all you can do to make this a special day for our neighborhood.

VBS—This year's VBS will be held from June 15th through the 19th and our theme is Tropical Trek.

Children's Day is Sunday, June 14th. The children will be participating in the church service in celebration.

Would you like a truly fun and meaningful few days away with your family this summer? The Family & Grand Camp retreat, one of Shepherd's Spring's newest weekend adventures, is filled with faith-based fun for all ages. This camp, from Friday afternoon, July 31, through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 2, offers strong Scriptural teaching with lots of family-building activities -- from making your family's own t-shirts, to swimming and hiking together, gathering at campfires and much more -- while staying amid 220 acres of God's forested beauty, bordering the C&O Canal and the Potomac River!! All this, while staying in Shepherd's Spring's very own lodge, its Poplar Village cabins, or setting up your own tent and enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner in the lodge's beautiful dining room. It's all here -- intergenerational, even! Yes, BRING Grandma and Grandpa!! Build the meaning of having Christian FAMILY!!! And, there's no charge for bringing your littles, ages 5 and under!! So, how 'bout it? Right now, family meeting!! Begin your adventure at: <https://www.shepherdsspring.org/> and click on "Summer Camp". -- Arn Platou

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.

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.

Warm, sunny weather is here! We want to take this opportunity to remind you that in the warm weather many of the neighborhood children ride bikes, trikes, skateboards, and scooters, on our parking lot. They're often low to the ground and moving fast so please be on the lookout for them when you visit the church. When on foot, please also be on the lookout for cars speeding through the parking lot to "beat the light" at the corner.

Annual Conference will be held June 28—July 2 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The theme this year is "Imagine!". The June Tidings will include a statement from conference moderator Don Fitzkee.

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. Thank you!

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com. Thank you!

Offering drop-off box is located in the west entrance by the double doors. This box can be used to drop off your offering or order forms. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Church mailboxes. Everyone is welcome to use the mailboxes. If you would like to be added or taken off the list, please contact Mary Means. If you have a mailbox, we ask that you be willing to monitor it. Any mail that is left in the mailboxes after a three-month period will be disposed of. The mailboxes are located in the hallway of the church office.

Our services are streamed through YouTube! If you have not done so already, subscribe to HCOB's YouTube Channel and share it with others. You can do so by going to: www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 24

Junior Church/Pentecost

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, May 25

Church office closed/Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, May 27

Admin. Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, May 28

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 29

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, May 30

Pastor Twyla's day off/Retirement party set-up/HCOB

Ed Poling Memorial HARC 4k & 5k walk/run/Williamsport Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 31

Trinity Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Combined Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube
(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

12:00 pm Pastor Twyla's Retirement Celebration/Fellowship Hall

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.



Vacation Bible School June 15-19, 2026

Monday—Friday 6:00—8:00 PM

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street
Hagerstown MD 21740

Scan the QR code below to complete your registration

