

The yoke of Jesus

Perhaps you have uttered the words, "I can't take on one more thing!" Or said about yourself, "My hands are completely full!" If so, Jesus has an invitation for you.

Come.

If you are weary and carrying heavy loads ... come.

What's interesting about this invitation is that Jesus doesn't say, "Here, let me take that off your plate" - at least not in so many words.

What he says is, "I will give you rest."

And then he says, "Take my yoke."

Both sentences require our willingness to receive these things. In other words, we have to put down the burdens we are carrying first. This empties our hands to receive rest, and to take Jesus' yoke. We have to be willing to put off the oppressive yoke we are struggling under in order to freely accept the easy yoke that Jesus offers.

The purpose of a yoke is to keep a team moving in the same direction. Yet, heavy yokes can often keep us from moving at all. Don't confuse this lack of movement for a moment of rest. If your feet are buried in the mud from the weight of all you are carrying, that is not rest-and it is certainly not the abundant life that Jesus offers.

Accepting the yoke of Jesus means surrendering our need for control, and our illusion of self-sufficiency, and letting him shoulder the load. It means moving in the direction he is going. It means moving at his pace. It means accepting the invitation. Come... move ... receive his rest.

- Angela Finet
Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and *I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

July 5, 2026. Photo© Karen Hodges. Used by permission.
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9 will give you rest



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

July 5, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Jan Young, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "But Now I See" (Williamson)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The Holy One calls us to trust God's steadfast love.

With our ancestor Abraham, we say:

All: "Here I am."

One: The Holy One calls us to be guided by prophets.

With the first followers of Jesus, we say:

All: "Here I am."

One: The Holy One calls us into eternal life.

With the Gospel writers, we say:

All: "Here I am."

One: Let us worship the God who calls us.

***HYMN #416** "For Christ And The Church"

[Verse 1]

*For Christ and the church let our voices ring, let us honor the name of our own
blessed King. Let us work with a will in the strength of youth, and loyally stand for
the kingdom of truth.*

[Refrain]

*For Christ, our dear redeemer, for Christ, who died to save, for the church his blood
has purchased, Lord, make us pure and brave.*

[Verse 2]

*For Christ and the church be our earnest prayer, let us follow his banner, the cross
daily bear. Let us yield, wholly yield, to his Spirit's power, and faithfully serve him
in life's brightest hour.*

[Refrain]

*For Christ, our dear redeemer, for Christ, who died to save, for the church his blood
has purchased, Lord, make us pure and brave.*

[Verse 3]

*For Christ and the church, willing offerings make, time and talents and gold, for the
dear Master's sake. We'll remember the best we can bring to him, the heart's wealth of
love that will never grow dim.*

[Refrain]

*For Christ, our dear redeemer, for Christ, who died to save, for the church his blood
has purchased, Lord, make us pure and brave.*

[Verse 4]

*For Christ and the church let us cast aside, by his conquering grace, chains of self,
fear, and pride. May our lives be enriched by an aim so grand, then happy the call to
the Savior's right hand.*

[Refrain]

*For Christ, our dear redeemer, for Christ, who died to save, for the church his blood
has purchased, Lord, make us pure and brave.*

***OPENING PRAYER (Invocation)**

God of love and grace, we gather in thanksgiving and praise. Reassure us
once more, that you never leave us or forsake us. Empower us by your Holy
Spirit, that we may live faithfully as people of Christ. Help us leave behind the
things that weigh us down, that we may find new life in Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you.
All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a to-
ken of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the
world.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual
offering plate to those worshipping with us on YouTube Live. We invite you to
give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church
during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob website.

OFFERTORY "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace" (Mansfield)

***DOXOLOGY #119** "Praise God From Whom"

[Verse 6]

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.*

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE

“Declaration”

(Grodén)

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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
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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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Eddie Edmonds
Interim Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

James “Jamie” Prather
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.*

THE ANNOUNCER July 5, 2026

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” - July 5, 2026 - Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of this new day. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions so that they reflect Your love and wisdom. Give me strength to face today’s challenges, patience with others, and grace when I fall short. Help me to recognize opportunities to show kindness, serve others, and grow in faith. Fill my heart with peace instead of worry, courage instead of fear, and hope instead of discouragement. Protect my loved ones and lead us in Your care. May everything I do today bring honor to You, and may I trust Your plan even when I cannot see the way ahead. May your day be filled with peace, wisdom, and strength. In Jesus’ name, 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 Jan Young for being our worship leader today and to the Summer Choir for special music.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, James & Beulah Adams and George & Beulah Winner, given by Raymond & Wanda Winner.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Thanks to all for your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community.

July Tidings are now available. If you did not receive an electronic copy please notify the Church office and you will be added to the emailing list. Printed copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall.

If anyone has little bottles of shampoo, conditioner, soap, or lotion that are from hotels or ones that you have that are unopened, would you consider putting them in the box at the west entrance, marked hygiene to be handed out at the community breakfast. If you have questions, please call Jenny Ferguson 301-964-1779. -*Thank you, Spiritual Nurture Team*

A young couple attending our early church service is in need of a dryer and pots and pans. If you have a used dryer, one that is in good shape, and/or slightly used pots and pans that you are wanting to part with, please call Suzie Wolfe.

If you bring any dishes or containers and leave them in the church kitchen, please make sure that your name is on the item. Thank you

Our next Community Breakfast will be held Saturday, July 11th in the fellowship hall from 9:00-10:30 am. All are welcome!

Friends in Faith will be having a carry in lunch on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 12PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the west entrance and please add what dish you will be bringing. Any questions, contact Nancy Gingrich, Robin Davies, Ann Platou, Suzie Wolfe, and Mary Means.

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.
- Help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions.
- Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com.

UPDATE: The Admin. Assistant will be using a new application to publish the bulletins & newsletters starting October 2026, due to the current application expiring. Please be patient with her during this time and if you see any mistakes or anything that needs changed, please contact her. Thank you!

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.

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.

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

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.

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 (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!

Save the Date—Our Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 17th. More details to come.

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.

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.

Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and at other convenient locations around the church. To assist our financial secretary, we ask that you use an envelope and please put your name and envelope number on the outside. Here's a tip - take a few envelopes home and stick one of those return address labels we all get on the outside. Then all you need to add is your number. Having your name and number on the outside of the envelope is a huge help to our offering counters. Thank you!

The Church Directory. Now is a great time to update your information in the church directory. If you have recently changed phone numbers or emails, please send any changes/updates/additions to the administrative assistant at: secretaryhcob@gmail.com or leave a note in her mailbox.

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 5

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
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Monday, July 6

Church office closed

Tuesday, July 7

Water Delivery/Church office

Wednesday, July 8

Admin. Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, July 9

Pastor Eddie's in office day/Please call ahead to schedule an appointment

Friday, July 10

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, July 11

8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Doors open to the public at 9AM)

Sunday, July 12

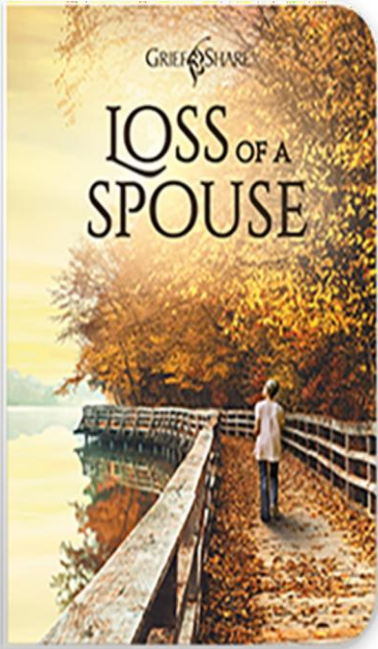
Junior Church

8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings
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
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

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.



Grieving the death of a spouse?

Or do you know someone who is?

The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. People who are widowed haven't just lost a loved one—they've lost an entire lifestyle once enjoyed with that special person. As a result, this grief is fundamentally different from other losses.

We hope you will consider joining the HCOB GriefShare Team for a special 2-hr seminar addressing the challenges of this type of loss. You may wish to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Date: Wednesday, August 19

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Place: Mullendore Room

Register at www.GriefShare.org

*Additionally, the fall session of GriefShare will be held September 23 - December 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Debbie Nycum and Twyla Rowe will be facilitating.

**Surviving the Holidays* is another special event to be hosted by the team on November 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**If you have questions about any GriefShare event, please contact Debbie, Twyla, or any other GriefShare Team Member: Robin Davies, Deb Long, Wilma Moore, Brenda Shane, Cinnamon & Brian Shay.