

Be witnesses

Call to worship

All: We gather . . .

One: in the presence of divine mystery.

All: We gather . . .

One: with the awareness that none among us
can know everything that was and is to come.

All: We gather . . .

One: to seek wisdom from One who does.

All: We gather . . .

One: to be witnesses to the word of God
alive among us in this place.

Prayer of invocation

God of insight beyond our time,

As one God, you are God of all—all whom we love and hold dear
and all whom we find difficult to love or understand. As we gather in
this holy space, humble our hearts and lift our fears. As we worship
together, stir us to grow in our faith, so that others may be witnesses
to you through our words and actions.

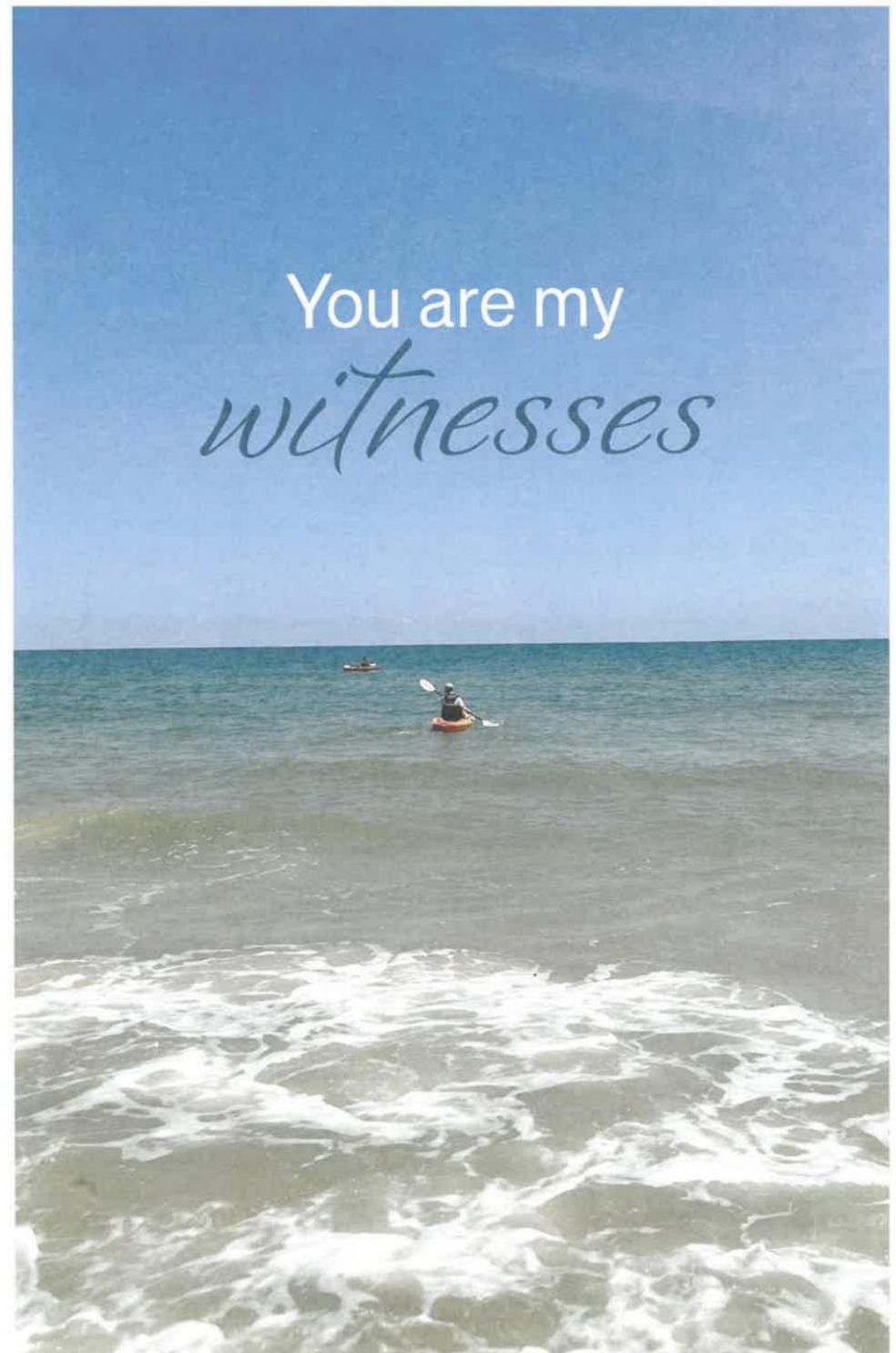
In your name we pray, Amen.

Hymns: “We Gather Together” (*Hymnal: A Worship Book* #17),
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (*Hymnal: A Worship Book* #70)

—Audri Svay
North Manchester, Indiana

“Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? *You are my witnesses!* Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one” (Isaiah 44:8, NRSVue). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

July 19, 2026. Photo © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission.
Living Word Bulletin Series © 2026 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

July 19, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “All Now Sing Forth in Praise” (Broughton)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has searched us and knows us.
God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

*All: God searches out our path and our lying down.
God is acquainted with all our ways.*

One: Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it.
God’s hand is ever available to guide us.

*All: Such knowledge is a wonder to us.
It is beyond anything we can attain.*

One: We cannot escape from God’s spirit.
There is nowhere to flee from God’s presence.

*All: Darkness is as light to our God.
God illuminates the way before us.*

*HYMN #99 “We Praise Thee, O God”

*INVOCATION

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY “Song of Summer” (Callender)

*DOXOLOGY #119 “Praise God From Whom”

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SPECIAL MUSIC “Inheritance” by Bethel Music/Emmy Rose
Julie Herman

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

*Please remember our worship is also on YouTube and our website.
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN #506 “I Sought The Lord”

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NT 14 & 15

MESSAGE “Fake Food, Fake Faith” Pastor Eddie Edmonds

*HYMN #575 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*BENEDICTION

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

POSTLUDE “Be Strong in the Lord” (Powell)

~~~~~

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

~~~~~



Welcome

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

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

[www.youtube.com/
@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

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 19, 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 19, 2026 - Father, we thank you today for your rich blessings on us in the form of our Christian heritage. We thank you for the saints of old who suffered and struggled to be your messengers and to be our examples. We thank you for parents and for teachers and pastors and for all who have been your instruments to enrich and to uplift our lives. We thank you for every noble, uplifting influence that has made our lives better. In this time of worship we bring our lives and place them on the altar of service that we might be used by your love and by your power that others might be blessed and brought into a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Help us to recognize that all we are and all we have belong to our Creator and Redeemer and that we are but managers and overseers. Help us to be faithful in using what you have placed under our care. We pray 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.

Pastor Eddie will be out of the office Monday, July 19th through Thursday, July 23rd. If you need to reach him, he will be available by cell phone.

Our thanks to Julie Herman for being our worship leader today and for also sharing special music with us this morning.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by the family of Arthur Grayson Rhoderick in celebration of his life. *January 3, 1932—July 20, 2017.*

Second Quarter Contribution Statements have been 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.

The breakfast planners are collecting school supplies for children that come to the August breakfast. We are in need of donations of: crayons, bookbags, pencils, wide ruled spiral notebooks, markers, dry erase markers, small size hygiene products (deodorant, hair brushes, mini toothpaste & toothbrushes). There will be a box made available in the west entrance. We thank you for your support.—*Jan Young*

Junior Church will be held next Sunday 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.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

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. If you have a used dryer, one that is in good shape, 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

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. **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.

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!

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 19

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, July 20

Church office closed/Pastor Eddie Vacation

Tuesday, July 21

Pastor Eddie Vacation

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Room 208
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, July 22

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

Thursday, July 23

Pastor Eddie Vacation

Friday, July 24

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

Sunday, July 26

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)

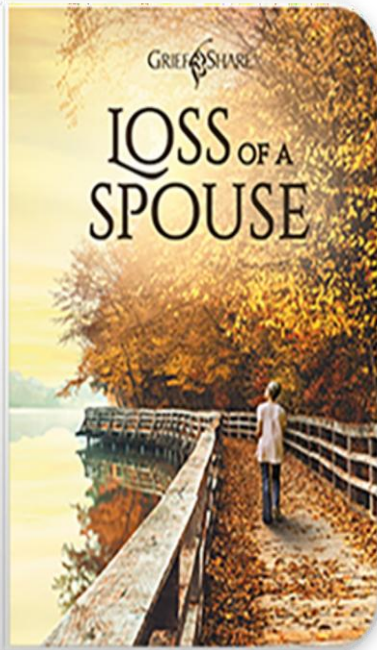
Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

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.