

The Spirit helps us

Are there days you feel you reach a breaking point? The struggle, pain, fear, wars, divisions, murder, hatred get to be too much! There are days when darkness overwhelms our spirits. Darkness has dimmed the Light, threatening to have the last word. Desperate for the light, we open ourselves to prayer.

Spirit, knowing the depths of the darkness, shapes and forms our prayers. We trust Spirit to groan our darkness into renewing life. Spirit brings possibility and promise through the words of theologian Valarie Kaur: "The future is dark, but what if this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb but the darkness of the womb? [What if our ancestors] are whispering in our ear, 'You are brave.' In all of our labors, the labor of raising a family, or making a movement, or birthing a new nation, we need people to help us breathe and push into the fires of our bodies and the fires in the world."

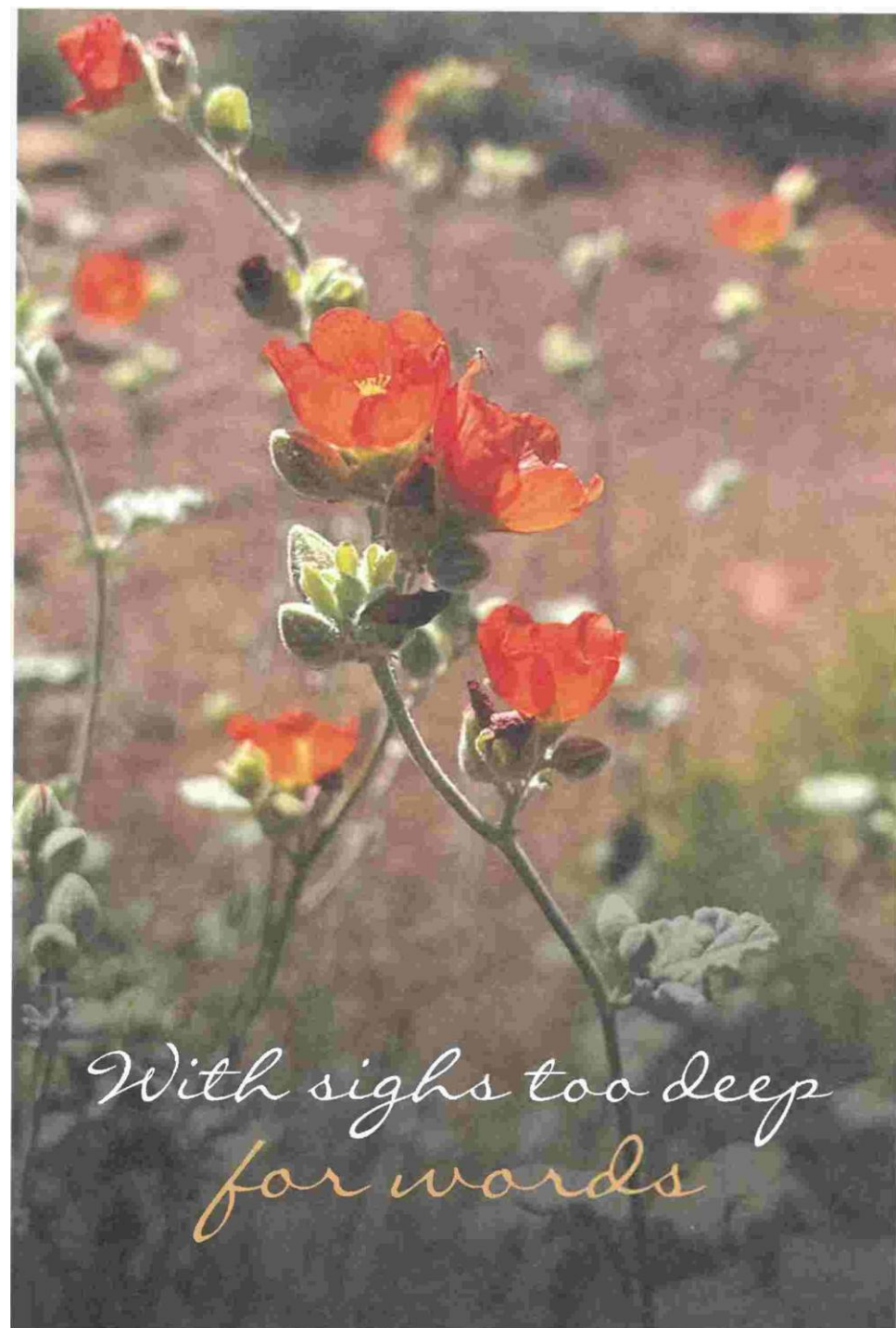
Hope comes in the reframing of darkness. Imagine the darkness leads not toward death, but toward new birth. Spirit's intercession takes our darkness of despair and creates a sacred space of metamorphosis and new life.

Where are we receiving Spirit's prayers, Spirit's groaning too deep for words? Where are we being reshaped by Spirit's prayers to birth a Beloved Community where all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose? Breathe and push. A new world is coming.

- Sara Haldeman-Scarr
Lititz, Pennsylvania

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes *with sighs too deep for words*" (Romans 8:26, NRSV). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

July 26, 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 26, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “Close to Thee” (Arr. Moore)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Donnie Maas, Worship Leader

One: Let us call on our God and give thanks.

Let hearts rejoice as we sing God’s praise.

All: Glory be to God in whose covenant we find life.

Let all the people tell of God’s wonderful works.

One: Let us open ourselves continually to God’s presence.

Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.

All: Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

The Spirit searches our hearts and enlarges our prayers.

One: Who can separate us from the love of God?

Will hardship, distress, or peril overcome us?

All: Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

*HYMN #398 “I Love To Tell The Story”

*INVOCATION

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

OFFERTORY “O Lord, Thou Art My God and King” (Broughton)

*DOXOLOGY #119 “Praise God From Whom”

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SPECIAL MUSIC “All That I Am” (Himes)
Elaine Smith

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 #307 “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

SCRIPTURE READING John 6:1-21 NT 97

MESSAGE “What Are You Looking For?”
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

*HYMN #427 “You Shall Go Out With Joy”

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” (Paxton)

~~~~~

\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~~~~~



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

[www.youtube.com/
@hagerstowncob](https://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 26, 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 26, 2026 - Searcher of Hearts, you have brought us to this place, not to scold us or condemn us, but to embrace us with your forgiveness; to comfort us with your hope. Heart of God, you cast out your net so that all might be brought into your kingdom; your grace is hidden deep within us, that it might be revealed in our lives. Companion Spirit, when we cannot pray, you whisper from our hearts, lifting us to the One from whom nothing can separate us. God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we pray. 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 Donnie Maas for being our worship leader today and to Elaine Smith for sharing special music with us this morning.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in memory of David Nycum from wife, Debbie Nycum.

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.**

Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and 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! 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. Thank you!

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*

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.

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*

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.

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!

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.

You can check the church calendar from your home computer or any Internet-enabled device, including your smartphone. The calendar can be viewed online by going to <http://www.hagerstowncob.org> and clicking on the Calendar tab. The calendar is updated continuously. We do our best to keep current by adding, moving, and deleting as information comes in.

CALENDAR

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

Monday, July 27

Church office closed

Tuesday, July 28

10:00 am Pastoral Appointment/Pastor Office

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, July 29

Admin. Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, July 30

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

1:30 pm Meeting with Pastor Eddie & Allyson/Church office
(Maternity leave related)

5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 31

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Sunday, August 2

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

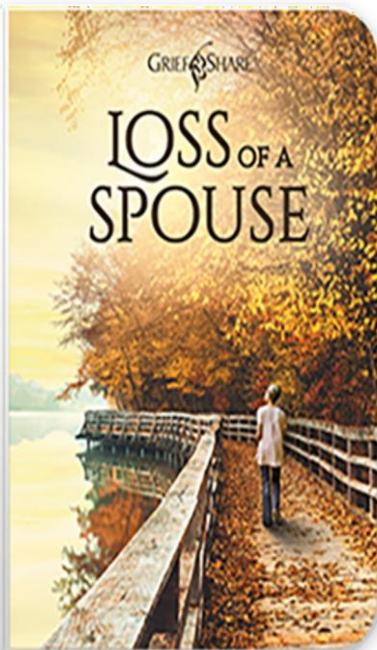
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

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.