

Speak peace

Psalm 85 was written in the aftermath of the exile, that painful period in Israel's history in which the holy city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. Many were forced to live in enemy territory in Babylon. It was a time of utter despair, with the ancient Israelites feeling uprooted, separated from the very underpinnings of their faith. What could they now count on? Was judgment to be God's final word, or was there yet hope that God's favor might be restored?

The good news is that judgment was not the last word. Instead, the prophets of the exilic period anticipated the Israelites' return to their beloved homeland. "I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal," Jeremiah proclaims for God. "I have loved you with an everlasting love . . . again I will build you" (30:17; 31:3-4). And yet, once the people returned, they discovered that the Temple was still in ruins; destruction and chaos were all around them.

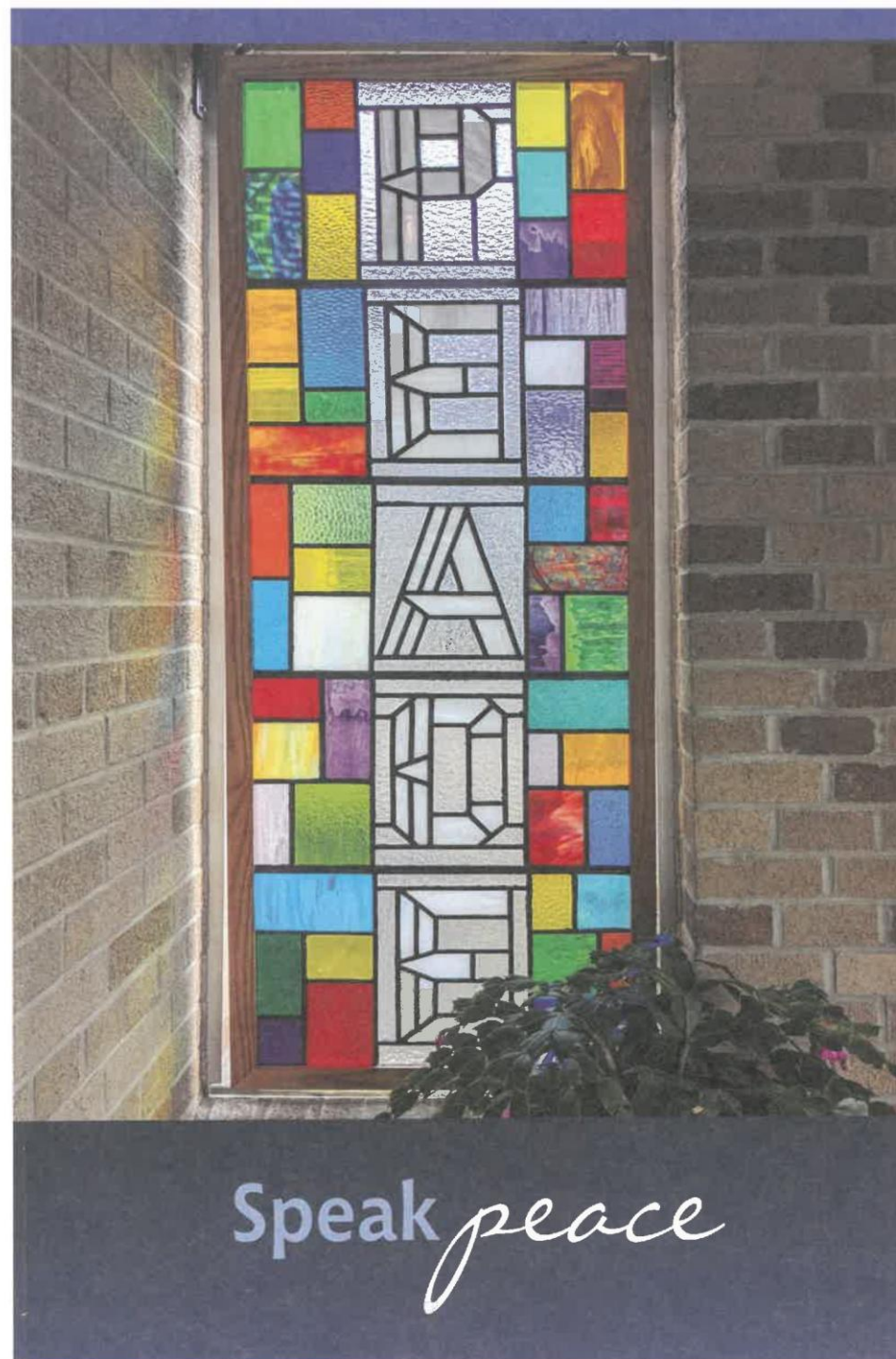
Still, the psalmist envisions much more to come, anticipating a new creation in which God speaks peace to the people. "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky" (Psalm 85:6, 10-11).

Not unlike the ancient Israelites, we live in times of deep uncertainty and division. Dare we take the risk of embracing the promise of peace? A saint of old once wrote of Francis of Assisi, "At the beginning and end of every sermon Francis announced peace; in every greeting he wished for peace; in every contemplation he sighed for peace." Might the same be said of us, that we also place our trust in God's peace? Shall we not heed the call to speak peace, embody peace, proclaim peace, live peace?

—Joel Kline
Fort Wayne, Indiana

"Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will *Speak peace* to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts" (Psalm 85:8, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.

August 9, 2026. Photo © Anna Lisa Gross. Used by permission.
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Speak *peace*

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

August 9, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “All The Way My Savior Leads Me” (Mason)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Over the wind and waves, Christ comes to us.
Do not fear to meet Christ here.

*All: We have heard the invitation.
Our hopes have brought us together.*

One: The storms of life do not have the last word.
Our faith keeps us from sinking.

*All: Our doubts lead to greater faith.
Our losses open us to greater possibilities.*

One: Let us call on God's name and give thanks.
Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.

*All: We will sing of God's wonderful works.
We will share with others God's marvelous deeds.*

***HYMN #14** “Come, We that Love The Lord”

***INVOCATION**

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY “Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide” (Hughes)

***DOXOLOGY #119** “Praise God From Whom”

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SPECIAL MUSIC “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (Rathburn)
Ed Plank, Soloist

SHARING OUR JOYS AND 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 #534** “Prince Of Peace, Control My Will”

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 15:14-19 NT

MESSAGE “The Grace of Serving” Pastor Eddie Edmonds

***HYMN #327** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE “Call To Service” (Hughes)

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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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CALENDAR

Sunday, August 9

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

(www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

2:00 pm Special Event/Altruistic Room

Monday, August 10

Church office closed

Tuesday, August 11

10:30 am Meeting/Church office_Maternity Prep

5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, August 12

Admin. Assistant available by email and phone/Church office closed

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

6:30 pm Summer Handbell Ensemble/Sanctuary

Thursday, August 13

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

10:30 pm Pastoral Meeting/Church office

5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

Friday, August 14

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Saturday, August 15

Assumption of Mary

12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 16

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.



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

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hagerstowncob](https://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 August 9, 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” - August 9, 2026—We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We often speak of your constant presence and we even talk of your omnipresence. Yet when things get scary, we often forget our beliefs and let our fear rule over us. It is so much easier to believe you are with us when things are going well. It is so easy for us to assure others in their fear when we are untouched by their plight. Forgive us our self-centered ways that call our fears real and dismiss the fears of others. Forgive us our quickness to forget that you are always with us. By the power of your Spirit, fill us again with the courage to face our fears and thereby find that you are always with us. 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 Eunice Plank for being our worship leader today and to Ed Plank for sharing special music with us this morning.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Joe and Catherine Johnson's wedding anniversary, from the family.

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Important Announcement—Allyson will begin her maternity leave in early September. If you have any supplies, Sunday school curriculum, or other materials that are ordered through the church office, please contact Allyson as soon as possible so your order can be placed before her leave. Thank you!

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.**

A short Leadership Team Meeting will be held on August 25th at 6:30PM in the Mullendore Room. Following the meeting we will then have our Annual Reorganizational Meeting. All Ministry Team Members are urged to attend.

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*

Non-Delegate Registration forms can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall for those wishing to attend the 2026 District Conference on October 9th & 10th. The church office does not register non-delegates. The deadline to submit your registration form is **September 17th.**

56th Annual Dunker Church Service will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 3:00 PM at Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

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.

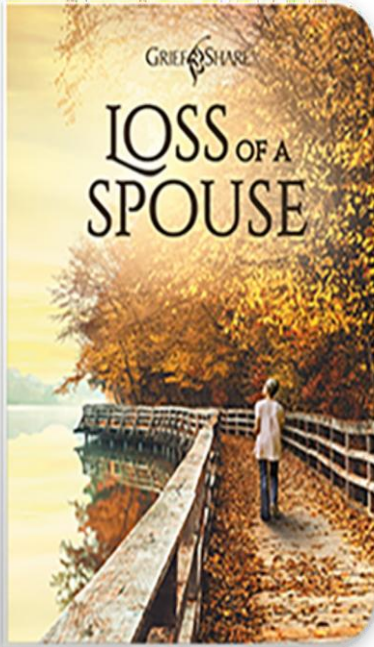
Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and at other convenient locations around the church. To assist our financial secretary, we ask that you use an envelope and please put your name and envelope number on the outside. Here's a tip - take a few envelopes home and stick one of those return address 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.

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.

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!



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.