

Faith, hope, humility, and love

"Humility" stands out among these words; it is quite counter-cultural. Who among us considers others before ourselves? The other words on the pottery shard pictured on the front of the bulletin (faith, hope, and love) absolutely transform and are desperately needed in our lives. But humility? Humility is uncool and will get you in trouble: bullied, mocked, un-friended, blocked, ghosted, and so on.

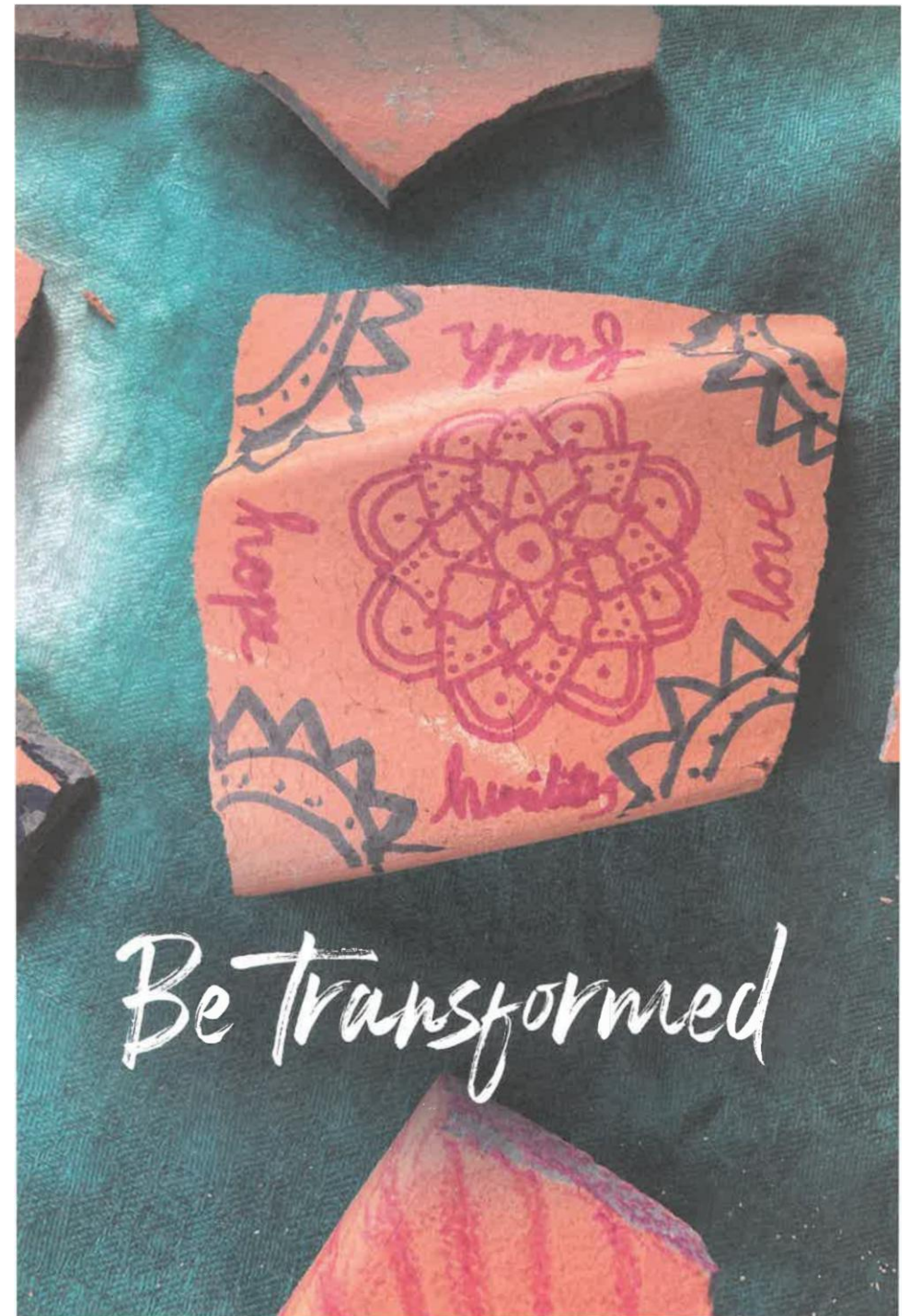
The "sober judgement of oneself" mentioned in Romans 12:3 falls outside of social norms-as much now as when the words were written. Do we really want to be transformed by humility? If we tried to be more like Jesus and think of others more than we think of ourselves, how would we be changed?

Increasingly, we live in a time where aggressive selfishness threatens to suffocate expressions of community or common good. But, as disciples of Jesus, we know better and should do better than the siren song of aggressive selfishness. How can humility play a part in our survival and healing? If we were more considerate of the needs of others, what would be different in our families, congregations, towns, and nation? What would be different in our hearts-my own and yours? How is God calling us to humility and thus transformation?

- Becky Ullom Naugle
Gilberts, Illinois

"Do not be conformed to this age, but *be transformed* by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

August 23, 2026. Photo of Young Adult Conference by Becky Ullom Naugle© Church of the Brethren. Living Word Bulletin Series© 2026 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

August 23, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” (Simpson)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Wendy Browne, Worship Leader

One: Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.
Come to worship the One who answers our prayers.

*All: If God were not on our side, we could not live.
If God were not for us, we would be swept away.*

One: God has gifted each one of us in unique ways.
In our variety, we complement one another.

*All: We rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.
Blessed be our God, whose word is true.*

One: In thankfulness, we bring our joyous songs.
We are here to pay attention to God's instructions.

*All: We are here, seeking to discern God's will.
We are open to God's transforming Spirit.*

***HYMN #8** “Brethren, We Have Met To Worship”

***INVOCATION**

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY “Spirit of Grace” (Logan)

***DOXOLOGY #119** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Arioso” (Helman)

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 #398** “I Love To Tell The Story”

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 9:6-8 NT 182

MESSAGE “The Grace of Giving” Pastor Eddie Edmonds

***HYMN #389** “Take My Life”

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE Postlude on “Holy Manna” (Eithun)

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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 23

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, August 24

Church office closed

Tuesday, August 25

6:30 pm Leadership Team/Reorganizational Meeting
Mullendore Room and Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 26

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

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office

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

Sunday, August 30

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.



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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[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 23, 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 23, 2026—
Praise, honor, glory, and thanksgiving, we praise today for the gift you have given in each heart, in each voice, through every hand, with every aim and aspiration, for you have crafted us individually, blessing us with different gifts which, when combined, make for the whole body of Christ. May we, transformed by your Spirit, cherish each other as we are, so we may cease to seek to be conformed to some nonexistent standard, but be set free to worship you as a blessed people of peace. 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 Wendy Browne for being our worship leader today and to the Summer Handbell Ensemble 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 Mike Hovis and Joni Kline from Nancy Hovis and family.

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.

Announcements for the bulletin, worship leader guide and newsletter need to be emailed to hcobofficehelp@gmail.com STARTING IN SEPTEMBER. This email is for this purpose only. All other emails can go to the secretaryhcob@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call the church office.

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!

Thanks to all those who sent school supplies in for the children at our August Breakfast. If you didn't have a chance to donate and would like to, we will also hand out supplies at our September 12th breakfast. The children were so excited and grateful!

MUSIC PROGRAM—Music rehearsals will begin on Thursday September 3rd with Praise Band at 5:30, Brethren Bells at 6:30 and Temple Choir at 7:30. If you're thinking about joining, or have a musical gift to share, this would be a great time to get started! See Burt with any questions.

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.

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.

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

Our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th. We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our Worship, then following lunch, we will have our Congregational Business Meeting. Ministry Team Chairs! Your reports for the Congregational Business Meeting are due to the church office no later than Sunday, November 1st.

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.

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*

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

Grief Share. The grief journey after losing a loved one is very painful, difficult, and lonely. Since everyone grieves differently, there is no magic endpoint to the grieving process. Fortunately, HCOB offers GriefShare, an international, faith-based 13-week seminar offering support after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend, no matter how recent. The GriefShare ministry team provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. As a participant, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as gain support from others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information with them and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Our fall session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 23, and continue each Wednesday evening through Dec. 16, from 6:30 – 8:30 in the Mullendore Room. Debbie Nycum and Twyla Rowe will be facilitating. There will be no class on November 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. You may join the class at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. Cost is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials.

We also will offer a special 2-hr evening seminar entitled Surviving the Holidays on Monday, November 9, from 6:30 – 8:30.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Debbie, Twyla, or any other GriefShare Team Member: Robin Davies, Deb Long, Wilma Moore, Brenda Shane, Cinnamon & Brian Shay.

**Please mark your calendars and plan to join us
for the 2026 Harvest Festival
Sunday, Oct. 11 @ 2:30 p.m.
at our Growing Project Farm
11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD.**

Join in the fun as we gather to celebrate our **21st year**
working to reduce world hunger with this year's program
in **Baie-de-Henne in Haiti!!**



The Haiti Baie-de-Henne program focuses on increasing the resilience of families to climate, security, and economic shocks, through the diversification of livelihoods.

Training on soil conservation techniques helps increase the availability of safe water and agricultural production.

Providing small loans to farmers helps families diversify and earn enough during drought or between farming cycles to buy food, pay school fees, and invest in seeds.



"Field of Hope" Growing Hope Globally Sponsor Form

I/We will sponsor _____ acres at the
donation rate of \$250 per acre (1/2 acre \$125, 1/4 acre
\$62.50).

Signature

Others joining me in this pledge are _____

.....

Total pledge\$

Pledges are due by October 31. Please make checks payable to: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, designated "Field of Hope" and put in the offering plate.

Participants:

**Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren
Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
Edgewood Church of the Brethren
Grossnickle Church of the Brethren
Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
Harmony Church of the Brethren
Manor Church of the Brethren
Pastorage of St. Francis, St. Mary and Holy Family
Third Street Church of God (Washington, D.C.)
Welty Church of the Brethren
Catholic Daughters Court
Mary Francis Daughters Court
Hagerstown Knights of Columbus, Seton Chapter**

Our special thanks to:

Donnie and Donna Grossnickle, farmers