

Steadfast love

When I think of God's unbounding, steadfast love, I am immediately filled with gratitude for the comfort of knowing I am being cared for and supported. I am also reminded of the individual who, for me, exemplifies God's love for us as humans, my mother.

My mom is the very definition of what it means to live out God's teachings and love. From the time I was a young child, she has been there for all my needs and has supported me in everything I was passionate about. That passion has continued as she watches me grow up. My mom shows me what it means to truly live into the Scriptures and extend God's love, compassion, and mercy, sharing it jubilantly with others.

Just like the person on the front of today's bulletin, my mom will often direct the same gesture toward me - a simple, yet powerful "I love you." While it is a simple sign, the deeper meaning lies through the understanding that I am loved, not only by my immediate family, but by the community and by God. This is something I hold close and will cherish for my lifetime.

May you also find God's love in the simple and meaningful parts of life. May you be reminded of how wonderfully you have been made in God's image.

- Kara Bidgood Enders
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Jeremiah 103:8, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

September 13, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"* (Smith)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.
Let us remember God's marvelous works.

**All: Surely God has saved us in difficult times.
How can we forget God's guiding hand?**

One: When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,
God helps us turn the evil to good.

**All: We need not be afraid whatever happens.
We are in God's care wherever we go.**

One: Sing the praises of God, our strength.
Know that God is majestic and holy.

**All: How great is God's mercy for all who worship!
We sense among us God's kindness and patience.**

***HYMN** *"Leaning On The Everlasting Arms"*
See insert

***INVOCATION**

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY *"Autumn Meditation"* (Lasky)

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

MORNING ANTHEM *"O Magnify the Lord with Me"* (Pethel)
Temple Choir

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 #328** *"O God, Our Help In Ages Past"*

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 10:5-15 NT160

MESSAGE *"Crosses and Conversations"*
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

***HYMN #418** *"Move In Our Midst"*

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"* (Arr. Kerr)

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

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 Brenda Shane for being our worship leader today.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Benner, Teresa Gearhart, and parents, Glenn and Mary Barnhart, by Gloria Benner and Beverly Gearhart.

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13

8:50 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:15 am Spiritual Nurture Meeting/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)

Monday, September 14

Church office closed

Tuesday, September 15

12:00 pm Mary and Martha Group/Room 202
5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, September 16

Church office closed

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, September 17

Pastor Eddie in office/Call ahead to schedule an appointment
5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room
7:30 pm Temple Choir/ Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 18

Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center use of parking lot (1-3 pm)

Sunday, September 20

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.



wELCOME
*"Continuing the work of
Jesus... peacefully,
simply, together."*

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

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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 September 13, 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 Pastor Eddie or the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, are hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take A Moment" - September 13, 2026—
God of grace and understanding, we seek to be your people. You have called us to new life, to a new way of being your community in the world. Part of that call is to be forgiving, to be loving, to open our hearts beyond our imagining. Help us to do that. Help us to see others as people whom you love, as people who are also called to serve you. Challenge us to find ways to get along one with another. We pray in the name of the forgiving Christ. Amen.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcements for the bulletin and worship leader need to be emailed to hcobofficehelp@gmail.com. This email is for this purpose only. All other emails can go to the secretaryhcob@gmail.com.

If you would like an insert added to the bulletin while Allyson is on maternity leave, you will need to have it formatted the way you would like and printed for the ladies in the office to include in the bulletin. If you have questions, please contact the church office. Thank you!

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!

Mailboxes are now labeled for the incoming Deacons. Deacon mailboxes are located going back the hall to the church office on the right hand side. Please check your mailbox weekly.

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

Music Program—Music rehearsals have begun. 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 Young, organist, with any questions.

Mission Trip—John & Jenny Ferguson will be leaving for a two week mission trip to Kentucky on Sept 26. They would appreciate your good thought and prayers for everyone's safety. If you would like to help them financially for gas, food and building material, you can write your check to Mt Nebo UMC. On the memo write Mission Fergusons. You may place it in the offering plate. Thank you HCOB for all your love and support. - *John & Jenny*

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.

Altar and Flower Committee is looking for an Altar flower sponsor for December 27. If interested, please contact Cinnamon Shay.

September is Alzheimer's and Drug Awareness Month—purple arrangements have been placed in the sanctuary and fellowship hall recognizing this and offering our support and prayers to those affected by these challenges.

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. Our next community breakfast is this Saturday, Sept. 12th. 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

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 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.



2026 Growing Project Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 11 @ 2:30 pm

Growing Project Farm

11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD 21773

Please join in the fun as we gather to celebrate our **21st year** of serving our brothers and sisters in need around the globe!

Hayride tour of the farm leaves promptly at 2:30 pm

🍂 Service of Thanksgiving at 3:00 pm

🍂 Cake Auction immediately following

🍂 Sample Foods from Haiti Baie-de-Henne and Local Favorites

🍂 Scarecrow Workshop

🍂 Games

During 2026, we are supporting a program in Haiti Baie-de-Henne.

The Haiti Baie-de-Henne program focuses on increasing the resilience of families with regard 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 help families diversify their livelihoods and earn an income during times of drought or between farming cycles to purchase food, pay school fees, and invest in seeds and other inputs.

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain