

## Every day I will bless you

There are some evenings when the sky itself seems to pray. The sun slips behind the trees, the field grows quiet, and the last rays of light linger as if blessing the earth before the night comes. On such evenings, it is easy to believe that praise can rise in ordinary life.

"Every day I will bless you" sounds simple until we recall that not every day feels light. The world doesn't always feel whole. Some days are filled with gratitude and ease. Other days are marked by weariness, grief, or the quiet effort of simply living. Yet the invitation remains: to bless, to praise, to turn again toward the One who "is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love" (Psalm 145:8, NLT).

We speak many names for God, each one only a glimpse of holy mystery. In moments like this, when I see a beautiful sunset, I think of God of the Evening Light—the One who remains when the day has been long, who meets us in quiet beauty and does not rush our healing. This kind of presence does not arrive with commotion or force. It settles gently, like dusk over the land.

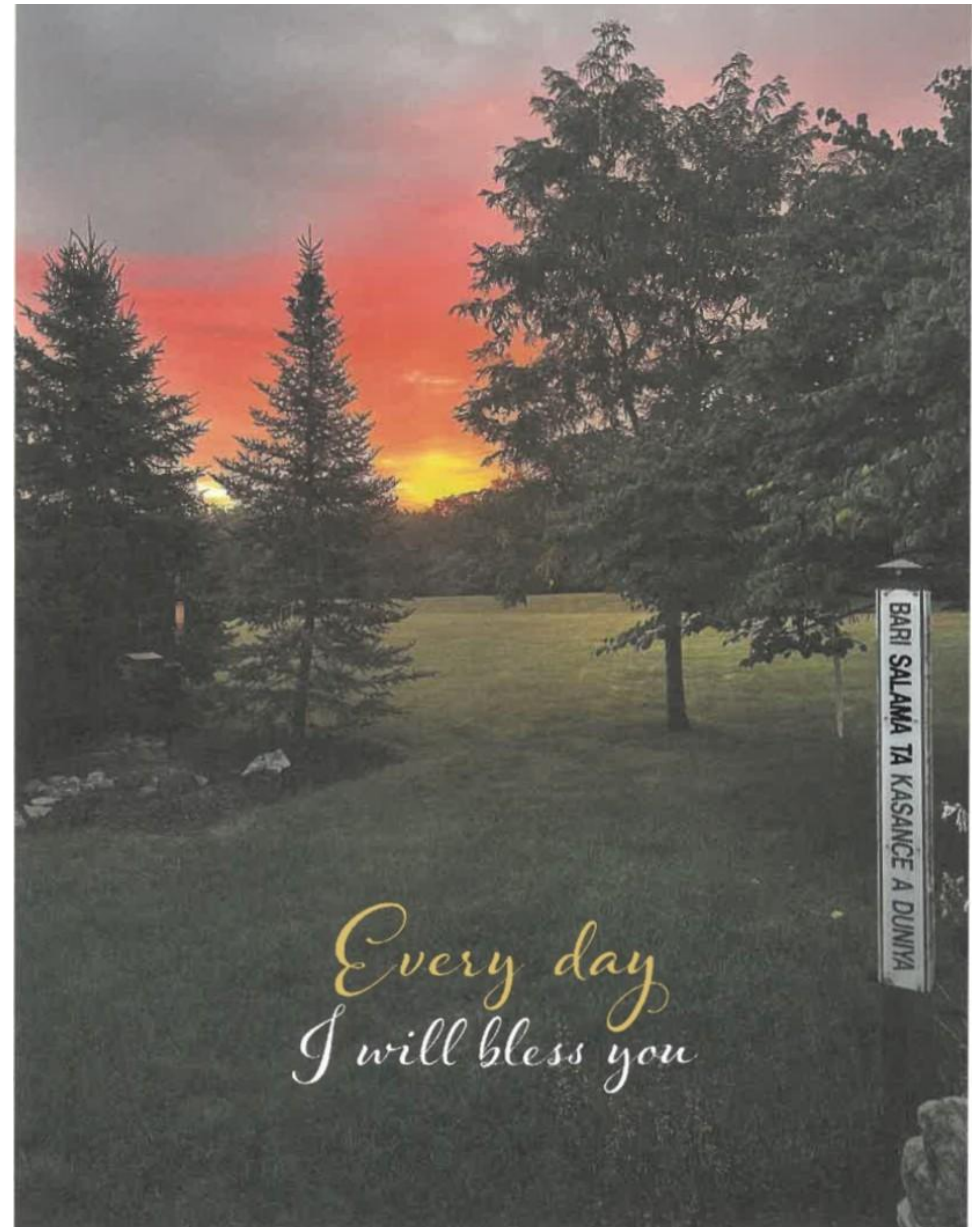
Perhaps this is how peace grows in us too—not rushed, but quietly present. It takes shape in the ways we turn toward each other, in small acts of mercy, in tenderness and reverence that open space for another's full humanity. In this way peace becomes more than hope. It becomes practice. *It* is a blessing we receive and share. It is a way of being with one another in a weary world.

May we grow in the way of peace day by day—to bless God, to bless one another, to become, by grace, bearers of Christ's peace in the world.

- Nicolette Habecker  
Rexmont, Pennsylvania

"Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever" (Psalm 145:2, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

September 20, 2026, International Day of Peace. Photo © Kim Ebersole. 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**

September 20, 2026

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**                      *"He Leadeth Me Medley"*                      (arr. Rouse)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.  
Tell of God's wonderful works.

*All: Today we open ourselves to God's presence.  
Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.*

One: When we eat, we are reminded of God's provision.  
When we drink pure water, we give thanks.

*All: Surely God has blessed us with food and drink.  
Daily we are strengthened for tasks we face.*

One: We are guided by God's laws and statutes.  
We benefit from God's generosity.

*All: Let all the people worship with joy!  
Let all whom God has chosen sing together*

**\*HYMN #91**                      *"Praise to God, Immortal Praise"*

**\*INVOCATION**

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY**                      *"The Gift of Love"*                      (arr. Hopson)

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

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**MORNING SOLO**

*"Goodness of God"*  
**Julie Herman**

(Johnson)

**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 #70**                      *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Acts 9:1-9                      NT127

**MESSAGE**                      *"Conversations of Jesus: Paul"*  
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

**\*HYMN #504**                      *"Have Thine Own Way"*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**                      *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*                      (arr. Shackley)

*\*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 Jack Finnif, today's worship leader, Cheryl Wilson, guest organist, and Julie Herman, soloist.

**The flowers** on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of grandmother, Bertha Lindsay, by Ralph and Sharon Stottlemyer.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, September 20

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

### Monday, September 21

Church office closed  
10:00 am Service for Mitchell Gearhart (Minnich Funeral Home)  
6:30 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

### Wednesday, September 23

Church office closed  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
6:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### Thursday, September 24

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 25

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

### Sunday, September 27

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

*Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.*

#### Directory Update:

**Karen Miller**—new address  
1253 Squirrel Run  
Williamsport, MD 21795

**Eileen Smith**—new address  
1174 Gratitude Dr.  
Williamsport, MD 21795

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](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

The church calendar is online at  
[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org).  
Click the calendar tab.

#### Statistics

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| General Fund total .....   | \$2,888.00 |
| 2026 weekly average needed |            |
| 53 Sundays: .....          | \$6,934.39 |
| 8:30 AM attendance .....   | 34         |
| Sunday School.....         | 31         |
| 10:45 AM attendance.....   | 82         |
| YouTube views .....        | 53         |

The General Fund offering does not include monies given for any designated fund.  
For total offerings, please review the financial statement provided by the Assistant Treasurer.



**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

[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

[www.facebook.com/  
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 September 20, 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 20, 2026—

Some days we can get overwhelmed, O God. We see escalating problems and believe we can do nothing; we might feel defeated by our work, by friendships gone awry, or by financial woes. Yet, in the midst of all this, when we pause and look at ourselves and the world in which we live, we recognize how much you love us. You care for each one of us as if we were your favorite, precious child. We may not understand your love, but we appreciate it, and pray you may lavish it always on us and others. Amen.

**Congratulations** to Allyson McPeak, administrative assistant, and her husband, Colin, on the birth of their second child, Eloise McPeak, on Sunday, September 13th. If you would like to offer congratulations or send a card, their contact information is in the church directory.

**Our Sympathy** extends to the family of Mitch Gearhart, who passed away on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. A viewing will be held at Minnich Funeral Home on Sunday, September 20th. The funeral service will take place at Minnich at 10:00 am on Monday, September 21st.

**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.

**56th Annual Dunker Church Service** will be held today at 3:00 PM at Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

**Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat** will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. We will have bingo, children's games and a cake walk. There will be Trunk or Treat with a costume parade for the children. We will offer hot dogs, baked beans, chips, popcorn, water, ice cream sandwiches and cotton candy.

There are many ways that you can support the Fall Festival. Volunteer to help with the activities or in the kitchen. We need baked beans, bagged candy, and cakes or baked goods (placed in a container and labeled). We also need children's and adult prizes for bingo. If you have any appropriate items, you can place them in the box in the west entrance, beginning September 20th. Sign-up sheets will be available on September 20th for helpers, bakers, and anyone willing to do Trunk or Treat. If you have any questions, contact Service & Outreach Co-Chairs, Ann & Vince Bourdeau at 240-291-8521.

**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.**

**Spiritual Nurture** would like to initiate a visitation group for home bound members and friends. If you feel called to visit and encourage others, please join this group by contacting Mary Means at 301-992-9640 or Jenny Ferguson at 301-964-1779. If you would like to receive a visit, reach out to Mary or Jenny.

**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.

**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. No October Newsletter will be published as Allyson is on maternity leave.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**—Announcements for the bulletin and worship leader need to be emailed to [hcobofficehelp@gmail.com](mailto:hcobofficehelp@gmail.com). This email is for this purpose only. All other emails can go to the [secretaryhcob@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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*



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](http://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.