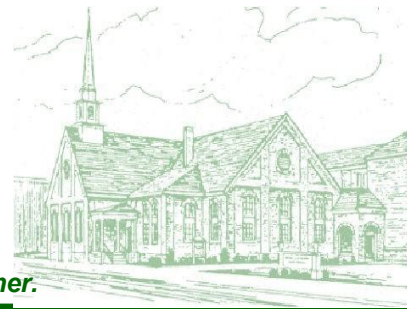




Tidings

September 2026

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren is to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and glorify the Lord by striving to live as Christ lived experiencing the power of God's healing in our lives. We seek to nurture our faith community through prayer, music and the proclaimed Word, while enthusiastically reaching out to others with compassion, respect and love for everyone so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.

VISION STATEMENT

*The Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, A Living Peace Church: A caring community gathered round the Risen Christ that
...Welcomes the stranger
...Empowers our neighbors
...Embraces the diversity among all people as we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.*

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
15 South Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
Telephone: 301-733-3565
secretaryhcob@gmail.com

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Praise Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship and YouTube Live at 10:45 AM
<http://www.hagerstowncob.org>
[facebook.com/hagerstowncob](https://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

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Pastor's Pen - September 2026

The Power of Commitment

Commitment is the quiet force behind meaningful progress. It is not always dramatic or inspiring; often, it looks like showing up when motivation has faded, keeping a promise when it becomes inconvenient, and taking one more step when the outcome is still uncertain.

In a world filled with distractions and endless choices, commitment gives us direction. It turns good intentions into consistent action. Whether we are building a career, strengthening a relationship, improving our health, or pursuing a personal dream, progress depends less on occasional bursts of effort and more on the decision to continue.

Commitment is more than a feeling

Many people assume commitment means always feeling passionate or confident. In reality, commitment is a choice we make even when our feelings change. Motivation may begin the journey, but commitment helps us stay on course.

This does not mean ignoring difficulty or refusing to change direction. True commitment includes honesty. It asks us to evaluate what matters, adjust our approach, and remain dedicated to the purpose—even when the plan needs to evolve.

Small actions create lasting results

Commitment becomes powerful when it is expressed through manageable habits:

- Reading a few pages each day.
- Having a difficult but necessary conversation.
- Practicing a skill consistently.
- Meeting a deadline.
- Returning to a goal after a setback.

These actions may seem small, but repeated over time, they build trust—in ourselves and in others. Every time we follow through, we strengthen the belief that our choices matter.

Staying committed through setbacks

Setbacks are not proof that commitment has failed. They are part of the process. The important question is not whether we will face obstacles, but how we will respond when they appear.

When progress feels slow, it helps to return to three questions:

- **Why did I begin?**
- **What is within my control today?**
- **What is the next useful step?**

Continued on page 2

Focusing on the next step prevents a long journey from becoming overwhelming. It also reminds us that commitment is renewed through daily decisions—not secured once and forgotten.

A commitment worth making

Commitment begins with clarity. We cannot consistently dedicate ourselves to everything, so we must decide what deserves our time and energy. Once we identify what matters most, we can protect it with boundaries, routines, and intentional choices.

This week, consider making one meaningful commitment—not a promise to become perfect, but a decision to be present and persistent. Choose something important, define one practical action, and follow through. Because lasting change rarely comes from one extraordinary moment. More often, it comes from the ordinary decision to keep going.

Commitment is not about never giving up; it is about remembering what matters and choosing it again.

³Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3, NRSVA

**In Christ's Service,
Pastor Eddie Edmonds**

Sundays in September

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Text	Greeter	Special
9/6/26	Eddie Edmonds	Linda Baker	"Conversations of Jesus: Nicodemus"	John 3:1-12	Bob & Judy Long	Food Pantry Sunday/Fellowship Time
9/13/26	Eddie Edmonds	Brenda Shane	"Crosses and Conversations"	Romans 10:5-15	Kevin Snyder	Junior Church/ Parish Nurse
9/20/26	Eddie Edmonds	Jack Finniff	"Conversations of Jesus: Paul"	Acts 9:1-9	Jack Finniff	
9/27/26	Eddie Edmonds	Chris Stockslager	"Conversations of Jesus: Mary Magdalene"	John 20:11-18	Amy Hardy	Junior Church



Allyson (the church Administrative Assistant) 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 her as soon as possible so your order can be placed before her leave.

Announcements for the bulletin and worship leader guide 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 would like an insert added to the bulletin while Allyson is on maternity leave, you will need to have it formatted and printed for the ladies in the office to include in the bulletin. If you have any questions,

October Newsletter

Due to Allyson being on Maternity leave September through October, the October newsletter will not be published this year. We recommend checking the weekly bulletin for updates on events and staying up to date. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

SAVE THE DATES

*56th Annual Dunker Church Service
Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 3PM
Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg MD*

*Sunday School Orchestra
Sunday, November 1st
No early service/Combined worship service at 10:45 AM*

*Fall Love Feast/World Communion Sunday
October 4th*

UPDATE: Fall Congregational Business Meeting November 15, 2025

Our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th. We will have a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 AM service and the Business Meeting will follow. Sign-up sheets can be found in the west entrance and fellowship hall closer to the middle of October. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken, drinks, and paper products. Please sign-up so we know how much chicken to buy and bring a dish to share. Thank you!



SEPTEMBER



- 1 Ezekiel 18-20
- 2 Ezekiel 21-22
- 3 Ezekiel 23-24
- 4 Ezekiel 25-27
- 5 Ezekiel 28-30
- 6 Ezekiel 31-33
- 7 Ezekiel 34-36
- 8 Ezekiel 37-39
- 9 Ezekiel 40-42
- 10 Ezekiel 43-45
- 11 Ezekiel 46-48
- 12 Joel
- 13 Daniel 1-3
- 14 Daniel 4-6
- 15 Daniel 7-9
- 16 Daniel 10-12
- 17 Ezra 1-3
- 18 Ezra 4-6, Psalm 137
- 19 Haggai
- 20 Zechariah 1-4
- 21 Zechariah 5-9
- 22 Zechariah 10-14
- 23 Esther 1-5
- 24 Esther 6-10
- 25 Ezra 7-10
- 26 Nehemiah 1-5
- 27 Nehemiah 6-7
- 28 Nehemiah 8-10
- 29 Nehemiah 11-13, Psalm 126
- 30 Malachi

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Clergy Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication, and multiple blessings provided by these special people.

It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation, and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

Please take this time to personally thank our pastor for his hard work and to lift him and his family in prayer.

Hagerstown COB - September 2026 Edition

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!

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*

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church will be held the second & fourth Sunday of each month. This is open to ages Kindergarten through Grade 6. **We will gather in the Children's Church Room (Room #203) for a special time together.**

Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going, or parents may accompany them.

Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance.

Christian Education Ministry Team

MUSIC PROGRAM

Music rehearsals will begin this Thursday September 3rd with Pr d 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.

Ministry Team Chairs! DEADLINE!

Your reports for the Congregational Business Meeting are due to the church office no later than Sunday, November 1st. Please make sure they are in Word format.



Home Communion & Anointing

Persons desiring a pastoral visit, home communion, spiritual direction, or a service of anointing, are invited to call the church office at 301-733-3565.

Anointing with oil for the healing of body, mind or spirit is offered upon request. Please contact the pastor to receive this ministry of healing and faith commitment. Intercessory Prayer is an important ministry of our congregation. If you have a prayer request, contact Jan Young at 240-310-4101

Friends in Faith: Mark your calendars

Participants of Friends in Faith, we will be meeting on **Wednesday, November 4th**. More details will follow in the coming weeks.



The first Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items, 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! All items collected will be going to Holly Place.

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.

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). If you can't pick them up on a Sunday, we can make arrangements to leave cards in a church mailbox or snail mail them to you.

September 2026 Schedule

Please check the weekly bulletin and the online calendar for changes as they happen. Our schedule is subject to rapid changes.

Wednesday, Septmeber 2

Admin. Assistant available by email & phone/Church office closed
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, September 3

Pastor Eddie's in office day/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 4

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Sunday, September 6

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)

Monday, Septmeber 7

Church office closed/Labor Day

Wednesday, September 9

Admin. Assistant available by email & phone/Church office closed
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, September 10

Pastor Eddie's in office day/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 11

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, September 12

8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Doors open to the public 9AM-10:30AM)

Sunday, September 13

Junior Church
8:15 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 Martha Group/Room 208
5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Room 302

Wednesday, September 16

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, September 17

Pastor Eddie's in office day/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

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Sunday, September 20

Cheryl Wilson/Fill in for Burt
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, September 21

Church office closed
6:30 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

Pastor Eddie's in office day/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

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Sunday, September 27

Junior Church/Rebecca Jackson_Fill in for Burt
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, September 28

Church office closed

Tuesday, September 29

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, September 30

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



Please join us for our
Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

All in One Event!
Saturday, October 17, 2026
1:00—3:30 PM

Everyone Welcome!
Everything Free!

Children come in your costumes for the costume parade!

Food, games, moon bounce, balloon man, bingo, cake walk, sweet treats, popcorn, and trunk or treat!

Questions?
Please call: 301-733-3565

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
Corner of East Washington Street and S. Mulberry Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740



The Service & Outreach Team is organizing our Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat which will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 1 to 3:30 pm. We need many helpers. We will have bingo and children's games. We will have hotdogs, baked beans, chips, popcorn, water, and ice cream sandwiches. There will be a cake walk. There will be a costume parade for the kids and of course, Trunk or Treat. We are in need of baked beans, cakes or baked goods (placed in a container and labeled) and bagged candy. We also need children's and adult prizes for bingo. If you have any appropriate items, there will be a box in the west entrance beginning September 13th. Sign-up sheets will be available on September 13th for helpers, bakers and anyone willing to do Trunk or Treat. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Service & Outreach Team.

**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



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

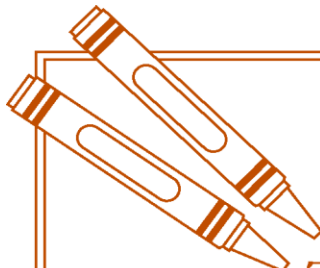
how recent. The GriefShare ministry team provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. As a participant, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as gain support from others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone 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.

Play Page for September



Just for KIDS

The Story of Ruth

Ruth was a Moabite who married an Israelite. When her husband died, she was free to return to her people. But Ruth was devoted to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and to the God of Israel. She refused to leave Naomi. Because Ruth was faithful, God blessed her.

Look up these passages in Ruth (NIV), and fill in the blanks with the missing words. Then use the circled letters to find the name of Ruth's famous great-grandchild.

- Ruth 1:5** ... both Mahlon and also died and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.
- Ruth 1:20** "Don't call me ," she told them, "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."
- Ruth 1:18** When Naomi realized that Ruth was to go with her, she stopped urging her.
- Ruth 2:1** Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of , whose name was Boaz.
- Ruth 3:1** One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well for?"
- Ruth 3:9** "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said, "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a - redeemer."
- Ruth 2:14** At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine ."
- Ruth 4:9** Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon."
- Ruth 4:13** So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

Answer: Kilion, Naomi, determined, standing, provided, kinsman, vinegar, David

Grandparents have ears that really listen, arms that always hug
& hold, love that's never ending, and a heart that's made of gold.
Happy Grandparents Day! (September 13, 2026)

Make BANANA JUICE

National Grandparents Day is the first Sunday after Labor Day each September.

Treat your grandparents to a delicious and nutritious treat that you can make yourself.

What you need:

- 1 banana
- ice cream in your favorite flavor
- 1 cup milk
- blender
- ice cream scoop or large spoon
- tall glasses

How to make it:

1. Check with parents before you start!
2. Peel the banana, break it into 3 or 4 pieces.
3. Put the pieces in the blender along with a scoop of ice cream and 1 cup of milk.
4. Be sure to put the lid on the blender!
5. Blend it together and pour it into a tall glass.
6. Serve it to your grandparents!



Hagerstown Church of the Brethren
15 South Mulberry Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL—
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

SEPTEMBER

Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/call ahead)

Praise Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 AM
Worship and YouTube Live at 10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org
www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob
www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob

Eddie Edmonds
Interim Pastor

Allyson N. McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of Music Ministries

James "Jamie" Prather
Interior Esthetics Technician

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

November 15, 2026 @ NOON

BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly
by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.
All articles submitted for inclusion in the
Tidings are subject to editing.
All dates and times listed are subject
to change without notice.



District Conference 2026
October 9 & 10
Camp Mardela
Denton, MD

**2026 Annual
Conference Logo**

