The Lord's doing

Sometimes people look at the church and See only divisions. Sharp differences are undeniable, sadly, and I often wonder how followers of Jesus can preach peace to others when we don't always manage to practice it al home.

But that's not the main story. My heart is warmed whenever the church works to find common ground and witnesses to Christian unity.

Every year, Christian Churches Together gathers people seeking lo learn from other Christians. CCT is made up of five families-Catholic, Evangelical/Pentecostal, Historic Black, Historic Protestant, and Orthodox. Each family provides an address, and each family leads a worship service. The forum is a rich experience for both head and heart.

ln the photo on th.is bulletin, people at the most recent CCT forum are walking from the Mennonite Heritage Center (yes, the Church of the Brethren appears on one of the walls there) to a refurbished bam, where lunch will be served. The menu is Indonesian fare served by lndonesian Light Church, a Mennonite congregation in Philadelphia.

CCT practices something called receptive ecumenism, a way of listening deeply and learning from one another across traditions. Even those of us who claim the same tradition can choose to be infused by that spirit-after all, each person is different and we can all benefit from listening and learning.

This kind of unity isn't uniformity. ln fact, it's a celebration of the joyful diversity of people who call themselves Christian. While World Communion Sunday focuses on the Lord's supper, it is also infused by the power of Pentecost. Let us be "amazed and astonished" by what God can do.

- *Wendy McFadden*
Elgin, Illinois

"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was *the* Lord's *doing,* and it is amazing in our eyes"?" (Matthew 21:42, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from **the lectionary: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.**

October 4, 2026, World Communion Sunday. Photo © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission.
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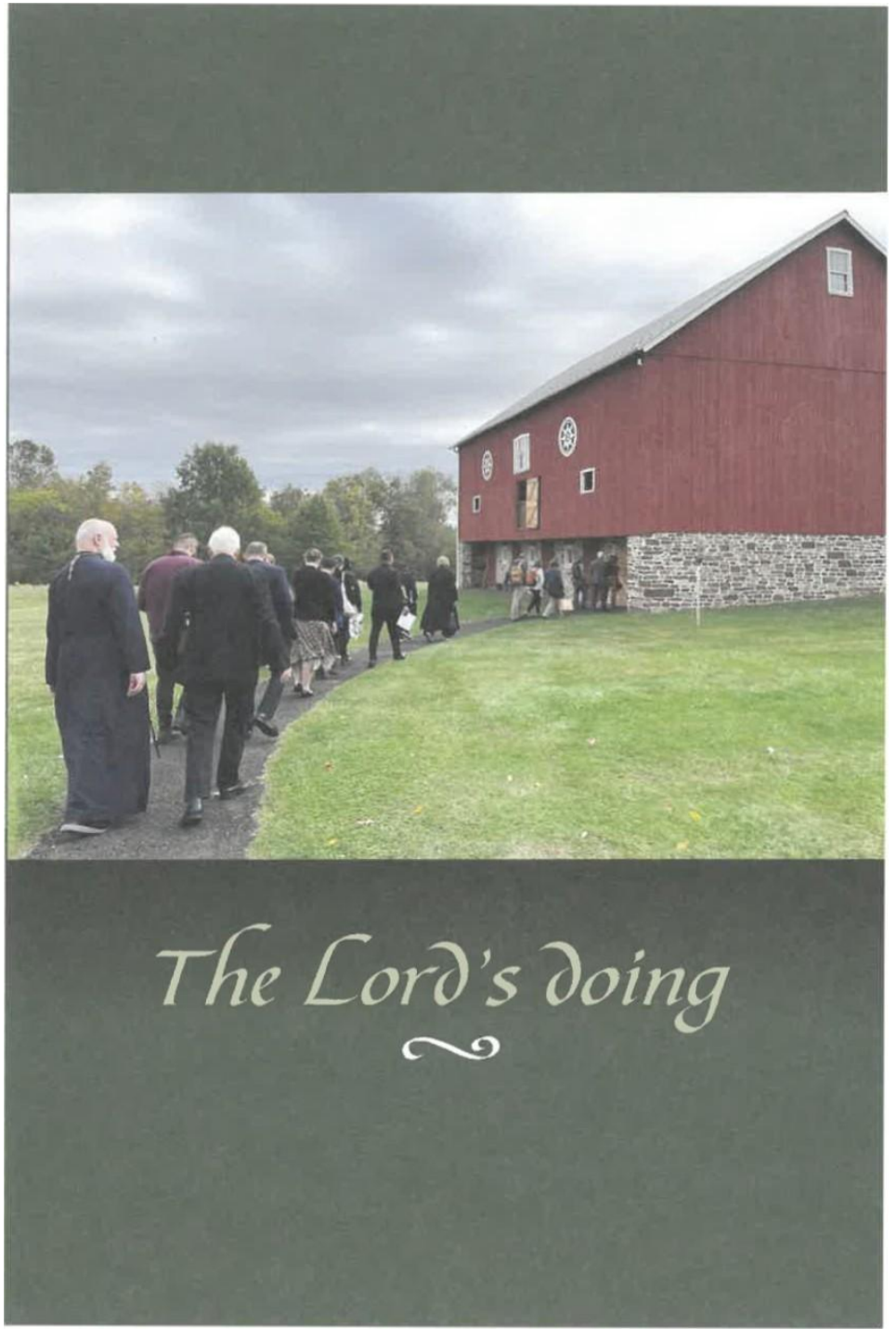

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 AM

October 4, 2026

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"He the Banquet Spreads Before Us"* (Mansfield)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The God who frees us invites us to worship.
The God of law welcomes our loyal response.
All: ***The heavens are telling the glory of God.***
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
One: God is present with us, eager to speak to us.
Our Creator is here to test us and to keep us from sin.
All: ***The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.***
God's decrees are sure, making wise the simple.
One: We tremble before God, yet are not afraid.
We are ready to listen to God's word.
All: ***May our awe before God be pure and enduring.***
May our thoughts and our words be acceptable to God.

***HYMN #120** *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

***INVOCATION**

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving
Offertory *"Bread of the World"* (Martin)
***Doxology #119** *"Praise God from whom"*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS, 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 #308** "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-19, NRSVA NT 165

MESSAGE How to Describe an Elephant
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

MORNING ANTHEM "Come to the Table" (Pote)
Temple Choir

LOVE FEAST

Welcome to the Table

The Symbol of Service
Remarks
The Service of Handwashing
The Symbol of Community
Remarks
The Service of Fellowship
The Eucharist—Holy Communion
Remarks
Declaration of Faith for the Bread: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.
Declaration of Faith for the Cup: The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

***HYMN #306** *"In Christ There Is No East Or West"*

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"* (Thygerson)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 4
Love Feast/Food Pantry
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, October 5
Church office closed

Tuesday, October 6
5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm Worship Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, October 7
Church office closed
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, October 8
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, October 9
District Conference/Camp Mardela
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, October 10
District Conference/Camp Mardela
8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 11
Junior Church
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)
2:30 pm Harvest Festival/Growing Project Farm @ Myersville, MD

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

www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob

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.

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"- October 4, 2026
Loving God, we can be intimidated by our understandings of you. We hear of your "law" and, clouded by our own perceptions, we cower in fear. Yet your word is a blessed thing, a gift to keep us on your path, sweeter than honey and more to be prized than the finest gold. Help us to take your law, made flesh in Jesus, into our being, and live as people in covenant with you. Amen.

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 Kathy Kelsey for being our worship leader.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of my sister, Tina Houpt, on the three-year anniversary of her going to heaven on October 7, by Julie Herman.

Today is our Non-Traditional Fall Love Feast. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Julia Brown who passed away September 28, 2026, and to the family of Joseph Lemon, nephew of Diane and Kirk Graham, who passed away Thursday, September 24th.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Thanks to all for your gifts of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community. Donations for October and November will be distributed to our guests at the November 14th Community Breakfast.

The 2026 Mid-Atlantic District Conference will be held on October 9th & 10th at Camp Mardela 301 Deep Shore Rd. Denton, MD 21629. This year's theme is *Living Faithfully, Supporting Fully*, based on Romans 14: 10-13. More information can be found at: www.madcob.com/districtconference/

Growing Hope Global family fun Harvest Festival will be Sunday, October 11 beginning at 2:30 p.m. It will be held at the Grossnickle Farm at 11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, MD, near Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, The annual festival is in its 21st year, For more information and/call Arn Platou at 301-790-3498.

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.

Remembrance Sunday - November 1, 2026 - Please join us for a special worship Service of Remembrance as we celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have passed in the last year.

Friends in Faith, our fellowship group for widows and widowers, will be meeting Wednesday, November 4th, at 12:00, in the fellowship hall. A sign up sheet is in the West entrance. Please list what food you will be bringing. Any questions? Contact Ann Platou, Suzie Wolfe, Nancy Gingrich, Robin Davies, or Mary Means.

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. The business meeting will be held after the meal.
Ministry Team Chairs! Your reports for the Congregational Business Meeting are due to the church office no later than Sunday, November 1st.

The Novel Bunch will meet Saturday, November 7 at 10:00 in the fellowship hall. The book for November is Waiting for Christmas by Lynn Austin. Flyers with more information are on the credenza.

Spiritual Nurture would like to initiate a visitation group, **Heart to Heart**, for homebound 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.

October Newsletter - A reminder that there will not be an October newsletter.

The fall session of GRIEF SHARE has been cancelled. We will offer a special 2-hr evening seminar entitled "Surviving the Holidays", on Monday, November 9, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Additional information will be forthcoming.

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!

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 Larry Kees, Jr. (301-331-0107). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to 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!

Offering drop-off box is located in the west entrance by the double doors. This box can be used to drop off your offering or order forms. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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!