

A labor of love

The annual process of cutting, splitting, stacking, and burning firewood comprises many of my childhood memories growing up in Vermont I remember stacking wood with my grandlather one chilly fall day wht?n he said, "firewood heats you three times: when you split it, when you stack it, and then when you bum it." Even though we lived in town, my father and I would fill our garage with several cords. We never parked a car in there, as keeping the wood dry and ready for winter was more important.

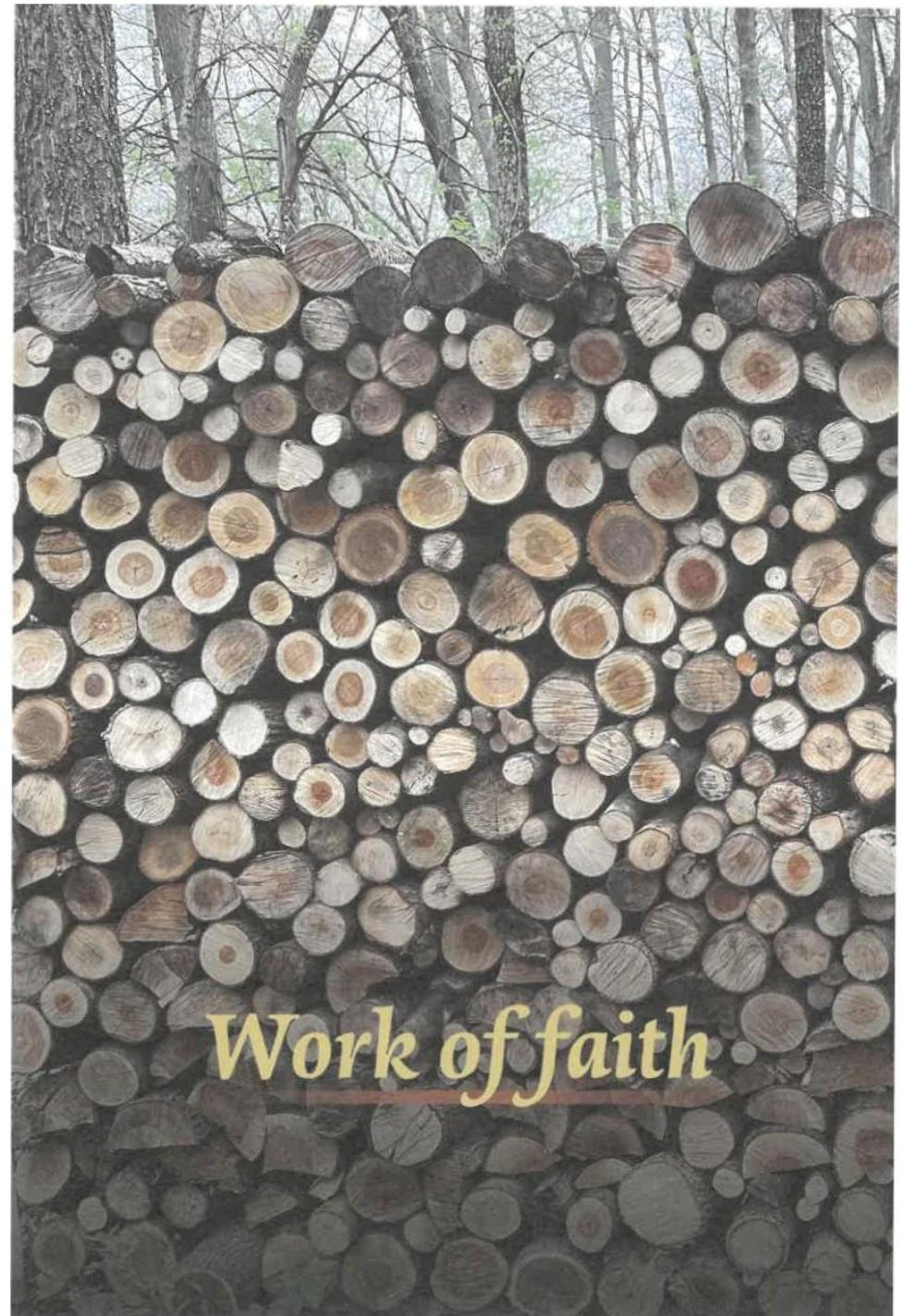
These days, I heat my own formhouse with wood, and I run an emergency wood bank through New Community Project. Vwhile I do all the splitting for insurance reasons, each spring, sports teams and youth groups come and help me stack it under cover. In the winter, when I fill up my truck to bring people a delivery, iYs hard not to think about all the hands that have touched each pie<'C of wood. Iespecially think of this as IWUoad lhe truck for grateful recipients, who most often also pitch in to help.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Paul gives thanks to the Thessalonfans for their faith, their love for others, and their hope in Jesus. When we make sure our families and neighbors are provided for, we express our love and care for their well-being. By not burning fossil fuels for heat, we are also showi.ng our love for Cod's creation. If we are faithful to Cod's design by not over-harvesting, God enswes we have enough. And if my grandfather were here, I'd probably tell him that when you share firewood with those who need it, you're warmed four times. Irs a labor of love and an act of faith that warms the spirit.

- Pde Antos-Ketcham
Starksboro, Vermont

"We always give thanks «.Cod for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our Cod and father your *work offaith* and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, NRSVuc). Today's Bible readings bom the Iectionarr-Tsaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessaloniam 1:1-10; Matthew 22:1S-22.

October 18, 2026. Photo © Tina Rieman. Used by permission.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 AM

October 18, 2026

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Do Not Despair, O Little Flock Arr. Smith

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gather together to hear stories of faith and courage.

Listen for the ways God has acted among us.

All: Our ancestors in the faith listened for God's word.

They dared to believe God's promises.

One: Leaders like Moses and Paul saw evidence of God's work.

They believed they were face-to-face with God's truth.

All: They looked beyond the present moment.

They lived for dreams not yet realized.

One: Many felt God's love in knowing Jesus.

They experienced a new relationship with neighbors.

All: We have come seeking community centered in Christ.

We want to feel God's presence as we worship.

*HYMN #6 Here in This Place

*INVOCATION

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

SPECIAL MUSIC Faith McKlveen
Brethren Bells

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Offertory Holy Spirit, Truth Divine Walters

*Doxology #119 Praise God from whom

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

MORNING ANTHEM Beloved, Let Us Love One Another Dailey
Temple Choir

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 #311 The Church's One Foundation

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Timothy 1:7-13 NT 211

MESSAGE The Biblical Perspective On Anxiety
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

*HYMN #338 Know Not Why God's Wondrous

BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

POSTLUDE Trust and Obey Staszkeski

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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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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 Sandy Clipp for being our worship leader.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Robert Brown, by Julia Brown and family.

The lectern flowers are given in celebration of Esther Boleyn's 90th birthday. Mom, we love you. Doug, Cathy, Rodney, Alisa, Alan and Justine.

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 18

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)
12:00 pm Nominating Committee/Mullendore Room

Monday, October 19

Church office closed

Tuesday, October 20

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Rm 208
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, October 21

Church office closed

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, October 22

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room
7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, October 23

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

Sunday, October 25

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)

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.



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
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Eddie Edmonds
Interim Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

James "Jamie" Prather
Interior Esthetics

*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 October 18, 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"- October 18, 2026

O Sovereign of all that is or ever will be, we come before you this week daring to entertain what it means when your kingdom clashes with ours. We need all the mercy, grace, and spiritual wisdom you can give us to have a chance in this ordeal. You have given us the human standard in Jesus Christ. We take amazing hope in the reality that he faced these choices, lived his life fully, celebrated his humanity with others, and loved you and them to the end. Give us hope and assurance that we too can live in this tension, remain faithful, and aspire to the example of our Lord. Amen.

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.

The Sunday School Orchestra will play Sunday, November 1, 9:00-9:30. Their concert will be held in the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy!

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 holiday season is rapidly approaching and while most of us look forward to the holidays, they are a time when the complex emotions of grief hit even harder. Consequently, grieving people need encouragement and support to make it through this season. This may be the first holiday after a loved one's passing, or perhaps it's been years since a loved one's death. Regardless of the time that has gone by, emotions can blindsides a person who has suffered a loss. While Thanksgiving and Christmas focus on family gatherings, traditions, expectations, social events and "cheer," it's difficult to feel cheerful when that special someone is no longer here. However, the emotional fallout can be lessened somewhat by knowing what to expect and by being prepared.

The Hagerstown Church of the Brethren GriefShare team is planning a special event entitled Surviving the Holidays on Monday, November 9, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. You do not need to have been part of a previous GriefShare group to attend, and we encourage you to invite family and friends to attend with you. There is no cost to attend this event. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to participate in our Surviving the Holidays evening, register at www.griefshare.org. For more information, contact Debbie Nycum, Twyla Rowe, or any member of the GriefShare team. *Light refreshments will be served*

Pastor Eddie will be out of the office from October 19th through the 25th. Dennis Browne will be preaching on the 25th. If you have pastoral care needs during this time, please contact your deacon or contact Pastor Eddie at 304-671-4775.

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.

New Email for Pastor Eddie: Pastor Eddie has established an email address for church business and concerns. Please use pastorhcob@gmail.com.

If you have changed your email address, and would like to continue to receive the bulletins, eTidings, and other church related news as it happens please send the change to secretaryhcob@gmail.com.

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 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!

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.

We are streaming our services 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

