A thousand steps

In Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, the Thousand Steps Trail rises 843 feel in approximately half of a mile. Numbered stone steps mark the path-more than a thousand. In fact, 1037! Quarry workers chiseled and placed the rocks into the mountain in 1936. Modem climbers call the trail "thigh-busting" on the way up and "knee-pounding" on the way down. On a crisp autumn day, the hike fttls almost like a song of praise, a place to rejoice and be glad in God's creation. I imagine the trail pictured on this bulletin elicits a similar feeling.

The history behind the steps prompts less joyful thoughts: What was it like to climb the steps day after day, not for recreation but for survival? Was there room for rejoicing in the people who did the back-breaking work of building them? Could gladness even take root amid the strain of this work in the shadow of lhe Great Depression?

The plight of the exhausted worker echoes the cry of Psalm 70, an urgent prayer for deliverance from enemies. For the Depression-era miners, lhe enemy was the grinding reality of scarcity-empty cupboards, unreliable employment, and considerable fear.

"Be pleased, O *Cod, to deliver me.* O *LORD, make> haste lo help me! ... l am poor and needy; hasten to me,* O *God! You are my help and my deliverer;* O *LORD, do not delay!" (vv. 1, 5).*

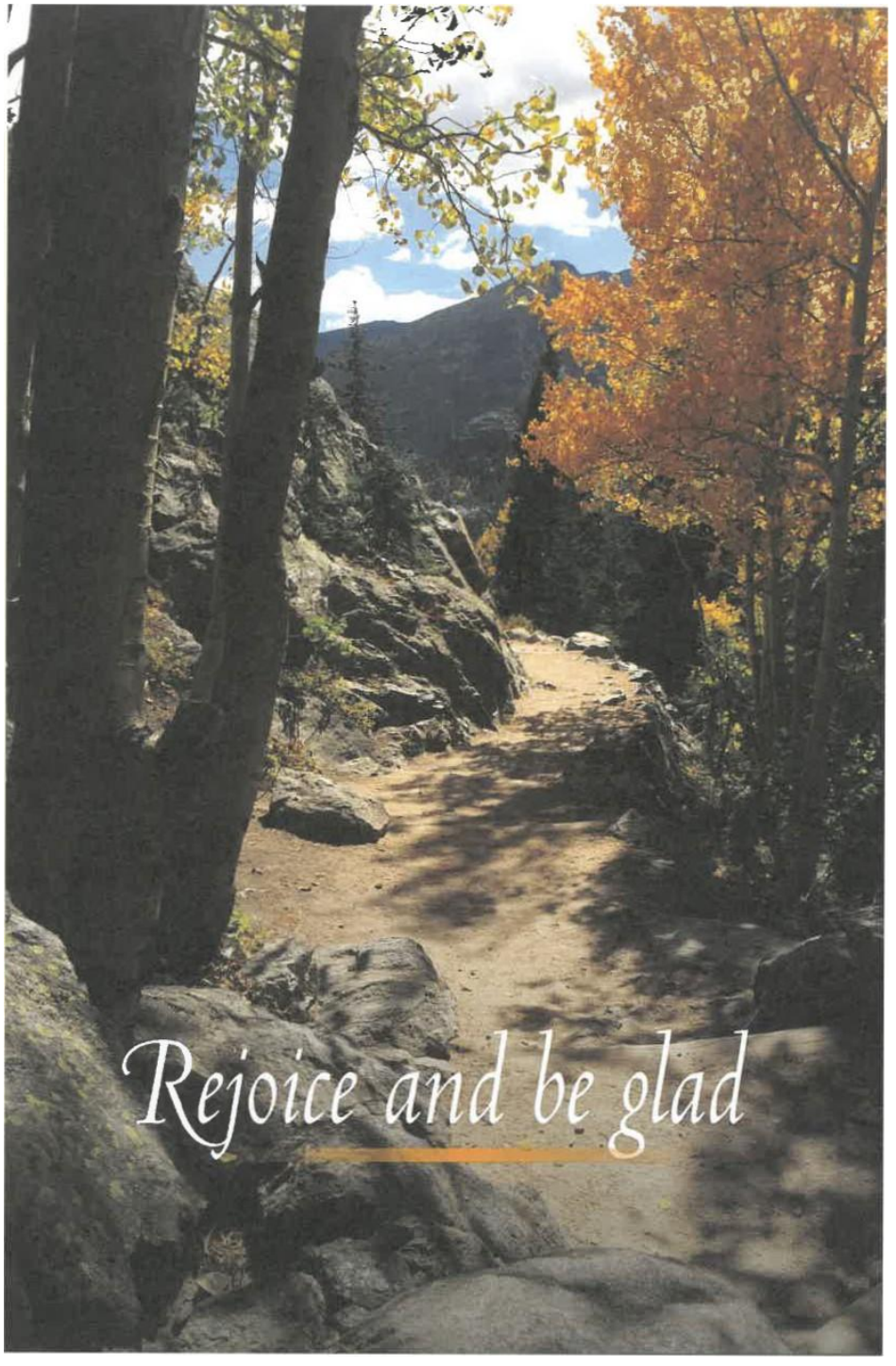
One wonders, as she climbs the timewom steps, was there room for those laborers to carry trust in God along with the desperation of scarcity? Like the psalmist, did the quarry workers learn to hold their need alongside their praises? Might we, as we travel, do the same?

As you move through the world on crisp, autumn days, may you use theexampJe of our spiritual ancestors both to desperately express your needs and to gratefully sing aloud God's praises.

- Beckie Miller Zeek
Duncansville, Pennsylvania

"Let all who seek you r*ejoice and be glad* in you. Let those who love your salvalion say evermore, 'God is great!'" (Psalm 70:4, NMSVue). Today't Bible readings from the Jectionary: Amo!I 5:13-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 AM

November 8, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Face to Face" (arr. Ritter)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Put away the things you have substituted for God.
Let your worship of the one true God be genuine.
All: ***We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator.***
We know that God is beyond all our false images.
One: God is not deceived by our solemn assemblies.
Our empty festivals do not impress our God.
All: ***We want to give joyous expression to a growing faith.***
We choose to serve the God whom Jesus revealed.
One: Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment.
Our trust is in God's love, greater than our feeble imitation.
All: ***We welcome the light God promises us.***
We seek to respond with faithful service.

***HYMN #395 (UMH)** *"Take Time To Be Holy "*

[Verse 1]
Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
[Verse 2]
Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Ssend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.
[Verse 3]
Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever be tide.
in joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
[Verse 4]
Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

***INVOCATION**

God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your commandments as we remember your mighty acts. Declare your Word to us so we may be inspired to obey. We know that we must decide today whether or not we will serve you. Not to decide is to reject you. O God, save us from the idols that appear so attractive to us, the toys that take so much of our attention and the pursuits that dominate our time. Make your dwelling place with us here. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

OFFERTORY INVITATION

How will our neighbors be prepared for times of crisis? Who will teach them where to find oil for their lamps? Who will help them discover spiritual riches more valuable than all their material possessions? Our church is a resource and our ministry is for the whole world. Let us give our support.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on YouTube Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob website.

OFFERTORY *"O May We Ever Walk In Him"* (Rasley)
***DOXOLOGY #119** *"Praise God From Whom"*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the Joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "Bring What You Have" (Berry)
The Temple Choir

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, AND HOPES (Eddie)

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 #601** *"Take My Hand And Lead Me, Father"*

[Verse 1]
Take my hand and lead me, Father, thro' life's stormy pilgrimage.
Let thy light shine brighter, Father, on its dark, mysterious page,
for I find my feet oft straying from the path of truth and right,
feel the need of thy protection, and thy light to shine more bright.
[Verse 2]
For the road is rough and stony, and I cannot see my way.
Yet, if thou wilt deign to guide me with thine own resplendent ray,
I can never, never stumble, but shall walk close to thy side,
with a love so pure and trusting that no sin can e'er divide.
[Verse 3]
Hold my hand in thine, O Father, till I reach the heav'nly gates.
There I'll leave my cross and burden, for my star-gemmed crown awaits.
Then I'll sing in strains of rapture, in the light of perfect day,
thou didst deign to guide me, Father, and hast led me all the way.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:34-46, NRSVA NT25

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they
gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question
to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He
said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment.
39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these
two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." 41 Now while the
Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 "What do
you think of the Messiah?[a] Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of
David." 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit[b] calls him
Lord, saying, 44 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your
enemies under your feet" '? 45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his
son?" 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did
anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

MESSAGE "No Time For "PHUBBING"
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

***HYMN #517** *"Open My Eyes, That I May See"*

[Verse 1]
Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
[Verse 2]
Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
[Verse 3]
Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!
[Verse 4]
Open my mind, that I may read more of thy love in word and deed.
What shall I fear while yet thou dost lead? Only for light from thee I plead.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mind, illumine me, Spirit divine!

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *"All Now Sing Forth In Praise"* (Smith)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



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.

Attendance. Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or pos-sibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

Our thanks to Clair Baker for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

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

The flower arrangement on the altar this morning is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sherry Craig, John and Clara Clark, Harriet Richwine, and Dottie Berry by Joe Craig and Zelena and Alexandra Martin.

Our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held next 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 tomorrow, November 9th.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. We will gather in the Children's Church Room (Room #203). (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Tina Mills. Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

The November Community Breakfast will be held this Saturday, November 14th in the fellowship hall from 9:00-10:30 am. All are welcome!

Newsletter Deadline—All articles should be submitted to the Administrative Assistant on or before November 15th. You can submit articles by email or leaving a note in Allyson's mailbox. Thank you!

A Special Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 29th immediately following the 10:45AM serivce in the Fellowship Hall.

The Service & Outreach Team, on behalf of our congregation members and friends, has selected four families from the Ruth Ann Monroe school to give food and presents to this year. Besides the parents and guardians, there are 12 children. Instead of asking for specific food or presents, we are asking for money 22nd so we have time to shop and wrap the presents. Please mark checks or envelopes "S&O Christmas Project". Thank you all for considering helping these families have a great Christmas. The Service & Outreach Team will do the shopping for a Christmas meal and presents. If you would like to donate money to this project, please do so by Sunday, November



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 blindside 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 .*

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to **secretaryhcob@gmail.com**.

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). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

2027 Church Directory. Now is a great time to update your information for the 2027 Church Directory. If you have recently changed phone numbers or emails, please send any changes/updates/additions to the administrative assistant at: **secretaryhcob@gmail.com** or leave a note in her mailbox.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 8
Junior Church
8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/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, November 9
Church office closed/Ministry Team Chair Report Deadline
6:30 pm Surviving the Holidays/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, November 10
6:30 pm Worship Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions deadline
7:00 pm Search Committee Meeting/Mullendore Room

Thursday, November 12
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, November 13
8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, November 14
8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall (Doors open at 9:00AM)

Sunday, November 15
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 Congregational Business Meeting & Luncheon/Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

Remember our weekday schedule is subject t o 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.

It's Time to Place Your Poinsettia Order

You are invited again this year to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in the church on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are **$10.00 each** and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Please return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren no later than November 22, 2026. Your order may be placed in the offering or mailed to the Church Office: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St. Hagerstown MD 21740.

DEADLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Payment must accompany this form.

If you order a poinsettia, please make sure either you or the person you gave it to removes it from the church at the proper time. Thank you!

Your name: _____

Number of plants (6 inch)

( ) Red

( ) White

( ) Marble (white edge and pink center)

Total plants: _____ Amount attached at $10.00 each: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

USE ADDITIONAL FREE SLIPS IF NECESSARY.

___ IN MEMORY OF: _____

_____

_____

__IN TRIBUTE TO: _____

_____

___ IN THANKS TO: _____

_____