Encouraging **and** building up

My introduction to sewing came through my fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Fortune. My first project was a cross-stitch-decorated, pink-and-white-checked gingham apron. That apron was the start of a lifelong love of sewing. In addition to sewing for my family and friends, I have found a multitude of opportunities to use my skills to help and serve others. I have attended "sewings," where women gather, bringing their own projects and machines-an opportunity to enjoy camaraderie and take advantage of other's help and wisdom.

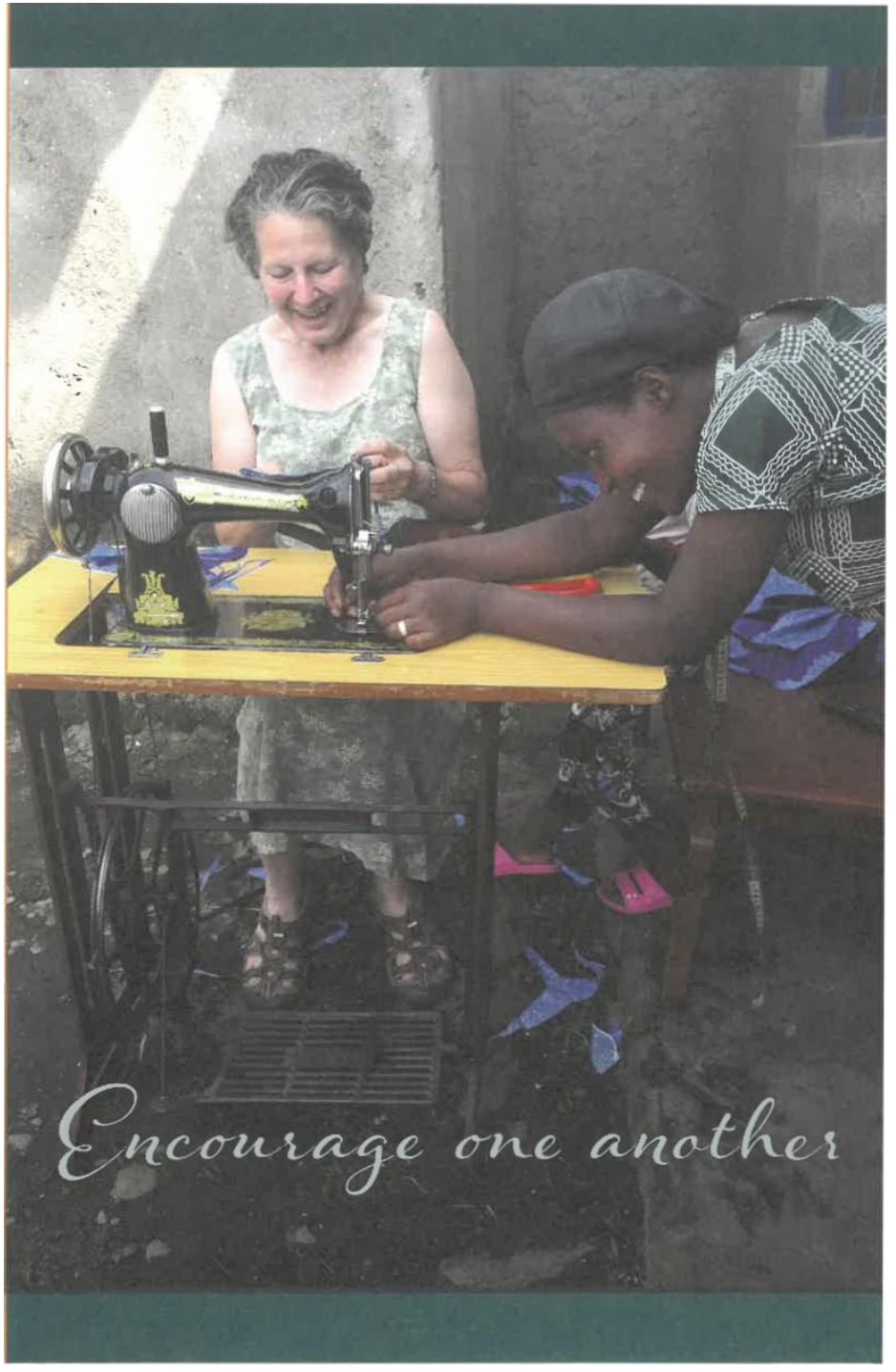
More recently I spent time each month sewing with Afghan refugee women through World Relief, a global Christian humanitarian organization that partners with local churches and communities to, among other things, work on refugee resettlement. The sewing skills of the group of gathered women ranged from none to advanced. I was there to facilitate machine use, encourage and help as I could, and present small projects that even beginners could manage with help. Sometimes we had English speakers or a translator and sometimes not. Machines whizzed, children played, and the ladies traded stories and information with laughter and, occasionally, a few tears. Over the months I was welcomed into their circles, despite the differences of culture and faith-a very humbling experience.

I have found that busy hands often allow for deeper and open conversation that more formal settings may inhibit. The clear sense of God's presence in the midst of our working and sharing reminds me that it is together, with God and each other, encouraging and building up one another, that we best walk the paths of faithfulness *as* children of God's light.

- Pam Warner Franklin
Modesto, California

"Therefore *encourage one another* and build up each other, as indeed you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11. NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.

November 15, 2026. Photo *of* sewing project in Rwanda © David Radcliff. Used by permission.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 AM

November 15, 2026

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"To Greet the Morning"* (Paxton)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God.
Attune your spirit to the One in whom we dwell.
All: ***God's love surrounds us here today.***
God calls us to be children of light.
One: We belong to the day when we have faith.
We live confidently in the hope of salvation.
All: ***We seek to be faithful to the best we know.***
We want to invest the talents God gives us.
One: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance.
Doing justice adds to our sense of worth and dignity.
All: ***We are here to build up one another.***
May our worship encourage each of us today.

***HYMN #6** *"Here In This Place"*

[Verse 1]

Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away. See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

[Verse 2]

We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old - who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong. Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

[Verse 3]

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you. Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

[Verse 4]

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place, the new light is shining; now is the Kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in – and hold us forever, gather us in – and make us your own. Gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***INVOCATION**

Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken our spirits to realities unseen. Turn us from the dullness of our fear-filled grasping for security and help us to live with trust in you. Expand among us such mutual regard and encouragement as will build up community and lead all of us to live in the light. May faith and love dominate all our relationships as we enter into the joy of serving in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God asks us for an accounting of what we have done with the wealth entrusted to us. All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. The climax of worship is an accounting of our stewardship. What are we doing with our time, talent, and treasure? It is not only what we offer to the church today but what we offer to God every day that is under judgment here. May we give with thankfulness.

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 Lord, Thou Art My God and King"* (Broughton)
***DOXOLOGY #119** *"Praise God From Whom"*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

There is no escape from your judgment, O Spirit of Holiness, but neither can we flee beyond your limitless love. We offer an accounting of our stewardship in and beyond the offering of this day. Reshape our lives for joyous, responsive participation in work that builds up the body of Christ. Use what we offer here to bring encouragement and hope to many who have lost a sense of meaning for their lives. Bless us and our offerings. Amen.

MORNING ANTHEM "God of Eternity" (Land)
The Temple Choir

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 #66** *"O Worship The King"*

[Verse 1]
O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

[Verse 2]
O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

[Verse 3]
Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

[Verse 4]
Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

SCRIPTURE READING Judges 4:1-7, NRSVA OT 220

4 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. [2] So the
Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the
commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. [3] Then the Israelites
cried out to the Lord for help, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed
the Israelites cruelly twenty years. [4] At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth,
was judging Israel. [5] She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel
in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. [6] She sent
and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The
Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten
thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. [7] I will draw out Sisera, the
general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops,
and I will give him into your hand.' "

MESSAGE "Unexpected Angels"
Pastor Eddie Edmonds

***HYMN #150** *"Wonderful Grace Of Jesus"*

[Verse 1]
Wonderful grace of Jesus, Greater than all my sin; how shall my tongue describe it,
where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

[Refrain]
Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea,
higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even
me; broader than the scope of my transgressions, sing it!
greater far than all my sin and shame. O magnify the precious name of Jesus,
praise his name!

[Verse 2]
Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost, by it I have been pardoned, saved
to the utter most. Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty, for the
wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

[Refrain]
Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea,
higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even
me; broader than the scope of my transgressions, sing it! greater far than all my
sin and shame. O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise his name!

[Verse 3]
Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled, by its transforming power
making me God's dear child, purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity,
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

[Refrain]
Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea,
higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even
me; broader than the scope of my transgressions, sing it! greater far than all my
sin and shame. O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise his name!

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *"God Is Our Hope and Strength"* (Blake)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*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.

THE ANNOUNCER November 15, 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 - November 15, 2026 - Lord, we know that we should love one another and strive to build each other up, but we find it easier to be critical and to find fault. Help us not to be passive bystanders waiting for the coming of your kingdom, but active participants in your work here on earth. To that end renew our determination to show forth your love in all our relationships.Amen.

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 Eileen Smith 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 honor of Eunice Plank's birthday, by Ed Plank.

Our Fall Congregational Business Meeting will be held today. We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our worship. The business meeting will be held after the meal.

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

A Fall Teachers Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30PM in the Fellowship Hall.

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, have 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 donations. 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 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

Save the Dates! HCOB's service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 7 - 14, 2027. More info and requests for volunteers to come after the first of the year. Thanks in advance to those who can help!

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, November 22nd. Please join the Worship Team immediately following the late worship service to help decorate our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Pizza will be provided for all volunteers. A sign-up sheet can be found in the west entrance so we can get an accurate headcount for food.

Our annual Stewardship emphasis is underway. You should have received a letter with a pledge card, and a copy of the Gifts for the Body of Christ survey by email, in your church mailbox, or by mail. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge to the church. All pledges are private. Please also fill out the Gifts of the Body of Christ survey. You may mail your pledge card and survey or place them in the Offering. Thank you for your financial support of the church and its ministries. Extra surveys and pledge cards can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.

GriefShare® We grieve the loss of many things in life, but the loss of a loved one is the most devastating. It literally turns our world upside down. Unfortunately, there is no magical timeline that points to the end of the grieving process. Healing from such a loss demands much of us and often can last our lifetime. However, HCOB offers GriefShare, a worldwide, faith-based, grief recovery support group ministry for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend. It is a series of 13 weekly sessions that put grief into an understandable, life-affirming and manageable context, no matter how recent or long ago the loss. GriefShare provides a supportive environment and helps us find the path toward stability, healing and hope.

Our next session of GriefShare will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 13, and continue each Wednesday evening through April 7. You may join the program at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive classes. If you were a previous participant in the GriefShare program and wish to repeat the classes, our team encourages you to do so. If you know someone who has suffered a loss, please share this supportive opportunity with them and/or offer to attend with them. Informational flyers have been placed on the sanctuary entrance credenza—please take one to share.

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Mullendore Room. *An inclement weather policy will be established at the first class.*

*The cost to attend the 13 weeks is $10, and scholarships are available. Also, our team gladly will accept donations to this worthwhile ministry.

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one and you are interested in attending this program, register at griefshare.org. If you have questions, see any member of the GriefShare Team (*Debbie Nycum, *Twyla Rowe, Robin Davies, Deb Long, Wilma Moore, Brenda Shane, Cinnamon & Brian Shay).

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**.

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 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

Monday, November 16

Church office closed

7:00 pm	Search Committee Meeting/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, November 17

12:00 pm	Mary Martha Group/Room 203
6:30 pm	CE & Fall Teacher Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 18

Church office closed/Admin. Assistant available by phone & email

Thursday, November 19

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 20

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

Sunday, November 22

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.

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: _____

_____

A Holiday Message from the GriefShare Team



Dear world,
please be gentle with grieving hearts as the holidays near.

They walk among us, often quietly and unseen. They wear smiles that seem bright. They laugh in ways that sound real. They show up for others while silently carrying the weight of someone missing.

There will be real moments of joy—followed by the sharp sting of knowing new memories being made don't include the one they wish was still here. It's the strange beauty of being human: joy and grief, forever intertwined.

So when you see a grieving heart, don't look away. Lean in. Cry with them. And let your love be louder than their silence.

It's true, love can't fix grief.
But it reminds us we're not alone in it.
And that's what matters most.

~Her View from Home