

Love in Action

Take a moment and look down at your feet...what shoes are you wearing today? Are you wearing heels? Or flats? How about tennis shoes? Or maybe even work boots?

A year ago, I donned my tennis shoes—along with my apron—to volunteer for the first time for a week at a Brethren Disaster Ministries project site.

This was an incredible opportunity to show that love is more than a word—to demonstrate love in action. It was eye-opening to *live* in the disaster-affected neighborhood, inspiring to hear *first-hand* survivor stories, moving to witness *firsthand* the devastation, and exciting to connect around the table with fellow volunteers. It was a week of hard work and long hours each day (since I helped feed all the volunteers serving that week), but I came away knowing that it truly takes *everyone*—with all abilities (and who wear varying types of shoes during their “day jobs”)—to be of service to our neighbors. This experience also helped me to understand a bit better—beyond the captions written in newspapers and heard on television—the struggle of those whose lives had been impacted by the natural disaster.

We are a people of service—may we be ever watchful for how we can **build up in love** and make Christ’s footprints more visible in neighborhoods across the country and around the world!

So get on your feet...and leave today searching for and embracing opportunities to **build up in love**...in our neighborhoods...and in disaster-stricken areas! It doesn’t matter what kind of shoes you’re wearing!

—Nancy McCrickard
Westminster, Maryland

“Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ Knowledge puffs up, *but love builds up*” (1 Cor. 8:1, NRSVue). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28.

January 28, 2024. Photo by Dave Jupin © Church of the Brethren.
Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP **10:45 AM**

January 28, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Herman, Worship Leader

PRELUDE "All Creatures of our God and King" (Hopson)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: By this I have known the presence of the Lord:
All: in the rising of the sun, in the smile of another's face,
One: in the touch of a hand or the sound of a laugh,
All: in the scent of a flower holding the promise of spring.
One: By this I have known the power of the Lord:
All: in the healing of hurts, in the forgiveness of sin,
One: in the giving of gifts beyond all expectation,
All: in the shower of love that comes from God's Son.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart!
All: Let us worship our God, whose presence and power endures forever!

***HYMN #21** "All praise to our redeeming Lord"

[Verse 1]

*All praise to our redeeming Lord, who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored, together seek his face.*

[Verse 2]

*He bids us build each other up, and gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope, we hand in hand go forth.*

[Verse 3]

*The gift which he on one bestows, we all delight to prove;
the grace through ev'ry vessel flows, in purest streams of love.*

[Verse 4]

*We all partake the joy of one, the common peace we feel,
a peace to worldly minds unknown, a joy unspeakable.*

[Verse 5]

*The kiss of peace to each we give, a pledge of Christian love, in love,
while here on earth we'll live, in love we'll dwell above.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty and most merciful God, we give thanks that you know us and love us. Help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, grow deeper, wider, and fuller in our knowledge and understanding of your ways. Help us, through the transfer of your divine Wisdom, bring others closer to you and to your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

We have been called to reach out in understanding, in service, and in love. Our morning offering will enable us to be a beacon of hope and wisdom and service to those in our community who so desperately need to hear and see it enacted in their midst.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

Offertory "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" (Callahan)

***Response #119** "Doxology"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Transform this offering into actions of love, understanding, healing, and service. Transform our lives, that we may be obedient and faithful servants to your people in a hurting world. Amen.

HYMN #305 "Where charity and love prevail"

[Verse 1]

*Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.*

[Verse 2]

*With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn.
Let us with heart and mind and strength now love God in return.*

[Verse 3]

*Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess,
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.*

[Verse 4]

*Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son.
As members of his body joined, we are in Christ made one.*

[Verse 5]

*Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name.
Our common life embraces all whose maker is the same.*

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live 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

MORNING ANTHEM "Be Thou My Vision" (Arr. Wagner)
Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NT 171

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So, by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

MESSAGE "Belonging to One Another" Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #362**

"Help us to help each other"

[Verse 1]

*Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's load to bear,
that all may live in true accord, our joys and pains to share.*

[Verse 2]

*Help us to build each other up, your strength within us prove.
Increase our faith, confirm our hope, and fill us with your love.*

[Verse 3]

*Together make us free indeed your life within us show,
and into you, our living Head, let us in all things grow.*

[Verse 4]

*Drawn by the magnet of your love we find our hearts made new.
Nearer each other let us move, and nearer still to you.*

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**

"Bless Be the Tie"

(Arr. Powell)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*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
Fax: 301-733-3598

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

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and Facebook Live
at 10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

Don Rowe
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 January 28, 2024

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" Let this be our "Take a Moment" prayer beginning Sunday, January 28 - Loving God, thank you for everyone of my brothers and sisters in Christ who walk with me on the road of faithfulness. Bless our spiritual growth with knowledge and understanding of your Word. With the help of the Holy Spirit, infuse our hearts with a readiness to listen with openness and respect for our differences when they arise. Help us to know what to do and say to build-up one another. Hear our prayers for one another for healing, hope, guidance and forgiveness. Show us how we can best serve one another. May our love for one another always draw us ever closer to you. Amen.

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

Attendance. 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.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God, by the Mabel Basore Fund.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall 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.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane.

Fellowship Time will be held next Sunday, February 4th in the Mullendore Room from 10:20 am until 10:40 am. Cookies and coffee will be served. All are welcome!

It's time to order Easter flowers! Everyone is invited to purchase a flower for Easter morning and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute or as a thank you. Please see the order form in your bulletin. All orders must be received on or before Sunday, February 18th.

Did you know HCOB has a prayer chain? There are 17 folks on our prayer chain right now. Fourteen on a daytime prayer chain and four on the evening prayer chain. If you would like to be apart of our prayer chain, please call or email the church office at 301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com If you want to add someone to our prayer chain for prayers please call Judy Dahlhamer at 301-797-1326.

Please check your church mailbox for the Year-end contribution statement if you haven't done so already. There are still a good many left. Any statements left in mailboxes after today will be mailed. Thank you!

The Mid-Atlantic District Auction will be held this year on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at the Shipley Arena at the Carroll County Ag. Center in Westminster, MD and will start at 9:00 am. The auction is the biggest fundraiser for the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Relief. There are numerous ways to contribute to the benefit: signing up for a Patron Ad; being a Patron Sponsor, where you can contribute anywhere from ten dollars to one hundred dollars; contributing items to be auctioned off for the Specialty Auction or General Auction; making monetary donations towards this cause by using the Pretzel Jar which will be available during the Early Service and after the 10:45 Worship if you would like to make a donation. The Patron ad deadline is early this year, all ads need to be into the district **by February 9th** and all checks will need to be made out to HCOB. If you have any questions, please see Daryl Long or Arn Platou.

PLEASE HELP US EXPAND JUNIOR CHURCH!! Volunteers are needed to lead Junior Church so that we can offer this experience two Sundays per month. No prior teaching experience necessary. The curriculum will give you all you need to prepare. If you love children and have a desire to help them learn to know God and his son, Jesus Christ, you are perfect for the job!! If you are interested or just want to know more, please speak to any member of the Christian Education Ministry Team (Deb Long, Diana Shepherd, Katie Hardy, Jack Finniff, or Brenda Shane). Thank you!

Our spring session of GriefShare will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 27, and continue each Tuesday afternoon through May 21, but you may join the program at any time during the 13 weeks. If you were a previous participant in the GriefShare program and would like to repeat, we encourage you to do so.

The Service & Outreach Team are collecting blankets, small personal care items, hats, gloves, and socks for our upcoming Prayer Walk on Saturday, February 17th, and our March 9th Community Breakfast. If you would like to help the Team assemble the food for the prayer walk or help hand out the bagged lunches, we will meet at 10 am to prepare the bagged lunches, and begin handing them out at 11 am. We are preparing 160 lunches this year so we can really use your help.

It's almost here! Our week to staff the REACH Cold Weather Shelter is March 10-16, 2024. We need to cover all roles Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday that week. The most important responsibility we have is providing an evening meal each of those days. The Tuesday and Thursday meals and servers are covered, but we still need meals/servers on Sunday and Saturday. Also looking for volunteers to assist with Search, Laundry, and Hospitality. Please contact Sandy Clipp at 240-291-8753 if interested in helping the homeless in our community.

The Service & Outreach Team are taking orders for church T-shirts. In order to obtain the price of \$20 each, we need to order at least 20 T-shirts. A sign-up sheet will be in the west entrance. If you have any questions, please see any member of the Team.

SUMMER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! Well, it's down the block, HEADING for the corner. Yeah, ok, it's not even in the neighborhood yet. BUT... just because there's plenty of time until summer arrives doesn't mean we can't get ready. And there's lots to do. For HCoB, that means planning for Vacation Bible School. The Christian Education Ministry Team is looking for a Co-Director for this year's VBS (dates TBD soon!). The last several years we've had Co-Directors, which has worked out well and we'd like to continue with a "Team of Two." If you are interested or just want to know more, please reach out to any CEMT member (Deb Long, Diana Shepherd, Katie Hardy, Jack Finiff, or Brenda Shane). Thank you for considering this important service to our children!

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 28

Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, January 29

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 pm Leadership Team/Room 302

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 31

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, February 1

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 2

8:00 am Bulletin prep. Time/ Church office

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

Saturday, February 3

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, February 4

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 & Facebook Live

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
PayPal www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

Statistics

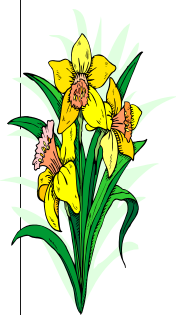
8:30 AM attendance	19
Sunday School.....	30
10:45 AM attendance.....	55
Facebook views	312

The General Fund offering does not include monies given for any designated fund. For total offerings, please review the financial statement provided by the Assistant Treasurer.

Easter Flowers Order Form

Your name: _____

Amount enclosed _____



The Easter season is approaching and it is time to order Easter flowers. Everyone is invited to purchase a flower for Easter morning. Flowers are as priced below and may be purchased as a memorial, tribute, or as a thank you. Return this completed form and your check made out to Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. Form may be either placed in the offering or mailed to: Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, 15 S. Mulberry St., Hagerstown MD 21740.

All orders must be received by or on Sunday, February 18, 2024. Payment must accompany this form. We need to order early so the greenhouse can place the order with its supplier and get our flowers here on time.

Lilies: White only [☐] Number of plants \$11.00/each

Mums: Yellow [☐] Number of plants \$9.50/each
Purple [☐] Number of plants \$9.50/each

Large Daffodils: [☐] Number of plants \$12.00/each

“Mini Gardens” [☐] Number of pots @ \$10.50/each
(Mini daffs and violas in the same planter)

(please print)

___ **IN MEMORY OF:** _____

___ **IN TRIBUTE TO:** _____

___ **THANKS TO:** _____
