



# Tidings

January 2024



*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren is to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ and glorify the Lord by striving to live as Christ lived experiencing the power of God's healing in our lives. We seek to nurture our faith community through prayer, music and the proclaimed Word, while enthusiastically reaching out to others with compassion, respect and love for everyone so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.*

## VISION STATEMENT

*The Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, A Living Peace Church: A caring community gathered round the Risen Christ that  
...Welcomes the stranger  
...Empowers our neighbors  
...Embraces the diversity among all people as we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.*

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
15 South Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
Telephone: 301-733-3565  
Fax: 301-733-3598

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

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

<http://www.hagerstowncob.org>  
[facebook.com/hagerstowncob](https://facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

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## *The Pastor's Pen*

All the wrappings of Christmas will pass away with the coming of the New Year. What remains with us are the memories. But wait...is that all we are left with. I hope not.

We should come away from Christmas reminded that Jesus came into this world so that things could be different. He did not come so that we could have a holiday including time off from work or school, presents, cookies, lots of other food and time with friends and family. The story of Jesus does not end at the stable. Jesus grows up and becomes our teacher and example for how God calls us to live.

Jesus came to show us a different way of life. Jesus came to change things...maybe even shake things up a bit. We should come away from Christmas with renewed life in our faith and a new energy for living as God calls us to live. When people see us, they should be able to recognize something different about us. They should see Jesus.

It is a New Year...a time when we think about the things we want to change in our lives...like losing weight, writing more letters, saving money, reading our Bibles more often, praying more, and being a better Christian. If you are looking to make this kind of a list into New Year's resolutions, you may be headed in the direction of failure; especially if you think that you can do it by merely putting your mind to it. Don't get me wrong, wanting to make a change is an admirable thing...and definitely a good thing; but we cannot do it alone. Faith is not something where we think it...and it's done. Christmas should remind us that we do not need to do it alone. Jesus wants to help us. It is when we surrender to our Savior by admitting we cannot walk faithfully with God all by ourselves; and therefore, we open ourselves to the indwelling of Christ and the opportunity for a closer walk with God.

So, in this New Year, may we do more than make resolutions in hopes of changing our lives. May we seek the one who came to make a change in us and in the world. Maybe we will shake things up a bit...I hope we do.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Twyla



## Sundays in January

Date	Pastor	Worship Leader	Sermon	Scripture	Greeter	Special
1/7/2024	Twyla Rowe	Larry Wisherd	"Giving our All"	Acts 19:1-7	Kristal & Chris Bricker	Food Pantry/ Fellowship Time
1/14/2024	Twyla Rowe	Robin Davies	"The Creator Knows"	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Amy Hardy	Parish Nurse
1/21/2024	Twyla Rowe	Don Maas	"Meeting People Where They Are"	Mark 1:14-20	Amy Clipp	
1/28/2024	Twyla Rowe	Chris Herman	"Belonging to One Another"	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	The Gingrich Family	Junior Church

Both services follow same sermon & text. All information subject to change without notice.



**PLEASE  
TURN OUT THE  
LIGHTS**

Please remember  
to turn the lights off when  
you leave an  
area in the church.  
Let's all be mindful of our  
utility costs.

Thanks!



### CPR Classes

CPR classes will be held  
on Saturday, January 13th in the fel-  
lowship hall.

### 2024 Pocket Directory

The 2024 Pocket Directory will be avail-  
able on or before January 31, 2024.  
Copies will be available on the credenza  
in the wing of the sanctuary.

Please check your information and advise  
the church office if any changes need to  
be made.

Updates to the directory will be published  
in the monthly newsletters so you can  
update your copy of the directory.

### 2024 Communion Dates

#### Bread & Cup

June 2024  
December 2024

#### Love Feast

March 28, 2024— Maundy Thursday  
Love Feast & Communion/Feet  
washing

October 6, 2024 — World Communion  
Sunday  
Love Feast & Communion/Feet  
washing

### Fellowship Time



January 7, 2024  
10:20—10:40 am  
Mullendore Room

### Inclement Weather Policy

Inclement Weather Policy. If inclement  
weather is forecasted, be sure to **check your  
email**. We will send out a group email as  
quickly as possible if the decision to cancel  
in-person worship is made. Also, please  
check our Facebook page (facebook.com/  
hagerstowncob) for any updates. We will  
also contact local radio station WJEJ 1240  
AM, and leave a message in their system to  
be broadcast although we can't control how  
quickly they make the announcement for us.  
Even if we do hold in-person worship, if you  
are uncomfortable driving in bad weather,  
please join us on Facebook Live. Be safe  
first. And check your email!



### Save the Date!

Our service week at the REACH Cold  
Weather Shelter is March 10-17, 2024.  
For all those who have volunteered in the  
past or plan on volunteering in 2024,  
please add this week to your calendar.  
Please note, it is a different month than in  
the past. Thank you for your continued  
support!

### HCOB T-Shirts

The Service & Outreach Team will be  
taking orders for church T-shirts beginning  
January 1, 2024. 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.

### Personal Care Item Collection

The Service & Outreach Team will be  
collecting blankets and small personal  
care items for our upcoming prayer walk  
in February. We will also be collecting  
hats, gloves, and socks for our REACH  
week in March. If you are able to make a  
donation of any of these items, there will  
be a box in the west entrance. The box  
will be available on January 1, 2024.  
Thank you so much.

## Daily Bible Reading



### JANUARY

- ◆ 1 Romans 1-2
- ◆ 2 Genesis 1-3
- ◆ 3 Joshua 1-5
- ◆ 4 Psalms 1-2
- ◆ 5 Job 1-2
- ◆ 6 Isaiah 1-6
- ◆ 7 Matthew 1-2
- ◆ 8 Romans 3-4
- ◆ 9 Genesis 4-7
- ◆ 10 Joshua 6-10
- ◆ 11 Psalms 3-5
- ◆ 12 Job 3-4
- ◆ 13 Isaiah 7-11
- ◆ 14 Matthew 3-4
- ◆ 15 Romans 5-6
- ◆ 16 Genesis 8-11
- ◆ 17 Joshua 11-15
- ◆ 18 Psalms 6-8
- ◆ 19 Job 5-6
- ◆ 20 Isaiah 12-17
- ◆ 21 Matthew 5-7
- ◆ 22 Romans 7-8
- ◆ 23 Genesis 12-15
- ◆ 24 Joshua 16-20
- ◆ 25 Psalms 9-11
- ◆ 26 Job 7-8
- ◆ 27 Isaiah 18-22
- ◆ 28 Matthew 8-10
- ◆ 29 Romans 9-10
- ◆ 30 Genesis 16-19
- ◆ 31 Joshua 21-24

## Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Patron Ad.

It's time to sign up for a Patron ad for in the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response auction booklet. Patron ads are for those individuals who want to support disaster relief. The annual auction is the district's largest fundraiser for this. Patron ads can be purchased for ten or more dollars. Please contact Daryl Long to place your ad, but do it quickly. We have an early deadline this year and all checks and forms need to be in Elgin before February 9th to be included in the booklet. Checks need to be made out to HCOB.

## Home Communion & Anointing

Persons desiring a pastoral visit, home communion, spiritual direction, or a service of anointing, are invited to call the church office at 301-733-3565.

Anointing with oil for the healing of body, mind or spirit is offered upon request. Please contact the pastor to receive this ministry of healing and faith commitment.

Intercessory Prayer is an important ministry of our congregation. If you have a prayer request, contact Judy Dahlhamer at 301-797-1326.



## Junior Church

Junior Church will be held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

This is open to ages Kindergarten through Grade 6. 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, or parents may accompany them.

*Christian Education Ministry Team*



The first Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday. Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items, place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. Your gift will be given to **Holly Place**, a home for older adults.

We thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry to our community!

Just a reminder - all items should be either dry, boxed, or in cans. Please do not bring in anything in a glass jar that could break and injure a recipient or our volunteers.



## 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). If you can't pick them up on a Sunday, we can make arrangements to leave cards in a church mailbox or snail mail them to you.





*"That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."*  
—2 Corinthians 5:19-20

## Global Mission Prayer Guide

December 5, 2023

### Nigeria

Rejoice in prayers answered for Mrs. Joy Moses, who has been released and reunited with her family after having been kidnapped in September. Glory to God!

Pray for the National Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) women leaders who traveled from all over Nigeria to the EYN headquarters for their year-end meeting on Dec. 1-2. May their planning bear fruit in 2024.

The Peace House Ministers Leadership Retreat (MLR) will take place online and onsite Dec. 6-10. Pray that the participants will be filled with God's guidance and inspiration and the results will be effective ministerial leadership.

Various EYN church groups will celebrate the end of 2023 over the next month. May these gatherings be a time of reflection, gratitude, and productive planning for the coming year.

Lift up prayers for unity within the EYN denomination. May God's grace and love continue to bind the members and leaders together as one body in Christ.

As the harvest season approaches, pray for the safety and protection of the Chibok community and others still facing Boko Haram attacks and killings. Pray that God will shield them and allow them to reap their crops in peace.

Maina Pindar, staff liaison for EYN, made this request:

Join with us in praying that God's grace will continue to abound in the lives of Church of Brethren members and pastors around the world. We give thanks to you all for lifting up these heartfelt prayers.

### Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic At least 21 people died in the Dominican Republic after torrential rains fell over 48 hours in mid-November, including 9 who died when a highway tunnel wall collapsed in Santo Domingo. There were many flooded homes, power cuts, and damaged bridges in the areas suffering the heavy rains, and more than 13,000 people were evacuated to safer areas as the rains subsided. Iglesia de los Hermanos Republica Dominicana and Comunidad de Fe congregations have suffered the loss of crops and water damage to homes. Pray for those who have lost friends and family members including children, that they may be comforted in their grief. Pray, too, for those who are displaced and whose lives have been disrupted. May they experience and be upheld by God's loving presence as they go about recovering and rebuilding.

Prayers of thanksgiving are asked for the donations and other support received by the Church of the Brethren and community members in Verón Higüey who were affected by Hurricane Fiona in September 2022. Pray for their continued efforts at repairing, rebuilding, and replanting gardens and fields.

Global Church of the Brethren Communion members and friends were saddened to learn of the recent unexpected death of pastor Onelys Rivas Florentino. Pray with them that all in his family and congregation will pray for each other and experience peace and strength during their time of mourning.

Photo: Memorial Service bulletin



### Rwanda



Pray for the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda as it holds a church-wide fundraising day on Dec. 17 with the goal of finishing the construction of a national office building in Gisenyi very soon. Prayers are requested for the new churches throughout Rwanda. May God bless those who continue to pray for the congregations and ministries in Rwanda.

Photo of church under construction by pastor Etienne Nsanzimana.

### South Sudan

Pray for the new Churches of the Brethren in South Sudan and for Brethren Global Services and staff as it searches out how best to lift up Jesus and serve the people of South Sudan. Pray for South Sudan that the refugees may come home, and that the community in South Sudan may welcome and support new refugees coming from the country of Sudan. May the refugees find confidence that peace will last so that they may rebuild their farms and their lives.

Photo of Athanasius Ungang, South Sudan

Church of the Brethren staff member, by Eric



### Venezuela

Pray for the members and staff of Iglesia de los Hermanos Venezuela (ASIGLEH) as they do mission work in the Andean Region of Venezuela. In the past few days, they began visiting the congregations of Mérida and Tachira to share a missions workshop with the purpose of lighting the missionary flame in those congregations. Pray that God will bless this nascent work so that it advances the plan to extend the kingdom of God to the people in that region.



Pray for the continuation and expansion of the ASIGLEH Food Bank Project, which feeds Venezuelan children, elderly adults, and those who are homeless, and brings to them the gospel of Jesus' love and care. Approximately 1,500 children in various cities and 380 indigenous children are fed through this ministry, as are elderly people in nursing homes and some who are homeless.

(Continued on page 7)

## Ukraine

We have not received any updates recently from the Church of the Brethren fellowship in Ukraine. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and for peace.

## Israel and Palestine

The conflict in Israel and Palestine continues to be in the news and of concern to Christians around the world. The Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren has asked us to pray for the people there: "We call on Church of the Brethren members to join in prayer for all the Israelis and Palestinians who are affected by this terrible situation, and for the Jewish and Palestinian peoples worldwide." Read the [full text of the board's statement here](#).

## Global Church of the Brethren Communion (GCBC)

Please pray for the officers and board members of the GCBC who were elected on December 5.

## A note from the Global Mission executive director Eric Miller

During this season of Advent, I would like to express my gratitude for all of you who pray for the Church of the Brethren throughout the year and for our faithful staff who compile, edit, and distribute these prayer requests: Carole Davenport, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, and Jan Fischer Bachman. May each of you have a blessed season and feel the fullness of the love of Jesus in your lives.



Khai & Hanh Ly  
14310 Luella Place (40)

## Community Breakfast

There will be no Community Breakfast for the months of January and February. The next Community Breakfast will be held on March 9, 2024, the second Saturday of each month.



**If you watch us live on Facebook,  
please click the "like" button.**

**This will aid us in  
keeping attendance.**

**Facebook.com/hagerstowncob**

## Your prayers and donations at work!

At the end of September the Tri-State Hope Builders (including John and Jenny Ferguson and Gary and Sue Wright from HCOB) set out for Dawson Springs Kentucky, a town destroyed by tornado in December 2021. We were grateful to be supported by prayers and donations from friends at home!

The First United Methodist Church of Madisonville Kentucky welcomed us with a parking lot for campers and a ex-parsonage next to the church with beds, gathering spaces and an equipped kitchen.

After settling in on Saturday we attended services and met Ed Workman, construction coordinator for Dawson Springs on Sunday. Ed provided a list of four homes needing a covered porch, some drywall work, a storage shed leveled with a ramp and a leaking window.

By noon on Monday it was clear that many more projects were needed to keep the Hope Builders busy for two weeks (19 bodies first week and 17 the second) so Joe began going through his list of homes needing work. By the end of two weeks ten construction projects were completed and the only "injuries" were tired muscles and a couple of splinters!! As projects were completed a house blessing took place and each homeowner was given a prayer shawl made by volunteers from home.

The Fergusons and Wrights want to thank HCOB for both the financial support and supporting prayers during our time in Kentucky. There are several families in Dawson Springs who will think of the Hagerstown area churches with warm hearts as they remember the crew you sent to them.



## January 2024 Schedule

*Please check the weekly bulletin and the online calendar for changes as they happen. Our schedule is subject to rapid changes.*

### Monday, January 1

Pastor Vacation  
Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 2

Pastor Vacation

### Wednesday, January 3

10:30 am Caring & Sharing/Beachley Room  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### Thursday, January 4

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

### Friday, January 5

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

### Saturday, January 6

Epiphany  
Pastor Twyla's day off

### Sunday, January 7

Food Pantry Sunday  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:15 am Fellowship Time/Mullendore Room  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

### Monday, January 8

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 9

5:30 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Mullendore Room  
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts Auditions/Fellowship Hall  
7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Zoom

### Wednesday, January 10

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
5:30 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room  
6:30 pm CE Meeting/Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, January 11

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

### Friday, January 12

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

### Saturday, January 13

CPR Class/Fellowship Hall  
Pastor Twyla's day off

### Sunday, January 14

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 & Facebook Live

### Monday, January 15

Church Office Closed  
12:00 pm Newsletter deadline

### Tuesday, January 16

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Altruistic Room  
5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Mullendore Room  
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, January 17

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### Thursday, January 18

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

### Friday, January 19

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

### Saturday, January 20

Pastor Twyla's day off

### Sunday, January 21

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

### Monday, January 22

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 23

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, January 24

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

### Thursday, January 25

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

### Friday, January 26

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

### Saturday, January 27

Pastor Twyla's day off

### 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



# The Puzzle Page for January 2024



"The search committee is interviewing prospective pastors, Mrs. Hepburn, not pricing preachers."

## Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God's eyes.

### What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



### What you need to do:

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.



It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

**Directions:** Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1	pra	u	7	wonder	e
2	yo	fully	8	ma	ur
3	be	ise	9	yo	de
4	a	nd	10	wo	ful
5	fear	m	11	ar	fully
6	a	cause	12	wonder	rks

"I \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 2 3 4 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_;  
 6 7 8 9 10  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ..."

Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer:  
 "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
 your works are wonderful..."

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
15 South Mulberry Street  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL—  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



Hagerstown  
Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
301-733-3565  
Fax: 301-733-3598

Office: Tuesday—Friday  
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Praise Worship 8:30 AM  
Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 AM  
Worship and Facebook Live at 10:45 AM

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

*Twyla Rowe*  
*Pastor*

*Allyson N. McPeak*  
*Administrative Assistant*

*Burton Young*  
*Director of Music Ministries*

*Don Rowe*  
*Interior Esthetics Technician*

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

***January 15, 2024 @ NOON***

BRETHREN TIDINGS is published monthly  
by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren.  
All articles submitted for inclusion in the  
Tidings are subject to editing.  
All dates and times listed are subject  
to change without notice.

**2024 Annual  
Conference Logo**



ROMANS 16:2 (CEB)

**WELCOME+  
WORTHY**

2024 CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ANNUAL CONFERENCE