

## Stations of the Emmaus Road A Pilgrimage of Burning Hearts

This can be done as part of the worship experience or set up as a walking meditation at your closest Brethren camp or outdoor space.

### Station 1: Read Luke 24:13–14

Prompt: What grief or confusion are you carrying on your journey?

Ritual: Pick up a small stone to carry with you as symbolic of your burden.

### Station 2: Read Luke 24:15–24

Prompt: Where might Jesus be walking with you unnoticed? What hopes feel dashed? What stories do you need to tell?

Ritual: Touch your eyes gently and whisper: "Open my eyes, Lord." Then write or speak aloud a sentence beginning: "I had hoped . . ."

### Station 3: Read Luke 24:25–27

Prompt: What passages of scripture have stirred your heart in seasons of struggle?

Ritual: Read one of those passages aloud. Listen for a word or phrase that burns.

### Station 4: Read Luke 24:28–29

Prompt: Where in your life are you longing simply for God's presence, not answers?

Ritual: Light a candle or touch a warm object. Pray: "Abide with me."

### Station 5: Read Luke 24:30–31

Prompt: When have you recognized God in something ordinary?

Ritual: Break a piece of bread. Give thanks and remember.

### Station 6: Read Luke 24:32–35

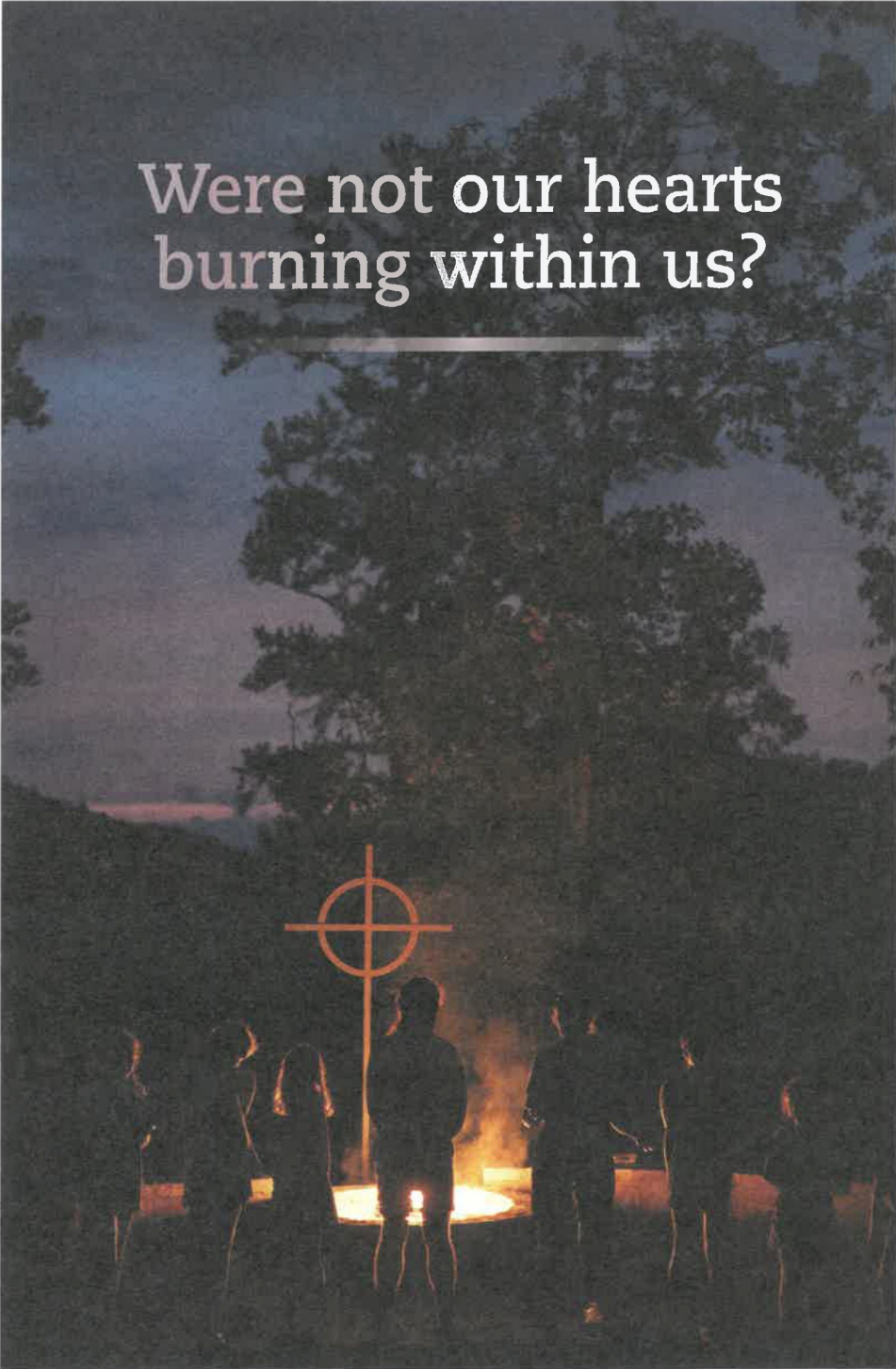
Prompt: What moments have set your heart ablaze with truth or love? What truth compels you to return and share?

Ritual: Place your hand on your heart. Breathe deeply. Name those fiery moments. Then lay down your stone, take a step forward, and say, "I will go."

—Randall Westfall  
Oregon, Illinois

"They said to each other, '*Were not our hearts burning within us* while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19; 1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35.

April 19, 2026. Photo © Benjamin Hoffmann. Used by permission.  
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Were not our hearts  
burning within us?



**MORNING ANTHEM** “Wonderful, Merciful, Savior” (Rodgers)  
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 #143** “Amazing grace!”

[Verse 1]

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

[Verse 2]

*’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

[Verse 3]

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

[Verse 4]

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.*

[Verse 5]

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.*

[Verse 6]

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** 1 Peter 1:17-23 NT 232

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so

that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**MESSAGE** “Go Deeper” Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #332** “Blessed assurance”

[Verse 1]

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

[Refrain]

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

[Verse 2]

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

[Refrain]

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

[Verse 3]

*Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and bless’d, watching  
and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

[Refrain]

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE** “The Lord Is on My Side” (Birchwood)

*(Worship resources used from, “Taught by Love”, Year A, by Lavon Bayler.)*

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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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Welcome

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](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

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

[www.youtube.com/  
@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.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      April 19, 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”** Let this be our daily Take a Moment Prayer beginning on Sunday, April 19 - Creator God, The beauty of your creativity in nature surrounds me and it reminds me of your love for me. I am encouraged by the new life that breaks forth in creation, to live each day with a heart of appreciation for the gift of each new day. I want to make sure I take the time to celebrate the joys that come my way; and, I hope to have the wisdom to turn to you for help if challenges do arise. Your holy word, your presence in my life, and your Son's sacrifice for the forgiveness of my sin, affirm that I am precious and loved by you. I don't want to forget that, nor take that for granted. Send your Spirit to help guide me to make choices that build my life on the solid foundation of your will and love. I live this day for you, my Sovereign God. Amen.

**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.

**Our thanks** to Diana Shepherd for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Adam Richard Kees, son, brother and uncle, by the Kees and Ripple family.

**Remember our homeless donor of pepper seeds in cups?** A few months ago, she dropped off several cups of seeds, with the insistent wish that the plants grown be used somehow in HCOB's community breakfast program. Several people in our congregation took some cups home, to care for and bring the seeds to life. Most did not sprout, but we now have 11 pepper plants that need adoptive parents to raise the plants to produce peppers, which will then be laid out for folks coming to the breakfasts to take home. Those 11 plants are in a box in the west entrance. Please consider taking one or more plants home. First come, first served. Any plants that remain on May 1 will be taken to the MAD Auction. It's only 11 plants, let's keep them here to serve our neighbors. Thank you.

**Junior Church will be held next Sunday** 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.) If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

**Our May Congregational Business Meeting will be held on May 3, 2026.** We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our combined 10:45 am Worship, then following lunch, we will have our Congregational Business Meeting. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Please sign up so we can get a head count on attendance and to bring a dish. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken and drinks.

**All Music Sunday / Sunday School Orchestra—May 3, 2026—**The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM. Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined worship service at 10:45 AM in the sanctuary. The Temple Choir, Early Service Praise Team, and the Brethren Bell Ringers will lead us in an inspiring musical worship service.

**Vacation Bible School** will be held June 15th through the 19th. The theme this year will be Tropical Trek. Sign-up sheets can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Please fill out and give to any CE Team member, place in the offering, or put in Tina Mills mailbox. CE Team: Tina Mills (chair), Debbie Long, Brenda Shane, Kay Ogilvie, & Tracie Poteet

**The Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction** will be held this year on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at the Carroll County Ag. Center in Westminster, MD and will start at 9:00 am.

**Hagerstown Choral Arts “Into Light” Concert** will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at 3:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 S. Prospect St., Hagerstown, MD. Free admission with goodwill offering.

**The Little Library is now up** outside near the Washington Street entrance. Books are going fast! If you have children's books, adult books, magazines, Readers Digest, novels, craft books, etc., please feel free to put them in the Little Library, or drop them in the box marked "Books" in the west entrance under the table. *Thank you, Spiritual Nurture Team.*

**World Vision Global 6k water walk/ run** will be held on Saturday May 16th at Paramount Elementary School starting at 9:00AM—if you would like to participate or make donation you can go to: <https://global6k.worldvision.org/> and select teams 39506 or contact Mary Means.

Ed Poling Memorial HARC walk/run will be held on Saturday May 30th at Williamsport Zion Lutheran Church. If you would like participate or make a donation you can go to: [harccoalition.org/hike/](http://harccoalition.org/hike/) or contact Mary Means.



**Would you like a truly fun and meaningful few days away with your family this summer?** The Family & Grand Camp retreat, one of Shepherd's Spring's newest weekend adventures, is filled with faith-

based fun for all ages. This camp, from Friday afternoon, July 31, through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 2, offers strong Scriptural teaching with lots of family-building activities -- from making your family's own t-shirts, to swimming and hiking together, gathering at campfires and much more -- while staying amid 220 acres of God's forested beauty, bordering the C&O Canal and the Potomac River!! All this, while staying in Shepherd's Spring's very own lodge, its Poplar Village cabins, or setting up your own tent and enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner in the lodge's beautiful dining room. It's all here -- intergenerational, even! Yes, BRING Grandma and Grandpa!! Build the meaning of having Christian FAMILY!!! And, there's no charge for bringing your littles, ages 5 and under!! So, how 'bout it? Right now, family meeting!! Begin your adventure at:

<https://www.shepherdsspring.org/> and click on "Summer Camp". -- Arn Platou

**NOTICE**—Starting in 2026 Contribution Statements will now be emailed. If you do not have an email on file with the church office, your statement will be mailed or placed in your church mailbox. By doing this, it will help us save money in postage and paper and will be a more convenient way for you to have access to your statements. If you do not have an email on file with the church office and wish to receive your statement via email, please contact Allyson (secretaryhcob@gmail.com or 301-733-3565) and she will add your email to the list.

**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.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, April 19

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Combined Sunday School/Fellowship Hall\_Guest Speaker  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob))

### Monday, April 20

Church office closed  
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### Tuesday, April 21

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Room 208  
5:30 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room

### Wednesday, April 22

Administrative Assistant/Work from home/Earth Day  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin submission announcements

### Thursday, April 23

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

### Friday, April 24

Book Club Set Up/Fellowship Hall  
8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

### Saturday, April 25

Pastor Twyla's day off  
10:00 am Book Club/Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, April 26

Junior Church  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://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](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

The church calendar is online at  
[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org).  
Click the calendar tab.

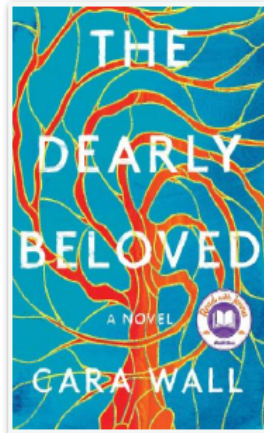
The Novel Bunch presents...

**The Dearly Beloved**

by Cara Wall

"This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever."  
—Jenna Bush Hager (A Today Show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection)

"The best book about faith in recent memory."  
—Entertainment Weekly



This book is a character study about friendship, family, and faith. Charles and Lily & James and Nan meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to manage the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. However, their personal differences threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to follow his father as an esteemed history professor at Harvard until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. So, how can he fall in love with intellectual Lily after she tells him that she never will believe in God? And yet, how can he not believe?

James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his nervous mother. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan, the devout and beloved daughter of a Mississippi minister and debutante. Despite James's guarded optimism, Nan's gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. *The Dearly Beloved* follows these two couples through decades of love, friendship, jealousy, forgiveness, and commitment. Against the backdrop of conflict and change facing the city and the church's congregation, these four forge improbable paths through their evolving relationships as each struggles with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy. This book is a moving reflection on faith and reason, and the ways we find meaning in our lives.

**Date: Saturday, April 25**

**Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Place: Fellowship Hall**

\*This is a book for men and women alike, so we encourage the men of the congregation to attend and offer their perspectives.

Light refreshments to follow.

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**NOTE:** If you have any questions or need assistance acquiring the book, call Jenny Ferguson at 301-964-1779. Please return the section below if you plan to attend.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_ YES

Preferred contact information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ OR Email \_\_\_\_\_

Book Club Team: \*Jenny Ferguson, Kristal Bricker, Debbie Nycum, Judy Williams, Jan Young