

## Trust in the Lord and do good

In 2008, my husband, John, and I were serving as project directors with Brethren Disaster Ministries in Chalmette, Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina. For almost a year, I had been closing the volunteer orientation by asking the volunteers to “pray for our Florida home to sell because we were trusting God to bring us a buyer.”

This time, I heard the Holy Spirit gently ask, “If you’re trusting me, what’s with ‘the deer in the headlights’ look?” I immediately was convicted that I had more fear than faith. We had planned to sell the house, pay off all debt, and be able to live on the BDM stipend. When the house didn’t sell, we knew our budget wasn’t balanced but we left for Chalmette anyway, feeling called to help with the rebuild and hoping the house would sell soon. Now the Spirit showed me, despite the shortage, somehow every bill had been paid all these months. I confessed my lack of faith, remembered all the times God had provided for us in the past, and committed to trusting in his promise to provide.

The next day we got a call from someone wanting to rent the house! The rent paid a hefty part of the mortgage, plus the renters took over the phone, electric and water bills, the pool maintenance, and the lawn care! When they moved out, a woman called asking to rent the home as a safe-house for teenage girls rescued from sex trafficking. Even after they left, God continued to provide in unexpected ways until we closed the project. Trust was the lesson God wanted us to learn; money was the tool he used to teach us. For the rest of our time there, we gratefully trusted in his promise to care for us.

—Mary Mueller  
Green Cove Springs, Florida

*“Trust in the LORD and do good; live in the land and enjoy security”* (Psalm 37:3, NRSVue). **Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38.

February 23, 2025. Photo of Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers by Benjamin Hoffmann  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

February 23, 2025

Luke 6:27-38

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "Sunday Morning" (Broughton)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Sandy Clipp, Worship Leader

One: Come near to one another and to our God. Be still before the one who fulfills our hearts' desires.

*All: This is a time for meeting and greeting. This is the hour for quieting life's stresses and worries.*

One: Wait patiently, for God will be revealed to us. God is our refuge in whom we trust.

*All: We believe God is here and will be known by us. Our faith nourishes us as we rest in God's care.*

One: We are here to receive life in all its abundance. God is providing for us and has a purpose for us.

*All: God raises us up and sends us forth. Surely God will help us wherever we go.*

**\*HYMN #8** "Brethren, we have met to worship"

[Verse 1]

*Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.*

*Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?*

*All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.*

*Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

[Verse 2]

*Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sisters aided him.*

*Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?*

*Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.*

*Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

[Verse 3]

*Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?*

*Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?*

*Brethren, join your cries to help them, sisters, let your prayers abound!  
Pray, oh pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.*

[Verse 4]

*Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too.*

*Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.*

*Christ will call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down.*

*Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, you bring light to our days and hope to our hearts. We draw near to you as survivors of another week, grateful for your care. You have provided for us, preserved our lives, and invited us once more to this time of prayer. Now we would be still before you, leaving behind our distress and anger, entrusting our weaknesses to your empowering spirit. Raise us up to embrace your way of love. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Our prosperity in comparison with most of the world's people gives us the joyous opportunity to be generous. We can go beyond the expected tithes and offerings required of our spiritual ancestors. We are privileged to offer mercy and help that can transform the lives of others. Let us give with delight, that our brothers and sisters may live.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshipping with us on Facebook Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or you can give your offering online through our website at [hagerstowncob.org](http://hagerstowncob.org).

**Offertory** "A Conversation with God" (Kendell)

**\*Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to do good in and through our church. May any who have harmed others be helped. Heal us of unjust anger, jealousy, and strife. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of one who dwells in heaven. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from your hand. 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** *“What Will We Promise, What Will We Give”* (Besig)

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 6:27-38 NT 64

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do

not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**MESSAGE**

*“Is This Possible?”*

Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #377**

*“Healer of our every ill”*

*[Refrain]*

*Healer of our ev’ry ill, Light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

*[Verse 1]*

*You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness.*

*Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Verse 2]*

*In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Verse 3]*

*Give us strength to love each other, ev’ry sister, ev’ry brother.*

*Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Verse 4]*

*You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing.*

*Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.*

**BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

*Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*“One Fellowship of Love”*

(Johnson)

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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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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 Facebook Live at  
10:45 AM

[www.hagerstowncob.org](http://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 February 23, 2025**

**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, February 23 - Loving God, You are incredible. When I think about all you've done for me and all your blessed children, my heart swells with appreciation and joy. Thank you for loving me even with my imperfections. You love your entire creation unconditionally; but not everyone knows this. Oh, how I wish everyone knew you and the love you offer them. Help me God to be an instrument of your love...even to those who I find challenging to love. Show me how to forgive and love those who hurt me. Work into my heart compassion just like the compassion that flows from your heart. I want to help make this world a better place beginning right here with those near me...by sharing love. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Sandy Clipp 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 and in memory of our mother, Lois J. DeNobrega by Diane Graham and Laura Minnich.

**breeze** HCOB has implemented Breeze as our new church management software. This provides a more efficient way to give your offering online. We have discontinued use of PayPal. If you had a recurring payment to the church set up in PayPal, access your PayPal account and discontinue the payments. You can set up new one-time or recurring payments in Breeze by visiting [hagerstowncob.org](http://hagerstowncob.org) and clicking on the Donate button. If you have questions, contact Chris Stockslager.

**The Lenten devotional**, "Take Up Your Cross" by Tim Harvey is available this morning. Copies can be found on the credenza in the west entrance of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. The devotional is provided by the Worship Ministry Team. If you're a Cluster Leader, please make sure everyone in your cluster gets a devotional.

**Junior Church will be held today** for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205).** (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 Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

**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. All orders must be received by March 16th. Please see the order form in the bulletin.

**A sign up sheet** has been placed in the fellowship hall and in the west entrance for anyone wanting to make some delicious cookies for our Lenten services. Thank you in advance. - *Spiritual Nurture Team*

**The Service & Outreach Team has rescheduled the Prayer Walk** for Saturday, March 1st. We will meet at 10 am to bag up the lunches and begin distributing them at 11 am. If you would like to help us, we would love to have the help.

**Next Sunday is our regular Food Pantry collection.** Bring in your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and place them on the cart as you enter the west entrance, and a volunteer delivers the food. 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. Thank you!


**The Service & Outreach Team** will be collecting the large tissue boxes (9"x4 1/2"x3") for the residents of Fahrney Keedy. We ask that you wrap the tissue boxes in spring colors (no bows or ribbons needed). The Team will take the tissues to Fahrney Keedy on Saturday, March 22nd when we host their monthly birthday party. There will be a box for the tissues in the west entrance from March 2nd to March 16th. Thank you so much. The residents love the soft tissues.

**HCOB T-shirts**, sweatshirts, hoodies, tote bags and hats are now on sale. The Service & Outreach Team are taking orders through February 26th. The colors offered for shirts, sweatshirts, & hoodies are gray, royal blue and orange. Pricing starts at \$20.00. The tote bags (14x13x6.5) come in all black, black & gray, and black & blue. The cost for the tote bags is \$25.00. Two types of adjustable hats are also for sale. The cost for the hats is \$18.00. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Please contact Suzie Wolfe if you have any questions.

**Our service week at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter** is March 9-15, 2025. We need to cover all roles Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday that week. All meals are covered! Hallelujah! We still need volunteers for other roles (Servers, Search, Laundry, Hospitality). Any help would be appreciated! Starting February 16, and through March 9, we will be collecting donations of items for REACH. The REACH needs list can be found in the February Tidings, on the credenza in the sanctuary wing, and in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be taken to REACH during our week at the shelter. Any donations will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Sandy Clipp at 240-291-8753 if interested in serving at REACH or if you have any questions.

**The Christian Education Ministry Team** is looking for a Director or Co-Directors for this year's Vacation Bible School, tentatively scheduled for the week of June 23rd. The candidate need not have prior experience, just a love for children and a desire to help them learn about and experience God's love. As Director (or Co-Directors), you will be surrounded by a "village" of volunteers who will work alongside you to support you and help make VBS a fun and memorable experience. If you are interested, please reach out to any CE member: Deb Long, Tina Mills, Tracie Poteet, Kay Ogilvie, or Brenda Shane. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**Hagerstown Choral Arts** will be presenting "The Road Home" Concert, March 2nd at 3:00 pm, in the sanctuary at Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. All are welcome!

 **Our spring session of GriefShare has begun and will continue each Monday through May 12, from 6:30 – 8:30 in the Mullendore Room.** You may join at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. Cost is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials.

The grief journey after losing a loved one is very painful, difficult, and lonely. Since everyone grieves differently, there is no magic endpoint to the grieving process. Fortunately, HCOB offers GriefShare, an international, faith-based 13-week seminar offering support after the death of a loved one, no matter how recent. The GriefShare ministry provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. As a participant, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as gain support from others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information with them and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Register at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, February 23**

Junior Church  
 8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
 9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
 10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live  
 12:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Monday, February 24**

Church office closed  
 6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### **Tuesday, February 25**

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Room 302  
 7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, February 26**

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
 12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
 12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, February 27**

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

### **Friday, February 28**

8:00 am Bulletin preparation time/Church office  
 1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)  
 7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

### **Saturday, March 1**

Pastor Twyla's day off  
 10:00 am Prayer Walk/HCOB

### **Sunday, March 2**

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  
 3:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts Concert/HCOB

*Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.*

You may mail your offering to  
 15 S. Mulberry Street,  
 Hagerstown MD 21740  
 OR  
 you may give your offering through  
 our website at [hagerstowncob.org](http://hagerstowncob.org)

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

The Novel Bunch presents...

Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen

by Susan Gregg Gilmore

Sometimes you have to return to the place where you began to arrive at the place where you belong.

This novel focuses on a young girl's attempt to escape the confines of her hometown and find her place in the world. In the early 1970s, the town of Ringgold, Georgia, has a population of 1,923, one traffic light, one Dairy Queen, and one Catherine Grace Cline. The quick-witted, extremely stubborn daughter of Ringgold's third-generation Baptist preacher, Catherine Grace feels trapped in her small-town life and longs for more.

Every Saturday afternoon, she sits at the Dairy Queen, eating Dilly Bars and plotting her getaway to Atlanta, where she feels her life will be transformed and she will find happiness. When the dream becomes a reality with the help of a family friend, Catherine Grace immediately packs her bags and leaves behind her family and the boy she loves to claim the life she's always imagined. But before things even begin to get off the ground in Atlanta, tragedy brings Catherine Grace back home. As a series of extraordinary events unravel to alter her perspective and bring sweeping changes to Ringgold, Catherine Grace begins to wonder if her place in the world may actually be, against all odds, right where she began. The major theme of this novel is forgiveness, which causes the reader to ponder...how do we really forgive?

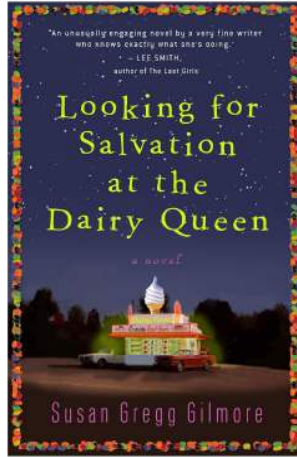
"Readers of Southern stories will enjoy the poignant self-discovery journey of this lovable heroine."—Tampa Tribune

Date: Saturday, May 17

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

Place: Fellowship Hall

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

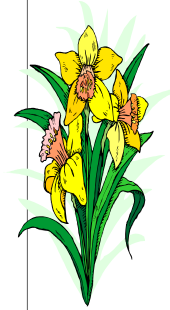
Preferred contact information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ OR Email \_\_\_\_\_

Book Club Team: \*Jenny Ferguson, Kristal Bricker, Debbie Nycum, Kay Ogilvie, Jan Young

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 March 16. 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 \$11.50/each

Mums: Yellow [ ] Number of plants \$10.00/each
Purple [ ] Number of plants \$10.00/each

Large Daffodils: [ ] Number of plants \$12.50/each

"Mini Gardens" [ ] Number of pots @ \$11.00/each
(Mini daffs and violas in the same planter)

(please print)

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN TRIBUTE TO: \_\_\_\_\_

THANKS TO: \_\_\_\_\_