

## Believe in your heart

On the cover are three house sparrows sitting in a tree. I confess my ambivalence about them. They are rather abundant at my bird feeders. Last year I put up a martin house in hopes of attracting purple martins. But the sparrows arrived first and claimed the space. They are so ordinary-looking, and their song is a repetitive chirp.

I wonder if the early Christians had a similar ambivalence. The apostle Paul seems to hint that they had a preference for people attracted to their house churches. Many came from Jewish backgrounds with all the rich traditions of being a set-apart people. Could they welcome folks into the fold who knew little of the requirements of the Law? Could they trust that a spoken promise of belief in Jesus Christ was enough?

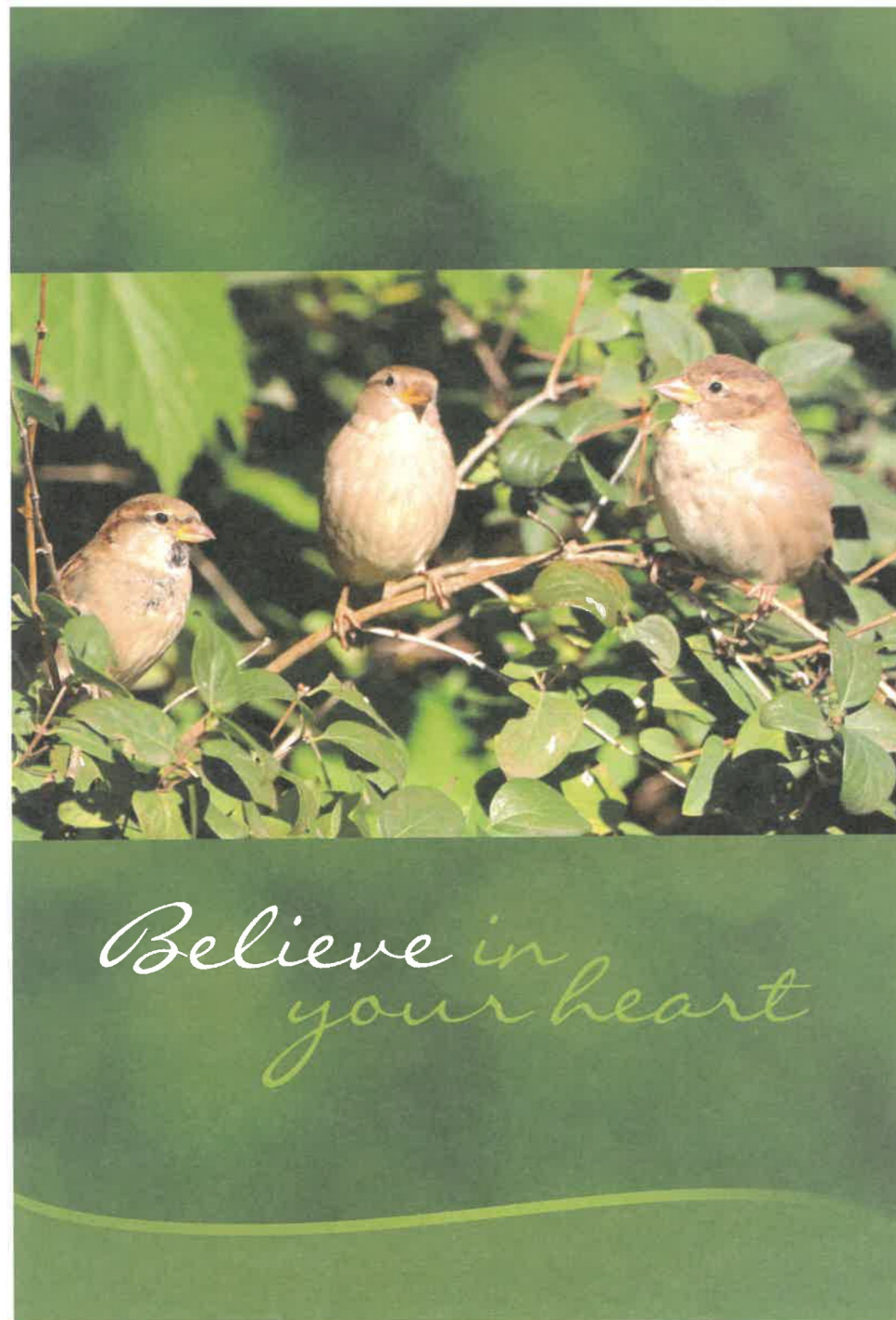
Paul helps them think it through by reminding his Roman friends that believing in the heart is the beginning of discipleship. He assures them that God, the compassionate One, looks on the inside of each person, where the intentions lie. Promises are the beginning. Paul encourages them to trust. These strangers are really friends and have much to offer to the community. Relax, he says. Jews and Greeks are really on the same page. Even Scripture agrees.

Lent is a good season for us to take some time to notice our preferences. Do we unknowingly avoid some folks in our church or community who seem different? Maybe they practice their faith in ways that are unfamiliar. Perhaps they use a different language or have grown up in a different culture. Can we still welcome them and see them as our sisters and brothers? Can we move beyond race and class to find a richer relationship? Just like my house sparrows. How good it is to know that God sees with the heart.

—Ed Poling  
Hagerstown, Maryland

“... [B]ecause if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and *believe in your heart* that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9, *NRSVue*).  
**Today’s Bible readings from the lectionary:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

March 9, 2025, First Sunday of Lent. Photo © Jim Miner. Used by permission.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

March 9, 2025

Luke 4:1-13

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD LAST WEEK?**

**PRELUDE** "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley" (Binckes)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Julie Herman, Worship Leader

One: Let us who live with faith in God proclaim,

*All: "Lord, You are my refuge and my fortress, my God I will trust forever."*

One: Let us who trust in the Lord know that holy love surrounds us.

*All: God's protection will follow us throughout our days.*

One: When we call out to the Lord,

*All: We know that we are heard.*

One: God is with us in every trial and temptation,

*All: Therefore, we will rejoice in the salvation of the Almighty!*

**\*HYMN #165** "A mighty fortress is our God"

[Verse 1]

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing, for still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and pow'r are great, and arm'd with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.*

[Verse 2]

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he! Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.*

[Verse 3]

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.*

*One little word shall fell him.*

[Verse 4]

*That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the*

*gifts are ours, through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever!*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you.

Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

All we have is from God. Our best is to be returned to God, freely given to minister in Christ's name. Out of gratitude for a land flowing with milk and honey, we bring our first fruits to be blessed in the outreach of the church.

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 by going to the Hagerstowncob webpage.

**Offertory** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (Smith)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

From the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be used in ways you choose, in places where you would send us, for the sake of people among whom you wish to dwell. May we bear witness to your abiding love, not only with money but with dedicated lives. Allow us to be instruments of assurance and compassion here and wherever our journeys lead. Amen.

**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.*

**CALL TO PRAYER #439** *"I want Jesus to walk with me"*

[Verse 1]

*I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me.  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

[Verse 2]

*In my trials, Lord, walk with me. In my trials, Lord, walk with me.  
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

[Verse 3]

*When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me. When I'm in trouble,  
Lord, walk with me. When my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 4:1-13 NT 61

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

*'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'* "

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

*'He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,'  
and*

*'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'* "

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**MORNING ANTHEM** "Forty Days" (Hernaman)  
Temple Choir

**MESSAGE** "Temptation" Pastor Twyla Rowe

**UNISON PRAYER**

God of the desert, as we follow Jesus into the unknown, may we recognize the tempter when he comes; let it be your bread we eat, your world we serve and you alone we worship. Amen.

**\*HYMN #336** "When peace like a river"  
[Verse 1]

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

[Refrain]

*It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

[Verse 2]

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this bless'd assurance  
control, that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own  
blood for my soul.*

[Refrain]

*It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

[Verse 3]

*Redeemed! Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part, but the  
whole is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the  
Lord, O my soul!*

[Refrain]

*It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

[Verse 4]

*And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as  
a scroll, the trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend, "Even so," it is well  
with my soul.*

[Refrain]

*It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**\*POSTLUDE** "O Master Let Me Walk with Thee" (Karvonen)

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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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First Sunday  
in  
Lent

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      March 9, 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, March 9 - Holy God, as this season of Lent begins, I'm remembering how Jesus was taken into the wilderness and was tempted by the evil one. This reminds me that Jesus understands what it is like for me as I am also tempted to do and say things contrary to your will; and to neglect specific things that you call me to do. Temptations abound all around me, trying to lure me away from you. They attempt to appeal to my selfish desires and comforts. But, Jesus shows me that I can overcome temptations by using spiritual strength and wisdom built on the foundation he gives me. It's strength and wisdom flowing freely from the Holy Spirit that dwells in my soul. Forgive me, when I give in to temptations and restore me to the path of righteousness. The lenten journey is difficult, but I trust you to guide me and lead me to the hope of Easter resurrection. Amen.

**Our thanks** to Julie 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 and in memory of my father, Ed Harper, and my brother, Fred White, given by Judy Dahlhamer.

**If you would like to place flowers** on the altar for March 23rd or March 30th, please contact Janet Goller.

**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.

**Lenten Services will be held** on March 19th & 26th; April 2nd & 9th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speakers will be Esther Boleyn (19th), Ella Amaya (26th), Suzie Wolfe (2nd), and April 9th is to be announced.

**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 service. Thank you in advance.  
*- Spiritual Nurture Team*

**March Tidings** are now available. If you did not receive an electronic copy please notify the Church office and you will be added to the emailing list. Printed copies can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall.

**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.

**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 here!** Our week to staff the REACH Cold Weather Shelter starts today and goes through next Sunday morning. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help or offered monetary or other donations. We're ready to serve those less fortunate in our community. Pray for a successful week and good weather! *Sandy Clipp*

**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.


**The Sunday School Orchestra** will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 27th at 9:00 am, Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined service at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.

**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.

**The Service & Outreach Team** asks that you save the dates for the following two important events. Community Picnic: Saturday, 06/07/25 and the Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat: Saturday, 10/18/25. We need your help with these events.

**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). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

**Printed copies of Leadership and Ministry team meeting minutes** are available in the west entrance. The holders are located on the wall beside the bulletin board.

 **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

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 9

First Sunday in Lent/Junior Church/Daylight Saving Time  
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

### Monday, March 10

Church office closed  
8:00 am Kramer's Piano Tuning/Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary  
5:30 pm P&F Meeting/Fellowship Hall  
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### Tuesday, March 11

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, March 12

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, March 13

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

### Friday, March 14

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

### Saturday, March 15

Pastor Twyla's Day off  
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

### Sunday, March 16

Second Sunday in Lent  
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

*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 Literacy Council is looking for volunteer tutors

Help offer adults  
free basic education &  
English language services  
*(no teaching experience necessary)*

### Please bring:

- patience
- enthusiasm
- dedication
- cultural sensitivity

### We provide:

- free training
- ongoing support
- tutoring materials



**Contact us:**  
[office@literacyofwcmd.org](mailto:office@literacyofwcmd.org)  
**301-739-4208**

## **Hygiene Kits Are Needed**

The Service and Outreach Ministry Team and Sue Vanderveer are asking for supplies for Hygiene Kits. Kits are put together and delivered to Church World Service which will then send them to areas of need in the United States and other parts of the world.

Items needed are:

### **Hygiene Kits – you will need:**

- ◆ One hand towel measuring approximately 15” x 28” to 16” x 32”  
(no fingertip or bath towels)
- ◆ One washcloth
- ◆ One wide-tooth comb removed from the package  
(Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth, no pocket combs or picks, rattail and combs without handles are acceptable)
- ◆ One nail clipper removed from the package
- ◆ Ten standard size Band-Aids®

We have a supply of soap and toothbrushes, we are not in need of those things this year.

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Tubes of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added by others to the Hygiene Kit just prior to shipment. Items may be placed in the collection container in the West Entrance. Contact Sue Vanderveer if you have questions.

**Hygiene Kit value: \$15**

**Processing/Shipping Cost: \$2 per Kit**

**Thank you!**

**Watch for a collection box in the west entrance, or contact Sue Vanderveer if you want to donate items.**

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.

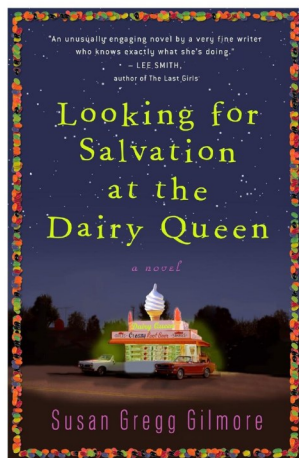
This novel focuses on a young girl's attempt to escape the confines of her hometown and find her place in the world. In the early 1970s, the town of Ringgold, Georgia, has a population of 1,923, one traffic light, one Dairy Queen, and one Catherine Grace Cline. The quick-witted, extremely stubborn daughter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

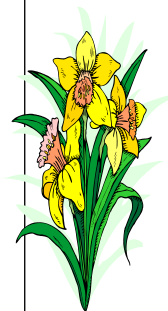
Preferred contact information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ OR Email \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_