

Seek God's face

Call to Worship

from Psalm 27 (NKJV / RVR1960)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
Though an army may encamp against me,
Though war may rise against me,
My heart shall not fear; in this I will be confident.
When you said, "Seek My face,"
My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."
Do not hide Your face from me;
Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help;
Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.
Wait on the Lord; wait, I say, on the Lord!

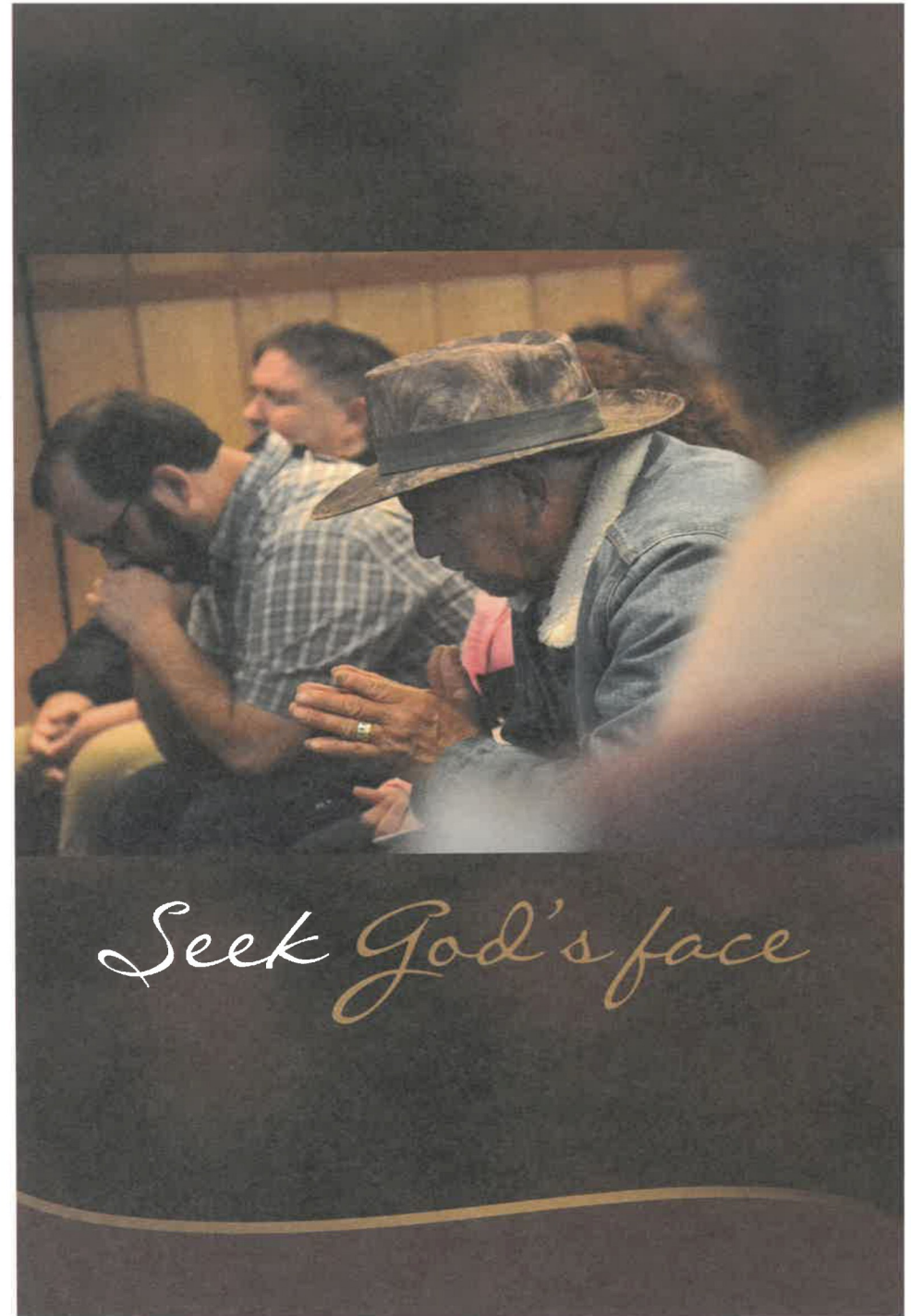
Jehová es mi luz y mi salvación; ¿de quién temeré?
Jehová es la fortaleza de mi vida; ¿de quién he de atemorizarme?
Aunque un ejército acampe contra mí,
Aunque contra mí se levante guerra,
No temera mi corazón; Yo estaré confiado.
Mi corazón ha dicho de ti: Buscad mi rostro.
Tu rostro buscaré, oh Jehová.
No escondas tu rostro de mí,
No apartes con ira a tu siervo; Mí ayuda has sido.
No me dejes ni me desampares, Dios de mi salvación.
Aguarda a Jehová; Sí, espera a Jehová.

Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"

—Florecita Merlos
Waterford, California

"Come, my heart says, *seek God's face*. LORD, I do seek your face!" (Psalm 27:8, CEB). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36.

March 16, 2025, Second Sunday of Lent. Photo of New and Renew Conference by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford © Church of the Brethren.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

March 16, 2025
Lent 2

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD?

PRELUDE "The God of Abraham Praise" (Arr. Powell)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rebecca Jackson, Worship Leader

One: Today is a day to sing praise to God!

All: God continually blesses us, each and every day.

One: Even in the midst of cold and darkness, the warmth of God's love is real.

All: We can count on God to be here for us.

One: Let your hearts rejoice and your voices shout praise to God.

All: For God is great and worthy to be praised.

***HYMN #327** "Great is thy faithfulness"

[Verse 1]

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.

There is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.

As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

[Refrain]

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

[Verse 2]

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

[Refrain]

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

[Verse 3]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;

blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

[Refrain]

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

***OPENING PRAYER**

In this place, our hearts take courage. Your goodness is all around us. The trials and cares of life are stilled before you. Show us your face, O God; let your love be known to us. We need this hour to remember who we are, to let you gather us under your wings. We need this time to feel close to one another, to recognize ourselves as brothers and sisters. We need reminders of the humanity and glory of Jesus Christ that empower our discipleship. Hear our cries and help us. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

All who find a home in the house of God are invited to extend its sheltering and serving ministry to others. We are challenged to do this in person but also, if possible, by sharing the wealth God entrusts to us. What sacrifices do we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, who risked everything for us?

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping 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

"An Irish Carol"

(Arr. Page)

***Doxology #119**

"Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In the confidence that you will multiply our best efforts, we bring our offerings for the purpose of serving others for you. Holy God, it is a joy to present our sacrifices, for we are blessed in our giving as we have been in our receiving abundant goodness from your hand. Keep us from seeking to build permanent structures that might block spontaneous responses to your love. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley" (Arr. Page)
Brethren Bells

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 "I Surrender All to You" (McDonald)
Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 OT 12

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

MESSAGE "A Line in the Sand" Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #545** "Be thou my vision"
[Verse 1]

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

[Verse 2]

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word; I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord. Thou my great Father, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

[Verse 3]

Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight. Be thou my dignity, thou my delight, thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower. Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

[Verse 4]

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

[Verse 5]

High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

***POSTLUDE** "To Walk in Faith" (Payton)

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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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Second 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

[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 16, 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 Sunday, March 16, 2025 - Thank you God, for your never ending faithfulness to me. Thank you, Jesus, for your faithfulness to God and God's plan. It's undeniable that without your faithfulness, I could be lost in confusion and darkness. Each day I am confronted by numerous lines that have been drawn in the sands of life. Choosing one side of the line or the other comes with consequences that influence the direction of my life and the lives of others. Just like Abram, I seek to walk on the side that is faithful to you and your direction for my life. And, like Abram, I will pray...and dig deep within myself to put my trust in you and make the decision to step out in faith for the fulfillment of your will...not my own will or the will of the world...but your will, my God. Amen.

Our thanks to Rebecca Jackson for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir & Brethren Bells for our morning music.

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 loving memory of my husband, Charles Gehr, in remembrance of our 78th wedding anniversary, given by Nancy.

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

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at or gave donations for our week of service at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter. Each night, we served approximately 50 guests and they expressed their gratitude to us regularly. Whether you served one day or all week, your efforts were greatly appreciated.

The Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings will be held today. The screenings take place in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:30 AM Morning Praise Worship Service and in the Mullendore room before the 10:45 AM worship.

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 Bea Van Norden (9th).

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
- Spiritual Nurture Team

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 TODAY. Please see the order form in the bulletin.

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.

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com. Thank you!

When you leave items at the mailboxes for someone else to retrieve, please call or email them to alert them the item is there. Remember you may need to follow up with them to make sure they've gotten the item. Thank you!

GriefShare 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. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

CALENDAR

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

Monday, March 17

Church office closed/St. Patrick's Day

6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, March 18

12:00 pm Mary Martha Group/Altruistic Room or Mullendore Room

5:00 pm Service & Outreach Meeting/Mullendore Room

6:30 pm Christian Ed. Meeting/Room 302

7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 19

Administrative Assistant Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 20

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 21

8:00 am Bulletin Prep Time/Church office

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

Saturday, March 22

Pastor Twyla's day off

2:00 pm Fahrney-Keedy Birthday Party

Sunday, March 23

Junior Church/Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

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

The church calendar is online at
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
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.

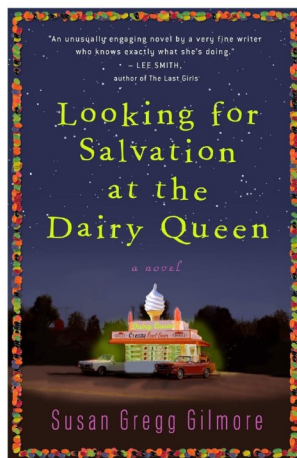
This novel focuses on a young girl's attempt to escape the confines of her hometown and find her place in the world. In the early 1970s, the town of Ringgold, Georgia, has a population of 1,923, one traffic light, one Dairy Queen, and one Catherine Grace Cline. The quick-witted, extremely stubborn daughter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



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

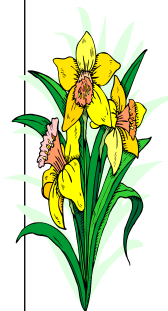
Preferred contact information: Phone _____ OR Email _____

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 TODAY. 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: _____