

## Whoever is faithful

My work with the Gun Violence Prevention Commission in Roanoke introduces me to families who have lost loved ones due to gun violence. Tragedy has left them searching for peace in a storm of chaos, and the thought that peace may someday prevail on earth seems an unimaginably distant dream.

I also meet with people who accept the largely mythical belief that unrestricted gun access makes us safer. Typically living at a distance from violent crime, their response to the storm of disaster is clinging to an instrument that can cause more harm.

Bringing the two sides together to find common ground seems like raging against the wind.

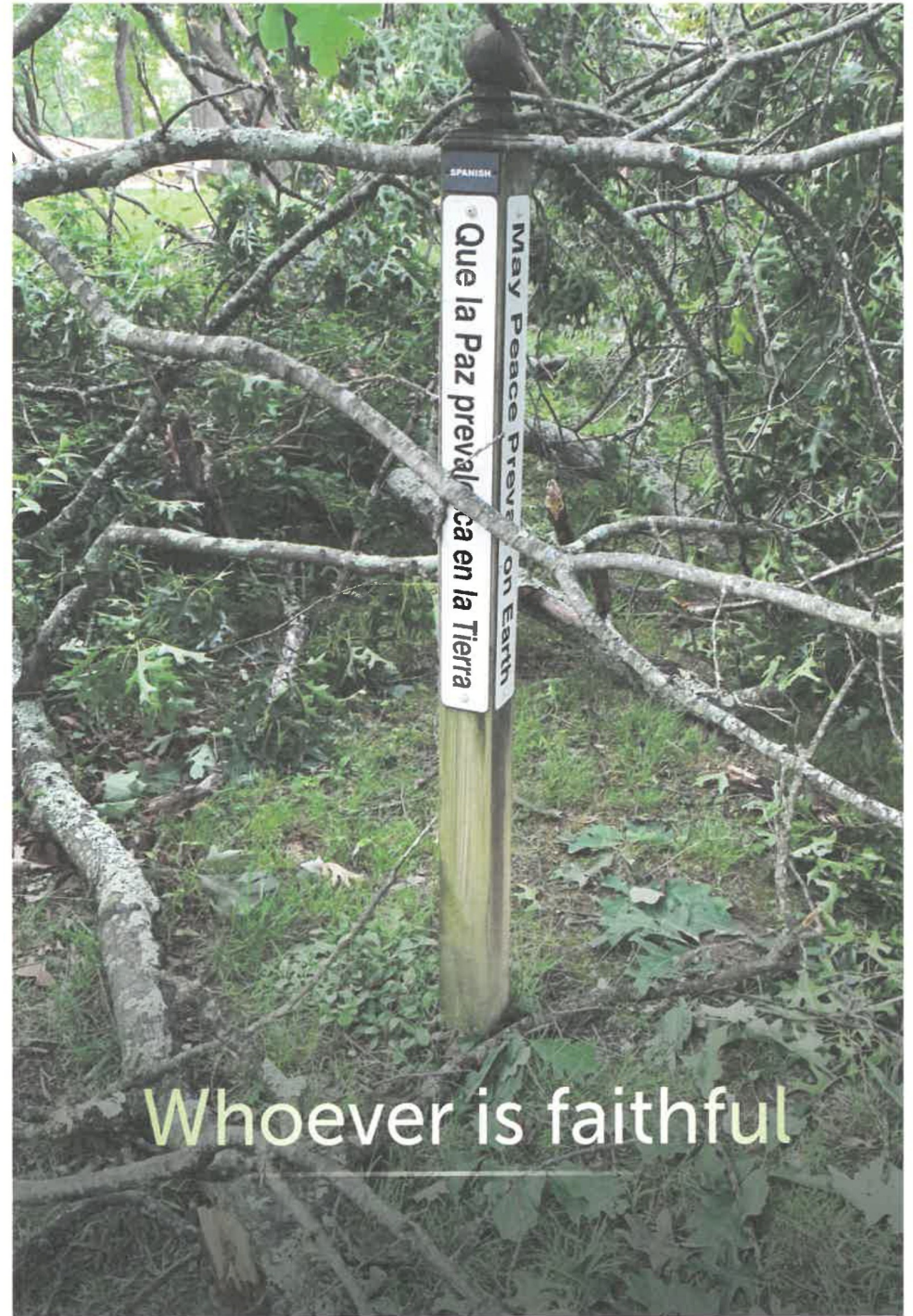
The difficult parable of the dishonest manager has left many Bible students perplexed, as it seems that Jesus commends dishonesty. But a different view is in order. Facing the storm of job loss due to questionable business practices, the manager responds by investing in relationships. Reducing debts improves the manager's relationship with the debtors: who among us wouldn't want to owe less than they had expected! Reducing the debts also improves the master's relationships with the debtors, as they are more likely to repay the refinanced loans. While it is impossible to pinpoint the exact instance of dishonesty in the parable, we can imagine how the manager's bold yet risky actions have improved everyone's financial position and the overall quality of relationship in the community. The manager can likely keep his job because of the improved relationships all around.

Peacemaking requires us to witness quietly but persistently to this: that healthy communities depend on healthy relationships, in which all work together to heal the damage caused by life's storms.

—Tim Harvey  
Roanoke, Virginia

*"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much" (Luke 16:10, NRSVue). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13.*

September 21, 2025, International Day of Peace. Photo © Tim Harvey. Used by permission.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP** **10:45 AM**

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September 21, 2025

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Kathy Kelsey, Worship Leader

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE** "Autumn Glory" (Riggs)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us praise the name of the Lord,

*All: God is wonderful! Yesterday, today and forever!*

One: The Lord our God has done marvelous things,

*All: We are blessed more than we could ever imagine.*

One: For all the amazing gifts we have been given,

*All: We praise the name of the Lord!*

**HYMN #16** "God is here among us"  
[Verse 1]

*God is here among us: let us all adore him, and with awe appear before him.  
God is here within us: soul in silence fear him, humbly, fervently draw near him.  
Now his own who have known God in worship lowly yield their spirits wholly.*  
[Verse 2]

*Come, abide within me; let my soul, like Mary, be thine earthly sanctuary.  
Come, indwelling Spirit, with transfigured splendor; love and honor will I render.  
Where I go here below, let me bow before thee, know thee, and adore thee.*  
[Verse 3]

*Gladly we surrender earth's deceitful treasures, pride of life, and sinful pleasures.  
Gladly, Lord, we offer thine to be forever, soul and life and each endeavor.  
Thou alone shalt be known Lord of all our being, life's true way decreeing.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Into this holy temple, we have come, gracious God. This is not our church but yours. We cannot claim our world; it is a trust from your hand. Our lives, our health, our length of days call forth our stewardship. We are managers, not owners, so we come to you now to give account and seek your further commands. Help us, O God of our salvation. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

As managers for God of the world's resources, we share the hurt of those who are poor, sick, and in mourning. Our wealth is meant to bring good news to them in Jesus' name. We invest in the church's outreach, that our money may serve God, not trap us in idolatry.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshipping with us on YouTube 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 website.

**Offertory** "Simple Gifts" (Harris)

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray: We give, loving God, because of your generosity to us. We share because this is your will for us. In faithfulness to your call, we seek to manage the resources you provide for the greatest benefit to humankind. May they bring a bit closer an awareness of your intentions for us and your rule among us. We worship and serve you with all we have. Amen.

**MORNING ANTHEM** "My Song Will Be for You Forever" (Haas)  
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 #523** "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"  
[Verse 1]

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways.  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper rev'rence praise.*  
[Verse 2]

*In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea, the gracious calling of the  
Lord, let us, like them, without a word rise up and follow thee.*

[Verse 3]

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity, interpreted by love.*

[Verse 4]

*Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease. Take from our souls the  
strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*

[Verse 5]

*Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm. Let sense be dumb,  
let flesh retire, speak through the earth-quake, wind and fire, O still small  
voice of calm!*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16:1-13

(The Message)

Jesus said to his disciples, “There was once a rich man who had a manager. He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. So he called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? You’re fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.’

“The manager said to himself, ‘What am I going to do? I’ve lost my job as manager. I’m not strong enough for a laboring job, and I’m too proud to beg....Ah, I’ve got a plan. Here’s what I’ll do...then when I’m turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.’

“Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

“He replied, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’

“The manager said, ‘Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.’

“To the next he said, ‘And you, what do you owe?’

“He answered, ‘A hundred sacks of wheat.’

“He said, ‘Take your bill, write in eighty.’

“Now here’s a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is right—using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you’ll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior.”

Jesus went on to make these comments:

If you’re honest in small things,

you’ll be honest in big things;

If you’re a crook in small things,

you’ll be a crook in big things.

If you’re not honest in small jobs,

who will put you in charge of the store?

No worker can serve two bosses:

He’ll either hate the first and love the second

Or adore the first and despise the second.

You can’t serve both God and the Bank.

## MESSAGE

“Managing What God Gives Us”

Pastor Twyla Rowe

## HYMN #447

“O Jesus, I have promised”

[Verse 1]

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.*

*Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend.*

*I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

[Verse 2]

*O let me feel thee near me, the world is ever near;*

*I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.*

*My foes are ever near me, around me and within,  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*

[Verse 3]

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,*

*above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.*

*O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control,*

*O speak, and make me listen, thou Guardian of my soul.*

[Verse 4]

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.*

*And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.*

*O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.*

## RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: God has delivered and blessed us here. God will assist us every day as we are open to God's help.

*All: We will look to God for guidance and direction. We will seek God's truth for every situation.*

One: We are invited to pray for others each day. When we intercede for them, we draw closer to God.

*All: We will be sensitive to others' pain and joys. We will respond in the spirit of Jesus Christ.*

One: Seek to be faithful in all things, great and small. Acknowledge God's ownership of all you possess.

*All: We seek to be honest managers and generous stewards. We are grateful servants of a loving God. Amen.*

POSTLUDE            "Heaven and Peace Within"            (Sawyer)

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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 YouTube Live at  
10:45 AM

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

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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    September 21, 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 for the week beginning on Sunday, September 21 - Author of All Creation...my life story is immersed in your Spirit, for which I am grateful. I have had experiences, both highs and lows, that have shaped me into the person I am today. And, I know I continue to be molded by how I experience life. With humility and sensitivity, help me to remember that those around me... especially those with differing ideology or standards of living...have also been shaped into who they are by life experiences and circumstances...making our life stories very different. Discourage the attitudes that may arise within me to look down on those that challenge me. Help me to see others through your eyes; and celebrate the collection of stories that make us your beloved community. 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 Kathy Kelsey for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

**The flower arrangement on the altar** is to the Glory of God and in loving memory of grandmother Bertha Lindsay, by Ralph and Sharon Stottlemeyer.

**The Sunday School Orchestra** will be performing next Sunday, September 28th, in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM. There will be no Morning Praise Worship. Sunday School and our Late Service Worship will be held at regular time.

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace**—Jenny Ferguson is collecting used or new children's books for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, please keep them coming. The box will stay under the table in the west entrance. If you could only see their faces when they get a bed and pick a book. Thank you!

**Our Non-Traditional Fall Love Feast** will be held on Sunday, October 5th during both worship services.

**The 2025 Mid-Atlantic District Conference** will be held on October 10th & 11th at Union Bridge COB. 124 S. Main St., Union Bridge, MD 21791. This years theme is "Centered on Christ" based on Colossians 1:16-19. More information can be found at: [www.madcob.com/districtconference/](http://www.madcob.com/districtconference/)

**Ministry Team Chairs!** Your reports for the Congregational Business Meeting are due to the church office no later than October 15th.

**The Service & Outreach Team** will once again be having our large community event—Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat—on Saturday, October 18th from 1 to 4PM. We need many helpers. We will have bingo, children's games, and crafts for the children. We will have hotdogs, baked beans, chips, popcorn, water, snow cones, and cotton candy. There will be a cake walk. We will have a costume parade for the kids and of course, Trunk or Treat. Do you love to meet new people and share the good news about our Lord and Savior? Here's your opportunity. We also need adult and children's prizes for bingo. If you have any appropriate items, you no longer use, please donate them for this event. We also need cakes for the cake walk, and cookies and candy. If you would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat, let us know. There are sign-up sheets available in the west entrance. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Service & Outreach Team.

**Growing Hope Global family fun Harvest Festival**, near Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, will be held at the Grossnickle Farm, at 11720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville, Md., on Sunday, Oct. 12. The annual festival, which is in its 20th year, will begin at 2:30 p.m. with hay wagon rides leaving the barn. Then, beginning at 3 p.m., there's to be an outdoor worship and dedication program, followed by plenty of delicious foods, all at no charge. There will be American as well as special dishes made with recipes from Sierra Leone, one of the African countries where our fundraising will help communities learn to grow and store food for lean times of the year. The afternoon will also feature time for children to make scarecrows and to learn games that children play in Sierra Leone. And, for all, there will be a lot of sweet, sweet fun in the day's prime fundraising event: the live and silent auctions for cakes and other baked goods made by members of area churches supporting Growing Hope Globally!! For more information and/or rides to/from Harvest Festival, call Arn Platou at 301-790-3498.



**Our fall sessions of GriefShare have begun and will continue each Wednesday evening through Dec. 17, from 6:30—8:30 in the Mullendore Room.** There will be no class on November 26 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. 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 is painful and lonely. But the GriefShare ministry provides a supportive environment for anyone who has lost a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other family member or friend. 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.

\*We also will offer a special 2-hr evening seminar, Surviving the Holidays, on Monday, November 3, from 6:30—8:30 p.m.

**If you have a church mailbox**, please check it weekly. Mailboxes are now labeled for incoming ministry team members.

**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.

**Please remember** to keep the administrative assistant updated on when and where meetings/events are being held. Please email or call the Administrative Assistant with information that needs added to the church calendar. **301-733-3565 or secretaryhcob@gmail.com.** Thank you!

**Offering drop-off box** is located in the west entrance by the double doors. This box can be used to drop off your offering or order forms. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



September is National Recovery Month. HCOB supports the efforts of Washington Goes Purple—a substance abuse educational movement to engage our community in preventing addiction and eliminating the stigma of seeking help. Our neighbors struggling with substance use and mental health issues need our prayers and support.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, September 21

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

### Monday, September 22

Church office closed

### Wednesday, September 24

Administrative Assistant/Work from home  
Grange Meeting/Fellowship Hall/Kitchen  
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions  
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### Thursday, September 25

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

### Friday, September 26

8:00 am Bulletin prep/church office  
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3PM)

### Saturday, September 27

Pastor Twyla's day off

### Sunday, September 28

Junior Church/NO EARLY SERVICE  
9:00 am Sunday School Orchestra/Fellowship Hall  
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube 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 Novel Bunch presents...***

***The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post***

*by Allison Pataki*



This book is historical fiction and reimagines the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the Postum Cereal Company, which eventually became General Foods. The book explores Post's life journey from her beginnings of gluing cereal boxes as a young girl to help her father, to becoming the very wealthy and influential businesswoman, socialite, and philanthropist whose legacy as a presidential hostess helped to shape the political scene in Washington, DC. It also delves into Post's personal life, her four marriages, and her professional challenges as she built her own influence. The novel is set against the backdrop of early 20th century America, and it examines the complexities of wealth, power, and changing roles for women. Pataki's story chronicles Post's rise to become one of the wealthiest women in the United States, her inheritance of a vast fortune, and it also highlights Post's acquisition of Russian art and jewelry that now forms the core of the much-visited Hillwood Museum outside of Washington.

**Date: Saturday, November 1**

**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.

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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**