

## Lifted up

The children on my block have made kites from paper and bamboo chopsticks and glue and hope. It is one of those days that is windy and sunny and the sky is as blue as a dream but I see only their haphazard craftsmanship, as aerodynamic as a pillar of salt, and a future of scraped knees. Delighting in the magic of standing on solid ground and feeling the tugging line of the kite soaring above them, they cheerfully ignore my lack of faith as if it is only another branch in the thick canopy of trees above them.

These children fly kites with the same reckless certitude with which they set up lemonade stands even if they are their only customers, chase after pigeons they will never catch, stomp ant hills that will be rebuilt overnight, and make up songs that they will forget by morning. Each pursuit as poignant and earnest as prayer.

The children pause, breathless, and examine their kite, try to predict the wind, and I want to tell them that it is gravity, which like the too real presence of troubles, pins us all to the ground. All flight, from spaceships to bumblebees, can be charted as an equation of mass and energy. But children have no words for the principles of physics any more than they have words for the theology of faith. As I grew up, I have clutched at the Scriptures, like they are a guideline clenched in my fist, that holds me from floating off. I have believed that you, my community of faith, could be a brindle to balance and stabilize me. But faith is not a thing engineered from paper and string.

Watching the children and their kite, I try to remember how it felt to believe that I could run fast enough, arms outstretched, and that the wind would catch me up. And when the kite flutters, almost free, I remember the miraculous, inexplicable rush that comes over the slope of my soul, and lifts me up.

—Gimbiya Kettering  
Washington, DC

"The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. *The Lord lifts up* those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous" (Psalm 146:7c-8, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

September 28, 2025. Photo © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission.  
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A photograph of a colorful kite flying in a clear blue sky. The kite is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The text "The Lord lifts up" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, serif font.

The  
Lord  
lifts  
up

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

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September 28, 2025

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?**

**PRELUDE**                      “The Promise of Salvation”                      (Broughton)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      Chris Herman, Worship Leader

One: Come, all who live in the shelter of the Most High. Gather together,  
all who trust in God Almighty.

*All: God reigns through all generations. We will praise God as long as  
we live.*

One: We trust in God, our refuge and our fortress. We can count on God’s  
faithfulness at all times.

*All: God lifts us up when we are threatened or afraid. We call to God for  
protection and rescue.*

One: Worship God, who richly provides us with all things. Give thanks  
to the one who dwells in unapproachable light.

*All: God, who made heaven and earth, keeps faith forever. We will pour  
out our thankfulness in words and deeds.*

**HYMN #99**                      “We Praise Thee, O God”

[Verse 1]

*We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love, for Jesus who died,  
and is now gone above.*

[Refrain]

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!*

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

[Verse 2]

*We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light, who has shown us our Savior  
and scattered our night.*

[Refrain]

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!*

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

[Verse 3]

*All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain, who has borne all our sins,  
and doth cleanse ev’ry stain.*

[Refrain]

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!*

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

[Verse 4]

*We praise the, O God, for the joy thou has giv’n to thy saints in communion,  
these foretastes of heav’n.*

[Refrain]

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!*

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

[Verse 5]

*Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love. May each soul be rekindled  
with fire from above.*

[Refrain]

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen!*

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Ever-present God, let your Spirit fill this place, for we need to know that  
you are in charge. Through the terrors of night, amid the arrows that fly by  
day, we need to sense your power, your protection, your higher purpose.  
Show us here your saving, healing strength. Grant to us such confidence and  
contentment that we may look beyond ourselves to become a blessing to oth-  
ers. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Because the love of money is the root of all evil, we seek to make  
wealth a tool for accomplishing good more than for accumulating things.  
Because we have been blessed in order that we might share, we bring our  
offerings with gratitude and rejoicing. Let us give thanks with glad and  
generous hearts.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a vir-  
tual offering plate to those worshiping with us on YouTube Live. We in-  
vite 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 web-  
site.

**Offertory**                      “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”                      (Ritter)  
**\*Doxology #119**                      “Praise God from whom”

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

What a joy to have something to give! Thank you, God, for granting us choices in the use of all you have placed on earth for our use. We have chosen this portion to dedicate for the ministry of the church in our congregation, community and in outreach throughout the world. Make us aware of the needy at our doors as well as lost ones everywhere who long for the bread of life. Amen.

**HYMN #369**                      “Lord, whose love in humble service”

[Verse 1]

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;  
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone,  
but heart, consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.*

[Verse 2]

*Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread.  
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

[Verse 3]

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height  
and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

## 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

**TEMPLE CHOIR**                      “On Eagle's Wings”                      (Arr. Hayes)

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Luke 16:19-31                      NT 79

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Laza-

rus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.

He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

**MESSAGE**                      “Have No Regrets”                      Pastor Twyla Rowe

**HYMN #366**                      “God of Grace and God of Glory”

[Verse 1]

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy pow'r. Crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flow'r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

[Verse 2]

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

[Verse 3]

*Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control. Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

[Verse 4]

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.*

## BENEDICTION

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.*

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

## POSTLUDE

“Rise Up in Glory”

(Paxton)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



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 28, 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 Sunday, September 28 - In the moments of waking up today, between the grogginess of sleep and the pursuit of clarity in my mind about what day it is and what I planned to do; I know your presence reached out to me to commune with me in the exchange of feelings and thoughts. Your unfailing love for me poured over me and reminded me that I am yours and you are mine; and that whatever the day brings, you are always with me. You know what I am capable of doing; so I know you will speak words of encouragement to me if I should feel less than adequate to fulfill the tasks put before me. A love like this can only come from a Living God...and I know that's who you are. I praise you! I thank you for your love; and with a heart full of gratitude, I will love others so they too will be blessed by your presence and your love. 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 Chris Herman for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

**The flowers on the altar** are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our son Andrew, given by David and Elizabeth Beachley.

**Junior Church will be held today** for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205) or The Children's Sunday School Room (Room #203).** (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.**

**October 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.

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

**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! **All items collected will be going to the guests at our community breakfasts.** 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 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 year's 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.

**GriefShare®** 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.

**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.



**Washington Goes Purple**  
Prevent Addiction.  
Eliminate Stigma.

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 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 ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob))

### **Monday, September 29**

Admin. Assistant Vacation

Church office closed

### **Tuesday, September 30**

Admin. Assistant Vacation

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

### **Wednesday, October 1**

Admin. Assistant Vacation

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

5:30 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting/Outside Church office

6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

### **Thursday, October 2**

Admin. Assistant Vacation

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

### **Friday, October 3**

Admin. Assistant Vacation

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

### **Saturday, October 4**

Pastor Twyla's day off

### **Sunday, October 5**

Food Pantry Sunday/Love Feast/Bread&Cup

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 & YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob))

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

You may mail your offering to  
15 S. Mulberry Street,  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
OR

you can make a secure offering  
donation on our website using  
Breeze [www.hagerstowncob.org](http://www.hagerstowncob.org)

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

***The Novel Bunch presents...***

***The 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**