

Sincere faith

Growing up in my home congregation in the 1970s meant being a part of Mrs. Moran's junior Sunday school class. Gone were tables with crayons and colorful booklets. Instead, we sat in rows and read Bible passages verse by verse. Soft-spoken but firm, she helped as we stumbled over hard-to-pronounce names and enriched her commentary with personal stories. While I cannot recall much about those lessons, I will always remember her handwritten Christmas cards with a silver dollar taped inside.

Mrs. Moran had the kind of *sincere faith* Paul recognizes in Timothy in verses 3–5 of today's text. Paul's phrase implies a genuine faith, rooted in trust and a relationship with God. Timothy's sincere faith was nurtured through story, song, and the everyday words and actions of people who loved him. For Mrs. Moran and Timothy, faith was more than an inherited tradition; it was visible in their words and actions.

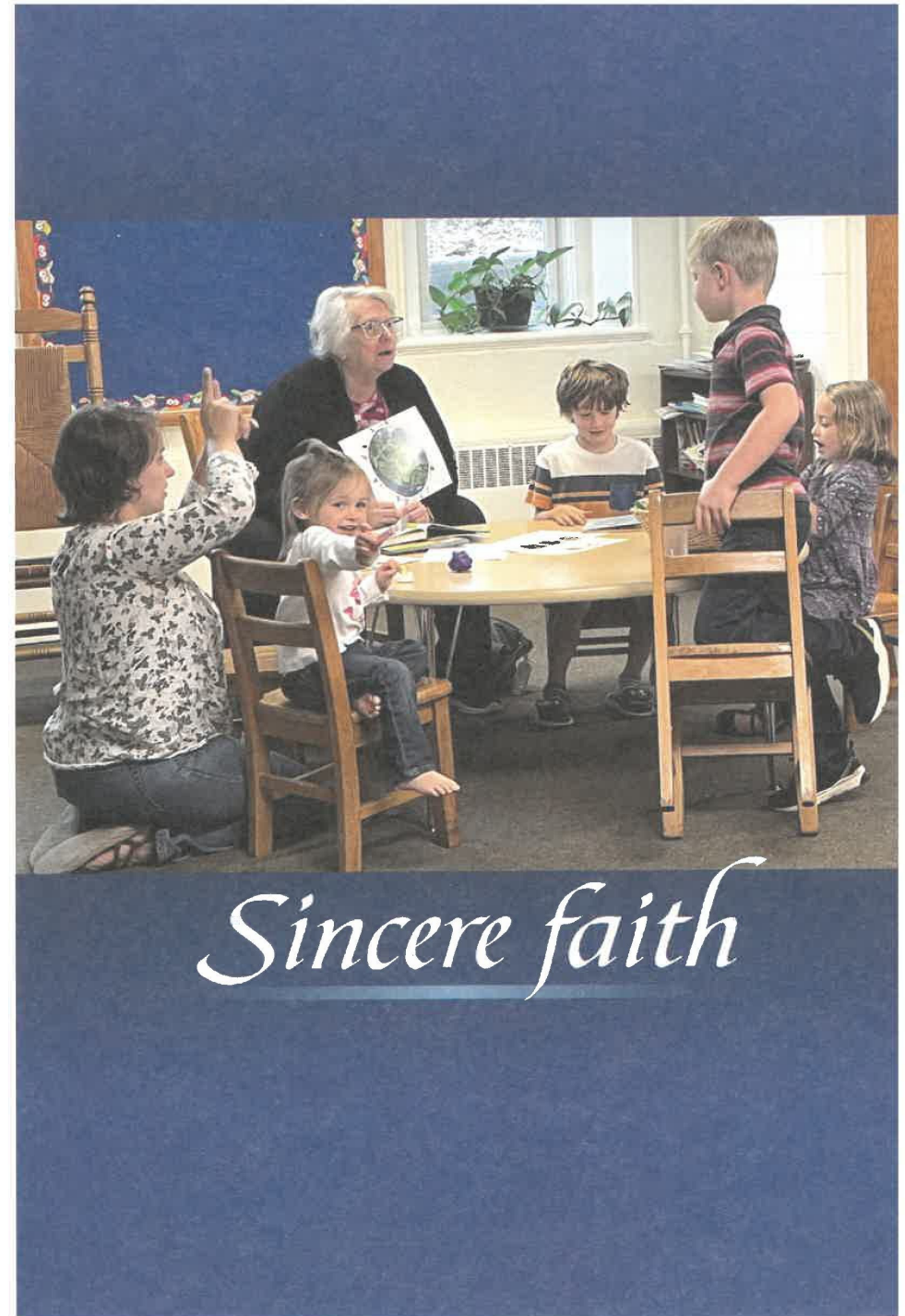
But even sincere faith needs encouragement. That is why Paul urges Timothy to "rekindle the gift of God that is within you" (v. 6). Sometimes, our faith can feel like glowing embers. The fire is there, but it needs stirring. Life's pressures, fear, or weariness can cause it to fade. Yet Paul reminds us: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and self-discipline" (v. 7).

Is your faith aflame or in need of stirring? Like Timothy, you may have a legacy of faith nurtured by people like Mrs. Moran. Or you may be the first in your family to follow Christ. Either way, Paul's encouragement is the same: attend to your faith, embrace the grace given to you through Jesus, and live the gospel so that others may see it. God has entrusted you with a precious gift—your sincere faith.

—Joan Daggett
Bridgewater, Virginia

"I am reminded of your *sincere faith*, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you" (2 Timothy 1:5, NRSVue).
Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10.

October 5, 2025, World Communion Sunday. Photo © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

October 5, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “Let Us Break Bread Together” (Callahan)

CALL TO WORSHIP Eileen Smith, Worship Leader

One: God’s mercies never end; they are new every morning. We gather in gratitude, that our faith may increase.

All: We will sing our songs of praise. We will proclaim the good news of the gospel.

One: Take delight in God, who is with us wherever we go. Trust God, even when we do not feel like singing.

All: We commit all our ways to God. We will wait patiently for answers to our prayers.

One: By God’s grace, we are gathered for worship. In God’s love, we are no longer exiles and strangers.

All: We have been called together by the Holy Spirit. We will treasure this special time in sacred space.

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

Make your presence known among us, O God, for the foundations of our lives are shaking. We grieve in loneliness amid the crowds. We huddle in fear because of the violence that surrounds us. Cities are ravaged, and rural areas are not safe. We are exiled from the homeland of our dreams. Draw us to yourself, gracious God, that we may experience your reign among us. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE A CHILD

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Our wealth allows us the joyous opportunity to invest in ways that will make a difference in the lives of others. If we see the treasures we have received as private property, to be used only for our own benefit, they will entrap us. In the church, we are committed to sharing our faith and the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

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 “Bread of the World in Mercy Broken” (Colkins)

***Doxology #119** “Praise God from whom”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are grateful to you, O God, for the faith we have inherited. We give thanks for the courage and faithfulness of ancestors who suffered for the gospel that we might know your love. We join with them in putting our trust in you. May we match their generosity and self-discipline, seeking above all else to know your will and do it. To that end, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.

BRETHREN BELLS “Faith” (McKlveen)

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.

CALL TO PRAYER #349 “Spirit of the living God”
 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 17:5-10 NT 80

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

MESSAGE “So, Why Even Try” Pastor Twyla Rowe

TEMPLE CHOIR “Come to the Table” (Pote)

LOVE FEAST – Welcome to the Table

Unison Prayer of Confession: *Patient Lord, you know how easy it is for us to whine and complain bitterly about all those things in our lives that are difficult. We focus on them as though they were the only things that ever happened to us, forgetting the many blessings that you have given to us and the opportunities you give us to serve you. We feel alienated--you call us beloved. We feel lost--you seek us. We feel broken and battered--your love is a healing balm. Forgive us when we forget those things. Help us to always look to you for our healing and to return thanks to you by praise and serving others in your name. For we offer this prayer of confession of our failures and gratitude for your blessings. Amen.*

The Symbol of Service

Remarks

The Service of Handwashing

The Symbol of Community

Remarks

The Service of Fellowship

The Symbol of Redemption

Remarks

The Service of Holy Communion

Declaration of Faith for the Bread: *The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.*

Declaration of Faith for the Cup: *The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.*

HYMN #570 “We walk by faith”

[Verse 1]

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

[Verse 2]

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod, yet in his promise we rejoice and cry “My Lord and God!”

[Verse 3]

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:

[Verse 4]

that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold you as you are in full and endless sight.

[Verse 5]

*We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear of him who
spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.*

BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE

“Victory Through Faith”

(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

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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 October 5, 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, October 5 - Holy God...and Blessed Savior, I want to be bound to you with a holy love that makes us one. I want to be bound together with my brothers and sisters in Christ with a holy love that encourages each other's faith to grow stronger. Send your Spirit to wash away any selfish attitude within me that may keep me from having a willing and compassionate heart to serve those in need. I pray for our church as she works with other congregations around the world to help build the kingdom of God. Send a vision to all of God's people that will enable us to show our communities and the whole world that you are the one and only Living God who loves everyone. Let my life be a daily example of 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 Eileen Smith for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir and Brethren Bells for our morning music.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of my sister, Tina Houpt, on the two-year anniversary of her going to heaven on October 7, given by Julie Herman.

Today is our Non-Traditional Fall Love Feast. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Thanks to all for your gift(s) of non-perishable food items and your continued support of this ministry to our community.

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/

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 Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2nd. We will have a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 AM service and the business meeting will follow. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken, drinks, and paper products. Please sign up so we know how much chicken to buy and bring a dish to share. Thank you!

Remembrance Sunday—November 2, 2025—Please join us for a special Service of Remembrance Worship Service on Sunday, November 2nd, as we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved one who have passed in the last year.

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. 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.

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.

Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and at other convenient locations around the church. To assist our financial secretary, we ask that you use an envelope and please put your name and envelope number on the outside. Here's a tip - take a few envelopes home and stick one of those return address labels we all get on the outside. Then all you need to add is your number. Having your name and number on the outside of the envelope is a huge help to our offering counters. 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!

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 5

Love Feast/Food Pantry

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 (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

Monday, October 6

Church office closed

Tuesday, October 7

6:30 pm Worship Team Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, October 8

Administrative Assistant/Work from home

12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting/Room 302

Thursday, October 9

5:30 pm S&O Meeting/Mullendore Room

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room

7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, October 10

District Conference/Union Bridge COB

8:00 am Bulletin preparation/Church office

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

Saturday, October 11

District Conference/Union Bridge COB

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, October 12

Junior Church

8:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:15 am Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & YouTube (www.youtube.com/@hagerstowncob)

2:30 pm Growing Hope Global Family Fun Harvest Festival/Grossnickle Farm

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

The church calendar is online at
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