

Seek the things that are above

Opening prayer

God of mystery, wonder, and hope:

We yearn for new life. Set our minds on the things that are above.

Our hearts are broken when we see injustice inflicted upon those who are powerless. Grant space for healing and hope to emerge out of grief and pain. Give us courage to speak and act with a boldness that is grounded in your compassion for all people.

Enable us to be witnesses to your love, which fosters healing and justice.

We yearn for new life. Set our minds on the things that are above.
Amen.

Benediction

Go forth seeking the things that are above.

Go in Christ's enduring love—

a love that does not grow weary in seeking justice and lifting others up,

a love that is made real when we weep and sing, when we protest and pray alongside those who suffer.

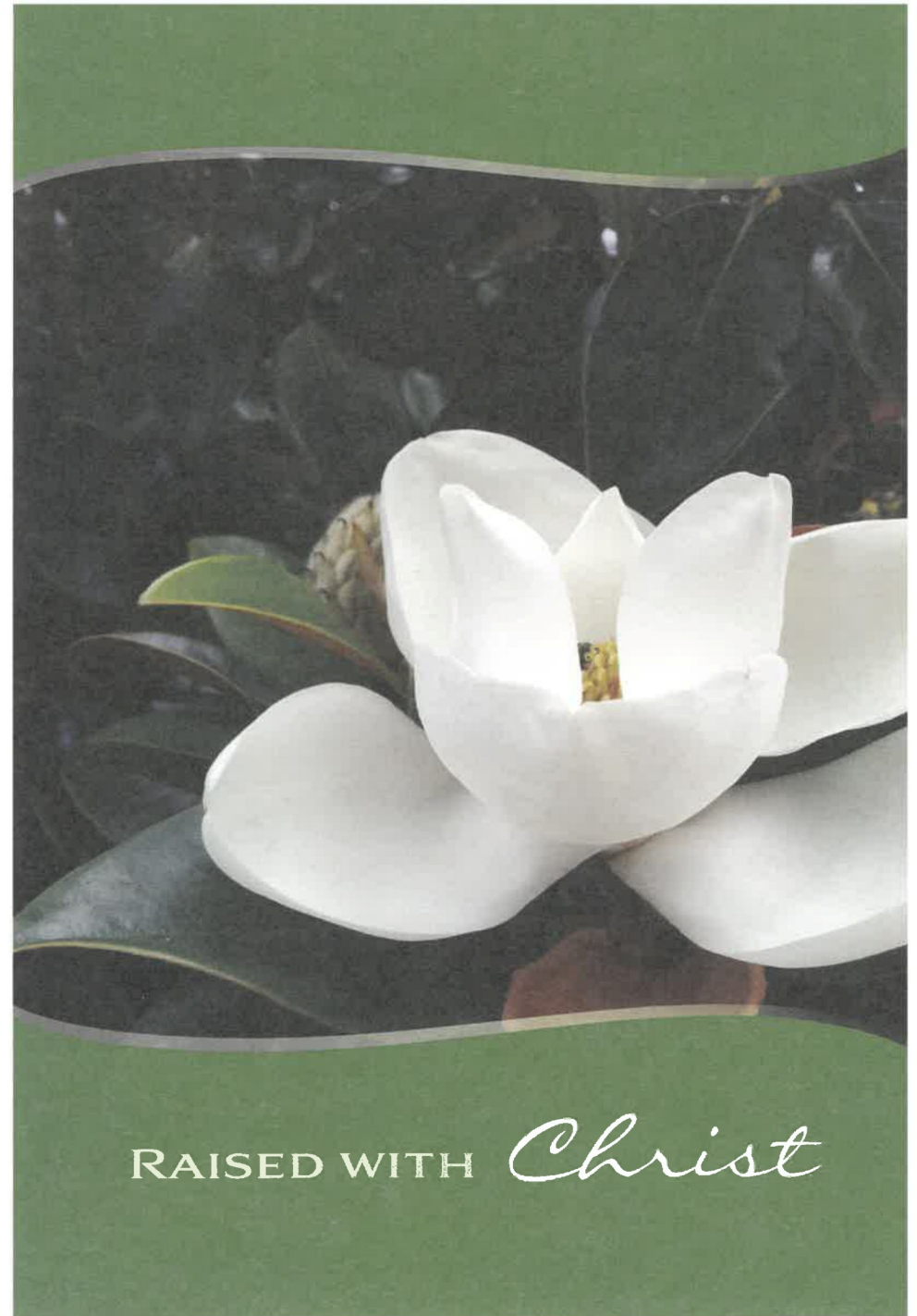
Go with courage, witnessing to the mystery and hope of the risen Christ.

Go in peace.

—Glenn McCrickard
La Verne, California

"So if you have been *raised with Christ*, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Acts 10:34-43; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10.

April 5, 2026, Easter. Photo © Jeff Lennard. Used by permission.
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RAISED WITH *Christ*

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Clipp, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE

“Easter Joy”
Brethren Bells

(Behnke)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed.

One: God is alive..

All: New birth is given.

One: Hope is alive...

All: A new age is dawning.

One: Joy is alive...

All: Redemption is here.

One: Love is alive

All: Death cannot harm us.

One: We are alive...

All: New life is within us.

One: The church is alive...

All: God's spirit is within us.

God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.

***HYMN #273**

“Low in the grave he lay”

[Verse 1]

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Savior! Waiting the coming day,

[Refrain]

*Jesus, my Lord! Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes!
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for ever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose! Alleluia! Christ arose!*

[Verse 2]

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus, my Savior! Vainly they seal the dead,

[Refrain]

*Jesus, my Lord! Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes!
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for ever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose! Alleluia! Christ arose!*

[Verse 3]

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior! He tore the bars away,

[Refrain]

*Jesus, my Lord! Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes!
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for ever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose! Alleluia! Christ arose!*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator of Life, in raising Christ Jesus up, through, out of, and beyond the chains of death, You opened for us the way to eternal and abundant life. May our Alleluias on this day float high above the ceiling of what we think we know and transcend to the heaven of what we believe—and thus live. Raise us up! Renew our lives! Resurrect our dreams! Through Jesus Christ our Living Savior, Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

We have come together today to give thanks for God's steadfast love. Each one of us is an expression of that love. By the way we live and the way we give, that love is carried into the lives of others who have had little experience of God's care. May our offerings represent an outpouring of thanksgiving.

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

“An Easter Blessing”

(Hegarty)

***Doxology #119**

“Praise God from whom”

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

By your hand, O God, we have been blessed with life, with food, with refreshment, with hope. Day by day you are saving us, healing our brokenness, calling forth our gifts, granting us strength to serve with Christ as a part of your revelation to the world. Thank you, God, for times of resurrection. Thank you for this day of celebration. We dedicate ourselves anew with our offering. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

NT 114

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,

"Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

MESSAGE

"Christ is Risen!"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

MORNING ANTHEM

"Awake, Arise! Go Forth!"

(Besig)

Temple Choir

*HYMN #280

"Christ the Lord is risen today"

[Verse 1]

*Christ the Lord is ris'n today! Alleluia! All creation joins to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia! Sing, O heav'ns, and earth,
reply: Alleluia!*

[Verse 2]

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! fought the fight, the battle won.
Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise.
Alleluia!*

[Verse 3]

*Lives again our glorious king, Alleluia! where, O death, is now thy sting?
Alleluia! Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia! where thy victory, O grave?
Alleluia!*

[Verse 4]

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! foll'wing our exalted Head. Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
Alleluia!*

[Verse 5]

*King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! everlasting life is this: Alleluia! Thee to
know, thy pow'r to prove, Alleluia! thus to sing, and thus to love: Alleluia!*

*BENEDICTION

One: Christ is with us in this place.

All: Alleluia!

One: Christ goes with us into the world.

All: Alleluia!

One: Go now in peace. Christ is risen!

All: Risen indeed! Alleluia!

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

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

POSTLUDE

“An Easter Postlude”

(Correll)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Easter Sunday HE IS RISEN

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

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

[www.youtube.com/
@hagerstowncob](http://www.youtube.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 April 5, 2026

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, April 5- Holy Jesus, my heart sings for joy in the afterglow of another glorious Easter. I feel a renewal within my soul because I know you are alive. You have set me free from the weight of sin and put before me a lighted path that leads to glorious eternal promises. It's a path I want to walk every day of my life. I want to call attention to and shine a light on that path, inviting others to join me on the journey. Because you live, my glorious Savior...I know I'm never alone... and I will seek to be faithful to you...to you alone. 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 Amy Clipp for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir and Brethren Bells for our morning music.

The arrangement on the altar this morning is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Donovan Beachley Jr., and our parents, Grace & Donovan Beachley Sr., and William and Ruth S. Canon, by Mary Ellen Beachley

Thank you to everyone who brought in a flower for our living cross.

April 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.

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. All items collected the months of April, May, & June will be going to our Community Picnic.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 15th through the 19th. The theme this year will be Tropical Trek. Sign-up sheets can be found on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Please fill out and give to any CE Team member, place in the offering, or put in Tina Mills mailbox. The first meeting is Tuesday, April 7th in the fellowship hall. CE Team: Tina Mills (chair), Debbie Long, Brenda Shane, Kay Ogilvie, & Tracie Poteet

Our May Congregational Business Meeting will be held on May 3, 2026. We will have a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following our combined 10:45 am Worship, then following lunch, we will have our Congregational Business Meeting. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the west entrance and fellowship hall. Please sign up so we can get a head count on attendance and to bring a dish. Spiritual Nurture will provide chicken and drinks.

All Music Sunday / Sunday School Orchestra—May 3, 2026—The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM. Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined worship service at 10:45 AM in the sanctuary. The Temple Choir, Early Service Praise Team, and the Brethren Bell Ringers will lead us in an inspiring musical worship service.

NOTICE—Starting in 2026 Contribution Statements will now be emailed. If you do not have an email on file with the church office, your statement will be mailed or placed in your church mailbox. By doing this, it will help us save money in postage and paper and will be a more convenient way for you to have access to your statements. If you do not have an email on file with the church office and wish to receive your statement via email, please contact Allyson (secretaryhcb@gmail.com or 301-733-3565) and she will add your email to the list.

The Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction will be held this year on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at the Carroll County Ag. Center in Westminster, MD and will start at 9:00 am. The Response Dinner will be held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Bush Creek Church of the Brethren.

World Vision Global 6k water walk/ run will be held on Saturday May 16th at Paramount Elementary School starting at 9:00AM—if you would like to participate or make donation you can go to: <https://global6k.worldvision.org/> and select teams 39506 or contact Mary Means.



Ed Poling Memorial HARC walk/run will be held on Saturday May 30th at Williamsport Zion Lutheran Church. If you would like participate or make a donation you can go to: harccoalition.org/hike/ or contact Mary Means.

The Little Library is now up outside near the Washington Street entrance. We filled it with 63 books last week. In one week there were only 6 left. We added an additional 20 books recently. If you have children's books, adult books, magazines, Readers Digest, novels, craft books, etc., please feel free to put them in the Little Library, or drop them in the box marked "Books" in the west entrance under the table. *Thank you, Spiritual Nurture Team.*

Would you like a truly fun and meaningful few days away with your family this summer? The Family & Grand Camp retreat, one of Shepherd's Spring's newest weekend adventures, is filled with faith-based fun for all ages. This camp, from Friday afternoon, July 31, through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 2, offers strong Scriptural teaching with lots of family-building activities -- from making your family's own t-shirts, to swimming and hiking together, gathering at campfires and much more -- while staying amid 220 acres of God's forested beauty, bordering the C&O Canal and the Potomac River!! All this, while staying in Shepherd's Spring's very own lodge, its Poplar Village cabins, or setting up your own tent and enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner in the lodge's beautiful dining room. It's all here -- intergenerational, even! Yes, BRING Grandma and Grandpa!! Build the meaning of having Christian FAMILY!!! And, there's no charge for bringing your littles, ages 5 and under!! So, how 'bout it? Right now, family meeting!! Begin your adventure at: <https://www.shepherdsspring.org/> and click on "Summer Camp". -- *Arn Platou*

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 Donnie Maas (240-866-1077). We can make arrangements to leave cards in your church mailbox or mail them to you.

Church mailboxes. Everyone is welcome to use the mailboxes. If you would like to be added or taken off the list, please contact Mary Means. If you have a mailbox, we ask that you be willing to monitor it. Any mail that is left in the mailboxes after a three-month period will be disposed of. The mailboxes are located in the hallway of the church office.

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!

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday/Food Pantry Sunday
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, April 6

Church office closed/Easter Monday
1:00 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room

Tuesday, April 7

7:00 pm Worship Meeting/Mullendore Room

Wednesday, April 8

Admin. Assistant/Work from home
12:00 pm Annual Conference Briefing Recording/Mullendore Room
(no delegate attendees)
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions

Thursday, April 9

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

Friday, April 10

8:00 am Bulletin prep/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of parking lot (1-3PM)

Saturday, April 11

Pastor Twyla's day off
8:00 am Community Breakfast/Fellowship Hall
(Doors open to the public 9:00-10:30AM)

Sunday, April 12

Junior Church
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 & YouTube (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

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org
Click the calendar tab.



Easter Flowers 2026



Easter Flowers 2026

In Memory Of

A Purple Mum has been placed for:

- ** My father and grandparents from Scott Fisher
- ** My "heavenly" family from Candice Summers

A Yellow Mum has been placed for:

- ** Gerald L. Stevens from Diane Graham
- ** My husband, Dave Fisher; Our parents from Doris Fisher

A Pink Tulip has been placed for:

- ** My dear sister, Kaye, whom I miss very much, from Doris Smith (2)
- ** Our loved ones who have passed from John & Jenny Ferguson
- ** Roy & Geraldine Crilly & Gene Hardy with love from the Hardys
- ** Clyde, Oneida, & Willis Clark with love from the Hardys
- ** Joe & Catherine Johnson from Larry & JoEllen Wisherd
- ** Edwin & Nancy Wisherd from Larry & JoEllen Wisherd
- ** Our friends Richard & Carolyn Bowman from Larry & Theresa Messer
- ** Michael Buhrman from Suzanne Buhrman
- ** Edward & Susan Hultsch from Brian & Cinnamon Shay (2)
- ** Linda Ebersole from Don Ebersole
- ** David Nycum, with love from Debbie Nycum

A Pansy Garden has been placed for:

- ** My mom and dad as well as my sister Susan from Kathy Kelsey
- ** My Father, Greg Snyder from Tina Mills
- ** Brothers—Ellis & David Duffey & Sisters—Eloise Miller & Mirium Anderson (4)
- ** My parents, Lawrence & Hazel Long from Brenda Shane
- ** My brother, Gerald Long from Brenda Shane
- ** My parents, Harold & Hilda Brumbaugh from Christine Ellis
- ** Our parents, James & Beulah Adams and George & Beulah Winner from Ray & Wanda Winner
- ** Suzie's parents, Ellis & Peggy Duffey; Bob's parents, Robert & Elise Wolfe; Nephew, Joel Duffey Jr., and Bob's sister, Kay Wolfe from Bob & Suzie Wolfe
- ** Ruth & Earl Coffman from Mary & Paul Early (to be given to Judy Dahlander)
- ** Parents, D. Harold Winger & Helen Winger Hoffer given by daughter, Pamela Frusher
- ** My husband, Glenn, Happy Easter, sadly missed from Jan Young
- ** Our parents from Clair & Linda Baker (2)
- ** Greg Snyder from Marie

- ** Marguerite Pecenco from Suzanne Burhman
- ** My parents, Robert & Pauline Wetzel from Debbie Nycum
- ** Jan Marie Ernst from Becky & Bob Ernst
- ** Dwight Edward Lumm from Becky & Bob Ernst
- ** Donovan Beachley, husband of Mary Ellen Beachley from Emma Lyles
- ** Ellis & Peggy Duffey, parents of Suzie Wolfe from Emma Lyles
- ** Gloria Glem, wife of Richard Clem from Emma Lyles
- ** Dean Miller, husband of Karen Miller from Emma Lyles
- ** Roy & Geraldine Crilly, parents of Amy Hardy from Emma Lyles
- ** Sherry Craig, wife of Joe Craig from Emma Lyles
- ** Linda Ebersole, wife of Don Ebersole from Emma Lyles
- ** Glenn Young, husband of Jan Young from Emma Lyles
- ** Bobby Lyles, loving husband of Emma Lyles

With Thanks To

A Pansy Garden has been placed for:

- ** My family & friends for all the help you have been. Given by Pamela Frusher
- ** Allyson McPeak with my love and gratitude for all you do. Happy Easter, Jan Young
- ** HCOB from Don Ebersole

In Tribute To

A Purple Mum has been placed for:

- ** Our 3 sons/daughter-in-laws whom we love so very much from Frank & Sharon Kronawetter
- ** My husband, Frank, who is always by my side no matter what. From Sharon Kronawetter

A Pansy Garden has been placed for:

- ** Our lifelong friend, Doug Remsberg. Love, Scott & Judy
- ** Our favorite kids, Nicole and Brian. Love from Mom & Dad
- ** Our parents from Scott & Judy
- ** Emma Lyles from Christine Ellis
- ** My family, John, Kalli, Kam, Jodi and Jason. Love Mom (Jan Young)
- ** Tanner, Chelsea & Maelynn Shay from Brian & Cinnamon Shay (4)
- ** Esther Boleyn from Emma Lyles
- ** Eileen Smith from Emma Lyles
- ** Liz Ashby from Emma Lyles
- ** Retta Fralin from Emma Lyles
- ** Carol Miller from Emma Lyles
- ** Sue Vanderveer from Emma Lyles
- ** Doris Smith from Emma Lyles
- ** Bucky Stockslager from Emma Lyles
- ** Sandy Clipp from Emma Lyles
- ** Barbara Starliper from Emma Lyles
- ** Alice Edmonds from Emma Lyles
- ** Judy Long from Emma Lyles
- ** Ann Platou from Emma Lyles
- ** Pastor Twyla & Don Rowe from Emma Lyles
- ** Diana Shepherd from Emma Lyles

- ** Karen Lowry from Emma Lyles
- ** Judy Dahlhamer from Emma Lyles
- ** Kay Ogilvie from Emma Lyles
- ** Diane Graham from Emma Lyles
- ** Robin Davies from Emma Lyles
- ** Nancy Gingrich from Emma Lyles
- ** Heather Kees from Emma Lyles
- ** Deb Long from Emma Lyles
- ** Wanda Winner from Emma Lyles
- ** Tracie Poteet from Emma Lyles
- ** Julie Herman from Emma Lyles
- ** Allyson McPeak from Emma Lyles
- ** Mary Means from Emma Lyles
- ** Christine Ellis from Emma Lyles
- ** Carolyn Motz from Emma Lyles
- ** Eunice Plank from Emma Lyles
- ** Lisa Bussard from Emma Lyles
- ** Roberta Maas from Emma Lyles
- ** Ann Parker from Emma Lyles
- ** Jenny Ferguson from Emma Lyles
- ** Burt Young from Emma Lyles
- ** Mary Bowman from Emma Lyles



We grieve many things in life, but the loss of a loved one is probably the most devastating. As a result, the grief journey is a painful and lonely one. GriefShare is an international faith-based ministry that provides valuable tools to anyone who has lost a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other family member or friend, even if that loss is not recent. Our HCOB team offers a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief and where participants can find support in the company of others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become an even greater support for you.

Our spring session of GriefShare began on Monday, Feb. 16, and will continue each Monday afternoon through May 11, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Mullendore Room. Cost of the session is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials. You may join the group at any time during the 13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. GriefShare recommends repeating the 13-week course a second time to absorb even more of the content, so if you have participated in GriefShare before and wish to attend again, we welcome you.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

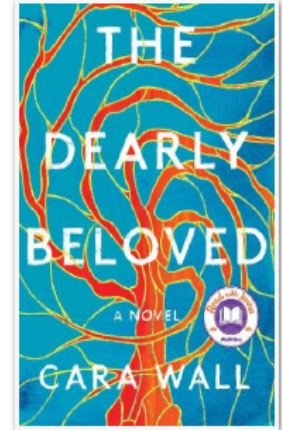
The Novel Bunch presents...

The Dearly Beloved

by Cara Wall

"This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever."
—Jenna Bush Hager (A Today Show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection)

"The best book about faith in recent memory."
—Entertainment Weekly



This book is a character study about friendship, family, and faith. Charles and Lily & James and Nan meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to manage the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. However, their personal differences threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to follow his father as an esteemed history professor at Harvard until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. So, how can he fall in love with intellectual Lily after she tells him that she never will believe in God? And yet, how can he not believe?

James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his nervous mother. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan, the devout and beloved daughter of a Mississippi minister and debutante. Despite James's guarded optimism, Nan's gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. *The Dearly Beloved* follows these two couples through decades of love, friendship, jealousy, forgiveness, and commitment. Against the backdrop of conflict and change facing the city and the church's congregation, these four forge improbable paths through their evolving relationships as each struggles with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy. This book is a moving reflection on faith and reason, and the ways we find meaning in our lives.

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Place: Fellowship Hall

*This is a book for men and women alike, so we encourage the men of the congregation to attend and offer their perspectives.

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, Judy Williams, Jan Young