

October 29, 2023
A Simple Gospel
Reverend Dr. Keith Herron

Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350
countrysideucc.org

Who We Are

We are an inclusive, open and affirming family of faith,
welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance.

We are diverse, yet united by Christ's example.

We care for one another, support one another and
challenge one another to become all that God creates us to be.

We work together to nurture our community and
to promote peace, equality and justice in our conflicted world.



Because of **You** our church changes lives.

Order of Worship 10 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude: *The Great Pumpkin Waltz* - Vince Guaraldi

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Emma Boyd

Examen

Carlos Figueroa

Call to Worship

Diane Hill

Hearing God's Word

Children's Church

Rebecca Morello

† Hymn #494 (vs. 1 - 3): *They'll Know We Are Christians*

Scripture:

Matthew 22:34-46

Diane Hill

Reflection:

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation: *Put A Little Love In Your Heart* - Holiday / Myers / De Shannon

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Judy Waible

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Basket

Musical Reflection: *What the World Needs Now* - Burt Bacharach / Hal David

Countryside Blessing

Mary Johnston

Postlude: *The Great Pumpkin Waltz* (reprise)

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

† Indicates those places where those who are able
are invited to stand.

Julia Olynyk, vocals - Matt Wallace; flute, sax - Rick Avard, piano
Alex Ritter, organ - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass



Halloween Celebration

🦇 Today!

Trunk-or-Treat: 1-3 p.m.



Chili, Mac & Cheese Feed



2-4 p.m.

(And Cinnamon Rolls!)



Spooky Organ
Concert: 4 p.m.

Joys and Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have someone who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list and /or on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

JOYS:

Please lift these joys with prayers of celebration and praise!

While it's not pure joy, we're glad that an estimated 90-100 participants came to spend time together in silent prayer last Sunday evening. Most were from Countryside but representatives from Temple Israel and the American Muslim Institute were also present. We continue to pray that we stay connected with each other and show up for each other during this time of war in the Middle East.

CONCERNS:

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Jeri Cook had eye surgery on October 26. We continue to pray for a full recovery for her.

Nancy Deetz fell recently. While she didn't break her hip, she fractured her pelvis in two places and broke her left sacral vertebrae. She's now at Brookside Rehab on 144th Street, Room 101B. If you'd like to send her a card, the address is Brookestone Village, Inc. 4330 South 144th Street, Room 101B, Omaha, NE 68137.

Mark (Roxanne) Draper will be having hip replacement surgery on November 1 at Methodist Hospital. We pray many blessings upon him as he prepares and we pray the surgery grants relief from pain and mobility concerns.

David (Robyn) Hubbard is having eye surgery on November 1 for a macular repair. We pray for him as he prepares for the procedure and we ask God to guide the hands of those who will work with him.

Don (Bev) Sarton had an angioplasty on October 26, and while he didn't have any stents placed, his doctors updated his medications to better treat his symptoms. We continue to pray that he will get the relief he desires through this updated treatment.



BECAUSE OF YOU **YOU** OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES

Stewardship of Liberation

by By Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker

There is a new Pharaoh running the empire, one that does not know Joseph (Exodus 1). The exodus story begins by reciting the names of descendants of Joseph in Egypt. Joseph and all his brothers have died, but their children and grandchildren have grown in number and strength. The growth has not led to any economic security but has made the Israelites vulnerable to oppression, extraction, and exploitation.

It's in this biblical context that God calls a pair of midwives into a place where oppression is rampant. God calls them via their vocation as midwives. God calls us first to be stewards of who we are, not just we have.

The midwives teach us that faithful stewardship has a nature: we offer what we have in ways that resist oppression and build community. Stewardship is an act of resistance, to resist a narrative that says we are not enough, that we don't have enough. Stewardship which centers people who appear to have little or no power to change things. In witnessing the midwives, they give us renewed energy to remember our call: when the ministry of women, when our very bodies, aren't safe at church, the streets or in our own country. God calls two women to act together through faithful stewardship of what they had and who they were. This act of stewardship in the face of an extraction economy and empire, they become midwives to liberation.

“The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ‘When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.’ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.” (Exodus 1: 15-17).

Shiphrah and Puah resist and refuse to obey the decree of the King in the inaugural act of liberation. Notice these two midwives act first, God acts later. This is critical insight on stewardship. Stewardship is the place we are called to partner with God. Is it possible that God needs something to work with, that God is not a magician, but needs choices, risks, possibilities, for our communities to do something concrete, to act decisively in the offering of our gifts, to be stewards, to create a new path of liberation!

A new threat to liberation meets us in our time and place, and therefore a renewed call of stewardship. Yes, celebrate the liberative work we’ve already done in partnership with God and community. The victories and battles already won. The Lord God promises us that together as indispensable stewards of liberation, that indeed we are midwifing liberation. So go midwife liberation in the church, in the community with the people of God everywhere.



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