

Save the date!!!!

Countryside's Annual

ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

Sunday, Aug. 27

SMALL GROUP FAIR

Sunday, Aug. 27

The Box for July & August

Donate new or gently used elementary-age books for an elementary school in each of the Millard, Westside and OPS school systems.

- Picture and board books (youngest students)
- Fiction and non-fiction books (grades 2-6)
- Easy beginner chapter books
- Book series by popular authors Mo Willems or Dav Pilkey
- Recent Golden Sower selections



COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

13130 FAITH PLAZA | OMAHA, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350
COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG

REV. DR. KEITH HERRON



PLAYBILL®

Countryside Community Church
OMAHA, NE

Summer Sermon Series

GENESIS

THE FIRST STORIES

*The First Stories:
Warning: God at Work
August 20, 2023
Genesis 45:1-15*

SYNOPSIS

After being thrown into a cistern in the middle of the desert and then saved only by selling him off into slavery, the resolution to his dilemma occurs in Egypt, apart from his family, where he blooms where he was planted. Admittedly not many would consider being sold on the slave market to be particularly good news, but it happened in just the slenderest slice of time when it was most needed. Providence is a word we don't use much anymore, but it's still a word loaded with meaning for those who believe life's journey has great purpose. No matter whether you're a person of faith or not, as humans, we're meaning-making people and it's in our nature to need to make sense out of all those inexplicable and capricious events that happen.

Betrayed by his brothers, he eventually came face-to-face with the troubled Pharaoh because he was known to interpret dreams. Slender threads once again altered the arc of his life and he became a trusted and influential servant of the Pharaoh. So, years later, "as fate would have it," the same famine that ravaged Egypt also desolated Palestine, and Joseph's brothers came face-to-face with the brother they had sold into slavery. But revenge was not Joseph's way, because he had not let the injustice of his brothers turn him into a bitter man.

"God sent me..." was Joseph's theological interpretation of the chain of events that led him to where he was. It was what Joseph did with the questions of the harm that had been done to him in his earlier life.

DISCUSS

In one word, why do you go to
Church on Sunday?

TODAY!

Countryside Conversations: Gather. Discuss. Connect.

Two church-wide events that will encourage you to express your thoughts and opinions (and attitudes) about the church in preparation for the settled minister. No one is a mind reader, and no one person can know how members and friends of the church think, feel, or believe about the church. Let's listen and learn together!

Designed to ensure all voices are heard, Countryside Conversations is a guided discussion facilitated by Rev. Dr. Keith Herron, our Intentional Interim Minister. Participants gather in groups of 5 to 7 people and openly discuss the questions presented. This process allows each willing member to speak about their feelings and convictions about the church in the present, reflect on the past, and how they see the future. It also helps you meet new people, hear different perspectives, and share what you've learned and value about Countryside.

Join us today, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Marys' Hall for the first Countryside Conversation. All ages from 12 to 99 are encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided for children under 12. Boxed lunches will be provided. A \$5 donation is suggested.

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 9:00 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:

Dick and Pat Galusha have moved into the Immanuel Assisted Living facility. Pat shared that Dick's health has improved greatly after many days of illness before they made the move. If you would like to send them a card or note, their new address is 6801 N 67th Plaza, 68152.

CONCERNS:

Larry Weiss has started his radiation therapy for his lung tumor. Please continue to keep **Larry and Mary Jo** in your prayers as they proceed through this treatment. They have expressed such gratitude for the continued prayer support they have received.

We join people all around the country and the world in praying for the island of Maui in Hawaii, especially the town of Lahaina, which was engulfed in flames from a wildfire last week. All buildings associated with the historic Waiola Church, a UCC congregation, were among those that were destroyed, according to members. You can donate directly at support.ucc.org/Hawaii-wildfires. There is also a link available on the homepage of the Countryside website.

We continue to pray weekly for the Pastoral Search Committee, as they continue in their discernment towards calling Countryside's next Settled Pastor. We appreciate all the time and effort the PSC is putting into this process, and we continue to hold them in prayer.

CAST AND SCENES

CAST

JOSEPH

THE OLDER BROTHERS

PHARAOH

BENJAMIN

JACOB, JOSEPH'S FATHER

SCENES

PHARAOH'S COURT IN EGYPT

WHERE JOSEPH DISCLOSES HIS IDENTITY

GOSHEN, THE LAND GIVEN TO

JOSEPH'S FAMILY IN EGYPT

FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

When our lives appear to be lived at the mercy of others who hold our futures in their hands, how can we believe God is still able to work God's divine will in our lives?

Joseph's theological interpretation of the chain of events that led him to Egypt was what Joseph did with the questions of the harm that had been done to him in his earlier life. "Where was God?" he surely asked. God was mysteriously, providentially using this experience so his family could be saved from starvation. In other words, it was God's providence that was at work taking the broken pieces, the fragments of his life and making something out of those circumstances to bless his family and keep the promise alive. Can you see the promise of providence in challenging experiences?

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

Darn That Dream - Jimmy Van Heusen

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

Pam Kregg

Hearing God's Word

Children's Church

Rebecca Morello

† Hymn #86:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Scripture:

Genesis 45:1-15

Pam Kregg

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation:

Pick Yourself Up - Jerome Kern

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

The Basket

† Hymn:

God, Give Me Time

Countryside Blessing

Elizabeth Hansen

Postlude:

God Bless the Child - Arthur Herzog Jr. / Billie Holiday

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

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.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Amy Blanchard
wishing Bruce and France Blanchard a Happy Fiftieth Anniversary.
Thank you to all who helped them celebrate.

MUSIC NOTES

Hymnologist Greg Scheer writes, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness is inspired by the simple realization that God is at work in our lives on a daily basis." [Hymn writer Thomas Chisolm] wrote, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness. The hymn reminds us that God doesn't only work in dramatic or miraculous ways, but also in simple, everyday ways. It also reminds us that Jesus has never failed us in the past, so we have no reason to doubt his faithfulness in the future."

Julia Olyynk, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax - Alex Ritter, piano organ
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass