



January 2, 2022
 Whispers and WOWs!
 Rev. Judy Waible

Julia Olynyk, vocalist
 Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano
 Steve Gomez, bass

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.

Order of Worship

Gathering

Meeting God in Music

† Words of Welcome / Mission Statement

Announcements

Tri-Faith Garden Committee

Memorial Sunday

Examen

Call to Worship

Bruce Blanchard 9:00 a.m. - John McCollister 11:00 a.m.

Musical Offering:

Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Poetry: *It's Not Over*: Ann Weems

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12, Matthew 14:13-21

Bruce Blanchard 9:00 a.m. - John McCollister 11:00 a.m.

Reflection

Musical Meditation: *What Child Is This?*

Responding to God's Word

† Communion / Lord's Prayer

Musical Reflection: *Arise, Shine Out,
 Your Light Has Come*

Poetry: *The Work of Christmas* -
 Howard Thurman

Charge and Benediction

France Blanchard 9:00 a.m. - Deb McCollister 11:00 a.m.

† Congregational Carol: *We Three Kings*

Music Notes:

A Poem by Ann Weems: *It's Not Over*

"It is not over, this birthing.
 There are always newer skies
 into which
 God can throw stars.
 When we begin to think
 that we can predict the Advent of God,
 that we can box the Christ
 in a stable in Bethlehem,
 that's just the time
 that God will be born
 in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
 Those who wait for God
 watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
 listening
 always listening
 for angel words."

A Poem by Howard Thurman: *The Work of Christmas*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart.

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.
 NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

Rev. Tracey Perry
 Interim Minister of Worship
 and Congregational Care

Dan Loven-Crum
 Interim Director of Vision
 and Stewardship

Joys and Concerns

One way to nurture our church community is to pray for the members of our church family with both joys and concerns. If you would like to be included on the list in the bulletin or be on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Debbie Vihstadt at debbiev@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350.

JOYS:

Thank you to **Derek Miller** who ran out and helped repair a church member's fence on Tuesday.

Thank you to everyone who helped make meals this past year for members of our community. These acts of kindness go such a long way in helping people while they are healing.

CONCERNS:

Steve (Kris) Hess's father, Norman Hess, is very ill. Please pray for his comfort and peace and for the Hess family, for strength for them as they take care of Norman during this stage of his life.

Bill Besack – his health has improved. Please continue to pray for his peace of mind, God's comfort and strength. Continued Prayers for **Nancy** and her family for her comfort, peace and for them to embrace each other during this season with love.

Please pray for God's complete healing for **Ardy Stultz** as she starts a six-month chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. She received news that her cancer is localized and has not spread.

Bob Hallquist had a successful heart surgery on December 14. Please pray for his complete recovery and comfort and please pray for strength for his wife, **Lois**, to help care for him while he recovers.

Please pray for **Countryside Community Church**. Please pray for God's loving kindness to be a presence in our hearts, always.

MEMORIALS:

Rod Bennett passed away on the morning of Christmas Eve surrounded by the love of his family. Please pray for the Bennett family for peace and comfort after losing both **Dee and Rod** over the holiday season. We will update this information when we know the date of his memorial service.

New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.