



On August 6, we will commemorate World Peace Sunday in worship with music, liturgical gesture, and liturgical art. Part of this will involve a congregational project with the goal of folding 1000 peace cranes out of paper.

We will also have an art exhibit in the Narthex in conjunction with World Peace Sunday and we need your help! If you have created any art or own any art that coincides with the themes of peace and love, please get in touch with Alex at alexr@countysideucc.org.

### 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:  
A Heel-Grabbing Way of Life  
July 23, 2023  
Genesis 29:15-28*

# SYNOPSIS

Bill Moyers claims this story reads more like a Greek tragedy or a television soap opera because this is a story about the trickster finally meeting his match! "What goes around comes around," we say with a knowing wink. Recognize a deal is struck in the story and seven years of work are patiently offered in good faith; then imagine Jacob's embarrassment in waking up from a long wedding celebration and on his honeymoon morning he discovers this was not Rachel, but her older sister Leah and she was now his wife, not Rachel!

Hard to believe? You've seen those Middle Eastern veils ... the Bible does tell us Leah's one beauty was her eyes. Uncle Laban gave Jacob the trickster (his future son-in-law) a healthy dose of Middle Eastern "bait and switch" at the altar.

It was one old trickster playing the younger. Maybe by citing Leah's one beautiful trait was the Bible's delicate way of suggesting she was plain or simply ordinary in contrast to her sister's striking beauty. Admittedly, Middle Eastern women are very beautiful and the veil showcases the allure of those beautiful almond eyes. We're never told what Leah's inner thoughts might have been over Jacob's favoritism toward Rachel's greater beauty. But it's obvious the focus of the story highlights Jacob's belief that the rule of the firstborns didn't always apply. By living the trickster life, walking in life as though he could walk between the raindrops, his needs were simple. He wanted nothing more than to marry Rachel, the love of his life. This is a complicated, ironic story driven by the rule of the firstborns.

# 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](mailto:sarahrj@countrysideucc.org)

## JOYS:

**Bruce and France Blanchard** will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 22. Their family invites you to join them in the coffeehouse following the service on Sunday, August 13, for an informal reception of beverages and sweet treats to help them celebrate. Hope to see you there!

## CONCERNS:

Please pray for **Joyce Dixon Kidd**, whose husband, John Kidd, passed away in Tucson, Arizona, on Saturday, July 15. If you would like to send Joyce a card, her address is 8528 North Nob Hill, Tucson, AZ 85742.

**Diane Scott** is asking for prayers for Will and Jack's other grandma, **Roxanne**. She has been dealing with ongoing health issues and side effects from medication for those issues causing additional problems.

**Larry and Mary Jo Weiss** want to thank everyone for their prayers and kind words. They feel the support is invaluable to them. Thankfully, the cancer has not spread and there is a high likelihood that it can be treated successfully with radiation. Larry will start treatment within the next 2-3 weeks.

***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

LABAN

JACOB

LEAH

ZILPAH

BILHAH

## SCENES

LABAN'S WELL

FEAST TO WELCOME LABAN'S NEPHEW

JACOB'S HOME AND TWO WIVES,

LEAH AND RACHEL

## FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

Lifelong habits get ingrained and continue with us. Jacob had grown up living by deceit and building coalitions to serve his wishes. How does life whittle down those unsavory characteristics until we adopt honesty and healthy relationships?

Jacob learns difficult lessons but somehow is not able to manage loving his wives equally.

How does this story illustrate, "what goes around, comes around"?

## Order of Worship

### Gathering

Prelude:

*This Masquerade* - Leon Russell

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

Mark Ware

### Hearing God's Word

Baptism:

Graham Matthew Rogers son of

Jossy and Ryan Rogers

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Scripture:

Genesis 29:15-28

Mark Ware

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

† Hymn #452 (vs. 1,2):

*Here I Am, Lord*

### Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

The Basket

Musical Reflection:

*Somedays* - Steven Marzullo

Countryside Blessing

Charlotte Wadhams

Postlude:

*Ain't Misbehavin'* -

Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller / Harry Brooks / Andy Razaf

## 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 the Follon Family  
in honor of Jim Follon's birthday Monday, July 31.

A memorial service for **Louise Way** will be held on  
August 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax  
Rick Avard, piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass