

STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

November 5, 2023

Stewardship Series

Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship

"How and where we invest our social capital is an act of faith that reflects our missional priorities.... The goal of following Jesus isn't to create self-contained communities of Christians. Rather, our calling is to live as Christ - to be the body of Christ - in the world."

-John W. Vest

WELCOME Pastor Cindy

PRELUDE *Give Me Jesus* Trad. Spiritual
Loren & Donna Rhodes arr. Mark Hayes

*CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Cindy

One: Family of faith, hear God's call: To take our everyday, ordinary lives—Our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around lives—

All: We place them before God as an offering.

One: Hear God's call into transformation from the inside out: Beyond settling with ease and without thought into the culture around us,

All: We turn our attention to God's ways.

One: Hear God's call to love. To love from the center of who we are, as good friends who care deeply. To run for dear life from evil, and hold on for dear life to good.

All: We commit to being a people together – not quitting on one another in hard times.

One: Hear God's call to a grace-filled life. Where we can be inventive in hospitality, discover beauty in everyone, and invest in each other with joy.

All: We seek to connect one another to God's faithful love and boundless grace.

*SONG *All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord*[^] 21 vs 1,2,3,5

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12: 1-2, 9-21 Meta Meckstroth

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Pastor Ben

SERVICE OF BAPTISM AND RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

*LITANY OF COMMITMENT Pastor Ben

(see insert for text)

*SONG *Heart with Loving Heart United*[^] 420

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP Bekah Ford, Community Building Team

SONG *In My Life, God, Be Glorified*^{^^} Bob Kilpatrick

In my life, God, be glorified, be glorified.

In my life, God, be glorified, today.

In this Body, be glorified, be glorified.

In this Body, be glorified, today.

In our lives, God, be glorified, be glorified.

In our lives, God, be glorified, today.

MESSAGE Chopping Wood Pastor Ben

CHORAL RESPONSE *Come Build a Church* Ken Medema
(see insert for text)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Cindy

CHORAL ANTHEM *Come Build a Church* Ken Medema
(see insert for text)

SENDING Pastor Ben

POSTLUDE *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* Trad. Indian/
Loren Rhodes arr. Douglas Wagner & Hayes

Let us know you
were here!



^{*}Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit

[^]Public Domain

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Litany of Commitment

One: We as a congregation renew our promises to God -

**All: to live faithfully and abundantly -
continuing to learn and grow.**

One: We renew our promises to each other -

**All: to be the Body of Christ together -
surrounding one another with love and
encouragement.**

One: We commit to you, Paul, Jim, Matthew, Amy,
Tom, Gail, Jeremy, and Madison.

**All: We promise to you our help, our prayers,
and our concern, so that we may all increase in the
knowledge and love of God and each other.**

One: We celebrate with you, Gavin,
grateful for the commitments you make today.

**All: With hope, we choose to invest in you so that you will
continue to grow strong in compassion,
vigorous in service, and sure in the way of Christ.**

One: May God's blessing be on all who have made new and
renewed
commitments today, remembering that we belong to each
other and to God. May we be strengthened to continue to
follow Jesus, wherever he leads. Amen.

Come Build a Church

Ken Medema

God of Creation, Maker of all things.

We gather in this place to pray.

We do invite you, come now among us;

Come and build your Church...Today.

Refrain:

Come build a church with soul and spirit,

come build a church of flesh and bone.

We need no tower rising skyward; no house of wood, or glass, or
stone.

Come build a church with human frailty.

Come build a Church of flesh and blood.

Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us see the tongues of fire. Let us hear the great wind roar.

Let us know the awe and wonder that we've only glimpsed before.

Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and
weep.

Let us know the great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.

Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bonds.

Reaching out across the chasms, bringing walls of hatred down.

Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends.

Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends.

Refrain

Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and
mind;

Peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind.

Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night;

Like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's gentle light.

Refrain