

Be Transformed

This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! And let us have a pop quiz. I bet you never expected that in church, did you? But here we go.

What was the name of the baby found along the banks of the Nile? Moses. Correct.

That was easy. Now for one a bit harder. Name the two midwives who disregarded Pharaoh's edict to kill all Hebrew baby boys, and who delivered Moses.

Pharaoh gave this horrific order to curtail the rapid growth of the Hebrew population who were enslaved in Egypt. It didn't work. It just made God bless the community more.

But back to the question. What were their names?

They were Shiprah and Puah. Don't worry if you didn't know the answer. I didn't either when this question appeared on the Bible content part of my ordination exams. It had me stumped, and my friends as well.

It's noteworthy that the midwives' names live on in the ongoing story of salvation because women were often written out of the manuscripts by the male authors of the time.

But here in the story of Moses, all we have are women defying authority. We have the midwives as the heroines who prevented a genocide. We have Moses' mother who hid her baby the first few months of life, before putting him in a basket made of reeds and floating him in the Nile. We have Moses' sister watching the basket bobbing on the banks of the Nile to ensure her baby brother is safe. Then we have the daughter of Pharaoh who adopts the babe as her son and gives him the name "Moses," which means "drawn from the water."

Each decisive, risky and faithful act of these women builds upon the next, ultimately transforming the Israelites from the enslaved to desert wanderers to recipients of the Promised Land. And that is how a better tomorrow is created — in stages and with the help of people working together. Bringing about change isn't a solitary act.

The world, which is always in some stage of transformation because God is never done with us, needs your hands this day to deliver hope or weave a basket of safety or raise a child whose voice will say to a pharaoh, "Let my people go."

We all have a part to play in heralding in God's kingdom. May your name be one that is remembered in the who's who of God's children who dared, risked and spoke up.

Gracious God, Your plans for a better tomorrow will never be thwarted. Peace will reign. Justice will prevail. The outcasts and forgotten will be welcomed. And so, Great God, here are our hands. Bless them and use them in transforming Your broken world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

August 23, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Outdoor Worship: Blessing of the Animals

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Pat Grossman

Music: Dave Augustadt | Video: Wilhelm Eisenbraun

***NO MATTER**

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Praise God!**

***ENTER, REJOICE, AND COME IN**

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joyce, and come in.

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 47:1-6, 9

***BROTHER SISTER CREATURES**

Huge and tiny beings,
Each one part of our family.
Hearing, smelling, seeing,
Each one part of our family.

Refrain Brother sister creatures of the ground,
Brother sister creatures of the sea,
Brother sister creatures of the air,
Oh I love my brother sister creatures.

Loud and quiet beings,
Each one part of our family.
Moving, touching, feeling,
Each one part of our family. *Refrain* x2

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:8-11

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great Creator, a giant fish saved Jonah, ravens brought bread to Elijah, a donkey refuted Balaam, and a rooster called out Peter. Yet, our hearts are sometimes hardened to the wisdom of the animals. Forgive us for being anthropocentric and teach us again how to be good stewards in this garden world. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Sung x2

Brother sister creatures of the ground,
Brother sister creatures of the sea,
Brother sister creatures of the air,
Oh I love my brother sister creatures.

SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-10

REFLECTION

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*ALL GOD'S CRITTERS GOT A PLACE IN THE CHOIR

Refrain: All God's critters got a place in the choir

Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws,
or anything they got now.

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And old cow just goes 'moo'.

Well the dogs and the cats they take up the middle
The honeybee hums and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls. *Refrain*

Listen to the top where the little bird sings
The melody with the high voice ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and he's on his way
The 'possum don't have much to say
And the porcupine talks to herself. *Refrain*

Everybody here is a part of the plan
We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's one great symphony. *Refrain*

CARRY GOD'S LOVE

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Thank You for Worshiping with Us!



Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: August 23 - 30

Sunday:	11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon Online Fellowship
Tuesday:	1 PM Quilting/Knitting
Wednesday:	5 PM Shoulder to Lean On (Ministry on the Margins)
Thursday:	7 PM Mahjong Game Night
Friday:	9 AM Bible Study (in-person & online)
Saturday:	8:30 AM Jam-boree
Sunday:	10 AM Sunday Worship
	11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon Online Fellowship
	11:15 AM Christian Education (in-person & online)

Sponsored Anonymously

All of September is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Upcoming Events

Jam-boree – Aug. 29, 8:30am – 12 Noon

Participate by making jam at church on Aug. 29 or by donating 4oz (1/4 pint) jam jars ahead of time.

Gathering Sunday – Sept. 13

Sunday School and the choir return at 10am with a potato bar luncheon to follow at 11am.

Quilting Estate Sale – Sept. 19, 9am – 2pm

One day only! Fabric & hundreds of quilting items.

Bowling Tournament – Sept. 20, 2pm – 4pm

Plan to bowl in our annual bowling tournament at Midway Lanes.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Wayne Otterness, Jerry Lydeen, Evan Mandigo, Julie, Family of Camille Grothier, Louise Zuern, Ivan Sadler (Autum's uncle), Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Matthew Nitschke, Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's son), Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.