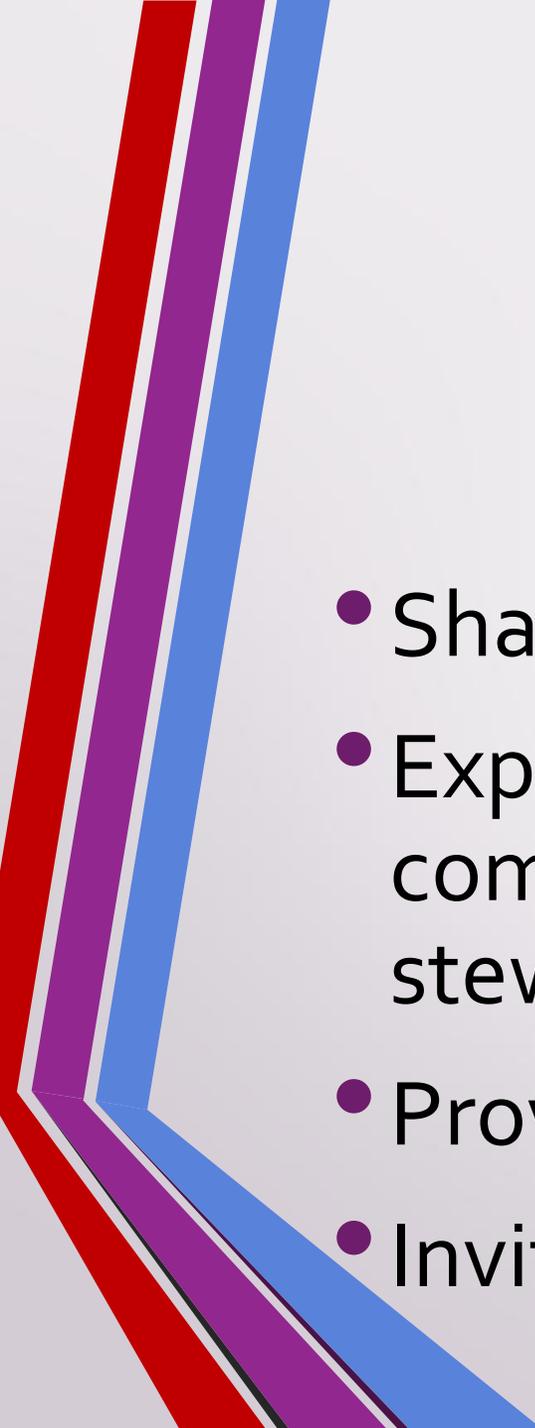


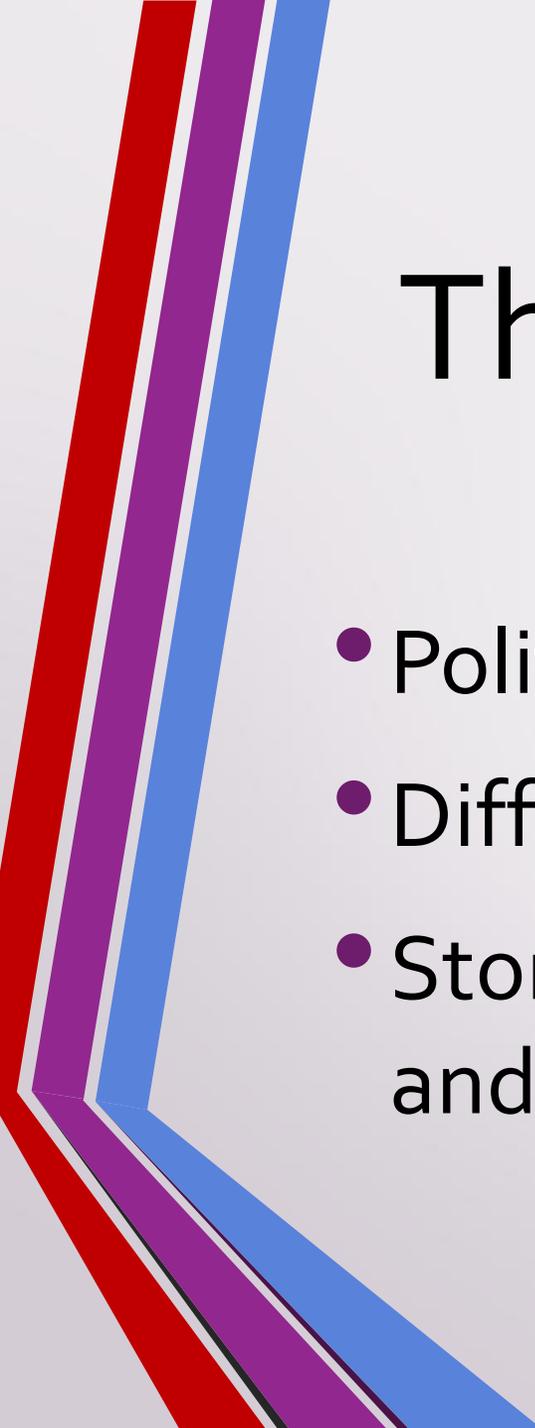
# Purple Church, Red State: Navigating Stewardship in an Age of Polarization

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett  
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings  
Practical Resources for Churches Webinar  
10/2/25



# Webinar Goals

- Share stories from a purple church in a red state
- Explore strategies for building a beloved community and navigating church leadership and stewardship in polarized times
- Provide adult ed and sermon series resources
- Invite shared discussion & learning



# The Challenge of Polarization

- Politics & faith colliding in the pews
- Different visions of what stewardship funds
- Story: “In God We Trust” on the courthouse walls and in the public schools

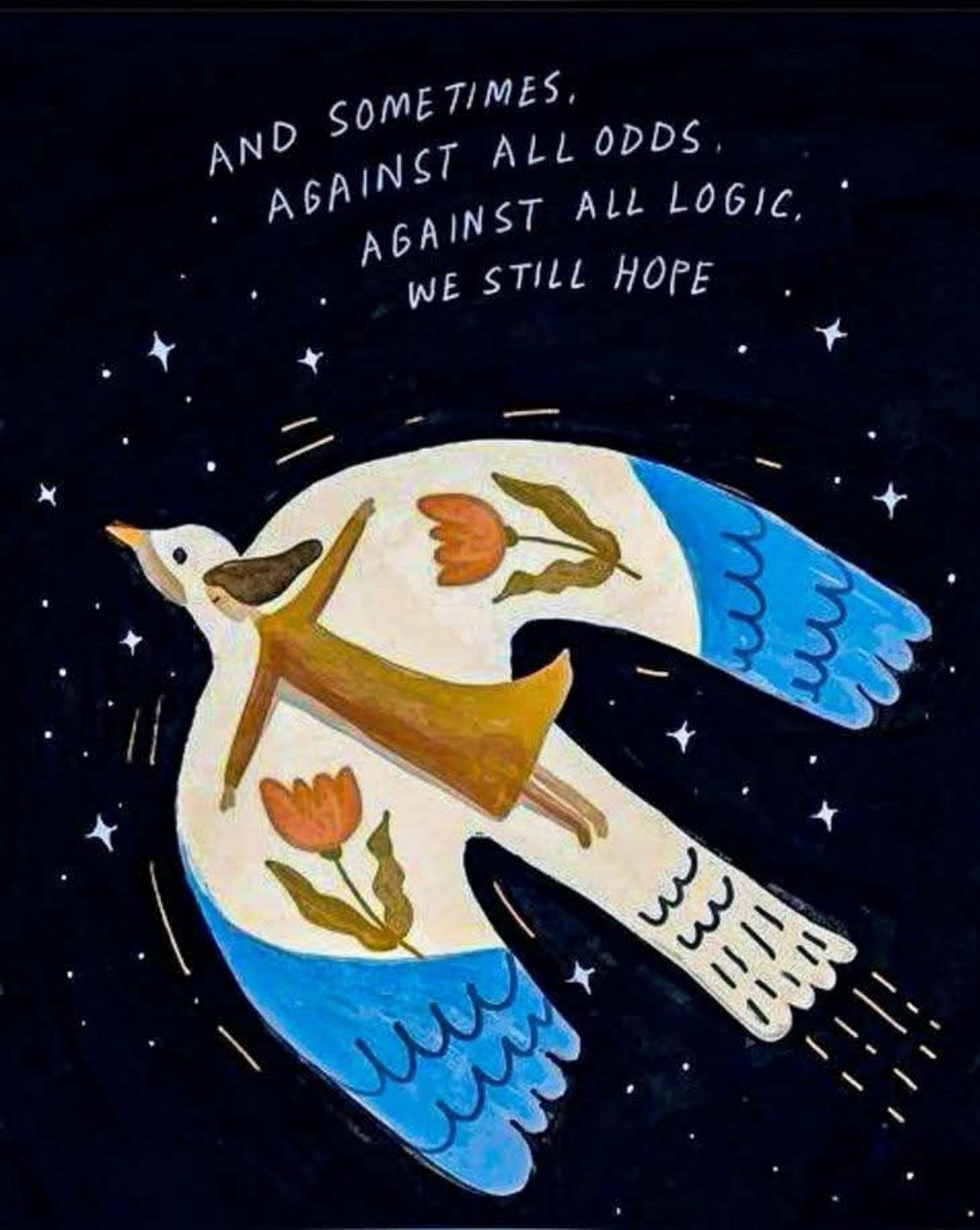
# Biblical and Theological Grounding

- Keep it grounded in scripture, and Christ:
- <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/resources/newsletters/ten-scriptures-for-your-stewardship-theme/>
- “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it...” (Psalm 24:1-5)
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, honor God with your first fruits” (Proverbs 3:5-9)
- Stewardship = discipleship, gratitude, shared mission



# Strategies for Engagement

- Listen first
- Focus on shared mission
- Frame conversations biblically and theologically, and always in Christ
- Preach with hope



“We are a community of hope where you will always hear a message of hope proclaimed”

Polarization is grounded in fear  
(Fear of scarcity, fear of the other, fear of change)

Hope is an antidote to fear.



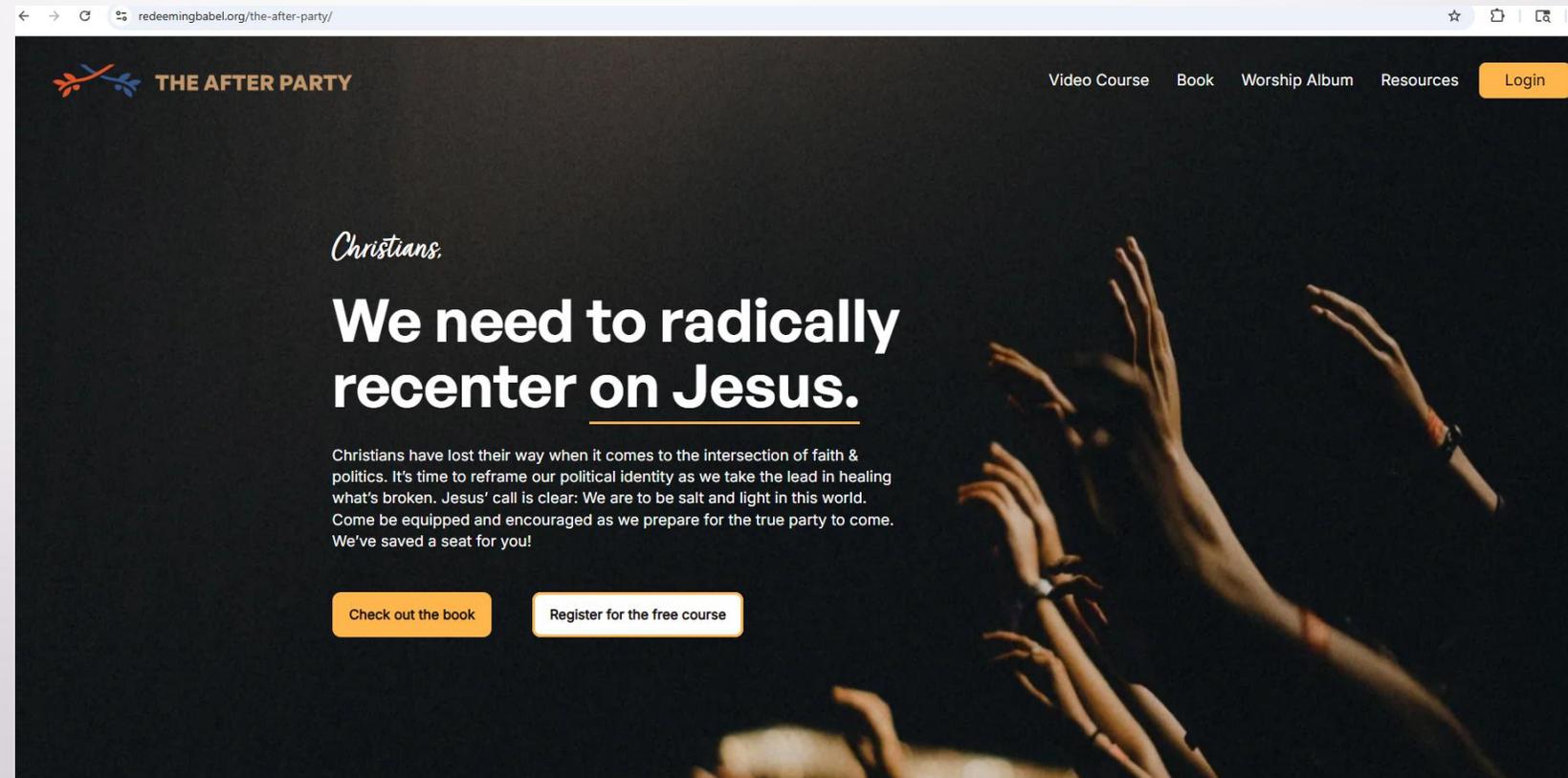
# Stories: Shared Mission

- Flood relief & Pine Ridge trip → unity through service
- Solar panels on the church → finding points of intersection and unity

# “Building the Beloved Community in an age of polarization”

## Adult Ed Series

[www.redeemingbabel.org](http://www.redeemingbabel.org)



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the website [www.redeemingbabel.org/the-after-party/](http://www.redeemingbabel.org/the-after-party/). The page features a dark background with a large image of hands raised in prayer. At the top left, there is a logo for 'THE AFTER PARTY' consisting of a blue donkey and an orange rooster facing each other, with a gold star above them. The text 'THE AFTER PARTY' is written in large, gold, sans-serif letters. Below this, a blue and orange banner contains the text 'TOWARD BETTER CHRISTIAN POLITICS'. At the bottom, the authors 'CURTIS CHANG AND NANCY FRENCH' are listed, along with a note that the project is based on the work of Curtis Chang, David French, and Russell Moore. The main content area has the heading 'Christians, We need to radically recenter on Jesus.' followed by a paragraph of text and two buttons: 'Check out the book' and 'Register for the free course'. The top right of the page has navigation links for 'Video Course', 'Book', 'Worship Album', 'Resources', and a 'Login' button.



THE

AFTER  
PARTY

TOWARD BETTER CHRISTIAN POLITICS

CURTIS CHANG AND NANCY FRENCH

Based on the project created by

CURTIS CHANG • DAVID FRENCH • RUSSELL MOORE

# “Building the Beloved Community in an age of polarization” Sermon Series

How can the stories of the Bible, our belief in Jesus Christ, and our faith help us to become builders of the beloved community in an age of polarization?

We will explore this question in a 7 week sermon series.

9/1: James 1, 1 John 4  
**They'll know us by our love**

9/8: Genesis 1, 2 Corinth. 3  
**Bearing the image of God**

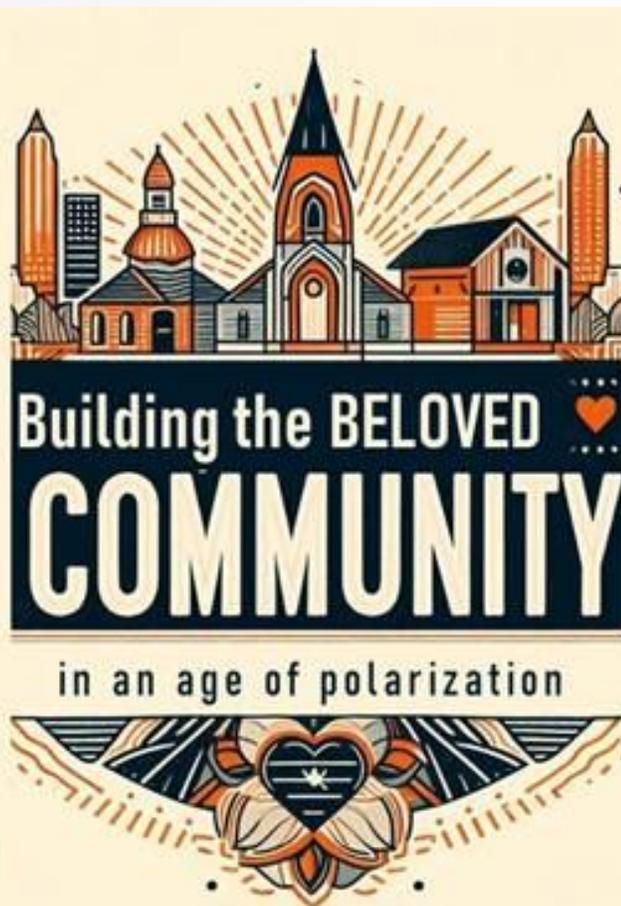
9/15: Genesis 15 & Eph. 2  
**Fear not, abound in hope!**

10/13: 1 Samuel 8 & John 18 **“The Barmen Declaration”**

9/22: Genesis 37 & 50  
**Humility and forgiveness**

9/29: Exod. 12-13 & 1 Peter 2  
**Being set apart**

10/6: Exod. 32 & Galatians 5  
**Idolatry, freedom, & love**



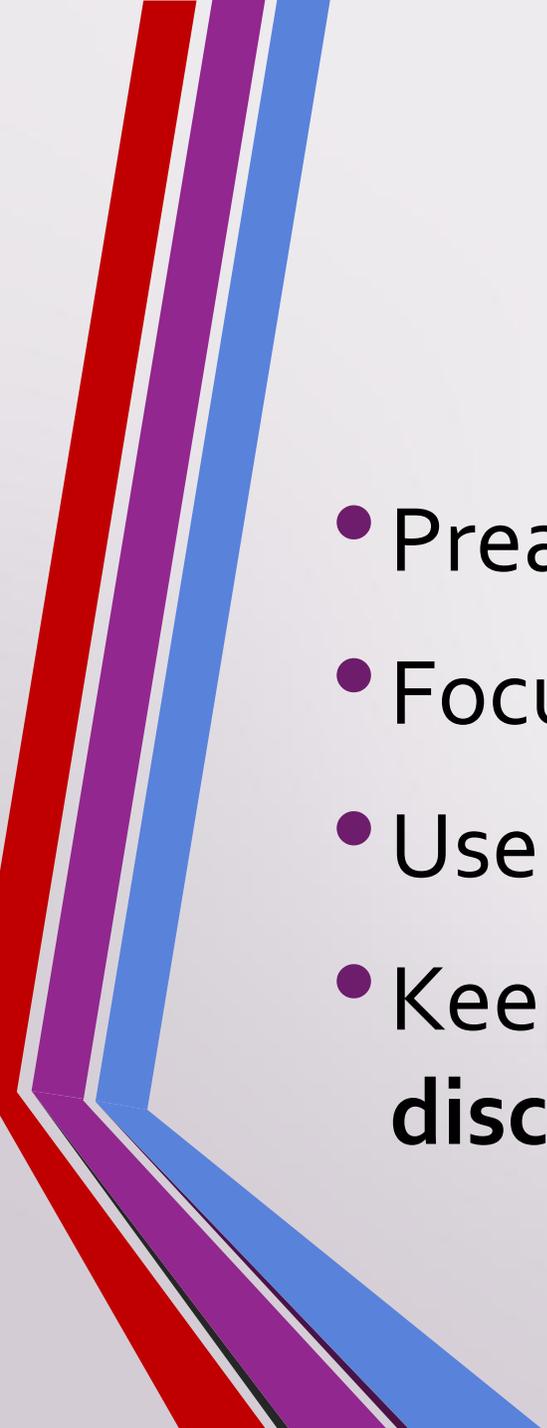
<https://bit.ly/BelovedSermons>

# Sermon Series Resources

- Revised Common Lectionary Stewardship Series
- Narrative Lectionary Stewardship Series
- Practical outlines for pastors, elders, & members
- [bit.ly/SK-Sermons](https://bit.ly/SK-Sermons)



SCAN ME



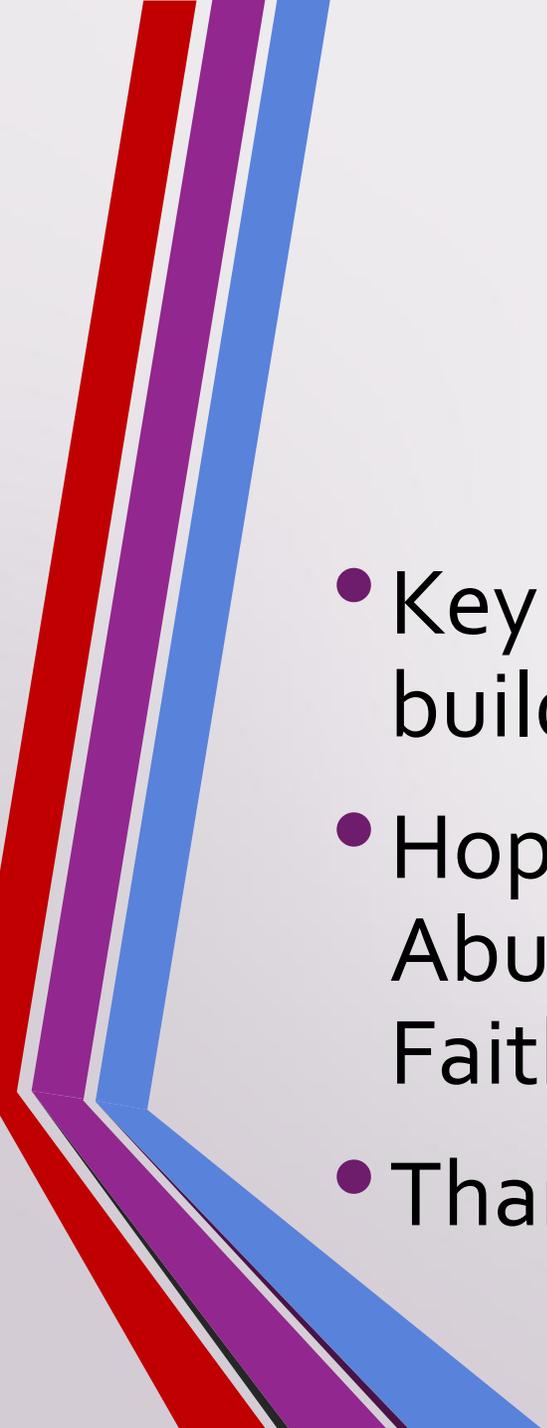
# Practical Takeaways

- Preach abundance, not scarcity
- Focus on Christ and HOPE!
- Use mission projects as living stewardship sermons
- Keep conversations rooted in **gratitude** and **discipleship**



# Discussion Time

- What challenges are you facing?
- What strategies work in your context?
- How can we build common ground together?



# Closing

- Key takeaway: Shared mission and Stewardship build the Beloved Community
- Hope > Fear  
Abundance > Scarcity  
Faith > Polarization
- Thank you