

APRIL



COMMON GROUND COFFEE HOUSE



9 TO DINE

You like food! I like food! See! We already have something in common! Now there's a reason for us to get together.

We all know that some of our fondest memories have been created around a table filled with our favorite dishes. More importantly, the table is surrounded by our favorite people, family members, friends from our childhood, school and work friends or a combination of any or all of the aforementioned. Whatever that may look like to you, to your heart and soul it looks and tastes like love, giggles, deep conversation and the joy of living in community.

9 to Dine offers us all the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of friendship as it provides an outlet to treat others to our favorite family meals, our favorite restaurants or favorite gathering spaces. Bringing folks together for a meal and conversation is exactly what we all need to stimulate ideas, thoughts and community.

Starting on April 16 and running through June 4, Countryside Church is promoting the development of 9 to Dine dinner groups. The idea is to have these groups – either home groups or restaurant groups – meet at least four times in that eight week period. The only purpose will be to get to know one another in a relaxed and/or informal setting, to enjoy delightful conversation and dine on amazing food.

To join a group, simply stop by the Information Station on Sunday morning and sign up. You'll need to let us know if you would like to be in a home group or a restaurant group. Then, the groups will be put together according to your wishes and you will be notified as to your group's meeting time and location. It's just that simple! Sign up at the Information Station today or contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org (402-391-0350 ext. 112) for further information.

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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countrysideucc.org
Website - www.countrysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/CountrySideOmaha/

Program Staff

Contact information for program staff can be found on individual ministry pages.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.
Senior Minister, ext. 113
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 130
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 102
danl@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder
Financial Secretary, ext. 123
sharig@countrysideucc.org

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Debbie Vihstadt
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Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129
rmotis@outlook.com

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm Countryside welcome. We are a community that places great value on welcoming ALL to an open and affirming community where we celebrate and rest in a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations. We invite you to journey with us as we work together with the guidance of the Spirit, seeking those places where we are called to participate with God toward the fullest expression of who we are created to be. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ we believe the greatest expression of the Body of Christ is found in the local congregation, and each person in our community has a unique conversation with God that serves the whole. Countryside is a place where God is still speaking to us and to our community. Each of us is called to discern that voice and act on that discovery. We welcome you and invite you to participate with us in this calling.

OUR MISSION

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 and justice in our conflicted world.

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

Sunday Services - 9 AM Classical Service and 11 AM Jazz Service

Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services and for Wednesday evening programs. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway toward the church's northwest entrance.

Common Grounds Coffeehouse - Between services from 10 AM to 11 AM we invite you to the Commons directly off the Foyer for coffee, donut holes and fellowship.

Information Station is located in the Foyer. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for any church activities, please stop by the Information Station.

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.

Sunday School/Children's Church - see Children's Ministries, page 7.

Free Gift - If you are a first time visitor at Countryside, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of the pastors in the Foyer after the services so we might offer you a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us.

Box, Basket and Journey - The Box, Basket and Journey are three ways that Countryside shares our gifts with one another and our community. The Box is a way to share our material possessions with one another and is located in the Foyer. The Basket is Countryside's way of sharing financial offerings with our community for the support of our ongoing program ministries. The baskets are located at the back of the Sanctuary. And the Journey is the way we share lives together through Journey Groups.

Restrooms - Restrooms are available on the main level by the offices and on the lower level by the elevator and by the gym.

Countryside Email list - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at office@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

PRAYER 101 - RETREAT - APRIL 21 - 23

Prayer 101, or "Is it God talking or the pizza I just ate?" is about following the Holy Spirit in an age of appropriate skepticism. Feeling haggard by the world's chaos? Amidst so much personal and collective chaos, few people ever discover the reality of Jesus's central message, "Heaven is already here! Change your whole way of thinking and believe the good news. The good news is that the best forms of prayer and meditation are 20% about technique and 80% about willingness. This prayer retreat will focus on the 20%, realizing that, if you've chosen to attend, you're already 80% of the way toward reshaping your world.

Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon. Modest scholarship assistance is available, too, so that cost is not an obstacle.

When: Friday evening, April 21 through Sunday lunch, April 23.

Where: Creighton Retreat Center, Griswold, IA.

Cost: \$160 - this includes all meals, snacks, materials and accommodation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 4 – No Leadership Team this month. But **Peer Support** for all active Stephen Ministers will meet from 6-8 PM in the Chapel.

Hospice Training Opportunity – AseraCare Hospice in Omaha is looking for volunteers to provide companionship and support for individuals living with terminal illnesses. Hours are based on your schedule and training is provided. If interested, contact Kelly Keller, (402) 926.2680 or email at Kelly.Keller@aseracare.com.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

David Davis will be at Brookestone Meadows for rehab until April 1; Room 1208, room phone 402-2890-9107.

Annette Pitzer is hoping that her new lung medication is effective.

Jody Dungan's father, **Bud**, in Colorado is suffering from a colon blockage.

Terri Vincent's mother, **Joyce**, has recently been diagnosed with colon cancer and will be moving from Phoenix to Omaha after surgery.

Mary Mitchell has been getting stronger and recently moved from Brookestone Village to Esprit Whispering Ridge Assisted Living, 17555 Emmett Street, Omaha.

Kristen Denzlinger, Isaac Barchus and Izak Nikunen: all three are children in our congregation who are valiant warriors in their respective battles.

IN MEMORIAM

Alfred Frisbie, 95, died on February 24. Rev. Chris Alexander officiated at his funeral, which was held at Heafey Hoffman, Dworak and Cutler on March 4.

Nancy Armitage, 70, passed away on February 27. Her funeral was at Countryside on March 3, officiated by Rev. Chris Alexander, and a reception followed in Memorial Hall.

Lloyd Newberg, 93, passed away on March 2, and there is a memorial service planned at Heafey on April 24 with Rev. Chris Alexander officiating.

Robert Stone, 93, died on March 10, and Rev. Chris Alexander officiated a memorial service, which was held at Heafey on March 15.

Countryside is a caring congregation that offers support to its members in numerous ways. Along with our pastors, who are always willing to provide you with compassionate direction, care and advice when called upon to do so, we have a wonderful support system with our Care Team and Stephen Ministers.

Care Team

The Care Team consists of thoughtful, generous members of the congregation who provide various types of comfort or assistance to those in our church family experiencing times of hardship.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support and hope to those who are facing difficulties in their lives.

AGAPE

The AGAPE group has been a ministry of love and support for many decades, providing a warm and loving fellowship opportunity following memorial or funeral services.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org

WNA

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE



Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy a community meal, choir rehearsals and educational opportunities. This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

WNA SUPPERS

Meals are \$5/person or you can purchase a month's ticket for \$20/person not to exceed \$80/family. Place reservations at the Information Station. Meals are served from 5:00 to 6:20 PM. Reservations are greatly appreciated.

See page 10 for the menu.

GRADE/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Choirs

Joyful Noise (Pre-K): 5:15-5:30 PM
Carol Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114
Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117
Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

Programs

Holy Moly (gr K-2): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 112
Holy Moly (gr 3-4): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 114B
Core 56 (gr 5-6): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 110
Confirmation (gr 7-8): 7:00 - 8:00 PM - rm 119

Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 7:30 – 8:45 PM
Spirit of Grace : 6:20 – 7:20 PM

ADULTS/HIGH SCHOOL

In The Sanctuary - Parables, Prayer & A Pesky Pastor, 6:45-8:00 PM

April 5 - Dr. Eric Elnes

In The Commons, 6:30 PM

April 19 - Peace, Love and Tuba Standing Kabin & Mary Thomas

**NO WNA ACTIVITIES
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**



CFS EVENTS

Thank you

Thank you for your strong support of the Center for Faith Studies! We have completed another great year of lectures and conversations, learning from one another by stepping out into the community and engaging deeper into our lives together.

We had terrific speakers this year, Melvin Bray, Precious Davis, Orlando Rodríguez, Gary Ferguson, Desmond Egan, Lisa Sharon Harper, and Marion Lazan Blumenthal. Not to mention all the folks from the Omaha community agencies who came out for our Wednesday Night Alive conversations and those who helped us continue our conversations on race.



Kelly Keller with Chris Alexander's Grandson, Asher

We co-sponsored the workshops during our 40 days of Discernment in Advent this year with the Board of Life Ministries and partnered with our Tri-Faith Initiative communities to offer "Sacred Prism," an interfaith prayer retreat.

It has been an enriching season of learning with all this wonderful activity. And none of it would have been possible without Kelly Keller, our Director of Center for Faith Studies. We want to give a huge THANK YOU for sharing her many gifts and talents with us for the past two years. Kelly Keller's last day with us will be April 4. While saddened to accept her resignation, we send her off with our prayerful support as she ventures out in her other ministry passion, hospice care with AseraCare.

Countryside's Personnel Committee along with the Board of Christian Education (BOCE) has approved Rev. Chris Alexander to lead the Center for Faith Studies as Associate Minister and Director of Center for Faith Studies. Recent changes in the staff reporting structure, the completion of Chris's Doctor of Ministry degree program in March, and the hiring of additional administrative support will allow Chris Alexander to reorganize her duties and assume the additional role as Director of the Center for Faith Studies. Please join in supporting Chris as she takes on these new responsibilities, effective April 5.

Upcoming CFS Events-Save the Date

Future events planned for Center for Faith Studies Include:

- **June 11:** John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will be preaching at both worship services.
- **October 5:** Rev. Dr. Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America, and Former President of the Lutheran World Federation, will be here to help us celebrate the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation and share with us his current work with interfaith ministry.
- **November 9:** Jan Phillips, author and photographer, will be here to talk about creativity in a time of challenge as we partner with our Countryside Women's Retreat.

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel - Judaic Tradition

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will be finishing his class on the Judaic Tradition during Lent. It is in Memorial Hall on Monday mornings from 10:00-11:30.

April 3: Forms of Jewish Identity: Biology, Covenant, Memory



The Center for Faith Studies provides learning opportunities for the faithfully inquisitive Countryside Community. We encourage lifelong learning, growth and deepening understanding utilizing current scholarship through the CFS community lecture series, adult education classes and community partnerships.

Racial Justice Book Group

Racial Justice Book Group – Meets Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Explores books, articles and podcasts around the racial landscape of America. Come anytime, but let us know so we can inform you of last minute changes like field trips.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. Currently studying *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds*.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Reading *Welcome to the Wisdom of the World* by Joan Chittister, OSB.

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying *Native Peoples of North America*.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Chris Alexander**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 130

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series-Reclaiming Eden

We are currently in the middle of the second worship series in "Gifts of Eden" and we will continue to explore some harmful interpretations of scripture that have led to misunderstandings and wrong assumptions about our Christian traditions. The first worship series in the "Gifts of Eden" explored some erroneous assumptions we have about the image of God and creation.

The second series, "Christus Victor: The Second Adam", explores the misinterpretations of Jesus through the lenses of the seven deadly sins and the seven lively virtues. The divine and human character of Jesus, his calling as the Messiah, and his revelation to us for reconciling with God, neighbor and nature will be among the topics discussed as we step into the season of Lent to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter Sunday.

All of our sermons are online under the worship tab at countrysideucc.org.

Journey Groups for Current Series

Please join us in an extended conversation of these topics by joining one of our already existing Journey Group, or beginning your own. There are groups who meet at a variety of times and locations throughout the week, so let us know your schedule and we'll help you get connected. Contact Rev. Chris Alexander, chrisa@countrysideucc.org, for more information.



Journey Groups

Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our still speaking God is calling us to do in our lives, community and the world. In the process, we form deep relationships offering support to one another through life's journey.

New Journey Groups are regularly forming that meet to discuss the current sermon series, watch and discuss Darkwood Brew videos or engage in special small group studies. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships. Contact Rev. Chris Alexander to get plugged into a Journey Group.

Free Darkwood Brew Membership

Did you know that as a member of Countryside you have free access to the entire Darkwood Brew video library? You can watch any of the 28 series with topics ranging from forgiveness to the environment at www.darkwoodbrew.org. Use the username: CCCUCC and the password: tryside8787.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Rev. Chris Alexander.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 130

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Prayer 101
Is it God talking or the pizza I just ate?

April 21 -23
Griswold, Iowa
\$160 per person

Sign up at
Information
Station
see page 2 for details

**Countryside's
Hors d'oeuvre Contest**

Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share.
Sign up after service or call church office by April 1.

at the home of
Joan and John Allen
4417 S. 162 Ave.

Friday, April 7
6:30 p.m.
Suggested donation \$5

Bring our Countryside community closer together.

9toDINE
April 23-June 4

Sign up at the Information Station
see page 11 for details

2017 COYO GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY DROP OFF DATES
April 15 | May 6 | May 20

drop off
Millard Lumber
12900 I Street
9 a.m. - Noon

GARAGE SALE
June 2 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
June 3 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Go to countrysideucc.org/garagesale to schedule a pick up.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Restore the Shore



Donate today to help build and rebuild homes on the Jersey Shore, where COYO Sr High will be working this year on a mission trip. You can write a check to Countryside, use Countryside's online giving at www.countrysideucc.org/give, or donate on GoFundMe at <http://gofundme.com/cccrestoretheshore>. Spread the word by sharing GoFundMe on your Facebook timeline and with your friends.

Earth Day Omaha - April 22, 9:30 AM -6 PM

Come help Faith and the Environment contribute to the Earth Day excitement at Elmwood Park. There will be some COYO Sr High fun and food at the park too.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Deacon Dinner - Tuesday, April 25, 6:30-8:00PM

All students being confirmed need to come to the Deacon Dinner. Your parent(s) are also invited. Meal starts at 6:30PM. Students will talk to Deacons after dinner while parents will hear about the confirmation service in the sanctuary. Students will then have a practice run of confirmation Sunday.

Confirmation Sunday-April 30 at the 11:00 Service

Confirmands meet at 10am in the youth room to get robes on and get a picture taken.

Please go to www.countrysideucc.org/confirmation and click the About tab and fill out the 8th grade end of year form.

COYO Jr. High Lunch and Hike - April 29, 11 AM - 4 PM

Meet at church at 11:00AM to go for lunch. After lunch, enjoy a hike in the bluffs of Council Bluffs at Hitchcock Nature Area. Fun day in the outdoors. You should bring a water bottle. This event is free.

GARAGE SALE

April 15 9:00AM-12:00PM - Garage Sale Drop Offs and Pick Ups



Garage Sale Drop Offs and Pick Ups are at Millard Lumber. Box up donations and load the truck. Get donations from people's houses. We need all the help we can get. Sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>

The date of the Garage Sale is June 2 - 3 with a preview night for Countrysiders on June 1.



Countryside Youth (CoYo) serves students in grades 7-12. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities that develop community, encourage spiritual growth, and serve the wider community in Omaha. Monthly events and summer trips are offered to enhance youth experiences.

Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 7 PM during the school year. It is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders to explore the Phoenix Affirmations, the Bible, and the church.

Mission Trips

Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

COYO Sr High

COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships and serve the community.

COYO Jr High

COYO Jr High meets during the school year on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 111

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

April 2- Children's Church

Children will process together to the Chapel for child-centered worship.

April 9- Sunday School

Palm Sunday

April 16- Family Worship - Easter

Children will remain in Sanctuary with their parents.

April 23- Family Worship - Children's Musical

The children's choirs will present their spring musical, Back at the Creekbank, at both services.

April 30- Children's Church

Children will process together to the Chapel for child-centered worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Activities

April 5:

Holy Moly-The Prodigal Son

Core 56-Palm Sunday and Jesus's Arrest Luke
19:28-39

April 19:

Holy Moly-Lazarus & Last day of class party!

Core 56-The Kingdom of God Guest Speaker:
Pastor Eric



Rebecca Morello Director of Children's Ministry,

UPDATE! 2017 Vacation Bible School will be held July 17-21. Registration starts June 1.

NURSERY

OPEN POSITION - Nursery Worker

Countryside is looking for a part-time Nursery Worker (age 21 +) to provide childcare for children ages infant to 2 years old during Sunday Worship schedule as well as Wednesday Night Activities (Sundays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 6-8 p.m.). If interested in applying, please contact Rebecca Morello at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 109.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

9:00 Service

Room 114A - Grades K-6

11:00 Service

Room 117 - Grades 2-3

Room 114B - Grade 4

Room 112 - Grades 5-6

Upper Level

(same as the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery)

11:00 Service

Room 214 - Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

Children's Education offers programs designed to inspire, explore, and develop a solid faith foundation. Through story, discussion, and experiential activities, our students embark on a Christian path encouraged by enthusiastic study, adventurous approach to Scripture, and cultivation of a strong faith community.

Nursery

Childcare is available during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery volunteers are trained and have passed background checks.

Acolytes

Our Fireflies bring the light of Worship into the Sanctuary each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in your child becoming an acolyte, contact Rebecca.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a short summer camp designed to immerse our students in a community experience of scripture stories and activities.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

During the school year, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparknole curriculum teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts, activities, and storytelling.

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

On Wednesday nights, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus's ministry and work. We also fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

Sunday School

Our students and teachers engage with scripture and activities with our in-house curriculum through Countryside's theology and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

Family Worship

Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers the opportunity to share scripture, message, and communion as a family! Children's Bibles, books, and age-appropriate activity bags are available.

Children's Church

This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like Communion, prayer, and stewardship! It's open to children five years old through 6th grade.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Children's Education contact **Rebecca Morello**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Musical - Back at the Creekbank - April 23



The children's choirs will present their spring musical, *Back at the Creekbank*, during both services on April 23rd. Please plan to support our young artists by attending one or both services!

Countryside has one of the most celebrated music and arts ministries in Omaha. We have excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through the creative arts. Our halls are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as everyone brings their unique creative talents to worship services.

Kids Music

Joyful Noise (Pre-K), Carol Choir (K-3) and Pilgrim Choir (4-6) are designed to allow younger musicians to develop their new music skills for worship. Rehearsals for the Carol and Pilgrim Choirs are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. Joyful Noise rehearses from 5:15-5:30 PM. Each group sings monthly in worship.

Covenant Choir

Covenant Choir is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation Class in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 PM. The choir sings most weeks during the school year.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings once or twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:20-7:20 PM.

Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 PM.

Ring-a-Ding-Ding, Handbell Choir

There is a small group of people interested in restarting the Handbell choir at Countryside. Are there more of you out there? If so, please contact Trish Hoffman-Ahrens at thoffman425@gmail.com. We hope to have a small group for Easter morning and regular rehearsals after that.



Series III - Ecclesia Spiritus: The Second Eve

Creative types who are interested in helping the worship planning team bring the next sermon series to life through visual arts, movement, drama, and other arts are encouraged to contact Amy Luckenbill to be included in the next round of brainstorming and implementation. Here is an image of the new sermon series to get those creative juices flowing.



Good Friday Choral Service

Return to Me is a Choral Service on the Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows (Via Crucis). The Stations of the Cross refer to a series of events depicting Jesus on the day of crucifixion. Akin to the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, the service alternates between scripture readings, prayers, and choral anthems on nine of these sorrowful scenes. The adult choirs will be accompanied by Alex Ritter on piano and guest cellist, Camille Hinz. Ms. Hinz is a strings teacher in the Millard Public Schools and plays with Orchestra Omaha. She received her Master of Music in Cello from Western Michigan University.



QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact Amy Luckenbill.

Amy Luckenbill
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115
Email: amy@countrysideucc.org
www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR APRIL

In April, we are asking you to help as we collect cleaning items for inCOMMON, Countryside's 2017 Easter Offering recipient. When you are getting ready for your own spring cleaning, pick up a second set of items for those in need. Thanks in advance for your help through your donation to THE BOX, Please send ideas for the 2017 BOX to christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

In our continued efforts to be a truly inclusive family of faith, we are working with a local nonprofit called "InCOMMON" for our Special Easter Offering. If you are not already aware, this organization is making a real difference in Omaha Neighborhoods. Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach sees this offering as an opportunity to help nurture our community and create lasting beneficial change. InCOMMON addresses the issue of poverty with community building by strengthening the individuals who can help transform the neighborhood. To learn more visit <http://incommoncd.org/> You can make your contribution with a check to Countryside; include a note for Special Easter Offering, or donate online here: <http://countrysideucc.org/give>



QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information regarding Countryside Christian Outreach, email christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org. To find out about how you can volunteer at the food pantry, contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Christian Outreach embraces opportunities that reflect appreciation, respect, and love where there was otherwise much neglect - providing funding and service opportunities that nurture lasting change in our congregation, our community, and our world.

The Box

...is where specific items are collected each month to address various needs. "The Suitcase" is where we continuously collect hotel-size toiletries. Both are in the Foyer near the front doors.

Community Cupboard

A large mobile food pantry takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!

Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

Each year the Board of Christian Outreach directs two special mission offerings—the Christmas and Easter offerings. These offerings are given to organizations both locally and internationally.

Small Service Grant (SSG)

Countryside members who volunteer with local groups/ events may apply for a small service grant (SSG) of less than \$500 to cover materials and supplies. Contact us or find the SSG request forms on the church website.

RELOCATION UPDATE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS - A RESOUNDING "YES!"

Two hundred fifty-nine members gathered in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 19, to vote upon the offer from Coram Deo Church Community to purchase the building and property of our present home.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Bruce Blanchard. The process, timeline and particulars of the sale were then presented by Tim Kerrigan, Relocation Committee and Trustee Committee member. Following that explanation, the members had the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the sale.

A motion to accept the offer to purchase our Property was made by Church Treasurer, Phil Johnson. Discussion of the motion followed. The members were requested to accept the offer and voting commenced. When the ballots were collected and counted, the motion to sell received 241 Yes votes and 16 No votes. The motion was approved by 93% of voting members present.

Purchase Agreement Highlights:

- Purchase Price - \$4.2 Million
- Deposits Estimated - \$550,000
- Net Proceeds - \$4,049,422

Agreement Contingencies:

- Congregational Approval (Accomplished)
- Commence new church construction by August 15, 2017

Personal Property Matters:

- Pews and padded chairs stay
- Limited personal property stays
- Treasures and contents move

Real Estate Closing:

- Within 30 days of relocating to new church.
- We are targeting a December, 2018 move to the new building but have a grace period of additional months in case of unforeseen delays.

- Buyer has the "right of specific performance," the expectation that we execute the contract according to terms agreed upon.
- Countryside's remedy is retention of the deposit.

This vote was a watershed moment in the history of Countryside. The Countryside Relocation Committees (CRC and CRAC) will confidently move forward knowing that our church family moves in step with us.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or comments, see one of the following committee members: Rick MacInnes, Tim Kerrigan, Cyndi Kugler, Paul Nelson, Pam Kregg and Nancy Behringer or email crc@countrysideucc.org.



LIFE MINISTRIES



Life Ministry supports and improves the quality and "wellness" of family life. Life Ministry strives to engage people in a wide variety of social and educational activities for individuals and families. It is designed to strengthen family bonds and provide outreach in support of family members. Life Ministry also brings strength and continuity to Countryside's volunteer base by advising staff and by serving as a conduit between congregation and Countryside's Life Ministry and Volunteer programs.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 112

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Wednesday Night Alive Suppers for April

Dinners run from 5:00-6:20 PM in Memorial Hall. Pre-registration is GREATLY appreciated!

Here is the list of meals for April:

- April 5: Tacos & Pie
 - April 12: NO SUPPER - HOLY WEEK
 - April 19: Tabouli, Baba Ganoush, & Entree prepared by members of our refugee families.
- The suggested donation for Wednesday Night Alive Suppers is \$5/person or you may purchase by the month not to exceed \$80/family. THANKS to all who generously volunteer their time and talents in creating our meals!

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, April 10, at Noon. For additional information contact Marilyn Vincent at 402-397-0679.

Tai Chi Chih WILL NOT BE HELD on April 6 or 13 this month. Rita will resume her classes on April 20. Should you have questions, contact her at rmotis@cox.net.

Classics and Conversation – Countryside's in-house movie group will meet on Friday, April 7, 7:00 PM in the Chapel. The featured movie is *Freeheld*, a true love story of Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree and their fight for justice. A decorated New Jersey police detective, Laurel is diagnosed with cancer and wants to leave her hard-earned pension to her domestic partner, Stacie. However, the county officials, Freeholders, conspire to prevent Laurel from doing this. This is considered to be one of the cases that was instrumental in the Supreme Court legalizing same sex marriage. As an added bonus, it is a beautiful love story! Should you have questions or requests, contact Ed Huddell at 402-401-8401 or leave a message in the church office for him.

9 to Dine: From Easter to Pentecost (April 16 - June 4) we would like our Countryside community to build 9 to Dine groups. Find nine people and dine together at least four times during this time, either in homes or at restaurants. We are looking to bring our church family closer together by creating deeper relationships between new friends and old. To find a group, or get more information, sign up at the Information Station.

STYRO FOAM BAN-FATE

Poly Styrene née Styro Foam: Created 1941-Banned 2017

Long time resident Poly Styrene, known by friends as Styro Foam, the creation of Dow Chemical Company, was recently laid to rest by members of Countryside Community Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Ubiquitous participant in all church activities for many years from Bible Study classes to COYO pizza nights in all of its many guises; cups, plates, coolers etc. will no longer be with us. While Poly will be missed by some, the damage done to God's creation by Styro Foam's production and disposal has to stop. We are comforted in knowing that we are no longer contributing to the pollution of our bodies and the planet by our association with Styro Foam. Memorials, in the way of mugs, may be made to the Sunday morning coffee mug collection.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Kitchen Help

Kitchen helpers are needed on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:30 PM and Sunday mornings. Contact Mary Beth.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, May 6. (no pantry in April) Hours are 7:45-11:30 a.m. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Thank You

Thanks to the Board of Christian Outreach for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the month of April. Be sure to chat with one of the board members to learn all the areas that this board represents.

Volunteer Spotlight

In April we spotlight the volunteers who give of their time to Spring Clean our church! For the past 2 years, Countryside has had an outstanding group of volunteers, 70 in all both years, who willingly gave their time and energy on a Saturday morning to Spring Clean the church. Each of Countryside's governing boards along with other volunteers picked their specific area, brought their favorite cleaning and/or gardening materials and spruced our church up. They worked feverishly from 8:30-Noon and ended their morning with great conversation over a delicious meal.

Spring Cleaning

It's that time again, and we are looking for folks who would like to join this crew! We will be Spring Cleaning on Saturday, April 29, 8:30-Noon. Stop by the Information Station to sign up to help or call Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112. Thanks in advance for all your help!

SOCIAL GROUPS

Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project or teach others to knit/crochet. Open to knitters of all skill-levels. Meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM at Whole Foods. Contact Jeanne Cunningham at jkcunningham@cox.net.

WNA Supper Group

This group consists of volunteers in our congregation. If there is a meal you and your family really love, then share it with the church on Wednesday evenings. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month at First Watch, 1222 S 71 St. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Nine-to-Dine

Consisting of 9 individuals, this group meets on a monthly basis at various restaurants in Omaha or sometimes someone's home for a nice home-cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Marilyn Vincent at darellvincent@cox.net.

FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

This group dabbles with watercolor paints and adult coloring books. We listen to music, laugh a lot, share stories and a pot of coffee (or two!) and enjoy being together. Contact Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

Men's Breakfast Group

This group of Countryside men (all ages) share their breakfast at 7 AM every Tuesday morning at Rockbrook's Garden Café. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This group is open to anyone (all ages) interested in bicycling. They meet periodically when the weather is calling them to ride! Contact Mark Stursma at mstursma@yahoo.com.

Mahjong

This multi-generational group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Commons. They teach and play Mahjong with anyone who would like to learn. Jeri Lundblad is the coordinator of this group and you may contact her at jeri62lynn@gmail.com for additional information.

EDUCATION GROUPS

Faith and the Environment (Fate)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

Adult Education

See full listing under Center for Faith Studies on page 4.

Journey Groups

See page 5.

HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Thursday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Church Council

Between congregational meetings, the Church Council acts upon all issues facing the Church. They establish the overall policy of the Church and work with the staff on the general direction of the activities of the Church: Meets the Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Bruce Blanchard at moderator@countysideucc.org.

Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and selects organizations to receive special offering grants. Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chairs, Sarah Miller at swaetzig14@hotmail.com or Diane Poots at dianepoots@cox.net

Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

This board brings strength and stability to Countryside's educational efforts by advising staff and providing both adults and children with educational programs. Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Contact board chair Jodi Klein at klein.jodi13@gmail.com.

Board of Arts and Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM. Contact board chair Marian Kaiser at mkskaiser@cox.net

Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month, 12:30 PM. Contact board chair Dinah Gomez at dinahann@me.com or Shannon Avard at stamper2k@cox.net.

Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Contact board chair Jan Jalbert-King at jenj0702@yahoo.com.

Board of Trustees

This board oversees the financial and property concerns for Countryside, including stewardship, budgeting process and regular review of the financial position of the church. This board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Tom Korth at tkorth2@gmail.com

Board of Pastoral Care

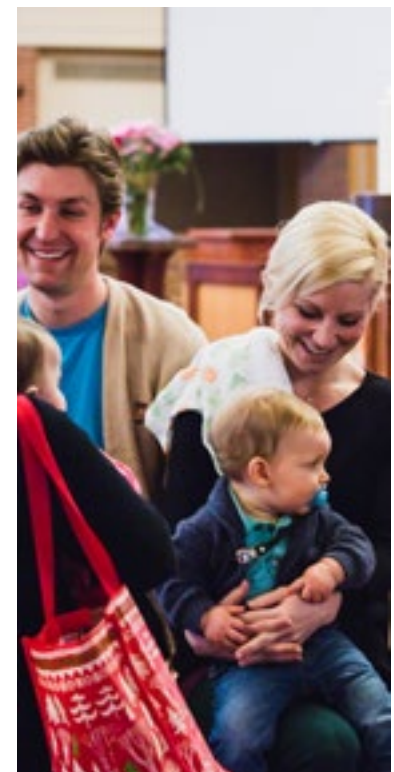
This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support, contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair Tom Scates at omahascats@cox.net.

Board of Deacons

This board is responsible for any church tasks that are related to worship and fellowship as well as communicating with new members and visitors. Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Contact board co-chairs Shelley Boyd at sboyd@mpsomaha.org, or Donna Rhodes at donna.r.rhodes@emcins.com.

Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation (CCCF)

The Foundation is an independent organization created by the Church to support and supplement the programs and facilities at Countryside. This board is composed of 7 church members. They meet quarterly. Contact Foundation President, Geoff Kregg at geoffgg1@cox.net.



HAPPY EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
9 AM Traditional Service
11 AM Jazz Service

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebraska
Permit No. 106



**Palm Sunday
Pancake Feed**

Sunday, April 9
After both services
beginning at 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pancakes by Chris Cakes

Hosted by: Family Activities Committee
see page 10 for details

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 9
9 AM and 11 AM Services
Pancake Breakfast
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Maunder Thursday
Thursday, April 12
7 PM Service

Good Friday
Friday, April 14
7 PM Service

Return to Me
a Choral Service on the Stations
of the Cross, also known as the
Way of Sorrows (Via Crucis)

Easter Sunrise Service

on Tri-Faith property
132 St. & Pacific St.

6:30 a.m.