

AUGUST



COYO Jr. High Camping in July



Groundbreaking in June



Faith Singers Tour in July

CCC SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander in June



Sr. High Mission Trip in June



Groundbreaking in June

TRI-FAITH PICNIC

AMI (American Muslim Institute) will host all three faiths for the Annual Tri-Faith Picnic on Sunday, August 20, from 12:30-3:00 PM in their new building at 13140 Faith Plaza.

There will be games and activities for all ages as well as plenty of food and beverages. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our new neighbors and get to know each other better. As modesty is an important part of the Muslim faith, we ask that attendees do not wear short skirts/shorts, tank tops/muscle shirts or see-through/revealing clothing. Shuttles will be available from Temple Israel.

Grilled Halal beef burgers, Kosher hot dogs, and cold drinks and water will be provided. We are asking each family to bring a potluck dish to share with everyone (plan a dish to serve 20 people). Keeping Jewish and Muslim food practices in

mind, we ask that you please stay away from pork (not even bacon in the salads, please!), gelatin or shellfish. If you do use any of these, please list the ingredients of your recipe on your dish so our volunteers can make signs for our guests.

As we gather with our neighbors, perhaps ask them about their dietary customs and how they follow them in their faith traditions. It will be a great way to learn from one another, and show our neighbors that who they are matters to us.



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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. Dr. 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

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steveg@countrysideucc.org

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Debbie Vihstadt
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Brian Palmer
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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.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO COMPLETE THE COMMUNICATION SURVEY

Thank you to all who completed our Countryside communication survey. Your feedback is really important to us and has shown us which areas we need to focus our attention on and where we can improve our church communications.

We are happy to report 87% of respondents (168 participants) said the church does a good job keeping its members informed with preferred communications being worship bulletins, emails, e-newsletters and direct mail.

Participants overwhelmingly said they would like to see more information on Tri-Faith activities. Other areas of interest were Center for Faith Studies, Music, Youth and Pastoral Care programs.

Over the next few months you will see changes in our communications to reflect your feedback. Again, we thank you for your participation in this survey!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Knolan Hudson and Linda Bannister attended Stephen Ministry National Leadership Training in Pittsburgh. They will be teaching the new class of Stephen Ministers beginning in late January 2018. Countryside, be looking for the new class registration in December, 2017.

On Saturday, August 26, 9 AM-1:30 PM, all current Stephen Ministers are welcome to attend our Fall Welcome Back at Jan Brown's house.

JOYS

Bob and Megan Vacha had a new granddaughter on May 31 when Leah and Chris had a beautiful baby girl.

Ann and Kevin Naylor had a new grandson on June 28. Their daughter and son-in-law in Texas had a 7 lb., 13 oz. boy named Declan Hays Walker.

Trudy and Barry Stewart are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson, Jacob Daniel Schlumberger, born July 8, 2017, to their son David and his wife Maria, in Omaha.

Julie and Brad Kregg are happy to announce the birth of their son Jacob Thomas who was born on July 22 at 10:10 AM, weighing 6 lbs. 8 ozs. and 18 1/2 inches long. Their son Ben is excited to be a big brother. Proud grandparents are Pam and Geoff Kregg.

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Ann Kent, 83, passed away on May 26. The funeral was at a mortuary on June 2, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Elliot (Gene) Gilmore's life was celebrated on June 10 at Countryside, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes as officiant.

Friend of the church Dr. William Griffin died on June 4, and his funeral was at St. Robert's.

James W. Summers passed away on June 27, and his memorial brunch was held at Countryside on July 22.

Mark Draper and Roxanne Williams-Draper are mourning the death of Mark's mother Helen Draper, who died on July 12. The funeral was held July 22 at Resurrection Lutheran in Gretna.

David Davis passed away on July 21. His funeral will be held on August 4 at 10 AM at Countryside with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating.

MARRIAGES

On May 27 in Los Angeles, Michaela Maxwell (daughter of Kiley Maxwell-Ward and the late Dr. Ken Maxwell) married Kurtis Mast.

On May 27 at Countryside, Alyssa Cardona married Robert Alexander; Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander and Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes both officiated.

On June 3 at Countryside, Ashley Vorhies married Jon Bender, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

FALL WORKSHOP - THE PERSONAL GOODBYE

Please come to the Board of Pastoral Care's fall workshop on Saturday, September 30 in the Chapel from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, This workshop will provide helpful information about an informal, creative process which culminates in a blend of respectful and personal choices for memorial services. Please RSVP by September 20. Contact Jan Brown, Pastoral Care Coordinator, with any questions.

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 Suppers 5:00 - 6:20 PM

Grade/Middle School 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 : 5:30 - 6:40 PM

Spirit of Grace : 6:45 - 7:45 PM

The Converging Paths Podcast

In-house Podcast : 6:30 - 7:00 PM

Guided Mediatation : 7:00 - 7:30 PM

RESUMES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy a community meal, educational opportunities, adult choirs and *The Converging Paths Podcast*. Note: Children and Youth choirs are being moved to Sunday afternoons as part of the new Arts Affirmation program (see page 8). This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

NEW THIS FALL!



The Converging Paths Podcast is a weekly audio podcast with Dr. Eric Elnes where "God experiences" converge with everyday life, turning each day into a potential encounter with the Holy. Starting September 6, Dr. Elnes will interview nationally-recognized faith leaders about their "God experiences" and how these experiences continue to inform their everyday life and work. Then, Dr. Elnes will offer a guided meditation in which wisdom gleaned from the interview will be organically integrated into an experience of prayer and meditation that may just provide that "meeting ground" between yourself and God that you've been looking for.



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 – Beginning in August, we will study the UCC Curriculum “White Privilege: Let’s Talk,” in collaboration with First United Methodist Church. Group #1 and Group #2 will alternate Monday evenings in the Commons from 7:00-8:30 PM for these discussions. In November, both churches will gather together for a closing event and discussion at First United. If you are interested in joining these group studies, please contact Mary Jo Barbusch Weiss at mjbarbeiss@gmail.com.

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*. Will not meet in August. Resumes September 11.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Currently on summer hiatus. Will resume on September 6.

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@countysideucc.org

or **Courtney Holiday**, CFS Admin. Assistant

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 119

Email: courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES 2017-18 LECTURE SERIES

Centering Amidst Disruption: Exploring Spirituality and Identity

Practicing the Presence of People: Experiencing the Trinity with Mike Morrell

September 14, 2017, 7:00 PM

Discover a deeper sense of self and unity with others. Learn to see and appreciate everyone we interact with and connect more fully.

Tickets: \$10, child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Breakfast with Mike Morrell

September 15, 2017, 8:30 AM Join us for a question and answer opportunity with Mike.

Rev. Mark Hanson: Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation and Deepening Our Interfaith Dialogue

October 5, 2017, 7:00 PM

Serving as the Executive Director of Augsburg's Christensen Center for Vocation, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson leads national and international initiatives to advance interfaith dialogue, inspire peacemaking, and support the College's commitment to vocational discernment.

Tickets: \$10, child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Jan Phillips: What You Have Seen Me Do... –Working Miracles in a Modern Age

November 9, 2017, 7:00 PM

What classifies as a miracle today? What does it look like to heal one another, to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers? What does an updated version of the Good Samaritan story look like? Explore what it means to be prophetic in a divided world.

Tickets: \$10 (Thursday only) child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Jan Phillips: Retreat - All Are Called, All Are Chosen: Becoming the Light We Hope to See

November 10-11: (Friday, 7:00 PM and Saturday, 9:00AM-3:00 PM)

Discover connections between our spirituality, our creativity and our action across the world. Tickets: \$75 (retreat tickets includes Thursday event)

Let Me Be Frank- The Traitorous Turnabout of an Evangelical Heir Apparent

January 11-12, 2018, 7:00 PM

Thursday night movie viewing followed by a question and answer session with Frank Schaeffer and Scott Griessel.

Tickets: \$10, child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Breakfast with Frank Schaeffer and Scott Griessel

January 12, 2018, 8:30 AM - Join us for another question and answer opportunity

Prayer 101; Prayer Retreat with Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.

Friday, March 16, 4:30 PM - Sunday, March 18, 12 PM at Creighton Retreat Center 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.

IHE Holocaust Speaker

March 20, 2018, 7:00 PM

Holocaust survivors share their heart-rending testimony hoping to inspire, educate and preserve the tragedy and history of the Holocaust.

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming This Fall- Convergence University-A Passport for Your Christian Journey

Countryside is excited to introduce Convergence University, a revolutionary approach to Journey Group study based upon the Phoenix Affirmations. The curriculum at C.U. is designed to help guide you along your spiritual path and build a deeper connection with God, the Countryside community and yourself. As you begin your journey into the theology of "The Three Great Loves; Love of God, Love of Neighbor and Love of Self," you will also be encouraged to focus on a Certificate of Specialization in Spirituality, Leadership, or Vocation. Participants will be given a Passport to guide you on your journey, track your progress, and tailor your studies to meet your spiritual needs. Study will begin with the start of the worship series using the Living Lectionary in September. Contact Chris Alexander for more information: chrisa@countrysideucc.org.



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.

SAVE THE DATE



New Worship Series based on "The Living Lectionary" begins Sunday September 10, 2017! Is your group planning to be a part of this 3-year worship cycle? Would you like to start a new group that is? Contact Chris Alexander and let's get you connected. Convergence University can help resource all your discussions, all you have to do is gather a few friends and start the conversation! For more information on The Living Lectionary: <https://innovation.sfts.edu/living-lectionary/>

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

**Practicing the Presence of People:
experiencing the Trinity with Mike Morrell**
September 14, 2017, 7:00-9:00 PM

Discover a deeper sense of self and unity with others.
Learn to see and appreciate everyone we interact
with and connect more fully.
See page 4 for details

*Please Join Us For
New Member Classes*

Wednesday, August 2, 9 and 16
7:00 - 8:15 p.m. in the Chapel
Thursday, August 31
7:00 p.m. at Rev. Eric Elnes's home

Contact Robyn Hubbard at
robynh@countrysideucc.org with questions

Next New Members class will start October 1

Sunday, August 27
5 - 6:30 PM at Countryside
Kick Off Dinner

WHITE
PRIVILEGE
let's talk

Join in the dialogue. Our first meeting is dinner and discussion. Then you can join a small group that meets one hour for six weeks followed by a wrap-up dinner at First United Methodist Church. Please contact Chris Alexander for more information: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

First United Methodist Church
Countryside Community Church



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worlds of Fun - August 7, 8:00 AM

At 8:00 AM, we will leave the church for Worlds of Fun. This is the first official event for the incoming freshmen and the last official event for the graduated seniors. We will return by 11:00 PM. Cost is \$25. Lunch will be provided. You are on your own for dinner and anything you spend in the park.

Tri-Faith Picnic, August 20, 12:30-3:00 PM

Tri-Faith picnic at AMI. Let's have a great showing of youth this year! Modesty is an important part of the Muslim faith, please do not wear short skirts/shorts or tank tops.

COYO Sr. High is Back! August 27!

4:30 Faith Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (9th - 12th Grade Choir)

6:00 Dinner for all COYO Sr High, Faith Singers, and COYO Jr High

6:30 COYO Sr High in Youth Room (Friends, Faith, and Service)

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tri-Faith Picnic, August 20, 12:30-3:00 PM

Tri-Faith picnic at AMI. Let's have a great showing of youth this year! Modesty is an important part of the Muslim faith, please do not wear short skirts/shorts or tank tops

COYO Jr. High is Back! August 27! Plus Covenant Choir Moves to Sundays

4:30 COYO Jr High (Friends, Faith, and Service)

6:00 Dinner for all COYO Jr High, COYO Sr High, and Faith Singers

6:30 Covenant Choir rehearsal in Choir Room (7th & 8th Grade Choir)

Confirmation Begins September 6 at 6:30 PM in Memorial Hall

Parents and students are welcome to come to the first class to hear about the requirements and the curriculum for the class.

Everything Confirmation is online at <http://countrysideucc.org/confirmation>



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.

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.

Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 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.

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.

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.

Choirs

Faith Singers (high school) meets 4:30 - 6:30 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer

Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Sundays 6:30 - 8:00 PM and sings once a month in church.

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



Faith Singers in July



Faith Singers in July



Sr. High Mission Trip in June



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

AUGUST

August 6 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Worship bags and books are available to borrow on a cart in the Narthex/Foyer.

August 13 - Children's Church

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

August 20 - Summer Sunday School

Children will head to the Moderator's Room downstairs for scripture and activity.

August 27 - Children's Church

Children will process together to the Chapel for children centered worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Core 56

Our Core 56 group meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30 PM until 7:00 PM. We will gather in the Youth Room and you are invited to drop your students off at the courtyard doors on the northeast end of the building.

Holy Moly & Core 56 on Wednesday Nights

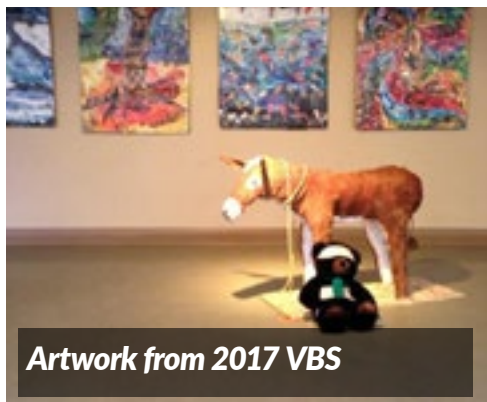
Our Wednesday night groups will begin meeting on September 6 (which is also a full moon!). Our classes are gathered in K-2nd grade and 3rd / 4th grade. While it is not required, we ask that you register for Holy Moly and Core 56 by completing the forms on the Countryside website under Children's Ministry. It is helpful in our planning.

Sunday School

Sunday School begins on September 10! We are very excited to study scripture stories with our Countryside children. Teachers are still needed to guide these classes through discussion, questioning, and activities. All curriculum is provided as are materials. Our classes meet during Worship services and are gathered in grade level groups from Pre-K to 6th grade. Contact Rebecca if you are willing.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Thanks to everyone who made our 2017 VBS a great success! We had 60 kids participate and we couldn't have done it without our awesome volunteers. A special shout out to Margaret Gilmore for the time and dedication she puts into making VBS such a wonderful experience for our youngest members!



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 Sparkhouse 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

Announcing Arts Affirmation

New opportunities are on the horizon for our young artists!

Children in grades kindergarten through six will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. Projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations that will be the basis of our worship series' beginning this fall.



The kids will meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 PM to coincide with youth activities (only one drop-off for parents!) They will work on three projects for thirty minutes each and finish the afternoon with dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:00 PM. Parents can choose to pick their little ones up at 6:00 PM, or after dinner at 6:30 PM. Parents are asked to volunteer by assisting a teacher for one 6-week project (art, drama/movement, or music) and to assist with a dinner. Members of the Board of Arts and Music will be calling families in August to answer questions about the program and to build the volunteer schedule for the year. If you have questions before receiving that call, please email Amy at the address provided to the left.

Note: all children and youth choirs will be wrapped into the Arts Affirmation curriculum meeting on Sunday afternoons. Children's choir programing will no longer be held on Wednesday evenings. Holy Moly and Core 56 will continue on Wednesday evenings.

Adult Choirs Start Up

Adult singers will begin the year with the kick-off breakfast and rehearsal on Saturday, August 26. Breakfast begins at 9:00 AM; rehearsal ends at noon. Regular choir practices begin on Wednesday, August 30 with new times listed to the left.

Faith Singers Tour Reprise

The Faith Singers spent eleven days touring the sweltering south last month. Ten days of devotions, nine city stops, eight concerts, seven chaperones, six million #groupme messages, five zip-lines, four trash cans, three risers, two homestays, and one closing circle later, we are all home safe and sounding awesome. Thank you so much for supporting these terrific singers in the annual tour! Please see www.facebook.com/cccfaihsingers for pictures of our adventures.



Coffee House Concert Series

Mark your calendars for a variety of performances in our coffee house throughout the coming year. Childcare will be available for all events at a cost of \$5 per child with a reservation. Here is the line up:

- August 12 - Bridges: Variations on a Theme featuring Countryside Performance Artists
- October 10 - Arts Showcase featuring Young Performers from the Omaha area
- December 9 - Christmas Coffeehouse ft. Countryside Jazz & Guests - *in conjunction with the Staff Open House*
- February 17 - Valentine's Date Night with Bobby Jo Valentine



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.

Arts Affirmation

Children in grades K-6 will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. All projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations. Sunday afternoons 4:30 - 6:00 PM. Begins August 27.

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers (formerly Covenant Choir) is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship. Resumes August 27.

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. Resumes August 27

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, 6:45-7:45 PM. Resumes August 29

Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 5:30-6:40 PM. Resumes August 29

QUESTIONS?

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

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



THE BOX FOR AUGUST

When you find yourself buying toilet paper and/or paper towels this month, please consider buying a few extra packages, and remember to bring them to Countryside during the month of August. We will make them available at the Community Cupboard, our monthly pantry where boxes of free food items are regularly distributed to hundreds of people. If you are curious about how you could volunteer please reach out to Andi Lawlor or email: communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org

LOOK AT THIS SSG!

PlantOneMore requested a Small Service Group Grant for \$120 to purchase fruit and vegetable seedlings that could be given away to local gardeners at Countryside earlier this Spring. The request was granted, the plants were distributed, and the extra bounty will soon be brought to Countryside where it will be distributed through local organizations like Youth Emergency Services(YES!), and Together, Inc. If you are one of those who "Planted One More", thank you for tending to it in the summer heat, and for bringing the produce to church as it is harvested.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD UPDATE:

During 2016, the Community Cupboard received and distributed 192,045 pounds of food from the Food Bank of the Heartland. That translates into 160,038 meals provided throughout the year at a cost of \$0.05/meal! Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who not only provide food for those who are food insecure, but for creating a community based on trust and commitment to one another.

SHOW US YOUR SSG FOR 2017!

This year we have already awarded \$500 towards purchasing discounted multi-lingual books and dictionaries that are to be given away at Countryside's Community Cupboard. If you have an idea for an SSG, please find and print the form on www.countrysideucc.org under Serving Together.

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



DIVINE PATHWAYS INTERRELIGIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

June 29 - July 4, in Baltimore, was the 31st General Synod of the UCC. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the United Church of Christ, as well as the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Rev. Eric Elnes and Bruce Blanchard were there for the Ecumenical and Interfaith dinner on June 30, as guests to receive this award on the congregation's behalf.

Among the speakers were Bishop Ilse Junkermann of the Evangelical Church of Central Germany, the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC.

The inscription reads:

Divine Pathways

Interreligious Achievement Award

Presented to Countryside Community Church

For excellence and commitment to nourishing and promoting interreligious relationships.

30 June 2017



PLEDGE NOW

www.countrysideucc.org/pledge

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Wednesday Night Alive Suppers will resume on Wednesday, September 6! Our suppers will look a little different this year. Christy Palmer and Mary Beth Link have created a monthly menu supper schedule. Be watching for it! We are also looking for folks who would like to volunteer their talent for creating, preparing and serving meals. Contact Christy at Christysuepalmer@gmail.com or Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org if you are interested in helping.
- Classics and Conversation will resume in September. On September 8, 7:00 p.m. the greatest movie ever made will be highlighted. Contact Ed Huddell at 402-401-8401 for additional information.
- Lunch Bunch Circle will resume on Monday, September 11, in the Moderator's Room for lunch and a Book Exchange. Marilyn Hale and Jeanne Spires are the designated hostesses. Please call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you would like to join this wonderful group of women!
- Parenting with Love and Logic classes return to Countryside on Mondays, September 18-October 23, 6:00 PM in the Moderator's Room. Mary Johnston will be facilitating the classes this year. Contact Mary Beth for additional information or stop by the Information Station to register for the class.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Brush up Nebraska Paint-a-thon will be held on Saturdays, August 12 and 19, 9:00-Noon. Paint-A-Thon is a community based volunteer program that paints homes of qualified low-income elderly and low-income permanently disabled homeowners in the Omaha Metropolitan Area so that they may maintain their property, increase energy efficiency and beautify the community.

Plant One More -continues through September 3. You are invited to bring any additional home-grown veggies to church with you on Sunday mornings to donate to those in need in the Omaha community. Vicki Houston and daughter Eva will be stationed in the Courtyard to receive your donations.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

It all STARTs with a warm welcome: YOU! The welcome team has come up with an acronym for welcoming people to Countryside, new and old alike. If you see someone you don't know, especially during coffee hour, go up and introduce yourself.

S- Seek out new faces; people who are alone or someone you do not know.

T- Talk to them. Engage.

A- Assist visitors by directing or taking them to the Welcome Center.

R- Remember what it felt like to be new.

T- Tell them what YOU love about Countryside!

Let's practice what we preach!

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@countysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Paint-A-Thon Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for Saturdays, August 12 & 19, 9:00 a.m - Noon. Contact Tom Korth at tkorth2@gmail.com.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, August 5. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org.

Thank You

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

Volunteer highlights for August

In August we spotlight Countryside's Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-thon volunteers! BRUSH UP NEBRASKA Paint-A-Thon is a community based volunteer program that paints homes of qualified low-income elderly and low-income permanently disabled homeowners, in the Omaha Metropolitan Area, so that they may maintain their property, increase energy efficiency and beautify the community.

Again this year, we shine the spotlight on Tom Korth. This is Tom's 5th year as Countryside's Paint-a-thon coordinator. Helping him on Saturdays, August 12 and 19 are Valentine and Jeremy Wadhams, Janet Calvin, Dan Hackett and David Duey. There is room for more! Please consider helping with this fulfilling project. You may register at the Information Station or by contacting Tom at tkorth2@gmail.com.

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 Life Ministries 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.

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 (FateE)

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 1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM. Contact board chair Marian Kaiser at mskaiser@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 Jen 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.





WORSHIP SERIES
BLESS TO ME
July 30 - September 3



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

**BRUSH UP
NEBRASKA
PAINT-A-THON**

SATURDAY August 12
SATURDAY August 19

All Countrysiders who are able and willing to paint and/or spruce up a home for a family of elderly and disabled folks! *(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)*



To sign up contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org

see page 10 volunteer corner



Tri-Faith Picnic

Sunday, August 20, 2017
12:30 - 3:00 PM at AMI

Bring a dish or dessert to share!
No pork, shellfish or gelatin dishes please.
Halal burgers and kosher hot dogs provided.

Modesty is an important part of the Muslim faith, we ask that attendees do not wear short skirts/shorts or tank tops or revealing clothing.



MISSION

Sunday, August 6
12:30 PM
Memorial Hall

Come for lunch and hear stories of the COYO Sr High mission trip to New Jersey and the Faith Singers Tour

SUNDAY

