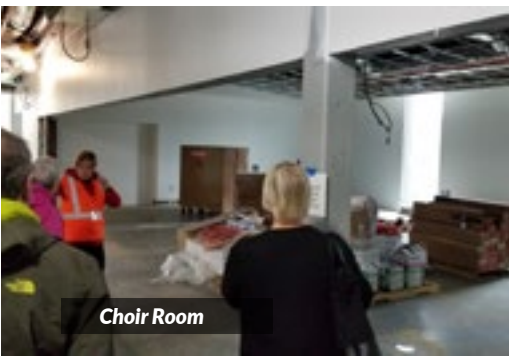


NOVEMBER



Choir Room



Tour of new church

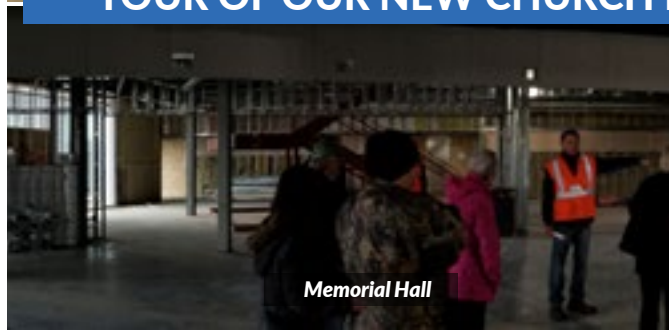


Grand Staircase

TOUR OF OUR NEW CHURCH IN OCTOBER



Balcony



Memorial Hall



Columbarium

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING

"Be Not Afraid" is the theme for this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service scheduled for Sunday, November 18, at 5 PM. This year's host is Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, 2650 Farnam Street. Each faith tradition will focus on common texts from the "Be Not Afraid" theme based on Psalm 46. In the spirit of thanksgiving the offering and non-perishable food items will be donated to Together. This special service brings together many participating faith communities: American Muslim Institute, Countryside Community Church (United Church of Christ), First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), First

Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), First Unitarian Church of Omaha, First United Methodist Church, Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Temple Israel and Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church. Next year's Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration will be held at Countryside's new location on the Tri-Faith campus on November 24, 2019.

All 7th-12th grade students are invited to a youth gathering at 3:30 PM at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for a pizza party!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome - Page 2

Pastoral Care - Page 3

Center For Faith Studies - Page 4

Engaging in Worship - Page 5

Youth Ministries - Page 6

Children's Education - Page 7

Music Ministries - Page 8

Christian Outreach - Page 9

Relocation Update - Page 9

Life Ministries - Page 10

Get Connected/Tri-Faith - Page 11



WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countysideucc.org
Website - www.countysideucc.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@countysideucc.org

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

Business Office

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

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

Steve Gomez
Administrative Assistant, ext. 101
steveg@countysideucc.org

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100
krish@countysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 125
debbiev@countysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countysideucc.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. 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.

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

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Through the chaos and strain of these days, in the busyness and violence of this world, our Advent prayer pleads, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

The United Church of Christ is offering an advent devotional through The Stillspeaking Writers' Group. This year's theme, "Come, Lord Jesus!", is echoed in the plea of Revelation 22:20. If you long for a world that is illuminated by God's love, join in praying this Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus." If you can long for the renewal of humanity and the end of violence, join in praying this Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus."

The booklet is a unique collection of devotions that includes Scripture and prayer for each day of Advent beginning on December 2 (first Sunday of Advent) and continuing through Christmas Day.



2018 Advent Devotional, "Come Lord Jesus"
The booklets will be available after Nov. 10 in the Foyer for purchase at \$6 each.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee invites you to participate in the 2019 Stewardship campaign. Commitment cards were mailed out to the congregation. They are also available in the pews or in the Foyer on Sundays. You can also set up online giving by visiting countysideucc.org/give. Please prayerfully consider how you will support the church and then return your Commitment Card or set up online giving today!





STEPHEN MINISTRY

November 6 – 5:30, Stephen Ministry Leadership Team in Jan’s office
– 6:00-7:30, (note that we will begin at 6 PM now) in the Chapel

BIRTHS

Aly and Geoff Amstutz had a baby girl named Layla Joy on Saturday, October 13. Margie and Bill Bolte are the proud grandparents, and Marj Sambasile is the happy great grandmother.

Jake and Sarah Steiner welcomed a baby girl, Jane Elizabeth, on October 17.

Kristen and Laura Jones are the happy parents of their new little son Jaden Isaiah, born August 3.

BAPTISMS

Three babies were baptized at Countryside on Sunday, October 14:

Beckett Landon Dungan, son of Andrew and Alicyn Dungan.

Lydia Grace Kanago, daughter of Andy and Heather Kanago.

Oliver Michael Gilbreath, son of John Gilbreath and Jasmine Hermanek.

WEDDINGS

Jeff Carne and Ashley Gay were married October 12 at First Central Congregational Church in Omaha, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Ben Sikola and Caitlyn Brayfield were married October 27 at Nebraska City, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

IN MEMORIUM

Bill (Sara) Sellgren passed away October 19. A memorial service will be held at Forest Lawn in Omaha on November 8, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating.

HOLIDAY UNCERTAINTY

As we begin thinking about the holiday season (it’s impossible not to if you go into the stores), keep in mind that this time can be both meaningful and also fraught with emotional quagmires. Our lives don’t stay the same, and yet somehow we always want the holiday season to offer us the traditional warmth and companionship that we may have once experienced in years gone by. This can leave us feeling lonely, out of sorts, and yet not able to completely understand why. Please know that this impasse represents why it helps to have a church family, and we can help. Contact one of our ministers to talk or contact Jan in Pastoral Care; ask for a Stephen Minister or just some time with a trusted person. **We care.**

As we approach our final 8787 Pacific Thanksgiving and Christmas season together, yet even more complicated emotions may arise. Many of you have the strongest of memories associated with our current church building: your babies were baptized here, your children were confirmed here, there were family weddings and maybe even your own, loves ones’ funerals were held here, and Sunday School, Christmas programs, VBS and COYO all may hold beautiful sentiments for you. Pondering these within the context of a loving church family can give us pause for much gratitude. And yet, a certain sadness can occur as we grieve the loss of “place,” similar to the feelings when we move from our family home. This is all normal, and yet it can feel isolating. Please know you’re not alone, and we will listen. We are your church, we will be here for you during all the times of your life, and we want to listen. **Thank you, Lord, for giving us each other.**

JOB OPENINGS

Preschool Teacher

Kindernook Preschool currently has a teacher opening in our Toddler Room. Long time teacher, Ms. Maria is relocating to Virginia at the end of October and we will have an opening in the Toddler classroom she has taught in for the past 4 years. Applicants should have an Associates/ Bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education or Child related field. Previous experience working with young children is preferred. This position is perfect for someone who enjoys working with young children and is looking for a part time position in a positive work environment. The class meets Monday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. September through May. Teachers are scheduled 8:30-11:30 and planning time is paid. There is opportunity for additional hours as well. If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact Stacey Carnazzo at staceyc@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 114.

Nursery Worker

There is an opening on our Nursery Ministry team! The Nursery Ministry provides childcare for our children ages infant through two years old during Sunday worship services as well as during our Wednesday Evening activities. There are opportunities for extra hours as we offer childcare for special events such as Center for Faith Studies and New Members classes. We are seeking applicants who are 18 years or older, enjoy spending time with small people, and can pass a background check. While we welcome interest from within, applicants need not be members of Countryside.

For the Nursery Staff Application, visit countrysideucc.org/about-us/openpositions/

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



CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Jana Riess and Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes: The Prayer Wheel: Prayer Retreat November 9 -November 10, 2018

Dr. Jana Riess & Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes on Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November 10 will be leading an outstanding retreat focusing on an ancient prayer practice based on Jana's latest book, the Prayer Wheel. This book offers a timeless solution for the modern faithful. Cost for the event, which includes lunch on Saturday, is \$80/person. Friday runs from 7:00-9:00 PM and Saturday goes from 9:00-2:30 PM. Both events are in the Commons at Countryside Church. Registration is available at the Information Station on Sunday mornings or you may contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or marybethl@countrysideucc.org to receive a registration email.



Silent Sacrifice -The Story of Japanese American Incarceration in California's San Joaquin Valley and Beyond - Thursday, January 17, 2019, 7 PM

A documentary film sharing the experience of Japanese Americans before, during and after WWII And the ramifications of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens from Japan.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Inner Matrix: A Guide to Transforming Your Life and Awakening Your Spirit

Monday evenings, October 1 - November 12, 7 PM in the Chapel

A 6-week interactive program for people to come together and discuss their progress as they move through the life-changing process outlined in Joey Klein's book, The Inner Matrix

Rabbi Azriel

Mondays, 10-11:30 AM in Memorial Hall

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, our Scholar-In-Residence, is offering a six-week series of classes on Judaism through Monday, November 26. If you would like to know more about his faith tradition and be part of the ongoing conversation with Rabbi Azriel, we would love to have you attend.

LtQ2 (Living the Questions)

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM

LtQ2 is an open-minded study that strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. LtQ2 consists of 21 sessions including: "Invitation to Journey," "Honoring Creation" and "Call to Covenant." LtQ2 includes a 20 minute video with leading voices of faith, plus weekly readings and discussion questions. Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander facilitates a group discussion following the video. For more information contact Chris at chrisa@

Racial Justice Book Club - Tuesday, November 27, 1 PM

Challenge: Why is David Wilson more likely than DeTonte Williams to get called in for an interview with exactly the same resumé? Why are sentences for the same crime longer for Blacks than Whites? Why are Amber Alerts more likely to be issued and publicized for White girls than children of color? Why are Black kids more likely to be suspended from school than White kids? Why are people of color less likely to be accepted as guests through Air B&B? Is it blatant racism or pervasive implicit bias? How can you know? Here's the challenge: take the Harvard Implicit Association Test for race, but be prepared. You may not be comfortable with the results. implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html

Racial Justice Book Club will be reading Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking and/or Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald. We will discuss implicit bias at our next meeting on Tuesday, November 27 at 1:00 PM.

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.

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying "The History and Achievements of the Islamic Golden Age".

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15pm in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Currently studying *The Celtic World* by Great Courses.

Racial Justice

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 27 at 1 PM. Currently reading Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking and/or Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald. Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com)

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Studying *Days of Awe & Wonder* by Marcus Borg.

Convergence University

If your group is interested in Convergence University curriculum and would like access to additional resources provided from the *This We Affirm* website, please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org for login information.

Darkwood Brew Membership

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.

Username:CCUCC Password: tryside8787

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

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

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

Email: courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Series: *The Gifts We Share: Distinctive Gifts That Judaism, Christianity, and Islam Bring To the World, and To You*

In November, Countryside is continuing a 6-week series meant to provide an "insider's perspective" on the relationships between the three faiths. Only, this year there's a twist! While we'll offer each leader a chance to reflect on a gift that their faith tradition distinctively (though not necessarily exclusively) brings to the table, leaders from Temple Israel and the AMI will also reflect on gifts they believe Christianity brings to the table. Finally, Dr. Elnes will offer a perspective of Judaism's and Islam's gifts to us through his eyes as well.

You don't want to miss this amazing series! It will definitely be a series to invite your friends to as well.

October 21: A Gift of Islam for Christians and Jews
Imam Jamal Dahoudi

October 28: A Gift of Christianity Through A Muslim's Eyes
Imam Jamal Dahoudi

November 4: A Gift of Islam Through Christian Eyes
Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

November 11: A Gift of Judaism
Rabbi Deana Berzin

November 18: A Gift of Christianity Through Jewish Eyes
Rabbi Brian Stoller

November 25: A Gift of Judaism Through Christian Eyes
Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Advent Series: *Christ in Seven Carols*

Join us in Advent to contemplate the significance of Christ's coming through Advent and Christmas Carols, both familiar and unfamiliar. Each service will feature a carol, its scriptural and historical background, and a reflection on what the carol tells us about Jesus and his significance for our world today. You may find something old and familiar about Jesus in an unfamiliar carol, and something new and exciting in an old favorite. In a sense, this series embodies what we are experiencing as we celebrate our last Christmas in our present church building; discovering something new in the familiar, and, as we anticipate new Christmas experiences at Tri-Faith Commons, discovering something old in the unfamiliar. This promises to be an enchanting and inspirational series. Why not bring a friend?

December 2: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

December 9: O Morning Star

December 16: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

December 23: Down to Earth

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: Joy to the World and Silent Night

December 30: A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays in the Conference Room

For more information about Worship contact Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 113

Email: erice@countrysideucc.org

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Next Dinner: November 7, 5 - 6:15 PM

MEMORIAL HALL [details page 10](#)

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS

Dr. Jana Riess

Five Ways Millennials Are Shaping Faith Today

Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m.

Countryside Community Church

Tickets \$10 on-line at eventbrite.com or at the door

[details on page 4](#)

EQUALITY 101

Orientation & Gender Identity Presentation Q&A

Saturday, November 3, 10-11 AM
Tuesday, November 6, 6 - 7 PM

Countryside Community Church

Reserve your seat by emailing:
info@EqualityAdvancement

\$25 (payable at event) Light Refreshments

[details on page 10](#)

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS

Jana Riess & Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

The Prayer Wheel: Prayer Retreat

November 9 - November 10, 2018

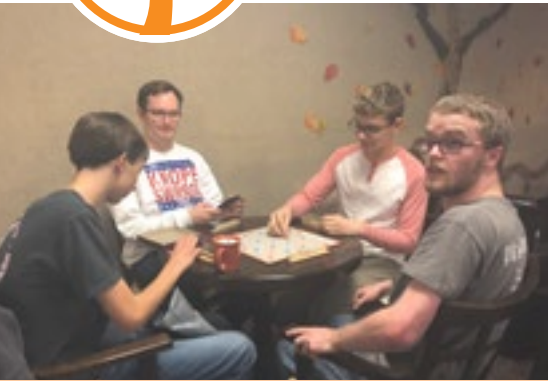
Countryside Community Church

Tickets \$80 on-line at eventbrite.com

[details on page 4](#)



YOUTH MINISTRIES



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 4:45- 6:00 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer.

Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:30 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

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interfaith Thanksgiving - Sunday, November 18 at 3:30 PM

Sunday, November 18 at 3:30 PM there will be an Interfaith Youth Gathering pizza party at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church (2650 Farnam St, Omaha) before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 5:00 PM also at Kountze. You are welcome to come to both. Cost is FREE!

COYO Sr High and Alumni Pie Night - Wednesday, November 21, 7:00-9:00 PM

Catch up with COYO alumni in the commons. Barista drinks and pie! Spread the word! Costco pies will be provided. Bring a homemade one if you want.

All COYO Families Dinner - Sunday, November 25 at 6:00 PM

All COYO Families Dinner in Memorial Hall. Bring your Thanksgiving leftovers and heat them up at church.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation

There will be no Confirmation on Wednesday, November 21, Thanksgiving Eve.

Interfaith Thanksgiving - Sunday, November 18 at 3:30 PM

Sunday, November 18 at 3:30 PM there will be an Interfaith Youth Gathering pizza party at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church (2650 Farnam St, Omaha) before the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 5:00 PM also at Kountze. You are welcome to come to both. Cost is FREE!

All COYO Families Dinner - Sunday, November 25 at 6:00 PM

All COYO Families Dinner in Memorial Hall. Bring your Thanksgiving leftovers and heat em up at church.

COYO Jr High on Sunday evenings

It's not too late to join COYO Jr High on Sunday evenings and for events, service projects, and faith formation. 4:30 COYO Jr High, 6:00 Dinner for all students.





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR OCTOBER SERVICES

November 4 - Family Worship

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

November 11 - Sunday School

Moses and the Red Sea!-- Moses listened for God and eventually was faithful to God's call to lead the Israelites to freedom, even when it seemed hopeless, even when he didn't believe he could do it. When Moses trusted God, his fear was replaced with courage and a sense of peace.

November 18 - Children's Church

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

November 25 - Sunday School

Baby Moses—Even in the most difficult of times, God is with us. A mother, a sister, and a princess act to enable the baby Moses to live and to grow into a man who would respond to God's call and become who God called him to be.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered during worship for our students in grades Pre-K (3-5 year olds) through 6th grade. During our time together, our classes explore scripture stories from the Christian tradition through discussions, activities, and prayer practices! We consider how our faith stories are enhanced when we include the perspectives of our Jewish and Muslim friends, as we share many foundational stories and develop tools that help us use these stories to draw us closer to God. To register your student for Sunday School 2018-2019, please check our website: countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

CORE 56

Core 56 meets in the moderator's room from 6:30 until 7:30 PM. This group is for students in 5th and 6th grades. This year, we will explore scripture stories, work on developing skills for acting as an ally to marginalized communities, and spend time in fellowship! If your 5th or 6th grade student is planning to attend, please register on our webpage: countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/core-56/ Students are welcome to bring friends!

HOLY MOLY!

Our Holy Moly! groups meet in the classrooms downstairs from 6:30-7:30PM. Group 1 is for students in grades K-2 and Group 2 is for grades 3-4. Holy Moly curriculum is written by Sparkhouse Publishing and each lesson focuses on a single scripture story with a video, story, and activity. Please register your Holy Moly student by visiting our church webpage: <http://countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/holy-moly/>

VOULNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of volunteers, particularly those who are willing to substitute periodically, to work with our young friends in Sunday School, Holy Moly, Core 56, and Children's Church. All that is required is the willingness to spend time with our young friends, to listen, to laugh at jokes (good or bad), to talk about your faith—how and why you look for answers even if you never find them, and to pass a background check. Please contact Rebecca if interested in this service work.

NURSERY

Our nursery staff is available on Sundays from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. In the interest of keeping everyone in the nursery safe, we want to remind everyone that the Nursery is reserved for infants and children **up to age 2**. We can usually accommodate a 3 year old pretty easily, but if you have older children that require care during normal nursery hours, please make other arrangements.

On Wednesday evenings, our Nursery staff can support 3-5 year olds **but please let us know so we can prepare** age appropriate activities for them as well as take steps to maintain a safe environment for our infants and toddlers. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

9:00 Service

Nursery - Pre-K
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 staff is trained and have passed background checks.

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.

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.

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.

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 multi-media, 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 enjoy fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

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.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Comes Early

Last month, the adult choirs began preparing Advent and Christmas music at a special Saturday retreat complete with Christmas brunch, group games, an “ugly” Christmas sweater contest, and carol-singing. It was a great time and we got some work done, too. If you are normally not able to sing with the choirs, but would like to participate in the winter offerings this holiday season, please come to rehearsals on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:00 PM, when the choirs will be rehearsing for choral events on December 16 and December 24.

Hanging of the Greens

December 1 at 10 AM – This is the day that all of the pre-made pieces are installed in the sanctuary and around the church. This is a church-wide event, supported by the members of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Music & Arts. Please contact Chris Gilmore or sign up at the Information Station to let us know that you will join us to “dress the house” on December 1. Breakfast will be provided!

Artists Needed for Advent Shadow Boxes

The Advent project last year was so well received that we’ve been asked to do a repeat performance. Anyone interested in participating this year should contact Cindy Cronn at cronn.cynthia4@gmail.com or call her at 402 319-3195. This year our shadow boxes will be based on Christmas carols. We request that you let Cindy know what carol you would like to use as inspiration for your shadow box. We already have a request for “We Three Kings” so that is out of the running, but any other carol is fair game. Get your requests in early!



All Saints Day Display

This November 1 is All Saint’s Day. Sainthood isn’t only given by a group of religious leaders in Protestant churches, but God grants sainthood to any common, salt-of-the-earth person known or unknown. This year we request you give us a photo (copy) of someone you wish to commemorate as a saint to you; a person who has personally guided another to faith in Jesus, such as a friend or relative. We will display these photos in our Commons on the wall. So please submit a photo along with a small label of their name and relationship to you!! We want to show our thankfulness for these people.



Honoring Amy Luckenbill: Sunday, November 11, 2018, 10 – 11 AM, Common Grounds

Please join us from 10 to 11 AM on Sunday, November 11, to celebrate Dr. Amy Luckenbill’s tenure as Director of Arts and Music Ministries for Countryside. Amy is transitioning onto a new career path. November 11 will be her last Sunday as our Director. This time is our opportunity to personally thank Amy for her vision, leadership and contributions to our faith community. Coffee and cake will be served.

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 K through 6th grade 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.

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 PM.

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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact:

Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens
Board of Arts and Music - Chair
Email: athoffman425@gmail.com.

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR NOVEMBER

The Box for NOVEMBER will be Christmas TOYS for the CHILDREN of PINE RIDGE. Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe with an estimated population of close to 40,000. The reservation is large, and its needs immense, commensurate with grinding poverty. Your Board of Christian Outreach along with the students of COYO (Countryside Youth) purchase, collect and wrap the gifts which will be delivered to the children of the reservation. We ask for gifts for children of ALL AGES – games, Legos, Lincoln Logs, dolls, books, puzzles, etc. Should you wish to donate money for this project, we have folks who will gladly purchase gifts for you. Stop by the Information Station with any questions you may have. We thank you in advance for your help with this collection.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD UPDATE

Community Cupboard October pantry provided food for 173 families which accounted for 532 individuals! Want to help? As always we need 60 volunteers this month. People are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, Nov. 3. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

YOUR BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH ASKS...LOVE CHRISTMAS?

Love Christmas decorations? Do you have soooo many great Christmas decorations, but just want to make a few changes this year? Or...maybe you just want fewer Christmas decorations. Well, if you answer yes to one or more of these questions, bring and drop off your extras to Memorial Hall on Sunday, November 18 and then on November 25 there will be a "decoration exchange" after both services. Any and all decorations left on November 25 will be donated to the Community Cupboard Pantry clients at the December 1 pantry.

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

COUNTRYSIDE MEMBERS RECEIVED A SNEAK PEEK

Neither wind, nor rain, nor unusually cool temperatures kept many Countryside members from attending the Sneak Peek at our new church at 13130 Faith Plaza on Sunday, October 7. Led by members of the stewardship committee and trustees, church members were able to get a feel for the new building. Members of the CRC as well

as representatives from HGA and APM architectural firms and Project Advocates were posted along the route to provide information about the various areas.

One member said "It's really becoming real!" The pictures below capture some of the tours.



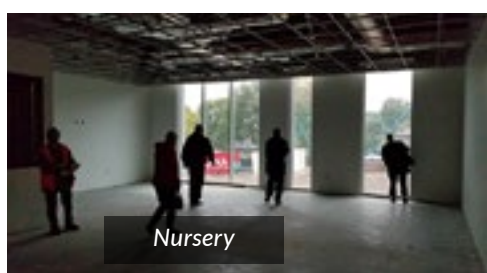
Music hallway at new church



Area near grand staircase



Balcony at new church



Nursery



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

ALL CHURCH FAMILY FALL EVENTS

Wednesday Night Supper will happen on the first Wednesday of each month giving our church family the opportunity to gather together, relax after a long day and best of all NOT COOK DINNER! Our next gathering will be held on November 7, 5:00-6:15 PM in Memorial Hall. We will enjoy pasta supper with salad, bread and brownies. Cost of the meal is \$8/person and \$2/child. Paid reservations are GREATLY appreciated! Sign up/prepay at the Information Station.

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Saturday, November 3, 10-11:00 AM and Tuesday, November 6, 6-7:00 PM in the Commons at Countryside Community Church. This frank and open discussion exploring the basic science surrounding the biology, orientation and gender identity of our sexuality, the impact of bias on these issues and an outline of the services available to families, professionals and organizations. A suggested donation of \$25/person may be paid at the class or you may reserve your seat by emailing: info@EqualityAdvancement.com. (Sponsored by Countryside's Board of Life Ministry.)

The Prayer Wheel: A Daily Guide to Renewing Your Faith with a Rediscovered Spiritual Practice features Dr. Jana Riess & Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes on Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November 10. They will be leading an outstanding retreat focusing on an ancient prayer practice based on Jana's latest book, the Prayer Wheel, that offers a timeless solution for the modern faithful. Cost for the event, which includes lunch on Saturday, is \$80/person. Friday runs from 7:00-9:00 PM and Saturday goes from 9:00-2:30 PM. Both events are in the Commons at Countryside Church. Register at the Information Station on Sunday mornings or contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

First Wednesday Supper will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 5:00-6:15 PM in Memorial Hall. We will be celebrating the holiday season with assorted pizza, salad and dessert. Advanced registration is GREATLY appreciated!

Thursday, December 6, 6:00 PM at Vino Mas, join friends and family for the second annual **Ollie the Trolley Christmas Lights Tour!** We have already filled one trolley, now we are ready to fill the second! This too will fill VERY quickly as there are only 38 seats available! Cost is only \$15. Paid registration is available at the Information Station. Event sponsored by E.T.C. social committee.

Saturday, December 2, 9:00-11:00 AM in the Commons, join friends and family for the annual **Advent Workshop.** The children will be creating 5-6 different "treasures" centering on the theme of Faith, Family and Friends! This will be a busy morning as the children from the food pantry will be joining our church kiddos for the Advent Workshop and the Board of Arts and Music will be decorating the church for the holidays. We always welcome any additional volunteers who would enjoy working with children of all ages as they create their holiday crafts. What an outstanding start to the holiday season! (Advent Workshop is sponsored by the Family Activities Committee)



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

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, November 3. We need 60 volunteers every month. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.

Kitchen helpers are needed!

Countryside's four kitchens need a group of folks who are willing to come in weekly to clean countertops, empty dishwashers, wipe down appliances and do some general light cleaning so our kitchens are a healthy and more inviting place to work. Contact Mary Beth for more information.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Pastoral Care for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of November. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what that Board is responsible for and how you might help.

Family Activities Committee (FAC) and E.T.C. Social Group

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new people! If you enjoy working with a wide variety of folks, enjoy a good party or just like being around a delightful group of folks then one of these groups is for you. Stop by the Information Station and talk to Mary Beth to learn more.

Volunteers needed for our upcoming move!

Are you a packer? Are you the person who loves sorting and throwing things away? How are you with labeling boxes, packing tape and hysterical church staff? If any of these areas interest you, please stop by the Information Station to sign up as we begin organizing personnel to help us with the move. The Board of Life Ministry is coordinating this adventure and they NEED 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 Life Ministries Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This multigenerational group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@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.

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 marybeth@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 marybeth@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 Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net or 402.333.3115.

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. Meets Fridays at 10:00 AM. 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 marybeth@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.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

See countysideucc.org/about-us

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 9:30 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.

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 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 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.



trifaith.org
americanmusliminstitute.org

templeisraelomaha.com

TRI-FAITH KIDS - BEING AN UPSTANDER

Sunday, November 18, 4:30 - 6:30 PM, AMI

Tri-Faith Kids will learn about being an upstander, someone who sees a wrong doing and takes positive action or speaks up to help and support those who are being hurt. You can go to the Tri-Faith website, trifaith.org/events for more information about this year's schedule. For questions please contact Anji Stanek at anjistanek1@gmail.com and put Tri-Faith Kids in the subject line.

How does Tri-Faith Kids work?

- Families with infant through high school aged youth are welcome. Each family is asked to bring a potluck dish to share. Please, no pork, shellfish, gelatin or marshmallows in any food. Label anything with nuts.
- Upon arrival we gather in the AMI social hall and engage in stories and activities. Parents are encouraged to join a group with the child they feel needs them the most.
- Parents/grandparents of infants through Pre-K stay with the little ones and make new friends while watching their children play and grow in an interfaith environment.
- Elementary and secondary age groups will start with an opening prayer led by our youth. Each group will participate in an age appropriate activity and discussion around the topic of the month. After the activity, all groups will come together for a potluck meal and fellowship

DR. JOEL M. HOFFMAN, NOV. 2 & 3 TEMPLE ISRAEL

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman is an engaging and energetic teacher who focuses on Jewish history and modern culture, Jewish education, the history of the Hebrew language, and the hidden meanings behind the Bible. A popular author and speaker who presents at synagogues and other venues around the country, Joel has an incredible way of bringing his topics to life with humor and great fun.

Friday Evening Services (6-7 PM): A whirlwind tour of 3,000 years of Judaism, focusing on three spiritual revolutions and the exiles that led to each. Then the most recent revolution: modern Judaism. How are we, today, like the prophets and like the authors of the Talmud? How is 21st-century Omaha like the Golden Age of Spain?

Shabbat Morning Torah Study (9 AM): The original Hebrew of the Ten Commandments doesn't say, "don't covet" or "don't kill." The translation "the Lord is my shepherd" is misleading, and the English phrase "with all your heart and all your soul" is just wrong. Come learn how modern translation techniques expose what the words of the Bible originally meant.

Havdalah, Wine, and Cheese (4-6 PM): Over wine and cheese, we will study the second half of the Adam and Eve story missing from the Bible, Abraham's formative childhood, the mysterious Enoch, and the way all three ancient scriptural texts explore the nature of our lives as they explain good and evil.

HOLIDAYS

Jewish

Hanukkah December 2-10, 2018

Hanukkah (alternately spelled Chanukah), meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Hanukkah centers around the lighting of the hanukkiyah, a special menorah for Hanukkah; foods prepared in oil including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts); and special songs and games.



facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/
facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/
facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/

worship series

Gifts of Faith



October 21 - November 25

details page 5

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

23rd Annual
Jewish
Christian
Muslim

Interfaith THANKSGIVING

"Be Not Afraid"
-Psalm 46

Sunday, November 18
5:00 p.m.

Hosted by:
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam Street



All 7th-12th grade students are invited to a Pizza Party at 3:30 p.m. at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, a free will offering will be donated to Together Inc. 

Join us for

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 1
10 AM

Help decorate the church for the holiday season and enjoy breakfast!



Sign up at the Information Station

New Worship Service

8 PM, Sunday Evenings through November 25

This new service is meant to start your week, not end it. The focus will be on connecting with the Holy Spirit in ways that keep you connected throughout the coming week.

All are welcome and encouraged to come.