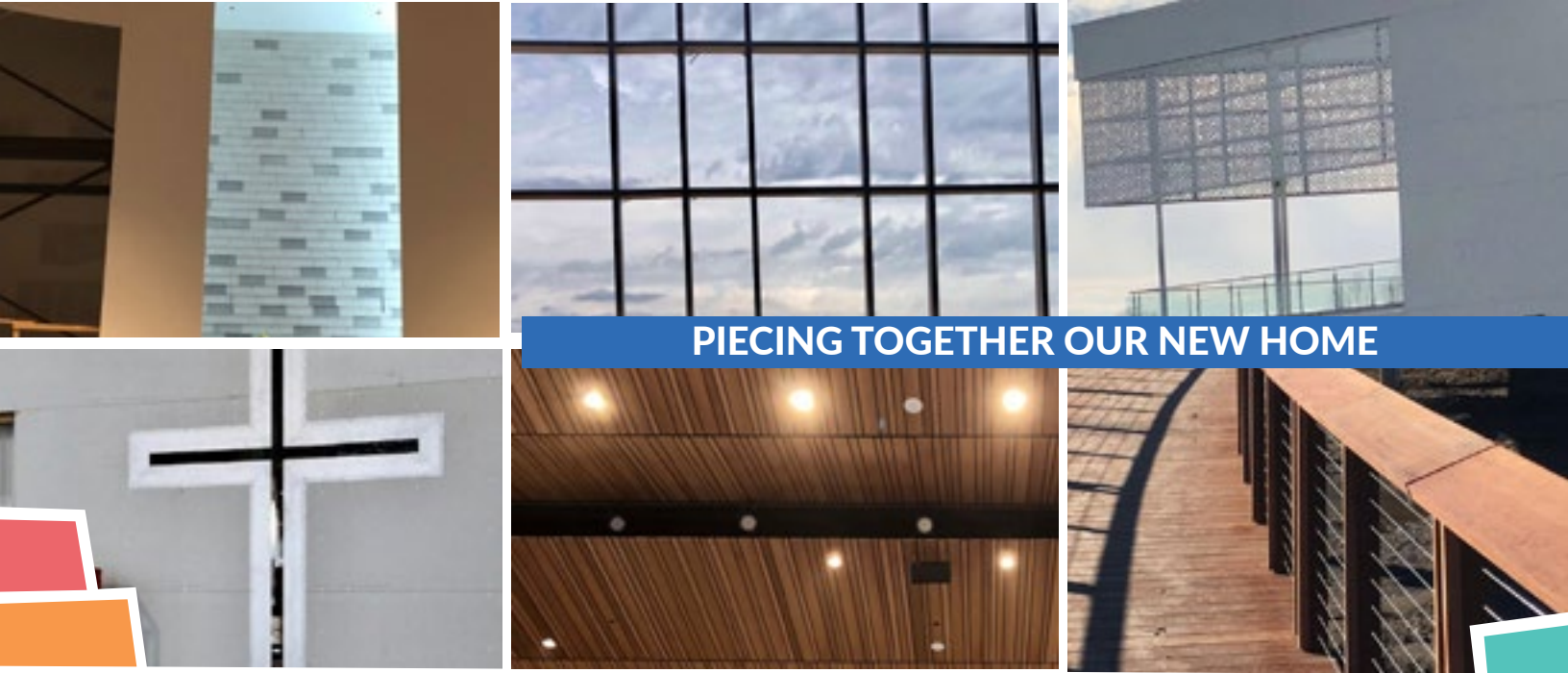


MARCH 2019



PIECING TOGETHER OUR NEW HOME

ONE MORE MONTH

It is difficult not to be excited about something new. Our new building is still wrapped in the anticipation of our new life there. Perhaps we catch ourselves imagining how the sanctuary might smell as we gather for worship or how the voices of our choirs will carry through the halls on a Wednesday night. Some of us might already hear the pounding sound of running feet as our students play games at a lock-in and our youngest members explore their new space in their exuberant drive to take in every aspect of this new thing by touching and climbing on all the things you hope they don't or shrieking just to hear how these new walls bring their own voices back to them. A good trade-off, I think, for the life they will bring this place.

We have seen some pictures of the unfinished rooms, the bell nestled in its new peak high above our new space, our new hawk friend, and the rainbow stretched out across the space. These pictures were displayed just outside the church office, along with the

mocked up rooms of our imaginings, long before the construction workers began piecing together the thick iron beams, the drywall, and the tiles. In a month or so, we will replace the ghost-like figures in some of the drawings with ourselves, breathing life into the building as our living church moves in.

As with any new thing, there is much we will learn about our new building. Imagine for a moment what will catch your eye. The smooth wood in room where you have not yet prayed? The carpeting and tile (that will not stay fresh for long) as we walk this new space together? The pictures above are from our new space. Can you imagine where they might be? Better yet, can you find them once we get there? Explore your new home, friends. Find the quirks, the quiet spots, the spots that don't fit quite as we planned, and the celebration. One month's time is not so long to wait.



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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

Rev. Will Howell
Minister of Youth & Families, ext. 111
willh@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
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Shari Garder
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sharig@countrysideucc.org

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

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

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

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@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. 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@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

LENT DEVOTIONALS ON IN MARCH

When we enter the spiritual journey of Lent, we often take things with us: our past experiences, our interpretations of Scripture, our questions about the world, our struggles in faith. What does an unencumbered journey look like? Let's find out together. The 2019 Lenten Devotional, "Take Nothing With You," will be available in the Foyer between services for \$6. (From the *Stillspeaking Writers' Group* and the *Daily Devotional contributors* comes this year's Lenten devotional, with a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. From the writers of the popular online *Daily Devotional*.)



NEW MEMBERS CLASS STARTING IN MARCH

Come learn what Countryside Community Church has to offer. Meet the staff and learn about the ministries and volunteer opportunities available. The next classes are Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, March 17 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM in the Chapel. New Member Sunday will take place on March 31...our very last service in this building. If you are interested in these classes, please contact Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countrysideucc.org or sign up at the Information Station.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

March 5 - 5:30 PM, Leadership Team in Jan's Office

March 6 - 8:00 PM, Peer Support in the Chapel

BAPTISMS

On February 9, four children were baptized at Countryside.

Ethan Joseph Lundblad, son of **Breann and Eric Lundblad**

Jack Michael Meehan and Maxwell Miles Meehan, sons of **Lisa and Michael Meehan**

Andrew Stokes, son of **Christine and Brian Stokes**

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

We've saved the "Days of Our Lives" video for our very last Sunday at 8787 Pacific. So on March 31, we'll be showing clips during each worship service. Even better, you can watch the entire video after the 11 AM service in the sanctuary. There may be snacks! Maybe you'll see someone you know on the big screen! We hope you all stay to watch our very own film. Thank you to those who participated by sharing your memories and fondness for our beloved church family and building. PS - We'll be taking this production with us to our new library where, thanks to a generous donor, we'll be able to watch it (plus other historical footage) on a large computer monitor.

ODE TO JOY

To add to Countryside's historic Year of Celebration festivities, the Pastoral Care Board will be featuring someone special each month by focusing on how he or she experiences joy.

This month, we're delighted to present Countryside's amazing percussionist, Stephen Minister, and motorcycling aficionado Carlos Figueroa! Carlos owns three bikes and enjoys traveling about 15,000 miles a year; in the winter, he scoots to Austin nearly every month to see his mother. Using all his senses while his entire being becomes part of the riding experience, Carlos is able to clear his mind and ask God to show him what he should be seeing. When the rides are over, life's problems seem more manageable. Riding is a mindfulness experience, full of spiritual moments, and is one of the ways Carlos experiences God.



Carlos Figueroa experiencing joy and mindfulness riding his bike.

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

THANK YOU FROM WILL HOWELL

Thank you to Countryside, my church home, for your outpouring of love and support for my ordination. I am overwhelmed. Thank you to the Moderators who put forward the vote for my calling as a minister, especially Kris Hess who walked me through the process. Thank you to the entire staff for your friendship endorsement of my calling, especially Eric who wrote many letters of recommendation for me over the last four years. Thank you to our fabulous Youth Volunteers who encouraged me to continue, who give so many hours to our students, and who worked hard on the celebration for my ordination. Thank you to our children, youth, and families whom it is an honor to serve as your Minister of Youth and Families. I could go on and on! Thank you.





CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

IHE presents Survivor Stories -with guest Peter Metzelaar Tuesday, March 26, 7 PM

Born in Amsterdam in 1935, Peter was only seven years-old when the Nazis seized his entire family, except for his mother Elli and him. Seeking help from the Dutch Underground, Peter and his mother found refuge with Klaus and Roefina Post who risked their lives to shelter Peter and his mother on their small farm in Makkinga in northern Holland.



Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes - Prayer and Meditation 101 March 22 - 24, 2019, Creighton University Retreat Center, Griswold, Iowa



Join Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes for a weekend adventure in prayer and meditation practices. If you have trouble connecting with God using "traditional" prayer practices, or are simply considering important questions right now and seek God's guidance, this retreat is for you! Contact Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countysideucc.org for more information. Tickets available on eventbrite.com.

Dr. Omid Safi - Radical Love: Getting Back to the Root of Faith Thursday, April 11 - 7 PM



Center for Faith Studies is partnering with Tri-Faith Initiative to bring you this fascinating lecture by Dr. Safi. Dr. Safi will guide us through a vibrant immersion of Islam that will also resonate with the love teachings of Christian sages that still speak to us today. Here Love is not merely an emotion, not a sentiment, but the very unleashing of God on Earth.

ADULT EDUCATION

Convergence University

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM, Chapel

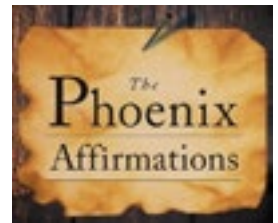
Convergence University is a bible study and discussion group led by Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander as part of our Wednesday night Faith Formation programming here at Countryside. The focus of the group is to speak to current issues of our time using our scripture and religious traditions to inform our discussions. These sessions are open to all and child care is available if needed. For more information please contact Chris at chrisa@countysideucc.org or just drop in any Wednesday evening.



Phoenix Affirmation Class

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

We are beginning a new Phoenix Affirmations small group which will meet April 10 through May 15 on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM. Because the Phoenix Affirmations are so fundamental to many of our ministries at Countryside, we strongly encourage our community to participate in this six-week discussion opportunity to learn more about these affirmations and how they help describe for us some of the joys we have within our Christian tradition. All are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org or leave your contact information at the Information Station and we will reach out to answer your questions.



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 Era of the Crusades."

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

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com) for meeting information.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Studying *Why Religion Matters* by Huston Smith

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:CCCUC 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@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

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Sermon Series: *The Lamb and the Beast* March 6 - March 31

Due to the popularity of our Seven Letters to Seven Churches of Revelation series, we'll be extending our exploration of Revelation into Lent with "The Lamb and the Beast." In this series we will use historical insight to explore Revelation. In the process, we'll find many surprises – like God's power works in the opposite direction we would expect in Revelation – through that which is most weak. We will also discover Revelation's surprisingly buoyant view of our destiny: That all people will be saved – and perhaps even Satan (though not without being changed)!



This series schedule:

- **March 6:** (Ash Wednesday) Revelation 20: Ralph and the Lake of Fire
- **March 10:** Revelation 4: What is Worship and Who are We Worshipping?
- **March 17:** Revelation 5: Arnion v. Therion
- **March 24:** Revelation 6: The Seven Seals
- **March 31:** Revelation 7: Love Wins!

"Mystical Misfits" Guided Meditation with Dr. Elnes During Lent

Lent is a time for being more intentional about our relationship with God. This Lent, March 6-April 18, Countryside is making it easy for you to do just this! Join Rev. Dr. Elnes and others any weekday morning (M-F) at 7 AM for a 20-minute guided meditation on his personal Facebook page. For you night owls, Eric will also be streaming live Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 9 PM. You don't need a Facebook account or to be "Facebook Friends" with Dr. Elnes to participate (though he invites you to "Friend" him if you're on Facebook). No prior meditation experience is required. Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/eric.elnes> and join in the experience!

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@countysideucc.org

2019 COYO GARAGE SALE SATURDAY DROP OFF DATE March 16

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

GARAGE SALE
June 7
June 8

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



CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS



REV. DR. ERIC ELNES

Prayer and Meditation 101

Friday, March 22 - Sunday, March 24

Join Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes for a weekend adventure in prayer and meditation practices.

Email Robyn at Robynh@countysideucc.org for details

Feast and Film Night

Enjoy pizza & popcorn followed by a family friendly movie.

Friday, March 8 • 6 - 10 PM
COYO ROOM (lower level)



Sign ups are requested but not required.

Both events sponsored by the Family Activities Committee

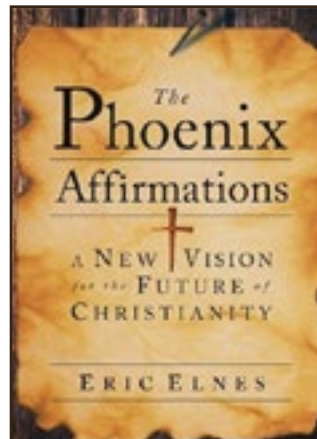
Young Adult Game Night

Leave the kids at home and join us for an evening of adult fun!

Saturday, March 16
Mattson Home
7402 N. 170 St.



Be watching for more information on this event!



SAVE THE DATE
Phoenix Affirmations Classes
Wednesdays
April 10 - May 15
6:30 p.m.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garage Sale Drop Off / Pick Up and Lunch, Saturday, March 16 * 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Meet at Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) to receive donations and go pick up donations. Free lunch for all volunteers. Sign up for Drop Off shifts and all other Garage Sale setup shifts and Garage Sale shifts at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>

Packing Parties

We can use all the help we can get packing up the Youth Room, Bunker, Gym Closet, and Garage for the move to the new church. The dates are Thursdays, March 7 and 14, 9:00-Noon, 6:30-9:00 PM, Fridays, March 8 and 15, 10:00-Noon, 2:00-4:00 PM, Saturdays, March 9 and 16, 9:00-Noon, Sundays, March 10 and 17, 1:00-4:00 PM. (a lite lunch served from 12:15-12:45 both Sundays.) Also help moving boxes to the gym. Volunteer by email willh@countrysideucc.org



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 Sunday afternoon from 4:30 -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 Rev. Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

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

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is no Confirmation on Ash Wednesday, March 6.

Urban Plunge is coming! - March 1-2 - Friday 8:00 PM - 8:00 AM

A weekend of service projects and worship. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow, work gloves, work clothes, warm clothes, and nice clothes for a church service. Cost is \$20. Feel free to bring a friend. This counts as all your outreach requirements for this year of Confirmation.

Packing Parties

We can use all the help we can get packing up the Youth Room, Bunker, Gym Closet, and Garage for the move to the new church. The dates are Thursdays, March 7 and 14, 9:00-Noon, 6:30-9:00 PM, Fridays, March 8 and 15, 10:00-Noon, 2:00-4:00 PM, Saturdays, March 9 and 16, 9:00-Noon, Sundays, March 10 and 17, 1:00-4:00 PM. (a lite lunch served from 12:15-12:45 both Sundays.) Also help moving boxes to the gym. Volunteer by email willh@countrysideucc.org



COYO Escape Room



COYO Escape Room



Fly Swatter Hockey



COYO Escape Room



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MARCH SERVICES

March 3 - 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.

March 10- Sunday School

Lent as a Practice: This Sunday we explore Lenten practices, some of which are ancient, others newer. Today each of us will choose one practice upon which we will focus this season.

March 17- Children's Church

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

March 24 - Children's Church

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

March 31 - Sunday School

Palm Sunday: A humble donkey was gifted with the ability to carry Jesus, a new kind of King, on a triumphant entry into Jerusalem. With the same humility, we must look within for the unique gifts God has given each of us and use these to further the love and peace of Jesus' mission.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

There are no classes offered on Ash Wednesday, March 6.

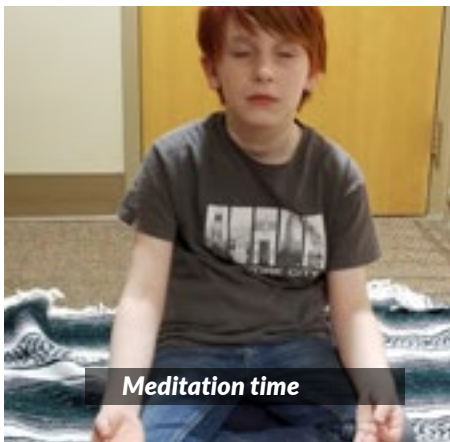
All children's activities will begin at 6:00 PM. From 6-6:30 PM, our Core 56 students will work with Ms. Aly while the Holy Moly students (K-4th) will gather to hear the story and watch the Holy Moly video with Ms. Morgan and Ms. Maureen.

Then, from 6:30-7:30 PM, Core 56 will meet as usual. Our Holy Moly groups will separate into two groups, K-2nd and 3-4th, and rotate between Holy Moly activity sheets and Music with Ms. Aly. All groups will end at our regular time of 7:30 PM.

If your Holy Moly student is unable to arrive at 6:00 PM-- no worries! Ms. Maureen and Ms. Morgan have time to share the story with our late arrivals before they work on their activity sheets. Also, we have ordered a few more Holy Moly Storybooks that will be available to borrow!



Working on art projects



Meditation time



Meditation jar

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 and Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds.

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 mission and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

9:00 Service - Upper Level
Nursery - Pre-K
Room 114A - Grades K-6

11:00 Service - Upper and Lower Level
Room 117 - Grades 2-3
Room 114B - Grade 4
Room 112 - Grades 5-6
Room 214 - Pre-K
Room 213 - Grades K-1

Children's Church

Upper Level in Chapel - This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like communion, prayer, and storytelling. It's open to children five years old through 6th grade.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

Lower Level - During the school year on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30, 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

Lower Level - On Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30, 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.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barron Breland to Lead Chancel Choir and Spirit of Grace

We are pleased to announce that Barron Breland (D.Mus.) has accepted the position of Interim Adult Choral Conductor for Countryside Community Church. In his new role, Barron is responsible for leading and directing our two adult choirs, Chancel Choir and Spirit of Grace, and collaborating with our clergy, staff, and the Board of Art and Music to grow and enhance our vibrant and thriving music ministry. His first rehearsal is Wednesday, February 20, and his first Sunday service is February 24, 2019, at 9 AM.

As Associate Professor and the Chair of the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Creighton University, Barron brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Countryside Community Church. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Theory (2001) from the University of Georgia and two postgraduate degrees in Choral Conducting, a Masters of Music (2003) and Doctor of Music (2009) both from Indiana University. Additionally, Barron has a diverse musical background, including the piano and saxophone. Singing from the age of six, Barron's first exposure to professional choral music was in 1990 as a member of the Atlanta Boys Choir, where he performed with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, as well as in tours and festivals throughout Europe. Since then, he has been active in the direction of many choral organizations, presently as the Artistic Director of the River City Mixed Chorus and Music Director of Résonance, a semiprofessional vocal ensemble in Omaha. To learn more about Barron's professional background, visit BarronBreland.com.

We are excited to have Barron join our music ministry and look forward to his help in advancing our mission in service, worship and engagement at our new location on the Tri-Faith Commons.

Faithfully yours,

Search Committee:

Chris Gilmore, Trish Hoffman-Ahrens, Emily Wadhams, Mary Windle, Alex Ritter, and Eric Elnes

Personnel Committee:

Eric Elnes, Chris Alexander, Will Howell, Dan Loven-Crum, Mary Windle, Russ Schertz, Tracey Halvorson, Phil Johnson, and Aubrey Fitzke

Special Thanks to Bruce Blanchard

The Board of Art and Music, the Search Committee and the Personnel Committee express their heartfelt gratitude to Bruce Blanchard for his enormous contributions of time and talent to our adult choirs. Twice in the last four years Bruce has willingly and graciously stepped in to lead our music program during a time of transition; the first time from August, 2015 to June, 2016 and most recently from November, 2018 through February 16, 2019. Words cannot begin to convey our appreciation.

We know that this was a labor of love for Bruce – a reflection of his passion for music and his commitment to Countryside Community Church. For us, Bruce's steadfast leadership and dedication ensured the choral performances during the busiest time of the year - Advent and Christmas. It also contributed to the program's ongoing growth and development. For this, we are deeply grateful.

On Sunday, March 3, we will be honoring Bruce for his contributions to our music ministry. Join us between services in the Common Grounds to say "thank you" to Bruce! Cake and coffee will be served.

An Open Invitation to Sing!

Chancel Choir and Spirit of Grace are preparing for Lent, Easter and the dedication of our new building. If you've been thinking about singing with the choirs, now is a wonderful opportunity to jump in! The choirs meet weekly on Wednesday evenings and the rehearsal schedule for March is:

5:30 - 6:30 PM: Chancel Choir

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Combined Choirs

7:00 - 7:45 PM: Spirit of Grace

If you have a heart for singing, this is the perfect time to join.

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.

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:

Alex Ritter
Acting Artistic Director
Email: alexr@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR MARCH

The Box for MARCH is asking for empty backpacks for kindergarten-aged students. There are Title One schools in the Millard area who will be doing kindergarten roundup this April. These schools are not able to provide the appropriate backpacks for their students and the families are unable to provide them for their children as well. When learning of this, the Board of Christian Outreach voted unanimously to help provide a strong start for these students by providing them with empty backpacks. The Board members ask that you drop your donation in the BOX throughout the month of March. These will then be delivered to the schools and presented to the children at kindergarten roundup. We thank you in advance for your help in providing a great start to deserving students.

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA UPDATE

The O'Neill Focus Committee thanks you for strongly supporting the families in O'Neill, Nebraska. For those of you who wish to continue support for the families in the O'Neill area that were affected by the ICE raid, there are two ways particularly suggested at this time. Pastor Brian Loy of First United Methodist Church in O'Neill suggests donations of paper products, especially diapers. These items can be ordered through Amazon Prime or similar vendors and shipped directly to following address:

Pastor Brian Lot

First United Methodist Church, 404 W. Cedar Street, O'Neill, NE 68763

Also, financial assistance can be routed through Countryside Church by making donations to Countryside and marking the check "for O'Neill" or can be sent directly to the above address. This is an ongoing project and your support is always appreciated! Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Should you have questions or would like to become involved in this ministry, please contact Bob/Nancy Davis at tomorrow24@me.com, Judy Varner at sheeplady424@gmail.com or Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss at mjbarbeiss@gmail.com.

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



ALWARD CHAPEL NAMED FOR A PILLAR IN COUNTRYSIDE'S HISTORY

Countryside has been blessed with ministerial leaders of varied strengths and gifts. Each pastor stands on the shoulders of his/her predecessors and leaves for succeeding leaders a firmer foundation on which to build. Robert S. Alward served as Senior Minister of Countryside from 1963-1972. His leadership gave Countryside growth from 890 to 1,450 members during his tenure. More than a dozen Omaha and Nebraska non-profit groups benefitted from his service as director/trustee or president. Bob's personal warmth, optimism and charisma, and a determination to get his hands dirty doing God's work, gathered fellow caring churches and denominations, governmental agencies and others together to establish and/or maintain outreach to those in need. A favorite "get his hands dirty" story is fondly remembered within the church. With the completion of the building expansion in 1965-66 came the construction of our treasured "rugged cross" for the new sanctuary. Its unblemished surface did not, in Bob's mind, reflect the trials and

challenges faced by Jesus and his followers through the centuries. The cross needed to symbolize, not just the risen Christ, but the church's history as an unspoken lesson. He called upon John and Lea Marshall and together they proceeded to rough up the cross with hammers, chains and other tools to give us the very cross that will stand in the Alward Chapel of the new building.

Every church is faced with the challenges of its times. Bob Alward nurtured a growing suburban congregation and responded to an era crying out for civil rights and social justice. Our current era cries out for fellowship and understanding among our fellow Abrahamic faith communities. We aspire to meet our time with the vigor and determination modeled by our former leaders and members.

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Alward - A pillar in Countryside's history will be remembered and honored long into our future.



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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the upcoming Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch, Sunday, April 7 following both services. Chris Cakes will be flipping those pancakes for us again this year...only this time...in our new church home! Come one and all for this great fellowship event.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

It's time for to move from our beloved church from 8787 Pacific Street to 13130 Faith Plaza. Many hands are needed to get this job accomplished! Who is willing to help? Deb Hickman and the Board of Life Ministry have been charged with coordination of the move. There is currently a signup sheet on the Information Station for your convenience in registering to help. Many thanks to those who have donated boxes and packing equipment...but more is needed! Feel free to drop off these donations in the PILGRIM ROOM, on the lower level, at your convenience. Specific dates have been established for "all church packing". They are as follows:

THURSDAYS	MARCH 7 & 14	9:00-Noon and 6:30-9:00 PM
FRIDAYS	MARCH 8 & 15	10:00-Noon
SATURDAYS	MARCH 9 & 16	9:00-Noon
SUNDAYS	MARCH 10 & 17	1:30-4:00 PM

The first move will take place the week of March 18-23, followed by April 1 and finally the end of April/early May for Kindernook Preschool. Please stop by the Information Station to learn more about this process, how you may help and to volunteer your time. Should you have questions, please contact either Deb Hickman at deb.hickman@centurylink.net or Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Saturday, March 9, 10:00-Noon OR on Tuesday, March 12, 6:00-7:00 PM. Both times the class will be held 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. You may reserve your seat by emailing: info@EqualityAdvancement.com or by signing up at the Information Station. (Sponsored by Countryside's Board of Life Ministry.)

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, March 4, at First Watch at Noon. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal and warm conversation with women from Countryside Church, Temple Israel and AMI. See you there!

Family Activities Committee members will gather in the Family Life Office on Sunday, March 24, to finalize plans for the upcoming Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. RSVP to marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle will resume on Monday, March 11, at Le Peep Restaurant, 2012 N. 117 Ave starting at Noon. Marilyn Vincent is the hostess this month. Please contact her at 402-397-0679 should you have any questions.

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, March 2. We need 60 volunteers every month. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Community Cupboard January pantry provided food for 155 families which accounted for 500 individuals.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Christian Education for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of March. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what Countryside's Board of Christian Education's responsibilities are 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@countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.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 countrysideucc.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

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

ROSH CHODESH EVENT HOSTED BY ELLEN PLATT

Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 PM
Temple Israel, 13111 Sterling Ridge Dr.

Join us Tuesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30 as Mayne Andrea Fredrickson, owner of Revela Group, will be leading this evening at Temple Israel to help us become a better version of ourselves. As spring approaches, take this opportunity to shine new light on how to lift ourselves and each other up. Andrea will guide us in opening our minds to other points of view and shift us into consciousness. When was the last time you thought about how you think?

Andrea has a background in Human Services and Organizational Behavior and is obsessed with behavior change. Her mission is to help people "get it." To see things differently, self-reflect, and never stop looking for ways to improve themselves on a personal and professional level.

There is no cost for this event, but we do need your reservation. RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, by Friday, March 1.

Rosh Chodesh marks the beginning of the Hebrew month and serves as an opportunity for women of every generation to gather and connect, learn and pray, and socialize and create.

UNO STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH ON THE TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE

April 24, 1-2:15 PM

UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center

What brought three faith communities together? UNO students present their research on the Tri-Faith Initiative, April 24. Come and learn about the personal, theological, and socio-political motivations that led a group of visionaries to start the Tri-Faith Initiative.

18 UNO students interviewed 18 leaders of this unique Omaha organization in an effort to understand their motivations to start and continue to support the Tri-Faith Initiative.

Students' presentations will reveal what they learned through research and attendees can learn more about the Tri-Faith Initiative.

SAVE THE DATE

Abraham's Tent

Sunday, April 28, 6 PM,
CHI Health Center, 455 N 10th St

We believe that if we can laugh together, then we can live together. Save the date for Dinner for Abraham's Tent!



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

AMI MONTHLY COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Friday, March 1, 6:30 PM

AMI, 13140 Faith Plz.

Did you know AMI hosts a monthly community potluck? It is the First Friday of every month at 6:30. All you need to do is RSVP with a text to 402.885.9232 and bring your favorite dish to share! Remember Muslims observe no pork or alcohol and please dress modestly when attending events at the mosque.

MY STORY OF SURVIVAL WITH MAGDA BROWN

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 PM

Temple Israel, 13111 Sterling Ridge Dr.

Magda, from Miskolc, Hungary, will be speaking at Temple Israel as part of the Annual Week of Understanding. She grew up in a safe, loving home and enjoyed a normal childhood. After German troops occupied Budapest, Magda and her family were sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. After arriving, Magda was separated from her mother, father, aunts, uncles, and cousins. It was the last time she saw them — they were sent directly into the gas chambers. After the war, Magda made contact with her aunts and uncles in the United States, who sponsored her immigration to the U.S. Her family members welcomed her to their home in Chicago in September 1946. Magda still lives in the Chicago area.



Worship Series

The Lamb and the BEAST

March 6 - March 31

details page 5

ASH
Wednesday
March 6
7:00 p.m.



HOLY WEEK

April 14 Palm Sunday 9 AM
and 11 AM
April 18 Maundy Thursday
7 PM
April 19 Good Friday 7 PM
April 20 Easter Vigil 8 PM

EASTER

April 21 Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 AM
April 21 Easter Services 9 AM
and 11 AM

COUNTRYSIDE
REALLY
REALLY
REALLY
REALLY
needs help packing!

If you have some time to help please contact Mary Beth at:
marybethl@countrysideucc.org
or sign up at the Information Station

