

NOVEMBER 2019



Fall Family Festival



Preparing for Stories from the Bridge



October 13 Baptisms...eight of them!

LATEST HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE



Madi Hornacek reading scripture



Skinny Bones COYO Jr. High



COYO Sunday Dinner

WHY I LIKE BEING A FAITH SINGER

It's Sunday afternoon and I actually look forward to going up to church. Never thought I would think that thought to myself. One of my favorite times of the week is Faith Singers practice. Tyler is always in a good mood, I don't think I have ever seen him not excited about singing. I look forward to seeing my friends who I have become pretty close with over the past year and a half since I have been in Faith Singers.

Last week it was announced where our Faith Singers tour was going to go next summer, Washington D.C. from July 11 - 19! Last summer we took a charter bus and performed concerts through Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. It was one of the best trips of my life. Believe it or not, the best stop on that trip was the stop we made in Flint, Michigan. The people we met in Flint were so incredible and so hopeful, even though they have gone through so many hard times with lead in their drinking water and so many people leaving the city. One of the community service projects we did in Flint was working in a community garden because we learned one

of the ways to help get rid of lead in your blood was through proper nutrition. We did quite a few community service projects throughout the week, along with the concerts. We also did things just for fun like stopping at the Wisconsin Dells and going to the Navy Pier in Chicago.

I am so excited to go to DC with the Faith Singers this year. I miss the seniors who graduated last year but they still stop by sometimes and there is a new group of freshman, including my sister and it will be fun to be able to share the experience with her.

I would encourage anyone who wants to be a part of a close group of very accepting, fun, kind and caring kids (9th - 12th graders) to join Faith Singers. We do have to get up early once in awhile to sing at 9 AM service (we mostly sing at 11) but it is worth it for the friends you make and definitely going on tour is one of the best experiences you can have!

-Christian Vihstadt, sophomore, Millard North



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha NE 68144
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. 231
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 230
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 224
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

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bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction
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, 11 AM Jazz Service and 8 PM Day One Service
Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both morning Sunday services. The Nursery is located on the upper level on the south side, next to the office.

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.

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

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Welcome Center 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.

COUNTRYSIDE NEW INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - UPDATED

As we enter the season of snow, ice and cold, Countryside announces its Inclement Weather Policy for our new location.

During the week, Countryside will follow Omaha Public Schools (OPS) decisions. If OPS cancels, Countryside will do the following:

- close the church's front office.
- cancel all activities involving children and youth for the day.
- review adult activities on a case by case basis with the leader about cancellations.

On the weekends, the Director of Administration, Senior Minister and staff will make the decision to cancel activities including worship services.

Countryside will communicate all cancellations through an email blast, website, Facebook, KETV (7), WOWTV (7) and a recording on the church phone.

If OPS decides on a two-hour delay the church will be closed until noon that day - the office will open and all activities will resume after noon. This will give us time to salt the walks and clear any snow that has accumulated in the parking lots.

ARTWORK DEDICATED IN HONOR OF RICK MACINNES AND PAUL NELSON

Through the generous donations from anonymous donors, a piece of artwork by Steve Joy has been given to Countryside Community Church in honor of Rick MacInnes and Paul Nelson in recognition of their time and dedication to the design of and relocation to our new church home here at 13130 Faith Plaza.

Stop by and enjoy the new piece of art in the Common Grounds Coffee House. Thank you to everyone involved!





STEPHEN MINISTRY

November 5, Tuesday., Ruth Conference Room – at 6:30 PM, all Stephen Ministers are invited to attend Peer Support to help one another in our journeys as care givers. There will be no Leadership Team meeting this month.

PASTORAL CARE BOARD - STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE

Thank you for your amazing support of our inaugural Tri-Faith Stories event on Oct. 3! We plan to work with Temple Israel and AMI to make this an annual event, so contact Jan Brown if you have thoughts on some good people who might be willing to share their personal stories next year. Special thanks to our Countryside members who shared this year: Barry Larson, and Jeremy and Emily Wadhams. They joined their words and wisdom with some storytellers from Temple Israel and AMI for the special evening.



WEDDINGS

Diane and Don Scott's daughter Hannah married Chloe Isles on October 5, 2019, at Countryside, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

IN MEMORIAM

Karen Reynolds' mother Olive Erickson passed away October 13. The memorial service was held at Westlawn Funeral Home on October 17.

Thomas (Sheila) Pettigrew died October 19. His funeral was held at Countryside on October 29 with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating.

BAPTISMS

There were eight little ones baptized on October 13, 2019:

Layla Joy Amstutz, daughter of Aly and Geoff Amstutz

Fiona Jenkins Beecham, daughter of Jessie Jenkins and John Beecham

Gavin and Liam Newton, sons of Valerie and Brian Newton

Samuel Ryan Atchison, son of Chelsea and Matt Atchison

Ruby Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Elizabeth and Chris Miller

Ellis David Podlesak, son of Daniel and Amy Podlesak

Jan Elizabeth Steiner, daughter of Sarah Long and Jacob Steiner

ODE TO JOY - BRENDA STURSMAS

Throughout my life, I've found great joy in making music and being in community with other musicians - marching with my high school band, traveling with college choirs, and part-singing at family reunions (what, you don't all do that, too?). As a parent, some of my most precious memories are of the times I sang my babies to sleep or taught my toddlers to sing silly songs with me in the car. I still adore singing with my boys, and get immense joy watching them sing in church and at school. With my teens off on their own adventures, I'm now having tremendous fun singing in a trio with dear friends.

In my faith community, I find immeasurable joy while making music with others and sharing it in worship. Countryside's choir forms a kind of "disciple band" in which the members have fun together and support each other through the ups and downs of life. Singing with them, sharing special music, and even singing congregational hymns are some of the primary ways that I experience and communicate with God. I am extremely thankful for the ways Countryside allows me to worship in this way. By extension, I am immensely grateful for the ways Countryside has given my children these same kinds of experiences in children's choirs and youth choirs. Witnessing this as a chaperon on Faith Singers trips has fed my spirit in many ways as well.



Brenda Sturmsma

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. 234

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org



CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

Margaret Wheatley, November 16, 9-4 PM. Tickets are \$50 and are buy one bring a friend for free. Get your tickets on eventbrite.com.



Presented
by

CENTER FOR
Faith Studies

In partnership with
  

More Than a Joke Symposium - September-April 2019-2020

Done in Collaboration with our Tri-Faith Partners, this is a weekly educational opportunity to discuss topics from the perspective of all three Abrahamic Faith traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Our November topic begins three Wednesday weekly lunch and learn discussions led by the clergy of each faith tradition and then ends with the Tri-Faith clergy panel discussion and dinner. The November schedule is as follows:

You're Not the Boss of Me (Or Are You?): Law, Conscience & Community in Religious Decision-Making

Wednesday Lunch-and-Learns, Nov. 13, 20, 27, 12:00-1:00 PM

Tuesday Evening Panel Discussion, Dec. 3, 7:00-8:30 PM

Temple Israel

For the full year schedule see countrysideucc.org, or the events section of Countryside's Facebook page.

Convergence University, Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

We will still be focusing on the Phoenix Affirmations but adding a bit of a twist! Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander will be expanding on new ways to take in information and listen to God. She will be tying Convergence University into a variety of new experiences that include visual arts, discussion and Mindfulness Sits with Carlos Figueroa. See information below. Classes run September through April.

Mindfulness Sits - Second Wednesdays of the Month, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Carlos Figueroa will present a new experience called Mindfulness Sits, in collaboration with the Mindfulness Outreach Initiative and Convergence University. Join Carlos every month as he guides you in a journey towards a better understanding of your spirituality. Classes run through April.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

Wednesday mornings, October 16 - November 13, 9:15-10:00 AM. How parents can have Conversations with their kids about the sacred (a spiritual education for our young souls). Classes will be taught by our own Rabbi Azriel in the coffee house.

Rabbi Azriel Returns

10-11:30 Marys' Hall, A Touch of the Sacred: A Theologian's Informal Guide to Jewish Belief by Dr. Eugene B. Borowitz and Frances W. Schwartz

Join Rabbi Azriel as he draws from both the rational and mystical Jewish thought that have inspired two generations of rabbis, cantors, and educators, and will now inspire you. With him, you will explore:

- Seeking the Sacred One
- Doing Holy Deeds
- Creating Sacred Community
- Reading Sacred Texts
- Thinking about Holiness
- Learning from Holy Thinkers



Rabbi Azriel

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 Deborah Room. Beginning "The Wisdom of History"

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Studying *The Islamic Golden Age*

Racial Justice

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com) for meeting information. Currently reading "Citizen: An American Lyric" by Claudia Rankine

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon. Discussing "Grateful, THE SUBVERSIVE PRACTICE OF GIVING THANKS," by Diana Butler Bass

Anji Stanek Book Club

Mondays from 7 - 9 PM in Miriam. Currently reading, "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr

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:CCCUCC Password: tryside8787

QUESTIONS?

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 230

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

or **Courtney Holiday**, Office Manager

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 227

Email: courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interfaith Thanksgiving - November 24, 5 PM

In the spirit of thanksgiving, all are welcome to join the many participating Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faith communities to celebrate our diversity as well as our unity in a collaborative service of worship, song, and prayer. This year Countryside Community Church will be hosting the 24th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service. The service begins at 5 PM. All 7th - 12th graders are invited beforehand, at 3:30 PM, to a pizza party before the service.

As always, there will be a free will offering that will be donated to Together Inc. We encourage all ages to experience this special service, as we gather together, united in love.

Common Grounds Coffee Shop - Open for Business and Expanding

Common Grounds has officially been open for three months. Its new manager, Diane Scott, has been busy ordering supplies, preparing a new menu and in general doing everything to make it a place where anyone can sit down, have a great cup of coffee and feel welcome and content. "I love it here," said Diane. "On any given day I get to talk with Imam Jamal, Rabbi Azriel, members of the Tri-Faith staff, Kindernook moms and the Countryside staff. In the evenings, I get to know members of our church community who are busy attending church activities or volunteering to make Countryside a better place. You really couldn't be positioned in a spot to meet a better group of people!"

Common Grounds is growing and Diane could use some more volunteer baristas! No experience necessary. This is your chance to learn how to make a perfect cup of coffee and mingle with your friends at Countryside. If you are interested please email Diane Scott at Twang56@aol.com or sign up at the Connection Link.

Worship Series: "Drawn In" - October 20 - November 24

In the modern world, there is a crucial need for creativity. When you compare the world as it was in the 1950s and the world we live in now, for instance, it quickly becomes apparent that the average person of any age or occupation has been asked—no, required—to respond to shifts that our ancestors only a few generations ago could not have envisioned. The stresses and strains have been extensive. We've had to do some pretty quick thinking—and soul-searching—as a species to come out on top of these shifts or even just to keep up with them. Sometimes they seem on the verge of overwhelming us.

History has proven over and over that when the Holy Spirit is at work in people on a vast scale, you get into some pretty "deep shift"! If you think that God is sitting idly by on the sidelines watching all the challenges we face and not doing anything to help us out, think again. Yet whatever God does involves an in-breaking of new awareness. With every awareness we're called to break out of whatever box we've been in and follow the Spirit into new territory.

Over the next several weeks we'll explore the surprising parallels between creativity and the spiritual path. Helping us along the way will be tie-ins to the St. John's Bible exhibit at the Joslyn Art Museum, and the upcoming CFS lecture/retreat by Dr. Margaret Wheatley. In the process, we'll uncover some unexpected ways by which a narrow life may open out into more expansive territory, how a flattened life may be revived and once again become three-dimensional, and how we all may find and live into our "sweet spot"—or our sacred Calling—a bit more fully.

WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 10-Noon on Wednesdays

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 231

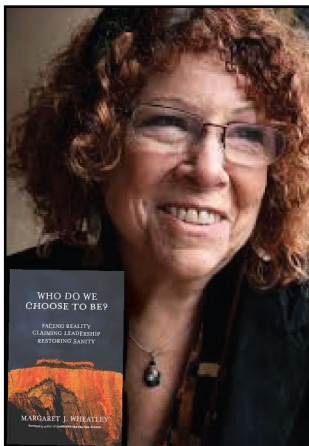
Email: erice@countrysideucc.org

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 at 11 AM

**Nov. 27
7 PM**

**Pie Night
COYO Alumni**



CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS

Margaret Wheatley

November 16

Workshop
"Warriors for the Human Spirit"
9 AM - 4 PM

Tickets on eventbrite.com \$50 (2 for 1)

In partnership with:
Temple Israel, Tri-Faith Initiative, and
First Plymouth Church

**HAPPY
Thanksgiving
DAY**

The church office will be closed November 28 and 29.



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 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 - 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

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 the church office at 402.391.0350 or email at office@countrysideucc.org

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sr. High CoYo Ski Trip: Jan 2 - 5, 2020 - Winter Park, Colorado

In order to take advantage of group pricing and get the cabin reserved, we need to confirm our numbers by next Sunday, October 27. The price is \$425/person, which includes lift tickets and equipment rental. Beginner lessons are available for an additional \$100 per day for those who have never skied. A deposit of \$100 will be due November 15.

COYO JR HIGH

Confirmation - No confirmation November 6 or 27

Anji Stanek is our Confirmation Teacher for the remainder of this academic year. She co-taught Confirmation at Countryside for the past five years with Will Howell and is excited to continue this rewarding work with your teenagers.

In October, our Confirmands explored "Love of Self" through Affirmation #10: Claiming the sacredness of both our minds and our hearts, and recognizing that faith and science, doubt and belief serve the pursuit of truth. Ask your Confirmand what they know about dark matter/gravity (an invisible force), or how trees communicate. Is there an experience in your life that has suggested, "You are in God's mind and God's mind is in you?" If so, please tell your kids about it.

Starting November 13, we will explore "Love of Neighbor" as we begin Affirmation #7: Preserving religious freedom and the church's ability to speak prophetically to government by resisting the co-mingling of church and state.

Confirmation class material will soon be accessible through Google Classroom. More information on this secure site for sharing student work and classroom activities will be sent to families in November.

CONFIRMATION SINGERS

Confirmation Singers Upcoming Schedule

November 10 - 11 AM

December 15 - 3 PM - all choirs concerts

December 22 - both 9 AM and 11 AM services

FAITH SINGERS

Faith Singers Upcoming Schedule

Sunday, November 3 - 9 AM service

Sunday, November 17 - 9 AM service

Sunday, December 8 - both 9 AM and 11 AM services

Sunday, December 15 - evening concert (time TBA)

If you have a Faith Singer, make sure you are signed up to that group in the Remind App. The code is cfsingers. You can also text @cfsingers to 81010 for reminders.

PLANS MOVING FORWARD FOR COYO

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the transition of Youth Minister Will Howell's departure from Countryside. The Board of Youth has been meeting weekly since Will announced his resignation in September and is attempting to ensure nothing is overlooked in his absence. All Sunday evening activities and Wednesday Confirmation classes are on schedule as usual. We will continue to send out Tuesday email updates about activities for the upcoming week.

The Personnel Committee will be announcing an interim plan in the next few weeks. We will hold a family meeting after the plan is announced to keep everyone informed and answer any questions.

The Board of Youth is excited about the future of Countryside Youth and look forward to working with you and your children.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR NOVEMBER

November 3- Worship together in the Sanctuary

November 10- Sunday School

Samuel anoints David—Samuel chose an unlikely young boy, not rich or strong or fully formed, to become the second King of Israel. David was not a perfect man but often sought God's presence and helped Israel grow as a strong nation.

November 17 - Children's Church in the Chapel

November 24- Sunday School

The Wisdom of Solomon-- Solomon, one of the younger sons of King David, felt unworthy to be his father's appointed successor. To prepare himself, he prayed to God-for the wisdom and strength to do the job. Solomon shows us we can become who we are meant to be if we stay in conversation with God.

FALL SCHEDULE

Wednesdays

We will not meet on Wednesday November 27

6:00-6:30 Core 56 music in Tamar

Holy Moly (K-4) story and lesson in the Purple Room

6:30-7:30 Core 56 meets in the Yellow Room

6:30-7:00 K-2 Music with Aly meets in Tamar/ 3-4 Holy Moly activity in Purple Room



Aly and children in Wednesday night music.



Core 56 art projects.



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 (Aug. - Apr.) 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.

Sunday School classes are located on the lower level in the new building. Please follow sign-age.

Children's Church

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 multi-media, crafts, activities, and storytelling.

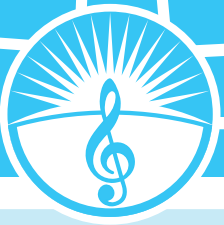
Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

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



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

UPCOMING MUSIC

Mark Your Calendars - More information to follow in December newsletter

December 7

7 PM – Jazz Coffeehouse - Join us on Saturday, December 7th at 7pm for an evening of holiday music performed by our own Countryside Jazz. Enjoy old favorites among friends with coffee and Christmas cookies.

December 8

Creighton University Chamber Choir will join us in worship.

December 15

4 PM: Do You Hear What I Hear? – A Celebration of Christmas Music by Female Composers
All of Countryside's choirs will present a concert that features the work of living female composers.

December 22

In Worship: Congregational Carol Sing with Brass

December 22

Carols by Candlelight - Please join us for the very best of Christmas choral repertoire as an expanded group of Day One singers presents a meditative concert by candlelight.

October was an AMAZING month of music at Countryside!

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in Rahab (next door to the music office). Their rehearsals will begin on September 4.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM in the choir room. in Rahab (next door to the music office). Their rehearsals will begin on September 8.

Countryside Community Church Choir (C4)

The C4 choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature as well as a classical choral repertoire. C4 sings regularly at Sunday worship services. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 PM in Priscilla. Childcare up to age 12 provided.



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.



Edem K. Garro, October 13



Brock Denton (Tenor) and Dyden Meints (Baritone) on October 20



Vesper Concert on October 12



Resonance on October 10

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact:

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

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR NOVEMBER

The Box for November is asking for your help in providing age (0 - 18) and gender appropriate toys for the children of Pine Ridge Reservation. Countryside Youth (COYO) and Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) are collaborating on this yearly project and we thank you in advance for your help with this project! Please drop off any of these items at the BOX located in the Foyer.

We thank you in advance for your help with this project! Please drop off any of these items at the BOX located in the Foyer.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry served 111 families which equates to 327 individuals at our October pantry. With cooler weather quickly approaching, the need will become greater. If you would like to help either through donating your time, finances or food items, please contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org. Thank you in advance for your help!

SHOW US YOUR SMALL SERVICE GRANT (SSG)

Are you using your head, heart and hands in service outside the church? Is at least one other person involved? If so, you are a Small Service Group (SSG). The Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) wants to know about your good work so others know where to go for assistance, or how to get involved as well.

Jesus once figured out how to make a loaf of bread and fish stretch to feed hundreds. By supporting groups of two or more people who want to serve an unmet need or overlooked population, Countryside hopes to multiply blessings, too.

Please print the SSG form from the website countrysideucc.org/serving-together/ssgs/ and return it to Mary Beth Link at the Connection Link.

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 Connection Link.

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.



COUNTRYSIDE CORNER



Each month we will share a portion of the docent training in this new section - Countryside Corner.

NURSERY / BUTTERFLY ROCK GLASS WINDOW

Purpose - Traditionally, church foyers are places The Butterfly Rock Glass Window

The Butterfly window was in our Columbarium at our old location, and is a symbol of new life and resurrection.

Circle Lights - The circle lights are representative of Abraham's Bridge - if you visit Temple Israel and AMI, you'll notice each of the faith partners have one or more circle light fixtures in their buildings as well.

Fun flooring - Cork floor by the cabinets and pebble tile on the bathroom floor fun for little ones!

RUTH / RAHAB Meeting Rooms

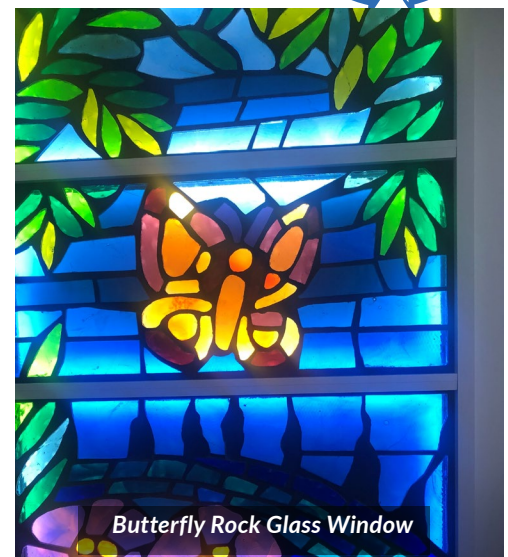
In Revelation, the Tree of Life stands at the center. Two of our aspirational goals for the architecture of the new church were functionality and programmed space. Our rooms are intentionally flexible, and will be used for a variety of purposes - for example, Junior Choir practice, performance rehearsal, meetings.

Our multi-functional rooms are named after important women of the Bible, who served prophetic roles, leadership/teaching roles, or who were considered "misfits" or "outcasts" yet through whom God worked powerfully for the benefit of the world.

Rooms are in alphabetical order, we're touring them last to first

(From the Book of Ruth) - When Ruth's Jewish mother-in-law Naomi returned to Israel from Moab after a famine, Ruth stuck with her. Ruth pledged to follow Naomi and worship her God. Boaz married Ruth and rescued both women from poverty. With Boaz, Ruth became an ancestor of King David, whose descendant was Jesus.

Rahab was a prostitute in the city of Jericho during the Israelite "settlement" of Canaan. When the Hebrews began to conquer Canaan, Rahab harbored their spies in her house in exchange for her family's safety, and because she recognized the true God. Living and marrying among the Israelite people, Rahab became the ancestor of King David, and therefore Jesus. Ruth reminds us that nothing is ultimately capable of separating us from God's love, or God's story.



Butterfly Rock Glass Window



COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST



LIFE MINISTRIES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Halloween Candy collection – Countryside’s Family Activities Committee (FAC) is offering the option of donating your extra candy to a worthy cause by simply bringing it to church between now and November 10, dropping it off in the basket and then you’re good to go! FAC members thank you in advance for your help with this project!

Advent Workshop, Saturday, December 7, 9:00-11:00 AM - join friends and family in Marys’ Hall for the annual Advent Workshop. A long-standing Countryside Church tradition centers on creating child-friendly holiday crafts. This will be a busy morning as the children from the food pantry will be joining our church kiddos for the Advent Workshop. What an outstanding start to the holiday season! Be watching for additional information. (Advent Workshop is sponsored by the Family Activities Committee).

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Earth University - F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) is wrapping up their six-week session dealing with WATER on Thursday evening, 7:00 PM in Countryside’s Chapel and will feature the return of Dr. Zac Suriano, Assistant Professor at UNO’s Geography Department. He will be sharing his expertise on one of his favorite topics, snow. Did you know snow plays a critical role in both flooding and drought? Dr. Suriano will explain how that works. The last class on November 14, Not exactly About Water, in collaboration with the Omaha Citizen’s Climate Lobby group, finds us airing “The Burden,” the first documentary of its kind telling the story of our dependence on fossil fuels as the greatest long-term national security threat confronting the US and how the military is leading the transition away from oil. For additional information, please contact either Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org or Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, November 4, at First Watch 1222 S 71st 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 and lots of laughter! See you there!!

Family Activities Committee PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE...members will meet on Sunday, November 17, 10:00 AM in Anna to finalize plans for their upcoming event. RSVP’s are greatly appreciated.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, 12:00 Noon, November 11 at Le Peep’s located at 120 and Blondo on the NE corner shopping center. Marilyn Vincent is the November hostess. Call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you would like additional information.

Interplay will meet in Countryside’s Chapel. Play is not just for children! Let your creative spirit come out and play on Saturday, November 9, 9:30-11:00 AM. It’s good for the mind and body...and it’s fun! For additional information or questions, please contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

Tai Chi Chih classes will be held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, in the Foyer of the church. Contact Rita at rmotis@outlook.com for additional information.

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. 235

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Community Cupboard Food Pantry is needing additional help at the pantry on Saturday, November 2, 7:45-11:30 AM. It takes approximately 60 volunteers to put together, serve and clean up a Pantry Saturday. Your help is ALWAYS welcomed and needed! Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org or chat with Mary Beth about helping. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

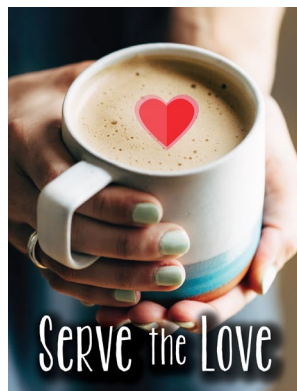
Countryside’s two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new, adventuresome folks! Stop by the Connection Link to learn more about both of them by talking with Mary Beth.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board 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 Board of Pastoral Care is responsible for and how you help.

Thank you!

Many thanks to the Family Activities Committee for the successful Fall Festival! Also thank you to everyone who volunteered! It was a fun event and much appreciated by all who attended!



Baristas Wanted

Do you ♥ coffee?

Do you ♥ people?

We need volunteers to become our newest baristas! Sign up at the Connection Link!

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 multi-generational group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 3rd Thursday 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. 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 (Friends, Art, Munching & Enjoying)

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

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

FAITH OVER FEAR - OMAHA

November 2, 5 PM and November 3, 2 PM
American Muslim Institute
13140 Faith Plaza

This training shares up-to-date research, tools, and effective strategies for the work of faith and community leaders who wish to counter anti-Muslim bias, discrimination, and violence in the United States.

This training is designed for faith leaders, lay leaders, and multi-faith or faith-based organizational leaders committed to countering anti-Muslim discrimination in their communities. We'll share up-to-date research, resources, tools, and messaging to be stronger, strategic, and more effective actors in shaping our nation toward a greater vision - where all people, no matter their religious or cultural background, are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. Please contact Nina. Fernando@s2scampaign.org with any questions.

Registration required: please register by going to the website: www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/trainings and scrolling down to upcoming trainings and clicking Register Here, under Omaha, Nebraska. Or you can go to the Tri-Faith or Countryside Facebook pages and follow the links.

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS: VALUES, MORALS, AND BELIEF

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6 PM - 8 PM
Vis Major Brewing Co.
3501 Center St.

Crucial Conversations are a way for community members to come together and discuss the difficult aspects of religion. Often at the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender expression, and sexuality, religion has played a role in limiting or erasing those identities. Yet, religion continues to play a large role within our society.

As the Tri-Faith Initiative, we recognize the continued tension between such identities and religion and these conversations are essential to help bring our community together, to build empathy and understanding, and to celebrate the identities that make us who we are.



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

TRI-FAITH KIDS

November 21, 6- 7:00 PM
Countryside Community Church

Tri-Faith Kids is a family centered group that invites community members to gather once a month. We engage in storytelling, current conversations, community service and play to share rituals, practices and traditions of the three Abrahamic faiths. We learn about each other's faith beliefs, prayer and customs in a non-threatening, non-evangelical way. Our goal is to bring peace to the world (starting with our own community) through knowledge and friendship.

In October, Tri-Faith kids met at Temple and in the sukkah made vegan, marshmallows and gummies and both were kosher certified!





HER SINS WHICH WERE MANY HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN BECAUSE SHE HAS FOUND GREAT LOVE

WORSHIP SERIES

Drawn In

LIVING OUT THE CREATIVE LIFE WITH GOD

OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 24

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

Worship Series: "Drawn In" - October 20 - November 24

In the modern world, there is a crucial need for creativity. When you compare the world as it was in the 1950s and the world we live in now, for instance, it quickly becomes apparent that the average person of any age or occupation has been asked—no, required—to respond to shifts that our ancestors only a few generations ago could not have envisioned. The stresses and strains have been extensive. We've had to do some pretty quick thinking—and soul-searching—as a species to come out on top of these shifts or even just to keep up with them. Sometimes they seem on the verge of overwhelming us. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 or 11 AM and go more into depth on this Worship Series. Read more about it on page 5.

More than a Joke

Humorous and thoughtful discussions with the Tri-Faith clergy.

More than a Joke Symposium

You're Not the Boss of Me (Or Are You?!): Law, Conscience & Community in Religious Decision-Making

Wednesday Lunch-and-Learns, November 13, 20, 27, 12:00-1:00 PM

Tuesday Evening Panel Discussion, December 3, 7:00-8:30 PM

Temple Israel
13111 Sterling Ridge Dr.
details page 4

Sunday, November 24
5:00 p.m.

24th Annual Jewish Christian Muslim **Interfaith THANKSGIVING**

Hosted by: Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza

All 7th-12th grade students are invited to a Pizza Party at 3:30 p.m. before the service.

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

Thanksgiving

Advent Workshop

A Countryside tradition.

Saturday, December 7
9:00–11:00 AM

Holiday crafts, snacks and fun!
Be watching for more information!