

MARCH 2020



WELCOME TO MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT COUNTRYSIDE!

Countryside Men have gathered for Breakfast every Tuesday at the Garden Café for the last 30 years and have built some deep and abiding connections in conversation with one another. Now we are expanding these conversations to include regular meeting times for men to come together and reflect on their experiences of being a man in our current culture. The group's purpose is providing space for spiritual growth in men that makes a difference in the world by providing an opportunity to use ritual and teaching to foster an environment where men can speak without being judged or shamed. These gatherings are inspired by the teachings of Richard Rohr and the Center of Action and Contemplation to initiate discussions on the challenges of the different roles men play - husband/partner, father, grandfather, son, friend, provider, businessman, worker, etc. and incorporating ritual experiences to help each other connect what is in our head, heart, and spirit into

daily action. This gathering will meet monthly and is for all men - young, old, or in-between. If you would like to participate with these gatherings, please contact Chris Alexander and she will connect you to the group. You can also make a great connection through the Men's Spirituality Retreat with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes and Rev. Darrell Goodwin March 20-22 at the Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa. Participants will experience a variety of prayer and meditation practices together with outdoor activities and plenty of time for reflection and conversation about what it means to be both spiritual and male in the modern world. The cost is \$160 per person. This includes two nights of lodging, meals, snacks, meeting space and events. Scholarships are available. A \$50 deposit is due by March 7, to secure your spot for this inspiring event. Sign-up at the Connection Link or email robyn@countrysideucc.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS (SEE PAGE 3)

- Men's Spirituality Retreat, March 20-22
- CFS/IHE presents Holocaust Survivor Stories, March 24, 7 PM
- Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, April 5, 9:30 AM
- CFS presents Deborah Lewer, April 7, 7 PM
- Maunday Thursday Service, April 9, 7 PM
- Good Friday Service, April 10, 7 PM
- Easter Sunday Services, April 12, 6:45 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome - Page 2
- Upcoming Events - Page 3
- Caring Together - Page 4
- Learning Together - Page 5
- Children & Youth - Page 6
- Tri-Faith - Page 7



NEW LOGO UNVEILED

Countryside Community Church's new logo was unveiled at the Annual Meeting on February 9. David Day designed the fresh new look for Countryside. He designed the logo with a modern simplicity to keep in line with our beautiful building and distinctive mission. He also included a visual reference to the Tri-Faith concept as well. You will be seeing the new logo around as Countryside works to change all of its materials over to the new colors and logo.



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 page 3.

Ministers

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erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

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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 on the second Sunday of each month.

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.

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.

CHRISTIAN PARTNER OF TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE

Along with the American Muslim Institute (AMI) and Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church works to fulfill the Tri-Faith Initiative's mission to foster empathy, invite understanding, and advance common action between people of diverse faiths through the shared efforts of intentionally co-located congregations of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. We encourage you to attend Tri-Faith events and to sign up for the Tri-Faith newsletter at trifaith.org.

NEWSLETTER WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE

The goal of Countryside's newsletter is to keep you informed of what is going on at the church and within the Tri-Faith. We have currently streamlined content to make it useful, relevant and easy to follow. Changes to the format will be made over the next couple months to make the newsletter a simple source of information for everything at Countryside.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Just when you thought we were settled in... Please excuse our mess as a crew from Buzard Pipe Organ Builders from Illinois begins work on installing our new organ. If you happen to run into Buzard crew members, please extend your hospitality to them over these next few weeks! Again, a heartfelt thank you Roy and Gloria Dinsdale for the generous gift of this beautiful instrument which will soon grace our sanctuary. Weekly updates on the installation progress along with pictures will be in the C-10 and newsletter. This is an exciting time at Countryside Community Church.



UPCOMING EVENTS



MEN'S SPIRITUALITY RETREAT, MARCH 20-22, GRISWOLD, IA

Are you a man who is looking for greater connection to Creation, God, and other men? Join Dr. Eric Elnes and Rev. Darrell Goodwin (Associate Conference Minister of the Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota Conference of the UCC) for an inspiring and rejuvenating weekend at the Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa! Participants will experience a variety of prayer and meditation practices together with outdoor activities and plenty of time for reflection and conversation about what it means to be both spiritual and male in the modern world. You will also experience the center's outstanding food, all made from scratch daily. The retreat starts with dinner on Friday, March 20, 2020, at 6:00 PM and ends after lunch on Sunday, March 22. It will be at the Creighton University Retreat Center, Griswold, Iowa. The cost is \$160 per person. This includes two nights of lodging, meals, snacks, meeting space and events. Scholarships are available. A \$50 deposit is due by March 7, to secure your spot for this inspiring event. Sign-up at the Connection Link or email robbynh@countysideucc.org.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR STORIES, AGNES SCHWARTZ, TUESDAY, MARCH 24,

Center for Faith Studies and the Institute for Holocaust Education will be hosting "A Roll of the Dice" with Agnes Schwartz, at Countryside Community Church. The event starts at 7 PM and is free and open to the public. Mrs. Schwartz was harbored by her Christian nanny during the Holocaust and discusses events as she experienced them. She also adds an honest and touching retelling of her life in America, after the war, picking up the pieces in the aftermath. Her goal, like so many survivors, is to document their history so that their story is never lost. Please plan on joining us for an evening of testimony and education. **hint - The book, "A Roll of the Dice" is available for free on Kindle Unlimited.*



PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Mark your calendars to join us on April 5, after both services from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, for our annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, with a cap of \$20 /family (money will go to support our Easter offering). The Pancake Man will be flipping pancakes so plan on joining us for this great fellowship event.



DEBORAH LEWER, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 7 PM



Center for Faith Studies ends the 2020 Journey of Faith lectures series with Deborah Lewer, "Connecting Art and Theology in the Abrahamic Faiths" on April 7 at Countryside Community Church. Deborah Lewer is an art historian Senior Lecturer in History of Art at the University of Glasgow and a regular speaker in churches, theological colleges and at festivals and retreats on the rich relationship between art and faith. She is passionate about making art history accessible to all.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES, APRIL 5- APRIL 12

April 5-Palm Sunday: Both 9 AM and 11 AM will begin with procession of palms. The 11 AM service will feature our K-12 choirs and our adult choir (C4). Don't forget about the Pancake Breakfast from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM. See page 3.

April 9 - Maundy Thursday: The 7 PM service will feature acapella choral music and a liturgical theater - a retelling of the Last Supper from the perspective of the disciples.

April 10 - Good Friday: The 7 PM service will feature a collaboration with the choir of First Central Congregational Church, who will be joining us to premier a cantata by their music director Stephen Bouma.

April 12 - Easter: Sunday services (6:45 AM Sunrise, 9 AM and 11 AM) will be a particularly exciting time, as we are assured we will be able to use the organ!

Program Staff

The following individuals can be contacted to learn more about the ministries and programs within Countryside Community Church.

Pastoral Care

Care Team, Stephen Ministry and Agape

Jan Brown

Pastoral Care Coordinator ext. 234
janb@countysideucc.org

Center For Faith Studies

Community lectures, adult education classes and community partnerships.

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

Youth Ministries

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups, Mission Trips, High School (Faith Singers) and Confirmation Choirs, Confirmation

Anji Stanek and Morgan Lenigan
Interim Youth Leaders
anjistanek1@gmail.com
morganlenigan@hotmail.com

Children's Education

Sunday School, Nursery, Family Worship, Wednesday Night Programs (Holy Moly and Core 56), Vacation Bible School

Rebecca Morello
rebeccam@countysideucc.org

Music and Arts Ministries

Adult Choir (C4), Creative Arts, Special Concert Series, Worship Music

Alex Ritter
Director of Arts Ministries
alexr@countysideucc.org

Life Ministries

Family Programs, Volunteer-based Programs, Social Groups

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

CARING AND COMMUNITY



SOCIAL GROUPS

Social Activities Committee

Meets on the 1st Sunday of each month, 10 - 11 AM in Marys' Hall.

FAME (Friends, Art, Munching & Enjoying)

Meets Fridays at 10 AM. Contact Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

Women's Lunch

Open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month. Contact Chris Alexander for more information chrisa@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch the 2nd Monday of each month. Contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net or 402.333.3115.

Men's Breakfast

Open to men (all ages) share their breakfast at 7 AM every Tuesday morning at Rockbrook's Garden Café.

Mahjong

Meets Tuesday afternoons 1-3 PM in the Common Grounds. Contact Jeri at jeri62lynn@gmail.com for information.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

T'ai Chi Chih®

Every Thursday at 9:30 AM contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

Interplay

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

For a more complete list of social groups ask for a list at the Connection Link on Sundays or check out the church website at countysideucc.org.

THE BOX FOR MARCH

The BOX for March is St. Andrew's Lunch Program. St. Andrew's has been working with Siena Francis House for 18 years in conjunction with their program to provide food for the needy. Siena Francis House is the largest meal provider to the homeless in the state of Nebraska. In 2018, Siena Francis House provided 431,533 meals to more than 3500 individuals who were homeless at the shelter. The numbers continue to grow. The following meals comprise the shelter's meal program: breakfast, brunch on Sundays and all major holidays, midday lunch/sack lunches, and evening dinner. Local churches help as volunteers and with preparation of sack lunches for the midday lunches. St. Andrew's is asking for donations as follows so that they can help prepare these lunches:

Individual bags of chips	Granola bars
Brown paper lunch sacks	Sandwich size Ziploc bags
Mayo and mustard packets	

IN MEMORIAM

Christine Vivek's father Robert L. "Bob" Johnson, 85 years, died Wednesday, January 22, 2020. His funeral was February 1 at the United Presbyterian Church in North Bend, Nebraska.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Did you know? The namesake of "Stephen Ministry" was Stephen, mentioned in Acts 6:5 as part of a group of men who were chosen to be deacons. Local churches were beginning to be established, and there arose some problems with Greek widows being neglected in their care. This neglect resulted in the apostles spending their time taking care of the widows at the expense of their ministry and their prayers. The apostles addressed this need by tasking the local church members to choose seven men who could be appointed to care for the widows. They were told to choose men who were full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Once the selection was completed, the newly chosen deacons were set before the apostles who laid their hands on them and prayed over them. The result of these deacons being ordained to care for the widows was the Word of God increasing, as the apostles had more time available for their ministry work.

NEW MEN'S GROUP STARTING AT COUNTRYSIDE

Inspired by the teachings of Richard Rohr, a new Men's Group is meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 PM. The group's purpose is providing space for spiritual growth in men that makes a difference in the world by:

- Doing Inner Work: Providing men with an opportunity to do inner work in the company of men using ritual, teaching and ways of communicating to create an environment where men can explore what matters most to them.
- Creating a Safe Environment: Fostering an environment where men can speak without being judged or shamed.
- Utilizing Ritual: Incorporating experiences, such as drumming into gatherings.

All men are invited to attend.

LUNCH BUNCH RESUMES IN MARCH

Gloria Ried's house on March 9 - Christmas in March! Should you have any questions, please contact Gloria at 402-333-3115.

WOMEN'S LUNCH ON MARCH 2 AND APRIL 6

First Watch at Noon on the first Monday of the month. It is located in Aksarben in the back room (1222 S. 71 St.). All three faith communities are invited to attend. Feel free to grab a friend and join us for great conversation, good food, and lots of laughter.

WHAT DISCUSSION GROUP OPENS UP TO MEN

The book/discussion group called "WHAT?!" will be resuming our gatherings this spring. This group met last fall and plans to continue meeting. In general, our topics revolved around how to cope when life hands us the unexpected or unwelcome surprises. Previously, "WHAT?!" was comprised of all women, but we can be an inclusive group! See Jan Brown or Connie JohnkWare if you have questions; when we have another book selected, we'll publicize that as well as the dates/times.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Community Cupboard Food Pantry is needing additional help at the pantry on Saturday, April 5, 7:45-11:30 AM. It takes approximately 60 volunteers to put together, serve and clean up a Pantry. Your help is ALWAYS welcomed and needed! Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WORSHIP AND LEARNING TOGETHER

NEW SERMON SERIES - LOVING OUR UNCOMFORTABLE NEIGHBOR: SIX PARABLES OF JESUS, MARCH 1 - APRIL 5

Jesus teaches that loving our neighbor as ourselves is every bit as important as loving God with all our hearts. But what about the neighbor who makes us uncomfortable, or is an enemy (or considers us one)? In this series, we will explore six parables that provide support, encouragement, and real-life tools for expanding the circle of relationships. In so doing, we will discover unexpected skills for dealing with difficult people. Through such relationships we encounter a God who works in ways that are as mysterious as they are wondrous.

March 1: Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32) - Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

March 8: Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23-35) - Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

March 15: Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) - Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

March 22: Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) - Rev. Dr. Cynthia Lindenmeyer
Cynthia Lindenmeyer is from First United Methodist Church

March 29: Parable of the Invited Guests (Luke 14:12-24) - Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

April 5: Palm Sunday Parable of the New Cloth/Wine Skins: (Mark 2:21-22; Luke 19:29-48) - Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

CFS PRESENTS JUDAISM CLASS WITH RABBI AZRIEL, STARTING MARCH 2

Rabbi returns and the newest subject is, The Lonely Man Of Faith- a reading of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, a work characterized by one writer as "One of the most theologically intoxicating essays of the twentieth century." The class starts March 2, 10 - 11:30 AM and meets in Marys' Hall. No need to sign up, everyone is welcome.

THE INNER MATRIX, WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4 - APRIL 8, 6:30 - 8 PM

Transform your life with an Inner Matrix Group. In today's fast-paced and stressful world, focusing the mind and empowering the emotions are essential to living a fulfilling, peaceful life. Inner Matrix Groups meet regularly to strengthen mind, emotion, body and spirit using tools based in cutting-edge neuroscience and ancient wisdom practices. Explore the transformative book, The Inner Matrix by Joey Klein, in a supportive, small group environment that meets weekly for six sessions. The group facilitator is Mary Dircks, for questions you can contact her at (402)391-0113. The group runs Wednesdays March 4 - April 8 and will meet from 6:30 - 8 PM at Countryside. Childcare will be available with a reservation for children up to the age of five. Please register online at ConsciousTransformation.com.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES, MARCH 22 AND 29

Come learn what Countryside Community Church has to offer. Meet the staff and learn about the ministries and volunteer opportunities available. Classes will be held on Sundays March 22 and 29 from 12:15 to 2:30 PM in MARY's Hall. Please email Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countrysideucc.org if you are interested.

CFS PRESENTS DR. CYNTHIA LINDENMEYER, MARCH 22

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Lindenmeyer from First United Methodist Church will be preaching on March 22 at both 9 and 11 AM services on racial justice and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus from Luke 16:19-31, as a part of the worship series "Loving Our Uncomfortable Neighbor."



ONGOING CLASSES

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

Meets at 10:10 in the Deborah Room, currently studying "The Wisdom of History" - no need to sign up, just drop in.

BOOKS, BIBLE & BEYOND

Wednesdays at noon, currently discussing "Saving Jesus from the Church" by Robin R. Meyers

MONDAY LUNCH GROUP

Mondays at noon,

BOOK CLUB

Mondays from 7 - 9 PM in Miriam. Currently reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer,

CHOIR

ADULT CHOIR - C4

C4 sings regularly at Sunday worship services. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 PM in Priscilla. Childcare up to age 12 provided.

CHILDREN & YOUTH



MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

March 8: Touching the Hem of Jesus—A woman who had been ill for twelve long and isolated years risked breaking social convention to touch Jesus; upon touching the hem of his cloak she was healed. Jesus is said to declare, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

March 15: Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount—Jesus connected to the people around him and understood their hardships and pain. In his Sermon on the Mount, he both assured them of God’s presence and invited them to live more fully their relationship to God.

March 22: The Samaritan Woman at the Well: In the mystical and symbolic book of John, Jesus, a Jew, defies a social custom and asks a Samaritan woman for a drink from the well. In turn, Jesus promises her “living water,” which we understand as spiritual insight and relationship with God. Her joy became testimony to Jesus as Messiah.

CONFIRMATION AND COYO JR. HIGH UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation

Affirmation 12: Acting on the faith that we are born with a meaning and purpose; a vocation and ministry that serves to strengthen and extend God’s realm of love.

Our Confirmation class will continue to discuss Lent and bible stories around this season. We will consider the story of Jesus’s baptism as a turning point for him to go into the wilderness and discern his “calling” or vocation. We’ll also reflect on the temptations in the wilderness story, and consider how discernment may lead us to understand that we can (and will) do a lot of good by walking the path that brings us most fully alive in this world, but in order to stay on this path, we must learn to say no to doing a great many good things.

March 4: Lent - Our invitation to connect with God as we discern our steps forward on life’s path

March 11: Guest speaker Dr. Rev. Chris Alexander - Countryside’s discernment process to join the Tri-Faith Initiative

March 18: Tour American Muslim Institute with Imam Jamal Daoudi - Drop off and Pick up Confirmands at American Muslim Institute

March 25: Guest speaker: Dr. Rev. Eric Elnes - Intro Affirmation 8: Walking humbly with God, acknowledging our own shortcomings while honestly seeking to understand and call forth the best in others, including those who consider us their enemies.

April 1: 6:30-8:00 PM – Educational Seder Meal with Temple Israel and AMI 7th & 8th grade students - **Please note later ending time for this special event**

CoYo Jr. High

March 7: 12:00 – 2:00 PM: Jr High CoYo Bake preparation day.

March 27: 8 PM - March 28 1 PM: Mini Urban Plunge: Lock-In & Table Grace Confirmation Service Hours

April 21: 6:30-8 PM – 8th grade Confirmand Dinner with Deacons and Confirmation Practice –

April 26: Confirmation Service at 11:00 AM

COYO SR. HIGH UPCOMING EVENTS

February 29-March 1: 7 PM-7 AM Mystery Bus Tour & Lock In

May 31: Baccalaureate Service

June 20-27: Mission Trip– Simply Smiles Cheyenne River Reservation

Check out the back page for important GARAGE SALE dates and information!

WEEKLY MEETING TIMES

MARCH SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 1
Worship Together

March 8
Sunday School

March 15
Sunday School

March 22
Sunday School

March 29
Children’s Church

SUNDAY EVENINGS

CoYo Jr. High (Youth Group)
4:30 - 6 PM
Youth Room

Faith Singers (High School Choir)
4:45 - 6 PM
Priscilla

Youth Dinner (All Youth)
6-6:30 PM
Marys’ Hall

CoYo Sr. High (Youth Group)
6:30 - 8 PM
Youth Room

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Holy Moly (K-4th Grade)
6-7:30 PM
Starts in Purple Room

CORE 56 (5th - 6th Grade)
6-7:30 PM
Starts in Tamar

Confirmation (7th- 8th Grade)
6-7:30 PM
Marys’ Hall

Confirmation Singers (7th - 8th Grade)
5-:45-6:30 PM
Priscilla



COUNTRYSIDE AND TRI-FAITH PARTNER EVENTS



trifaith.org
americanmusliminstitute.org
templeisraelomaha.com



MORE THAN A JOKE - FINAL SERIES IN MARCH, TEMPLE ISRAEL

More than a joke concludes in March with its final series, Let it Grow: Jewish, Christian & Muslim Perspectives on the Environment

Wednesday Lunch-and-Learns, March 11, 18, 25, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Dinner & Panel Discussion, March 31, 6:30 Dinner, 7 – 8:00 PM Panel Discussion
Dinner is included in the Tuesday evening discussion. RSVP strongly encouraged, please email info@trifaith.org

There is a \$10 suggested donation for the Tuesday evening event.

TRI-FAITH TRIP TO SPAIN INFORMATIONAL SESSION, MARCH 11, 6:30 PM TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Brian Stoller of Temple Israel, Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes of Countryside Community Church, and Imam Jamal Daoudi of American Muslim Institute are co-leading a Tri-Faith Initiative trip to the South of Spain from March 1-11, 2021 – and they want to invite their congregations to join! Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all have very rich and inspiring histories in Spain and, over the course of these 10 days, participants will learn together about the historical and modern experiences of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in this beautiful country. Led by tour guides with deep knowledge of Spain and its history, participants will visit Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, and Granada. All three clergy will present to teach and provide spiritual insight from their respective religious traditions.

“NURTURING CARING COMMUNITIES” AT TEMPLE ISRAEL, MARCH 13

Caring for one another isn't just a Christian concept. As we learn more about our Tri-Faith partners and how they each develop systems of caring, our own Christian traditions may certainly expand to include innovative ideas where God's love is creatively at work. In that light, we've already trained members of Temple Israel through our Stephen Ministry program, and in this current class, we have two Temple members and one person who works for the Tri-Faith Initiative. The more we learn from one another, the more love grows. Jan Brown will be speaking at Temple Israel's Friday evening Shabbat service on March 13 at 6pm. All are welcome, so please consider coming. “Nurturing Caring Communities” will explore the ways which Countryside has invested in pastoral care concepts, how we know we can learn more, but also how we desire to be in relationship with our Tri-Faith partners to better appreciate God's commandment to love one another.

SHALOM HABIBI - MARCH 12, 8:30 - 10:30 PM, THE BACKLINE

Shalom Habibi is a comedy tour featuring Jewish and Arab comedians performing at cultural centers across the US. Local Omaha comic, Ali Kareem, will be opening this event! The goal of the tour is to bridge the gap between their two communities in at least a small way, to inspire meaningful conversation, and hopeful unity. Every show features at least two Jewish and two Arab/Muslim comedians. Following every show, the comedians will host a Q+A podcast recording with the audience. A portion of the proceeds from each show go to HIAS and IRUSA (Yemen Food Relief). Tickets are required. Go to the events page on the Tri-Faith website to find the link for the comedy tour, trifaith.org/events/.

IMAGINE... GATHERING TO CELEBRATE DIFFERENCE WITH PRIYA PARKER, MARCH 16, CHI CENTER

This will be a dynamic large group event for attendees to experience The Art of Gathering in real-time. In this highly interactive special event, Priya will demonstrate ideas that connect us to each other in new ways, while breaking down the anatomy of what makes gatherings transformative. Drawing from her new book, Priya will lead a group experience that demonstrates how gathering is a form of leadership and then reverse engineer what she does to create a sense of community. The result will be a dynamic, memorable experience providing real tools to apply to all of the gatherings in your own work and life.

Imagine... Tri-Faith Initiative's signature event celebrates and benefits the mission of Tri-Faith. The afternoon's festivities include lunch, an interactive workshop, and an awards ceremony honoring community members who amplify values that inform and inspire our work.

Monday, March 16, Welcome & Lunch: 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Live Experience: 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm, CHI Health Center, 455 N. 10th Street

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE

Tri-Faith Initiative
13136 Faith Plaza
Omaha, NE 68144
Email: info@trifaith.org

INTRODUCING THE TRI-FAITH STAFF

Wendy Goldberg

Interim Executive Director
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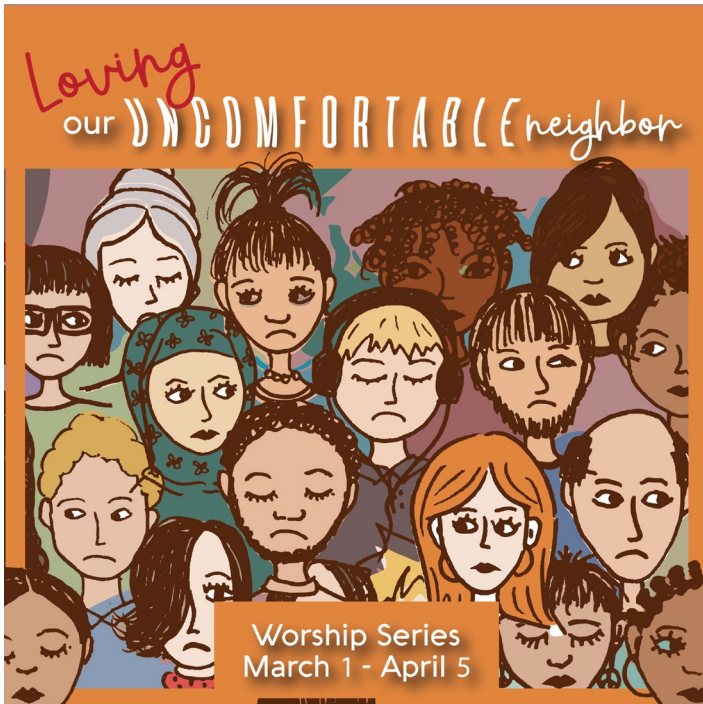
Communications Director
spirigy@trifaith.org

Speaker and Tour Requests

To request a speaker from the Tri-Faith Initiative or a tour of the Tri-Faith Commons or any of the faith partner congregations, please contact Program Director, Amanda Ryan by emailing aryan@trifaith.org.



Taste of Tri-Faith on February 23



See page 5 for details on this Worship Series

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SUPPORT YOUTH AT COUNTRYSIDE

In the spirit of the Eden Tree Initiative, greater support of and involvement with our youth, I invite you to please help. Countryside Youth holds a garage sale every year to raise funds for its summer COYO Mission Trip and Faith Singers' Tour. Here's how you can assist:

Volunteer for our Garage Sale Committee - We have formed a committee to help coordinate the garage sale. Its efforts will include pricing, promotion, execution and post-sale donations. Please email Emily Ethington at ethington.emily@gmail.com or Maureen Hornacek at maureenhornacek@cox.net if you're interested in serving on that committee.

Donate your goods - Are you purging this spring? Maybe you or your parents are downsizing? Consider donating your stash to the garage sale. We'll pick it up and store it until the event in June. For pick-ups, contact Morgan Lenigan, morganlenigan@gmail.com and she will email you the link to sign up. Drop-offs will be at the church this year (dates listed in box below).

Connect us with a printer - Do you have contacts in the printing community? We need a few signs and posters printed to promote the garage sale. Please contact Stacy Ashley Murphy at stacy@stacyashley.com if you can assist.

Please prayerfully consider helping the Countryside Youth.

Thank you,
Stacy Ashley Murphy
Chair, Board of Youth



GARAGE SALE (JUNE 11 - 13) - IMPORTANT DATES

Garage Sale Item

Dropoff at Countryside:
March 14: 8 AM - 12 PM
March 21: 8 AM - 12 PM
April 4: 8 AM - 12 PM

April 18: 8 AM - 12 PM
May 2: 8 AM - 12 PM
May 16: 8 AM - 12 PM
May 30: 8 AM - 12 PM

GARAGE SALE SET UP:

June 6 - 10: Specific times TBD

GARAGE SALE

June 11 - 13 at Countryside Community Church