

OCTOBER 2020



Jan and Mike Brown make masks look good!



Patte Aanerud shows off a mask and a grandbaby!



Real clergy wear masks!

AUTUMN ONLINE CONCERT SERIES ANNOUNCED

OUTDOOR CONCERT: Countryside Jazz - Saturday, October 3, 4 PM

Countryside Jazz will perform an outdoor concert on October 3. There will be squares indicating spaced seating, so bring a blanket or chairs and enjoy some live music. The concert will be canceled in the event of rain, temperatures under 50 degrees, or wind above 20mph.

Nasty Women - Friday, October 23, 7 PM

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage, we are offering a concert consisting entirely of music written by female composers during the Women's Suffrage movement. Dr. Joanna Goldstein, a specialist in this music, will be our guide on this journey through these unsung masterworks. You will not want to miss this!

Halloween Organ Concert - Friday, October 30, 7 PM

The pipe organ is known for its use in churches, but also has a spooky and terrifying alter ego that predates its use in the church! From accompanying gladiator battles in ancient Rome, to its frequent use in film scoring, to the predilection for villains to play it (think Phantom of the Opera and The Pink Panther), be sure to join us for a frightening evening, presented by Countryside Youth.

Carol Rogers - Friday, November 13, 7 PM

After a spooky concert and election season, we could all use a palate cleanser on Friday the 13th, and Carol Rogers is just the person to do that! She will be joined by Countryside Jazz and perhaps a few puppets along the way, to sing some of her favorite selections.

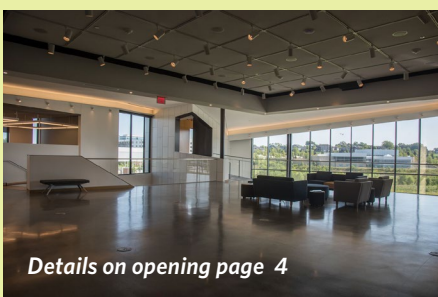


Autumn CONCERT SERIES

 OUTDOOR CONCERT COUNTRYSIDE JAZZ OCTOBER 3 4:00 PM	 NASTY WOMEN OCTOBER 23 7:00 PM	 HALLOWEEN ORGAN CONCERT OCTOBER 30 7:00 PM	 CAROL ROGERS NOVEMBER 13 7:00 PM
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countrysideucc.org/concerts

TRI-FAITH VIRTUAL GRAND OPENING, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7 - 9 PM



Details on opening page 4



Tri-Faith staff: (back row left to right) Sierra Salgado Pirigyi, Jeremy Fricke, Lachelle Rankins, Wendy Goldberg, Amanda Ryan and Erik Servellon.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND STAFF UPDATES



COVID-19 CASES REMAIN IN HIGH RISK, WORSHIP REMAINS ONLINE

Countryside continues in the RED phase of the Countryside Worship Guidelines reopening set forth by the Countryside Re-Start Task Force and the Church Council. The church does not move to the next phase (ORANGE) until new cases are below 200 for two consecutive weeks. As of the printing of this newsletter, cases had jumped to 844 the week ending September 28. For a detailed explanation of our four-phase approach you can check the website at countrysideucc.org/covid19.

JESUS'S EIGHT BLESSINGS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES CONTINUES

Our series, called Jesus's Eight Blessings For Uncertain Times is covering the advice that Jesus offers for living an engaged life during times like this. If you will take His advice seriously, you may find it challenging and He certainly won't make you a movie star, but He may just turn into one that's like a light that shines in the darkness. Service times continue to be at 10:30 AM either on KMTV Channel 3 or online at countrysideucc.com.

UPDATE FROM TLC (TRANSITION LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE)

On September 2, Countryside announced the resignation of our senior minister, Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes. The Church Council has established a Transition Leadership Committee (TLC), which has already begun meeting and working with the UCC to consider options and identify procedures and processes. The committee has interviewed key staff members, and has begun to collect data to update and post Countryside's church profile with the UCC. The profile was partially updated during the discernment process to consider becoming the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative. Other parts of the profile have not been updated since Eric came 12 years ago. We have asked many boards and congregation members for input and help to complete the profile, which will be filed with the UCC for review by interested candidates.

There are many options available to Countryside during our interim period. The traditional path involves an Interim Minister position, which can take on many forms. We are exploring each variation of this, in addition to a number of hybrid models that are successful around the country. The TLC team is also discussing models that do not follow the traditional path of Interim Minister position, and carefully weighing the benefits of each with regard to what best fits Countryside, both in our current and future planning structures. As our work continues, we will share updates that provide more detail on this interim process. A good interim period will prepare us for the future, and lead us to be both excited and ready for our future leadership and ministry that Spirit is calling us to.

In addition, the committee will consider both the budget impact and personnel impact of each option. The TLC team is committed to providing regular updates to Church Council and to the congregation. If you have questions for the Transition Leadership Committee, please email them to tlc@countrysideucc.org.

OCTOBER IS STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH - BUT WE'RE FLIPPING THE SCRIPT!

For several years, the Pastoral Care Board and the congregation have honored Countryside's staff at worship on the third Sunday of October, followed by an all-staff lunch around Halloween. In this surreal time, though, the staff would like to thank the members of Countryside for the kind, considerate and faithful ways you've been alongside us since mid-March. Please know how we appreciate you and miss seeing your faces:

From Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes: It has been said that a community's true colors show most clearly not during times of ease, but of difficulty. In this respect, Countryside's colors have shown brilliantly during the global pandemic. I deeply appreciate how caring and compassionate the congregation has been, not only to fellow members and the wider community, but to us as staff. We have experienced Countryside's care in a wide variety of ways, not the least of which is its commitment to holding services and meetings online/on-air until there is an abundance of assurance that we can safely reoccupy the church. Speaking most personally, I have also been deeply moved by the overwhelming support that Melanie and I have received since announcing my upcoming transition, even through the tears we've shed together. Countryside members do more than just believe that we are all loved beyond our wildest imagination. They continually demonstrate their beliefs through acts of kindness and generosity - even during difficult times. I could hardly be prouder to have served Countryside for nearly 13 years.

From Alex Ritter: The music staff and I are grateful for the time we had last year - the concerts, rehearsals, services, and time spent together before the pandemic. Though we had to cut the program year short, we were able to partake in some unique and interesting experiences, nevertheless. To all of our singers and instrumentalists who spent countless hours in rehearsals, practicing, and sharing their gifts with our church and local community, and to all of our volunteers and parents who help make it all happen: a big thank you from all of us at Countryside!

From Jan Brown: Not being able to visit you at home, in the hospital or in care facilities has been difficult and lonely for me. When I start to grieve these missed opportunities to be with you in person, I remember all the ways you care for each other, and always have. Phone calls, emails, texts, prayer groups, Zoom meetings for adult and youth gatherings, and sometimes even socially-distanced visits - you find a way, Countryside. Not only do you continually reach out toward one another, but you also do that for me. "How are YOU doing, Jan?" - This question brings a smile to my face. You are trustworthy friends to me and to one another. A global pandemic only confirms this for me. Thank you, Countryside.

Ministers

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Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander
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COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



NEW CLASSES WITH RABBI ARYEH AZRIEL STARTING IN OCTOBER!

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will resume classes on Monday mornings from **October 12 through November 16, between 10:00-11:30 AM**. Classes will meet both in person and on Zoom. "Sermons For Life: a view of Jewish life and tradition from the sermons of Rabbi Aryeh Azriel while serving the Congregation of Temple Israel, Omaha NE."

In person classes will be limited to 50 people, with masks required, and socially distanced seating. We will also be streaming these classes live on Zoom (the Zoom link can be accessed through our church calendar), and then we are recording the classes to be accessed from our Center for Faith Studies Page of our website whenever you have the time to watch. Join us as you can. For more information, please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org

ENERGY CODES CLASS, STARTS OCTOBER 5, \$72 PLUS BOOK (VIA ZOOM)

Join us for an asynchronous course beginning Monday October 5—each week a new chapter is introduced (work at your own pace) on Energy Codes: Project Awakening. This course offers a detailed road map to activate untapped energy and neurocircuitry in your body and field to help you experience deep healing in all aspects of your life. Enjoy felt, experiential shifts that transform your relationship to your body and your world, so you may thrive from the inside out. If interested email cynthia@sacredactivismtoday.org

WOMEN MYSTICS CLASS - JOIN US ON ZOOM ON ALTERNATING SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:30-8:00 PM BEGINNING OCTOBER 4

Join us on Zoom (hopefully eventually in person!) on alternating Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM beginning October 4 (10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 12/6, 12/20, 1/3, 1/17, 1/31, 2/7). Intro class free—asking for \$10 donation each session. All materials are electronic and will be accessed on-line. Email Cynthia Lindenmeyer if interested cynthia@sacredactivismtoday.org.

MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS WITH CARLOS, WEDNESDAYS, AT 6 PM

Mindful Meditation Sits with Carlos Figueroa are continuing Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom. You can access these sits through the zoom link on the church calendar. If you have any questions or would like more information about these opportunities, please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org

2021 CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES ANNOUNCED

February 12 - Documentary Premiere
"How Much Sleep Have You Lost?"
by Omaha filmmaker Nick Beaulieu

March 19-21 - Andrew Harvey, Author
Sacred Activism Workshop

May 6 - Dr. Charles Cohen, Author
"Braided Histories: Jews, Christians and Muslims across the Centuries."

June 2021 (Day TBD) - Daneen Akers, Author
"Holy Trouble Makers"

November 2021 (Day TBD) - Mirabai Starr & Mona Haydar
Two-day spirituality Retreat and Concert

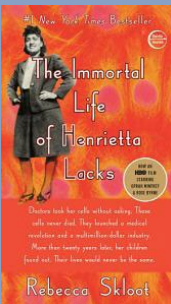
www.centerforfaithstudies.org

SERVE ON A COUNTRYSIDE BOARD

Countryside is blessed with a congregation filled with talent and business experience. Our officers and board members are nominated and elected by our members and represent the church body in the various aspects of managing church finances and affairs. The nominating process has started and if you are interested in serving on a board you can self-nominate. You will need to complete a self nomination form and email it to Robyn Hubbard (robynh@countysideucc.org) For a list of boards and a downloadable pdf of the Countryside self nomination form go to countysideucc.org/about-us/boards-committees/.

JAN'S "WHAT?!" GROUP - WANT TO JOIN US?

We're reading and discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot as well as our own personal "WHAT?!" moments. Our supportive group meets via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30, and all are welcome.



Henrietta Lacks was 31 and a mother of five children when she died at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins hospital of cervical cancer in 1951. Without the family's knowledge, doctors there took a sample of her malignant tissues as part of their search for a line of cells that were able to survive and reproduce outside the body, and so make possible medical experiments they were not able to perform on living bodies. Henrietta's cells proved to be the ones, and - by forming the springboard for new treatments for diseases such as TB, flu, herpes, Aids and for the development of chemotherapy - changed the face of medicine forever.

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE



BEACON OF HOPE: TRI-FAITH CENTER VIRTUAL GRAND OPENING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

RSVP: <https://www.trifaith.org/events/beacon-of-hope-tri-faith-center-virtual-grand-opening/#>
RSVP Deadline: Monday, October 12, at 12:00 PM CDT

Honoring past, present, and future, Beacon of Hope will celebrate the opening of the Tri-Faith Center as a safe haven for dialogue, prayer, and friendship-building. Please join us as we celebrate the fulfillment of Tri-Faith's original mission: to intentionally co-locate a synagogue, church, mosque, and interfaith center on one shared commons.

RSVP now to reserve your Grand Opening Celebration Box, adding to the festivities. Celebration Boxes may be picked up, delivered, or shipped.

Pre-Show Greetings and Tributes - 6:30 PM CDT

The Beacon of Hope Pre-Show will feature blessings, greetings, and tributes of joy and hope from Tri-Faith supporters in Omaha and around the world.

Original Performance: One More Chair - 7:00 PM CDT

Written by Beaufield Berry-Fisher, *One More Chair* is a pandemic-era play honoring and commemorating Tri-Faith Initiative's completion of our mission to co-locate. It is a comedy with heart and history exploring the depths and differences of our human village.

Connecting Conversations - 7:30 PM CDT

Following the performance of *One More Chair*, facilitators will lead small groups in Connecting Conversations to keep the momentum going.



TRI-FAITH ZOOM EVENTS

Abraham's Whiteboard: Sociology of Religion and Community - Thursday, October 1, 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM, via Zoom

What is it about early human psychology that helps us understand religious thinking? Together we will learn about these questions and more!

(Registration required - go to Tri-Faith web page at [trifaith.org/events](https://www.trifaith.org/events) or find the link on Tri-Faith Facebook page, [facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative).)

The Pursuit of Harmony - Thursday, October 8, 12 PM - 1 PM

An Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Conversation featuring Hunter Ochs, Alaa Alshaham, and Dr. Henrik Syse. The Pursuit of Harmony is the story of unlikely friendship, hope, and possibility.

(Registration required - go to Tri-Faith web page at [trifaith.org/events](https://www.trifaith.org/events) or find the link on Tri-Faith Facebook page, [facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative).)

The Women of American Muslim Institute - Thursday, October 22, 12 PM - 1 PM

Join Tri-Faith Executive Director Wendy Goldberg for this Open Conversation with women from The American Muslim Institute!

(Registration required - go to Tri-Faith web page at [trifaith.org/events](https://www.trifaith.org/events) or find the link on Tri-Faith Facebook page, [facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative).)

Making the Familiar Strange: Nations United and Divided - The Tower of Babel and Abram in Egypt Tuesday, October 27,

While not required, the program is best if you have access to the texts in question, which can be a physical copy or online copy of a Bible, Tanakh, Quran, or other text that includes the biblical book of Genesis.

(Registration required - go to Tri-Faith web page at [trifaith.org/events](https://www.trifaith.org/events) or find the link on Tri-Faith Facebook page, [facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative).)

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION BOXES

RSVP now to reserve your Grand Opening Celebration Box, adding to the festivities. Celebration Boxes may be picked up, delivered, or shipped the week of October 12.

Celebration Boxes include a special issue of Omaha Magazine celebrating Tri-Faith, ceremonial candle, Pocket Blessing, and a 3D model of the Tri-Faith Commons. A limited Patron Celebration Box, which includes a commemorative Tri-Faith wind chime, is also available.



CARING TOGETHER



IN MEMORIAM

Jeff (Margaret) Nelson's mother Dorothy Nelson passed away September 1, 2020, and there was a graveside service and family gathering for her in Lincoln on September 15.

Marilyn Leach died in Lincoln on September 2, 2020; there was a committal of her ashes in Countryside's columbarium on September 19 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander presiding. A memorial service at Countryside will be held later.

Marc DeBoer passed away in Omaha on September 5, 2020, and is survived by his wife Kathy, sons Rhett and Anthony (Lauren), and four grandsons. On September 12, Marc's life was celebrated at Countryside, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander as officiant.

Jack Michael Meehan died in Omaha on September 5, 2020, and is survived by his parents Mike and Lisa, his brother Max, his grandparents, many relatives and friends, including COYO. Jack's funeral was at Countryside on September 13, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander presiding.

Harold Slaight died in Omaha on September 9. He was preceded in death by his wife Ann and daughter Susan. Harold is survived by his sons Tom and Greg and their families, and his son-in-law Chris and family. The memorial service will be held on October 23 with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes as officiant.

MARRIAGES

Leslie Summers and David Day were married in a private ceremony at Countryside on September 19, 2020, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes presiding.

BIRTHS

Karen and Frank Staskiewicz welcome their first grandchild Ellie Kay, born September 9, 2020, to Andrea and Jed Peters.

BOARD OF PASTORAL CARE'S "COMMON GROUND" BY GAYLE NOBLE

Grandma Gayle: I interpret "Wisdom of the Ages" to mean that we are lucky to live long enough to recognize God's presence and blessings in so many of the ordinary things we might have taken for granted when we were younger. Like playing with kids! I have been lucky to have the best grandkids in the world (hopefully any of you with grandkids also have the best in the world). Who would think a 67-year old and 11- and 8-year-olds would enjoy the same things? Despite the 50+ years difference between us, we have a great time doing things together. We love going to the park, climbing on monkey bars and playing tag (somehow I am always "it"). This game of tag which lasts about 30 minutes becomes my workout exercise for the day!! The other thing we love to do is go on "adventures" and picnics. This summer we went to Elmwood Park and took our shoes off so we could walk in the stream and have foot massages in the mud. We had another picnic adventure at Chalco Hills where we found a "fort" in the woods made of sticks. We get out the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas village decorations now that Fall is here. I know my grandkids like doing these activities with me, but they are just too young and innocent to really understand what true treasures these times together are and how they're God's gifts to us. I pray when they develop their own "wisdom of the ages" that their memories with "Gigi" will become treasures for them as well.

Coralie: I call my grandma "Gigi" and I am 11 years old. Gigi and I like to play at the park with my sister Daphne. We all like to go to the zoo together. We love to have picnics at the park. Those are all the things we have in common

Daphne I also call my grandma "Gigi" and I'm 8 years old. Gigi and I like to play tag. We both like to do crafts and put up decorations every year for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's cool how we have so much in common.



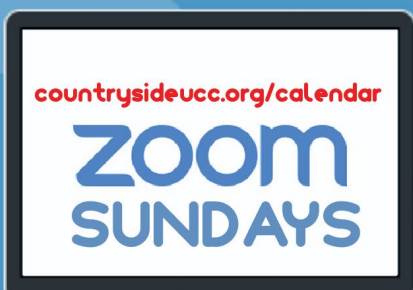
Gayle Noble and her grandchildren,

THE BOX FOR OCTOBER

This month we will be collecting NEW warm winter outer garments such as coats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and hats for Lutheran Family Services. The target age is toddler size 2 up to youth. These are children that need the warm clothing but also are daycare and school age. Many are at home but many are not. We see kids out walking every day to school and cold weather will be upon us soon. Please help in any way you can. Countryside has made it very easy and safe to deliver items to the BOX. The BOX is in the entryway and you do not have to buzz in. It is right there and you can be sure not to encounter anyone unless you want to. Amazon is an option also if you want to order and have it delivered to the church. They will have the information in our wish list.

The congregation and friends have been so good to not forget the needs of our community and how we are able to serve them. Please help if you can. Thank you for all your past gifts to The Box. The Box has helped many of our non-profits.

October Sunday morning ZOOM activities.



9:30 AM
Meditation with Eric
10:20 AM
Musical Prelude
10:00
Coffee with Diane Scott and Bill Bolte
10:30
30-Minute Worship
11:05
Chat with Jan/Conversations with Eric



LET'S CELEBRATE REV. DR. ERIC ELNES!

We are all saddened by the news that Eric will be leaving us in a few short weeks, however, we want to provide opportunities to thank and honor Eric for his loving ministry for the past thirteen years. We're planning to celebrate his time with us and wish him and Melanie the best as they begin a new chapter. Here are some ways that you can participate.

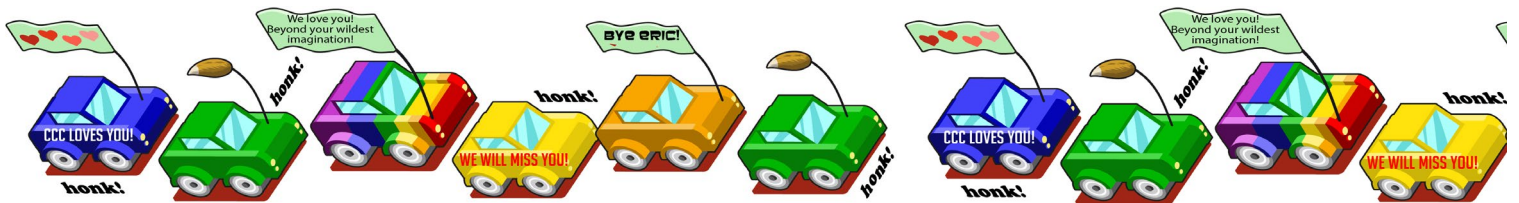
Card Shower

We encourage anyone who can to send a note or card expressing your gratitude and best wishes. These notes can be mailed directly to Eric's home (1424 S. 13 Street, Omaha, NE., 68108) or to the church office (13130 Faith Plz., Omaha, NE., 68144) and they will be passed on to Eric.

Celebration Parade

Sunday, October 25, at 2:00 PM

Be a part of a drive-by parade on Sunday, October 25! We will plan on meeting at the AMI parking lot at 1:45 PM to line up and begin our parade at 2:00. Wouldn't it be fun to decorate your car or make a sign to give Eric, Melanie and their daughters Arianna and Maren, a fun and memorable send off? After we've all driven through once (or twice!) we encourage you to pull in and park allowing spaces between each other so that the entire Elnes family can walk through safely and greet us.





AN EXCITING HELLO TO OUR NEW PIPE ORGAN WHILE SAYING A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE TO OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. DR. ERIC ELNES

As Countryside’s new pipe organ, John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders Opus 47, nears completion, we are excited to announce an opportunity for you to hear the instrument in all its glory. While the circumstances under which we are introducing the organ to our congregation are slightly different than we expected, we have worked with the re-opening task force to offer a series of small in-person concerts. Each concert will be the same, so RSVP for the one that fits with your schedule best. These concerts will be limited in size, and all the appropriate precautions taken (socially distant seating, masks, limited amount of time in shared space, etc.).

We will have a dedication and inaugural recital when we have an opportunity to pack the house again. For anyone who does not feel comfortable attending these events in person, we will be recording one of them and will make it available as a DVD. There will also be a Halloween Organ Concert livestreamed on Friday, October 30, at 7 PM.

Eric will be in attendance at all but the October 25 concert and will be available afterward to greet you safely, allowing you the opportunity to give your thanks and best wishes in person. Melanie will be joining Eric on October 21, 28 and November 1. Reservations will be required for attendance at these concerts, so please sign up on line at countrysideucc.org/organconcert or by calling the church office to hold your spot.

Organ Concert Dates

The concert dates that will be followed by a receiving line with Eric and Melanie are marked by asterisks. Again, please make your reservations as soon as possible. (Eric only, both Eric and Melanie **.)*

***Monday, October 12, 6 PM**

***Wednesday, October 14, 6 PM**

****Wednesday, October 21, 6 PM**

Sunday, October 25, 6 PM

***Monday, October 26, 6 PM**

****Wednesday, October 28, 6 PM**



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SURVEY

SURVEY RESPONSES

There is no substitute for gathering in person. We all miss our Sunday morning hugs and greetings, coffee in Common Grounds and inspirational messages in the Sanctuary. But in true Countryside style, our congregation has come together in an optimistic and thoughtful way by continuing to gather virtually while appreciating and respecting the limitations of the pandemic. The survey regarding online church participation sent to all church members at the end of August reflects the insight and depth of the congregation regarding the church's response to the pandemic.

There were 165 individual responses to the survey. Most of the people (83%) who responded attended church either once a month or several times a month before the pandemic and similarly (with a slight drop to 74%) continue to watch online or on television with a majority switching back and forth between online and television when they watched.

Convenience was cited by most respondents as the best thing about watching from home. Convenience was also important in having the flexibility to watch or re-watch the service on YouTube at a time that worked for them.

Many respondents also commented on the technical and production value: "I've seen a high level of creativity, and the technical execution is generally very good. I really appreciate the church's willingness to experiment and try to connect with people in different ways."

Regarding other Sunday morning activities, many responded that they have participated in the pre-worship meditation (46%), coffee hour (44%) and book discussion groups (25%). Other activities (not on Sunday mornings) drew the most people to concert series (46%), boards and committees (41%), small groups (33%) and book discussions (23%).

Going forward into fall, most are interested in connecting through small group fellowship, spiritual enrichment and musical offerings.

Those who haven't connected online largely haven't made it a priority, "Just haven't connected or prioritized for me. The effort being made is excellent on the part of planning staff. Wasn't really connected in this way when attending at the church site." "If I'm not connecting, it's because I'm burnt out on video chatting. It's far less satisfying (than) real, live people."

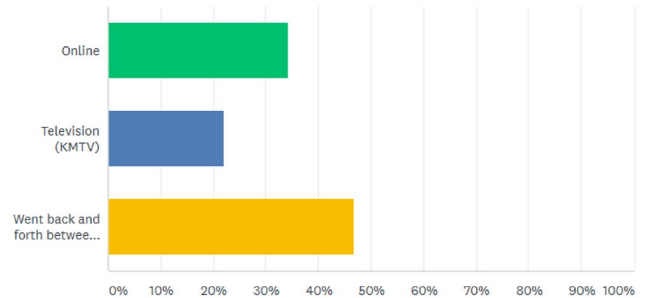
People are most grateful to Countryside for continuing to provide ways to gather virtually. "Being responsible. Knowing that I would be responded to if needed" and the fact that Countryside "Paid attention to the danger of large group gatherings and came up with a formula for when it is safe to return in person to worship." People also expressed gratitude to Countryside for its attention to the food pantry and racial discrimination, the Tri-Faith Initiative, a mixture of ways to connect and online church services.

Thank you so much to those who responded to the Community Participation Survey. This will be a historical marker as we look back on these times and how we dealt with them in the best way possible as a church community. We are so lucky to be part of a connected community and someday, hopefully soon, we will gather together in person with even more appreciation.

For more survey results see our website: countrysideucc.org/survey.

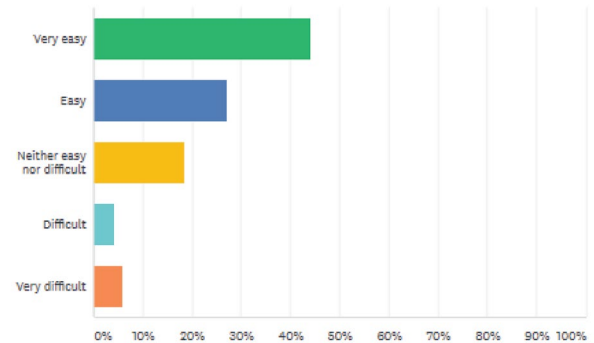
Did you attend online or did you watch on television?

Answered: 160 Skipped: 5



How easy has it been for you to connect with these online events or groups via Zoom?

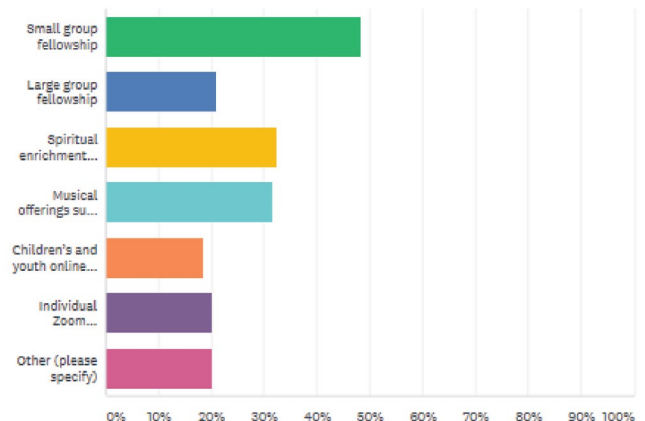
Answered: 136 Skipped: 29



"I've seen a high level of creativity, and the technical execution is generally very good. I really appreciate the church's willingness to experiment and try to connect with people in different ways."

Going forward into fall, would you be interested in becoming involved with any of the following activities? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 120 Skipped: 45



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SURVEY

SURVEY RESPONSES TO PANDEMIC

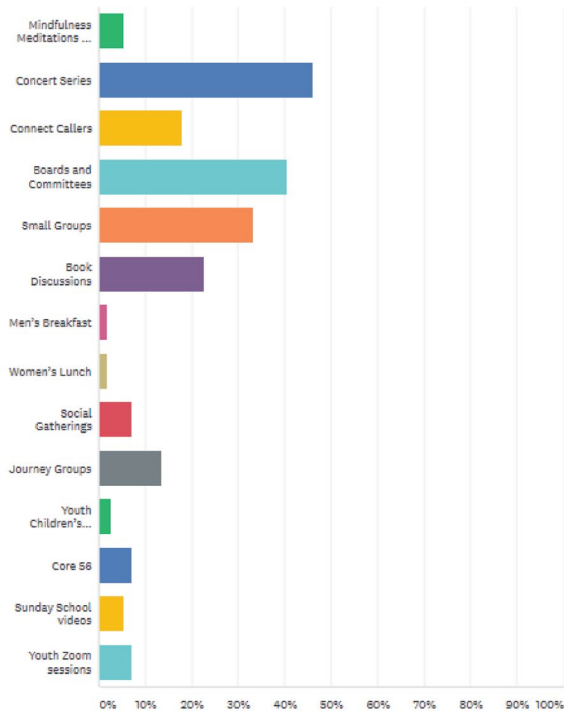
People are most grateful to Countryside for continuing to provide ways to gather virtually. "Being responsible. Knowing that I would be responded to if needed" and the fact that Countryside "Paid attention to the danger of large group gatherings and came up with a formula for when it is safe to return in person to worship." "CCC has communicated its COVID plan clearly. It has had the safety of our people and the church staff at the heart of the plan. The church has also created numerous avenues for congregants to stay connected."

"It will sound crazy, but -- the fact that the church is NOT meeting in person. That is such an act of love, in my opinion. It shows how much the church cares for all of its members and wants everyone to be safe." "Keep the Sunday message relevant to the current events of our world, as we yearn to heal the health of our nation and the health of our people."

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to the survey. We will continue to go through the responses and work to meet the needs of our church community as we go through this pandemic together. The safety of our congregation, friends, family and neighbors will always be our first priority but we will continue to work hard to keep us all connected. If you have any questions about the survey, or ideas you would like to convey we are always here to listen. The best first step, is to start with an email to office@countrysideucc.org and from there we can get you in contact with the right person.

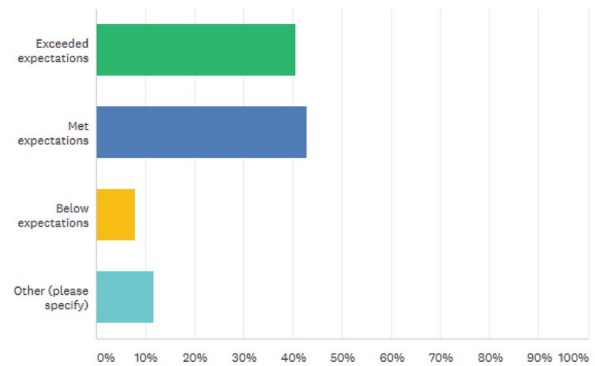
Have you or a family member participated in other online content or events during the COVID-19 pandemic? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 111 Skipped: 54



Since Countryside has moved to online worship and programming, how would you rate your experience?

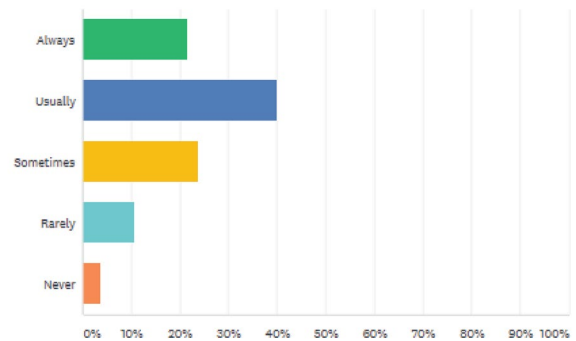
Answered: 163 Skipped: 2



"It will sound crazy, but the fact that the church is NOT meeting in person. That is such an act of love, in my opinion. It shows how much the church cares for all of its members and wants everyone to be safe."

Are you experiencing a sense of community with these groups or events?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 35



"CCC has communicated its COVID plan clearly. It has had the safety of our people and the church staff at the heart of the plan. The church has also created numerous avenues for congregants to stay connected."



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FALL 2020

Hello Countryside Members and Friends,

Since the onset of the pandemic, our clergy, staff, and lay leadership have been working diligently to wisely manage our resources, ensuring we retain as much staff as possible while adjusting to meet the needs and priorities of our congregation in these unusual times.

To help, we applied for and received the Payment Protection Plan Loan (PPP) provided by the Cares Act. The PPP funds are restricted to payroll and other unanticipated expenses directly associated with COVID19 and have strict accounting and reporting requirements. As the CARES Act allows, we are seeking loan forgiveness, which, if approved, would convert the PPP Loan to a grant and alleviate repayment.

2019 was a significant year for Countryside. We relocated to the Tri-Faith Commons to be in relationship with our faith partners, Temple Israel and the American Muslim Institute; and we opened a beautiful new church. With these initiatives, we anticipated our reach in 2020 would increase along with our attendance and membership. And we were well on our way when the pandemic arrived, and our world changed.

In the face of these extraordinary circumstances, Countrysiders came together, stood up, and went to work. From streaming worship services to creating text prayer groups and calling networks to establishing a safe plan for re-opening, we put our faith into action to meet the physical, financial, and spiritual needs of our members, friends, and people throughout the Omaha community.

This global event has changed our circumstances, just as it has for so many of us, creating new opportunities and new challenges, including adding financial stress. As we look forward to 2021, the Board of Trustees and the budget committee is approaching the 2021 budget conservatively and with great fiscal constraint. Even with our best effort, the Board of Trustees anticipates a 10 to 15% increase in giving is needed to help balance our budget in uncertain times.

It is in this spirit that Countryside's Stewardship Committee announces the 2021 Stewardship Campaign, Together We Make a Difference—Rise Up 2021. We believe our theme is as relevant as it is timely; designed to reflect these unprecedented times in which we find ourselves and inspire us to right action that aligns with our commitment to work together to promote peace and justice in our conflicted world.

Even though we can't meet in person, our ministries are more relevant and necessary today than ever before. Your continued participation, service, and support ensures our programs rise up to meet the needs of our congregation and community now and into the future. We humbly ask you to make or renew your financial pledge to Countryside Community Church for the 2021 calendar year.

If this is your first time making a pledge to support Countryside's ministries, we offer this guidance. Spend time in prayer. Reflect on what Countryside means to you and your family. Contribute what is possible for you and your family.

Just like last year, Countryside has a grant which matches all new pledges and any increases over existing pledges up to \$125,000, making your gift even more impactful.

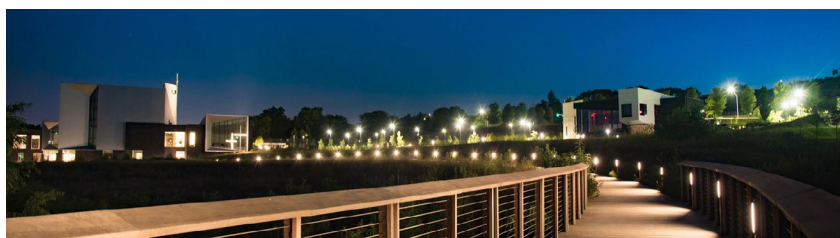
There are multiple ways for you to communicate to the church your commitment for 2021. *See the links below commitment card on the next page.*

Remember, your pledge ensures our ministries rise up and continue to make a difference. A response by **October 31, 2020** is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time, talent, and treasure.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens, Tim Kerrigan, Dave Lundblad, Diane Poots, Pat Rainbolt, and Ed Schwartz



A view of Countryside Community Church and the new Tri-Faith building from Abraham's Bridge during the month of August. Photo Credit: Adam Casey

COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

RISE UP 2021



Beginning January 1, 2021

YOUR COMMITMENT

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE
MY/OUR CURRENT ANNUAL
PLEDGE BY:

- 10%
- _____ %
- \$ _____

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PLEDGE:

- WEEKLY: \$ _____ MONTHLY: \$ _____
- SEMI-MONTHLY: \$ _____ QUARTERLY: \$ _____
- ONE TIME GIFT: \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

I/We will make my/our donation through:

- on-line giving - automatic bank withdrawal/credit card. *(If already set up on on-line giving, the church office can make any adjustments. (If new to on-line giving, complete this card or visit countrysideucc.org/give to set up online).*
- a gift of stock or through an IRA
- a personal check through the church office or the Basket.
- a Charitable Foundation
- my/Our bank's Bill Pay

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please print your full name(s): _____ Email: _____

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

Payment	Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)	Credit Card Payment
Date: to begin ___/___/___	<input type="radio"/> Checking <input type="radio"/> Savings	Card Number _____
Amount: _____	Account # _____	Name on Card _____
Thank you!	Bank Routing # _____ <i>(always 9 digits)</i>	Expiration Date ___/___
		Billing Address _____ _____
		<input type="radio"/> Optional: So my donation goes towards the work of the church, please add an additional 2.75% to defray card processing fees.

I authorize Countryside Community Church to process transactions in accordance with the above information. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature: _____ (as appears on card or account) Date: _____

To make your 2021 pledge please fill out the above form, tear it out and mail it back to:
Countryside Community Church Attn: Shari Garder
13130 Faith Plaza
Omaha, NE 68144

You may also make your pledge online by visiting countrysideucc.org/give
or watch for an email in your inbox.

YOUTH CORNER

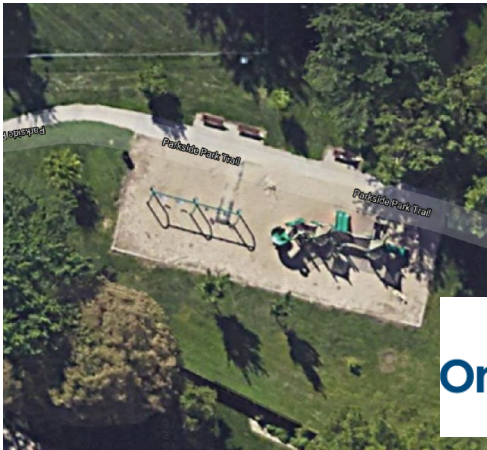
COYO - Jr. and Sr. High Groups

COYO is partnering with Keep Omaha Beautiful to participate in an Adopt-a-park project as well as group participation in the Youth Litter Busters week.

Youth Litter Busters—Any day during the week of October 24-31, each COYO student and their family is invited to collect litter from their neighborhood, a local park, or schoolyard. Supplies are provided by Keep Omaha Beautiful and will be available to collect at Countryside the week before.

Adopt-A-Park—Our COYO group has adopted Parkside Park, located at 14120 Pine Street. We'll be responsible for monthly litter clean-ups, monitoring the space to report any broken or missing equipment, as well as monthly reporting to Keep Omaha Beautiful for a full year. We are also asked to perform additional tasks as needed, like cleaning parking lots associated with our park, cleaning any grills, cleaning storm drains, and more. Our spot also includes a walking trail and we'll need to keep that spruced up as well! Sign ups will be available this month.

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



COYO's Adopt-A-Park, Parkside Park, located at 14120 Pine Street.

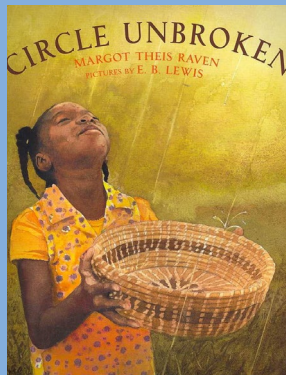


CHILDREN'S CORNER

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Our Sunday School lessons this month are focused on Miriam! We'll follow Miriam's story through three spots where her life intersects with scripture—Miriam as a wise big sister (October 11), Miriam praising God in the Exodus story (October 18), and Miriam as a revered prophet (October 25). We'll follow Miriam as she protects and advocates for her baby brother, Moses, as she celebrates freedom from slavery in Egypt with song and praise, and how the community honors and recognized her as a leader. This is also a great time to order the book we'll use next month, *The Circle Unbroken* (ISBN: 978-0312376031), if you want to have a copy for your family.

If you need a Sunday School kit, please contact Rebecca and she'll get you squared away! Our kits are available for Preschool students and K-6th grade students.



Halloween—Since Halloween looks different this year, the Board of Christian Education and Children's Ministry are teaming up to bring Halloween to our Countryside Parking Lot! Families are invited to drive through in costume to collect (a likely overcompensated) bag of candy! Be sure to watch for more information in the weekly Children's Ministry email.



Confirmation

Our Confirmation small groups will begin the week of October 11! Please be sure to register your student by October 6 at the latest.