

# OCTOBER 2021



F.A.M.E. on September 17



Core 56 students, Valentine and Beatrix



Preview of a chair to be auctioned during the chair-ity fundraiser

## F.A.M.E. - WHAT IS IT?

Friendship - Arts - Music - Eats has been around for a long time - thanks to Jim and Jane Dalen; former Countryside members. They created a place where Seniors could connect with each other in a fun, safe environment. You don't even have to be a Senior to be part of our group!

All are welcomed at Fame. For Painting! Coloring! Creating your own drawings! Sticker book pictures! Bring your own project or craft to work on! Or - just come for hot coffee and a treat or two! Have meaningful conversations, tell jokes, or stories! Best of all - join one of the most caring and compassionate group of people at Countryside.

But Fame is so much more. We go on field trips riding on the trolley. We've seen historic homes in Omaha and learned the history of each house. We had a wonderful trip to Lauritzen Gardens and had a delicious lunch in a beautiful setting. Brunch is a high priority, which we do four times a year at different restaurants. Everything we do is fun and meaningful. Come see for yourself on Fridays at 10 AM in the Rahab room. We'd love to see you there!



### QUILTS OF VALOR

The Omaha Chapter of Quilts of Valor presented veteran patriotic quilts, made by Countryside quilters, to seven congregation members of Countryside Church on Sunday October 3, at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary. The program will included presentations of colors with BEA Trio singing the National Anthem and concluded with Diane Hill and Jim Larrabee playing John Miller's Tribute. The following congregation members received quilts:  
Al Cardona, Robert Hallquist, Joni Anne Hensley, Edward Huddell, Ronald E. Schmierer  
Andre W. Smith and Daniel Trombla.

# SUNDAY WORSHIP



## WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US TO WORSHIP AT 9 AND 11 AM ON SUNDAYS

In October, there are still THREE ways to catch Countryside Community Church on Sunday mornings, in person at 9 AM and 11 AM (**REGISTRATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED**), online through YouTube live ([countrysideucc.org/live](https://countrysideucc.org/live)) or on KMTV Channel at 10:30 AM. We will be continuing our KMTV services through the end of the year. As COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to rise in our state we are requiring our members to LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS and to please wear masks inside our building. Thank you!

## WORSHIP - YOU AND THE UCC

Our current sermon series You and the UCC is focusing on two of our discernment questions. On September 12, we began a 6-week series featuring topics that are the racial and social justice pillars of the UCC. These topics - Anti-Racism, Immigration, Mental Health, LGBTQIA, Climate Justice and Disability, are being presented each Sunday through October 17, 2021, as a series of sermons and speaker presentations. We have had handouts available at each service and these are also available at [countrysideucc.org/discernment](https://countrysideucc.org/discernment). There are also more resources available on the [ucc.org](https://ucc.org) website. As part of the discernment process, our congregation will have the opportunity to discuss how Countryside may answer the call to enter into a process of adopting one or more of these designations. Please remember, this is your church, and this is your opportunity to help decide what direction you would like to see Countryside take. To do this, you need to be part of the conversation. Make sure you are registered for a small group, [countrysideucc.org/register](https://countrysideucc.org/register).

The topics in red have been completed:

**Racial Justice (anti-racism)** - We are one of the very few Christian churches that are leading bold and courageous conversations, engaging in direct social activism, and participating in civil disobedience as a way to bring attention to and disrupt racist systems and structures. The reality of racism, white supremacy and nationalism threatens God's sacred human family. As people of faith we remain vigilant anti-racist advocates and activists responding to threats and acts of violence towards our sisters and brothers—our siblings of African, Asian, Latin, and Native descent—whose civil and human rights are violated on a daily basis.

**Immigration** - The United Church of Christ has a long history of solidarity in the struggle for dignity and human rights for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees regardless of their immigration status. We do this through a network of grassroots leaders in the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration working to share a prophetic stance and lift up the voices of impacted leaders.

**Mental Health (WISE - Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged)**

- The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations.

**LGBTQIA (ONA - Open And Affirming)** - Open and Affirming is a journey of building inclusive churches and other ministry settings that welcome the full participation of LGBTQIA people in the UCC's life and ministry.

**Creation Justice (Climate Change)** - As one of the UCC's eight Just World Covenant programs, Creation Justice Churches guide congregations in discerning how they can best embody a commitment to care for God's creation.

**Disability (A2A - Accessibility to All)** The Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ states that the UCC was formed "in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His kingdom in the world." We live in an increasingly complex world, and the complexities of this world include the reality that one in five persons lives with a disability and one in four persons experiences a mental health concern over a lifetime. In John 13:34 (NRSV), Jesus declares: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Within the UCC we can find new ways of loving one another when we expand our hearts, minds, and actions to encompass "Any Body, Every Body, Christ's Body."

- After each service make sure you stop in the lobby and fill out cards to place on our posters dedicated to each topic.

### Staff

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# COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



## CARE, ACT, REACH: OUR JOURNEY BEYOND ABRAHAM'S BRIDGE

Deliveries of food from Countryside's pantry, first Saturday of each month (October 2, November 7 and December 5). We continue volunteering together as the three Tri-Faith congregations, Temple Israel, American Muslim Institute and Countryside Community Church, to make home deliveries from Countryside's food pantry on the first Saturday of each month. We're looking for folks to help purchase supplemental food on Friday October 1, and on Saturday October 2, to load or deliver food to people in north and south Omaha who aren't able to get to the pantry themselves. We'd love to have you as part of this merry crew! Please go to our Sign Up Genius link to join [signupgenius.com/go/4090D4FAFA62AA5FF2-care1](https://signupgenius.com/go/4090D4FAFA62AA5FF2-care1). If you have any questions, contact Jenn Vinton, at [jenniferfitchett@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferfitchett@yahoo.com). Many thanks.

## INTERPLAY - CONNECTING TO CREATIVE SPIRIT, SATURDAY OCTOBER 16

InterPlay is an active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of the body. Feel the freedom of your playful spirit using Interplay®. Delight in the body's ability to move and enjoy community. Experience how masking can enhance body wisdom. Saturday, October 16 from 10 - 11:30 AM, led by Rita Otis. For more information and to sign up, drop Rita Otis an email, [rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com).

## 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 the church office at [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org).

## FAME (FRIDAY ARTS & MUSIC EXPERIENCE) EVERY FRIDAY AT 10 AM

Join a fun group of seniors every Friday, 10 AM at Countryside for an art project, a yummy treat and to listen to some good music. We may also have visitors from time to time. It is a great way to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends for an hour. Everyone is welcome. No reservations are required. Masks are required right now for our indoor activities.

## LUNCH BUNCH - SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Monday, October 11. They will be gathering at Rolling Hills Ranch's dining room (4324 N 132nd Street) where lunch will be provided from 12-1:30PM. If you're interested in joining this group, which is our traditional "circle" group from way back. Please contact Gloria Ried at [g-g.ried@cox.net](mailto:g-g.ried@cox.net). Thank you to Gloria Ried for her ongoing leadership of this program!

## GENESIS TO REVELATIONS BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR TRACEY

Get ready and get excited! Beginning on Saturday, October 16 from 10 - 11 AM, Pastor Tracey will lead Bible Study at Countryside that will be an extensive examination of the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelations. We will examine the scripture through exegesis, hermeneutics, archaeological evidence and discuss Jesus the Man and Jesus, the divine being, as the Son of God. Come with your Bibles and let's study the Word of God, together. Study materials will be provided. For more information email Pastor Tracey at [Traceyp@countysideucc.org](mailto:Traceyp@countysideucc.org). (Time is still to be determined).

## PRAYER WARRIORS MINISTRY

Calling All Prayer Warriors! Beginning on Thursday, October 7, at 10 AM, Pastor Tracey will be leading a Prayer Group Ministry. We will come together to develop the spiritual practice of group prayer. We will pray for our church, our families, our community, our country and the world. We will come together of one accord to pray for any and all prayer needs and requests, for ourselves and others. As Prayer Warriors, all prayer requests are kept confidential and not shared. For more information email Pastor Tracey at [Traceyp@countysideucc.org](mailto:Traceyp@countysideucc.org).

## SATURDAY MORNING ZUMBA CLASSES VIA ZOOM

These sessions are free, introductory classes, open to all ages. For more information, contact Cynthia Lindenmeyer at [cynthia@acrenactivismtoday.org](mailto:cynthia@acrenactivismtoday.org).

## MEN'S BREAKFAST, TUESDAYS AT 8 AM

Looking for fellowship and great conversation? Check out the weekly Men's Breakfast at First Watch on 72 and Pacific. Every Tuesday morning at 8 AM feel free to stop in and have breakfast. You can come every week or stop in once a month, it's up to you! All are welcome to attend!

## PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS STARTING SOON

The study of the Phoenix Affirmations will be starting up again soon. These affirmations are a discussion of 12 principles that define the emergence of progressive Christianity. This material covers the three Great Loves: Love of God, Love of Neighbor and Love of Self. If you are interested in joining Diane Scott for a 6 week journey through these affirmations, contact her at [dianes@countysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countysideucc.org).



# TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE



## LISTEN TO THE FINAL EPISODE OF THE TRI-FAITH PODBEAN.

An expert on the interaction between faith and work experience, Dr. Raymond Chiu discusses the inevitable overlap between religion and the workplace -- and why that combination might actually be a good thing. Along the way, he introduces new ways of understanding workers' approaches to problem-solving, shares how to build unity in religiously diverse workplaces, and invites us to consider the key role of thought diversity in the human community. Dr. Raymond B. Chiu is currently assistant professor at the business school of Redeemer University, a private Christian university located in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. Raymond started as a professional civil engineer, and then he turned his desire to use his environmental background for the community toward nonprofit work; since then he has taken on a variety of nonprofit management roles. The inner calling for his work comes from a strong commitment to the building of a strong civil society and the advancement of organizations that are society's lifeblood, especially voluntary organizations and religious communities. Listen now at: [TriFaith.PodBean.com](http://TriFaith.PodBean.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Abraham's Whiteboard: Spiritual Beings of Heaven and Earth** **Thursday, October 7, 6:30 - 8 PM, online**

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all include diverse otherworldly beings in their scriptures and beliefs. This session will introduce the different types of spiritual beings present in each tradition, as well as the mysticisms that are connected to some of these beliefs. Using scriptures, art, and history, we will discuss different types of angels, demons, jinn, and more.

Join this session to explore questions such as: Are cherubs anything more than the winged infants depicted in statues? What are jinn, and why are they an important feature of Islam? How has the Abrahamic traditions' belief in angels influenced spiritual movements?

Registration required - go to [trifaith.org/events](http://trifaith.org/events) to register.

### **Making the Familiar Strange: The Life of Musa (Moses) with Hamza Haqqi** **Tuesday, October 19, 12 - 1 PM, online**

Join Education and Program Associate Ally ZimmerMas and Hamza Haqqi, author and member of American Muslim Institute, for this session of Making the Familiar Strange as we explore the story of Moses (Musa) in Al-Qasas in the 28th chapter (sūrah) of the Qur'an with 88 verses (āyāt).

Read or review the story: Qur'an 28:1-88

Attendees may also pick up a physical copy of the Qur'an from American Muslim Institute if they would like one. Registration required - go to [trifaith.org/events](http://trifaith.org/events) to register.

### **Heroes of Scripture: Prophet Hud - A Tri-Faith Clergy Conversation** **Thursday, October 28, 6:30 - 8 PM, online**

Join us for our final session of "Heroes of Scripture: A Tri-Faith Clergy Conversation," an example of real-life interfaith dialogue in action. Through this four-part series, each Tri-Faith community on the Commons will take turns hosting a discussion about prominent figures from scripture.

On Thursday, October 28, American Muslim Institute's Imam Daoudi will outline a Muslim perspective on the story of Hud, an important Arabian prophet described in the Qur'an as a descendant of Noah. Afterward, clergy from Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and American Muslim Institute will engage in a panel discussion highlighting differences and similarities in their views of this story. Join us for sisterhood and casual conversation.

Registration is required - go to [trifaith.org/events](http://trifaith.org/events) to register.

### **Abraham's Whiteboard: Another Abrahamic Religion: the Bahá'í Faith** **Thursday, November 4, 6:30- 8 PM, online**

Since its founding in the 19th century, the Bahá'í Faith has become the most geographically widespread Abrahamic religion outside of Christianity and Islam. But what do its followers believe, and how did it start?

This session of Abraham's Whiteboard will introduce us to the Bahá'í Faith by exploring the history of this relatively new religion and the basics of what it teaches. Along the way, we will also learn about its connections to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Registration required - go to [trifaith.org/events](http://trifaith.org/events) to register.



*Community, reflection, and hope: September 11 at Tri-Faith.*

# COUNTRYSIDE CARES



## IN MEMORIAM

**Dick Calhoun**, father of **Karen Easterling**, passed away on September 23. His memorial service will be held at a later date.

## BAPTISMS

**Cameron Robert Martin** was baptized on September 5, he is the son of **Katherine and Joel Martin**.

**Kristina Metzger** is being baptized this Sunday, October 3, by Pastor Tracey.

A memorial service for **Betty Salistean** a long-time member of Countryside, will be held on

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Peer Support Meeting: **Tuesday, October 5 at 6:00 P.M.**

If you have questions or just want to chat, we would love to hear from you!

Becky Hines at [beckyh42@msn.com](mailto:beckyh42@msn.com)

Linda Bannister at [lbannister05@gmail.com](mailto:lbannister05@gmail.com)

Knolan Hudson at [victoryangelfierce@gmail.com](mailto:victoryangelfierce@gmail.com)

## PASTORAL CARE

For pastoral care visits, prayers requests, and items for our Joys and Concerns, please contact either: Pastor Tracey at [traceyp@countrysideucc.org](mailto:traceyp@countrysideucc.org)

Diane Scott [dianes@countrysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countrysideucc.org), or call the main office, (402) 391-0350.

If you have a need for a Stephen Minister, please contact Becky Hines at [beckyh42@msn.com](mailto:beckyh42@msn.com).

## STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE

Come hear eight amazing storytellers from all the Tri-Faith partners! The Board of Pastoral Care's second annual "Stories from the Bridge: Renewal" is to be held on Sunday afternoon, October 10, from 3-5:30 PM, at Countryside. Two years ago this event was very well received, and we're hoping for even more interest this fall. The committee is planning to serve light appetizers and beverages in Marys' Hall if Covid allows for that, but if not, we'll be spreading out in the sanctuary without food. Stay tuned for more information in the C10 and also remember to RSVP by October 4 for this very special event. Suggested donation: \$10, payable that afternoon. Go to [countrysideucc.org/register](http://countrysideucc.org/register) to register for the event.

## MEET KAREN FOLLON - AGAPE TEAM LEADER

My husband Jim and I joined Countryside in 1982 when Dick Linde was the minister. Both of our daughters were confirmed in this church. In the early 90s we moved out of state. After our return and retirement, we rejoined and became more active about 10 years ago. We have been active in a Nine to Dine group, who have become a "family," for the past 5 years.

When Countryside moved into the new church I developed a Docent program and training for volunteer Docents.

I have served as a food pantry volunteer, on the Board of Life Ministries and a Tri-Faith committee. I was an Agape volunteer and then took over as team leader when Jane Frey retired last year.

We belong to Countryside because of the caring, generous, people who also belong.

A post-funeral reception is a warm and caring way to help comfort these fellow Countryside members during a time of loss. It is fortunate that we have generous Agape team members who step up to create a warm and inviting occasion for mourners.



**AGAPE TEAM NEEDS BAKERS, SERVERS, AND KIND HEARTS!** We just know many of you would qualify. The Agape Team was begun by Mary Johnston several decades ago in order to offer a welcoming space for fellowship after a funeral. You may serve as often as your time permits; please contact Karen Follon if you have questions or would like to sign up: [Kfollon@aol.com](mailto:Kfollon@aol.com).

## THE BOX FOR OCTOBER

The Board of Christian Outreach has turned the Box over to Countryside Youth for October and their choice is Black and Pink. Black and Pink is an organization that is committed to ensuring LGBTQIA2S+ folks impacted by incarceration have the resources they need to live safely, healthily, and happily. Black & Pink National, founded in 2005, has a strong grassroots network of 11 volunteer-led chapters and more than 20,000 current and formerly incarcerated LGBTQIA2S+ people living with HIV/AIDS members located across the country. They have a local location in Omaha at 24 and Fowler Avenue.

Here is a list of items they needed:

- New Make up (donated make up items in addition to gift cards to places such as Sephora)
- Gift cards to clothing stores (ex. places like H&M, Zara, Forever 21) - We want to discourage physical clothing donations, as we want to ensure our members can pick out their own clothing that feels most affirming and comfortable for them
- Books to create a little library - cookbooks, fiction books, books featuring LGBTQ characters and/or Black & brown characters
- Hygiene/toiletries like chapstick, beauty face masks, soap bars/body wash
- Warm weather essentials like socks, hats, gloves, scarves, and coats
- Water bottles

We have our Amazon list online under [countrysideucc.org/give](http://countrysideucc.org/give) or you can stop by the church and drop your donations off in the entry between the two double doors. If you would like to learn more about Black and Pink go to [blackandpink.org](http://blackandpink.org)



## HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?*

The hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing* poses an interesting question in our current moment. Now is a time when we need music - "through all the tumult and the strife." The reality is that as life slowly returns to normal, large group and congregational singing will be one of the very last, considering the elevated risk. We have safe singing practices for our choirs in place, and have even acquired special singing masks, but congregational singing remains off the table for now.

I know many of you miss singing hymns, and deeply grieve the loss of that aspect of your faith walk, and thank you for your patience. There are quite a few churches that resumed congregational singing over the summer who have had to pause it once again due to the spread of the Delta Variant. I am glad we are not in that position.

It will be wonderful to be able to join together in song as a community, especially with our new pipe organ leading, when the science tells us it is OK to do so. There are a number of metrics that the reopening task force are keeping eyes on that will, in combination with vaccine availability for children under 12, point us to an informed decision.

In the meantime, there's never been a better time to join our choirs! Contact Alex Ritter if you are interested in joining our youth or adult choirs.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER - MEALS ON WHEELS

A big Countryside THANK YOU to **Mimi Goings** and her Countryside team of **Sandy Sueper** and **Mary Dircks**. They have been delivering hot noon meals on behalf of the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging program Meals on Wheels for the last several years.

Countryside Community Church reaches out to the Omaha community to provide valuable volunteer services. Then-new-member Mimi Goings stepped up to coordinate the partnership between the Meals on Wheels program and Countryside. Mimi, Sandy and Mary deliver hot meals every Wednesday and, beginning in October, they will begin delivering meals on Fridays as well. They pick up the meals at Company Kitchen at 60th and Grover and deliver them to those who qualify through the ENOA program. They have Route 325 and deliver 14 meals in an area around 60th and Center which includes Elmwood Tower. They deliver to the same people and so they get to know them. "People are so appreciative," said Mimi "and we develop a little attachment. We have lost a couple over the years and that was sad." Even though Mimi has never seen Sandy or Mary, there is a close bond of cooperation and meaning through this volunteer work.

Food is one of the most basic of human needs. Yet it is something many of us take for granted. Some people are homebound, have no family members nearby, and have few options for getting groceries into their homes. Others may be physically or mentally unable to prepare meals. For those individuals, the ability to receive basic, reliable nutrition may mean the difference between independence and institutionalization.

The Countryside community is not always aware of the hard work and dedication of these unsung volunteers but it is part of what makes Countryside such a great place to be. The next time you see Mimi, Sandy or Mary, be sure to say thank you for providing this basic human necessity. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, Mimi suggests on-the-job training and riding along with someone because it can be very intimidating at first.



Mimi Goings



Sandy Sueper



Mary Dircks

## POP UP ADVENT HANDBELL CHOIR

This is a short-term opportunity to participate in a bell choir without a yearlong commitment, and offer beautiful handbell music for worship during Advent. You don't have to have ever touched a bell or chime before! We will have five or six rehearsals starting with a workshop on how it all works.

If you are interested, please let Alex Ritter know at [alexr@countrysideucc.org](mailto:alexr@countrysideucc.org).

## HALLOWEEN CONCERT - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 AT 4 PM

Join us at Countryside Community Church on Sunday, October 31, at 4 PM for what is now becoming a tradition - our Halloween pipe organ concert! 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 experience for the whole family, featuring the famous Toccata in D minor by Bach, music from Interstellar and Nightmare Before Christmas, and much more!

# COUNTRYSIDE FUTURE



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are calling upon our community for your valuable input and assistance. The Nominating Committee is currently meeting to find members for our Boards and Committees. If you would be willing, interested or would consider becoming engaged in the inner workings of the Church, this is your chance. Your chance to be a part of our vision, plan and heart. Basic requirements are a willingness to serve, learn and participate fully in the meetings, projects and activities of the Board or Committee. Please prayerfully consider, reach out and ask questions, clarify information and if this is the time for you: self-nominate.

We want to be sure that anyone who wants to be more engaged has the opportunity to express that interest. Self-nomination is not a commitment. It is just an indication of interest. The Nominating Committee will do our best to employ all our resources to their highest and best use. We ask for your prayers, guidance and willingness to serve.

For more information you can email Molly Anderson at [meranderson@cox.net](mailto:meranderson@cox.net) or Chris Gilmore at [bobtomg@msn.com](mailto:bobtomg@msn.com).

To access the self-nominating go to [countrysideucc.org/register](http://countrysideucc.org/register). Please fill it out and return or scan it to the church office at [office@countrysideucc.org](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org)

## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The next regularly scheduled church council meetings are as follows:

October 7

October 21

November 18

December 23

January 20

Meetings are open and are held in Marys' Hall beginning at 6:30 PM..

## COUNTRYSIDE DISCERNMENT SEASON

Countryside is in the implementation stage of establishing our Discernment Groups to determine the future of the church. These small groups will meet in homes, at Church and via Zoom. They will meet starting October 10 to discuss the following questions:

- *How do we want to be challenged spiritually and intellectually?*
- *What is our call to serve?*
- *What does it mean to be the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative?*

Information on small group sign-up is available at [countrysideucc.org/register](http://countrysideucc.org/register), at Sunday services or you can call the church office at 402.391.3050. Sign up today! Countryside wants to hear your voice.

## Pastoral Search Committee

In addition, the Board of Deacons has communicated with the eight church boards and the church council concerning the formation of a search committee to begin the process of securing settled pastors for Countryside. Each board will select a representative to serve on the search committee, and the council will round out the 11-person committee by selecting three at-large members. The goal is to have the search committee commissioned during a service in November when it will begin working concurrently with the discernment process. Details about the self-nomination procedure for at-large search committee members will be announced soon.



## COUNTRYSIDE MISSION STATEMENT

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, equality and justice in our conflicted world.

## RESOURCES FOR DISCERNMENT

During discernment Countryside members will be asking themselves the following questions:

1. How do we want to be challenged spiritually and intellectually?
2. What is our call to serve?
3. What does it mean to be the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative?

To prepare yourself to better answer these questions here are some resources you can take some time to look over at your leisure before attending a small group session.

Information about Tri-Faith, check out their website at [trifaith.org](http://trifaith.org) or the Countryside website about their involvement in Tri-Faith, [countrysideucc.org/relocation](http://countrysideucc.org/relocation).

Download the Countryside bylaws and the 2020 annual report

[countrysideucc.org/discernment](http://countrysideucc.org/discernment).

How to be an active listener and a guide to hard conversations can also be found at [countrysideucc.org/discernment](http://countrysideucc.org/discernment).

## COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH

### COYO

During our Sr. High retreat, our COYO students set intentions for our community this school year. We practiced prayer techniques, discussed our service trip for 2022 including new requirements to participate, held a pick-up Faith Singers practice, and revisited the structures that help us maintain a culture that invites us to live into our promise—to love God, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This year, we'll spend time focusing on each aspect of this promise as well as integrating these ideals into our lives.

### Confirmation

This year, we are happy to offer an in-person Confirmation experience for all students who have been vaccinated and an online experience for those who have not yet received the vaccination! If your student is a current or new Confirmand, you should have received an email but if not, just let Rebecca know and we'll get it sorted. There's paperwork, naturally, so be sure to get that in ASAP. Confirmation starts the week of September 12.

### Children's Ministries

Our programming for our youngest, and most vulnerable, friends will remain online until the vaccine is available for this age group. Please be sure to check the weekly emails as things change so quickly and we will adapt our programming to any new developments that ensure a safe experience for all! In the meantime, our Sunday School lessons will come through the mail so please be sure that we have your most accurate mailing address. You can login to your Touchpoint account to check or contact Rebecca or the front office staff to help!

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