

# OCTOBER



Welcome Back Brunch



Children receiving Bibles

## SEPTEMBER AT COUNTRYSIDE



Welcome Back Brunch



New Member Sunday

## YOU ARE THE BASKET

Why do we give to Countryside Church? Whether it's money, our talents, or our hands to do the work, why do we do it? It's because we care about our ministry and programming. We care about our Faith, we care about people, and we care about the future. No matter what your reason/motivation/personal call is, we thank you. Now as we enter our Stewardship Campaign for 2018, those commitments are more important than ever. At the end of each worship service on Sundays, we talk about the Basket as the repository of our financial offerings. Our ministry and programming don't just happen in those hours each week on Sunday mornings. Countryside is connecting with people, praying for those in hurt and in celebration, singing and serving together every hour of every day. Our ministry and programming never stop. We are the face of God, the hands and feet of Jesus and the breath of the Spirit in our community and in our world. WE are

the Basket that we talk about each week in worship and that Countryside depends on. YOU are the Basket. As you look at your planned giving for 2018, consider our new Sustaining Giver Level. To be a Sustaining Giver, give at a level of 5% or more of your Net Income (that's half of the biblical 10% tithe level). Not everyone may be able to give at that level, but we hope everyone gives what they think is fair and honors their commitment to Countryside. And please know, whatever commitment you make, it is received with great thanks. We encourage you to add your completed commitment card to any of our three Baskets as you are called to turn it in. We will bless and give thanks for all commitment cards turned in, regardless of the date you turn it in, on Commitment Sunday, October 15, at both morning worship services.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome - Page 2**
- Pastoral Care - Page 3**
- Center For Faith Studies - Page 4**
- Journey Groups- Page 5**
- Youth Ministries - Page 6**
- Children's Education - Page 7**
- Music Ministries - Page 8**
- Christian Outreach - Page 9**
- Relocation Update - Page 9**
- Life Ministries - Page 10**
- Get Connected/Tri-Faith - Page 11**

# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114  
Phone - 402-391-0350  
Email - [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org)  
Website - [www.countysideucc.org](http://www.countysideucc.org)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/](http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/)

## **Program Staff**

Contact information for program staff can be found on individual ministry pages.

## **Ministers**

**Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.**  
Senior Minister, ext. 113  
[erice@countysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countysideucc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
[chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org)

## **Executive Administrative Assistant**

**Robyn Hubbard**  
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103  
[robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org)

## **Business Office**

**Dan Loven-Crum**  
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 102  
[danl@countysideucc.org](mailto:danl@countysideucc.org)

**Shari Garder**  
Financial Secretary, ext. 123  
[sharig@countysideucc.org](mailto:sharig@countysideucc.org)

**Steve Gomez**  
Administrative Assistant, ext. 101  
[steveg@countysideucc.org](mailto:steveg@countysideucc.org)

**Kris Hill**  
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100  
[krish@countysideucc.org](mailto:krish@countysideucc.org)

**Debbie Vihstadt**  
Communication Assistant, ext. 125  
[debbiev@countysideucc.org](mailto:debbiev@countysideucc.org)

**Bonnie Buckland**  
Church Clerk  
[bonnieb@countysideucc.org](mailto:bonnieb@countysideucc.org)

**Brian Palmer**  
Building/Property Coordinator  
[brianp@countysideucc.org](mailto:brianp@countysideucc.org)

## **Audio/Visual**

**Ben Semisch**  
Videographer  
[bens@countysideucc.org](mailto:bens@countysideucc.org)

## **Minister of Spiritual Direction**

**Rita Otis**  
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129  
[rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com)

## **WELCOME**

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm Countryside welcome. We are a community that places great value on welcoming ALL to an open and affirming community where we celebrate and rest in a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations. We invite you to journey with us as we work together with the guidance of the Spirit, seeking those places where we are called to participate with God toward the fullest expression of who we are created to be. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ we believe the greatest expression of the Body of Christ is found in the local congregation, and each person in our community has a unique conversation with God that serves the whole. Countryside is a place where God is still speaking to us and to our community. Each of us is called to discern that voice and act on that discovery. We welcome you and invite you to participate with us in this calling.

## **OUR MISSION**

We are an inclusive, open and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance. We are diverse, yet united by Christ's example. We care for one another, support one another and challenge one another to become all that God creates us to be. We work together to nurture our community and to promote peace and justice in our conflicted world.

## **I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE**

**Sunday Services** - 9 AM Classical Service and 11 AM Jazz Service

**Nursery** - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services and for Wednesday evening programs. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway toward the church's northwest entrance.

**Common Grounds Coffeehouse** - Between services from 10 AM to 11 AM we invite you to the Commons directly off the Foyer for coffee, donut holes and fellowship.

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

**Amplified Hearing Devices** are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.

**Sunday School/Children's Church** - see Children's Ministries, page 7.

**Free Gift** - If you are a first time visitor at Countryside, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of the pastors in the Foyer after the services so we might offer you a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us.

**Countryside Email list** - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org) or call 402-391-0350.

## **HISTORIAN'S CORNER-GLORIA REID, HISTORIAN**

Countryside Community Church on April 11, 1965 (52 years ago) voted on plans to build a new sanctuary. This was just 16 years after the first charger members were received.

Marvin W. Frasier, the Moderator of the church at the time, said, "It is my hope that as we build the Sanctuary we would continue to build the spiritual life of the church."





## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Peer Support resumes October 3 from 6-8 PM, either in the Chapel or in the Moderator's Room. The next two dates are Nov. 7 and Dec. 5. All Stephen Ministers are welcome, but especially those who have current caregiving relationships.

Stephen Ministry Leadership will meet the same nights, but at 5:30-6 PM in Jan's office.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Prayer Requests Are Online:** There are several options to choose from regarding your request, and you can access it all here: [countrysideucc.org/prayerrequest](http://countrysideucc.org/prayerrequest). All requests will be emailed directly to Jan Brown, so you can be assured of confidentiality.

**Messengers – A New Outreach:** Jan Brown and several volunteers from the Pastoral Care Board, Stephen Ministry and the general congregation are serving as “Messengers” to those members who reside in care facilities. If you know of a Countryside member who is new to a care facility and needing a bit of extra TLC in order to stay connected to church, please contact Jan. We can call, make visits and spend time with your dear ones.

**Voices of Countryside – “The Days of our Lives”:** We're in the midst of change at Countryside, but we don't want to lose track of many of your valuable stories and the history of this amazing faith community. Please contact Jan if you're interested in sitting down to share and possibly record your story; Margie Bolte and Karen Follon are also helping with this fall/winter endeavor. Specifically, on Nov. 12 at a church lunch, there will be opportunities to share and/or be recorded. We want to “take you with us” to our new

## JOYS

Aly and Robert Alexander and son, Logan, have been blessed with a new little boy, William Leigh Alexander, born Sept. 1, 2017. The happy grandparents are Mitzi and Al Cardona.

## IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Nelson's mother Marilyn Stein, 94, one of our Countryside founders, passed away Aug. 19, and her graveside memorial was held on Aug. 29.

Bob (Bonnie) Buckland's older brother, Marvin, died on Aug. 25, and Bob and Bonnie were able to gather with family for his memorial service in Rochester, MN.

Todd (Kathleen) Samland's stepfather Dave Kempke passed away August 29 in Omaha and the funeral was Sept. 2 at Heafey's Bel Air Chapel.

Marj Sambasile's husband and Bill Bolte's stepfather Salvatore (Sam) Sambasile died Aug. 31, and the funeral was held on Sept. 6 at Frances Cabrini Church in Omaha.

Carol Goldstrom's mother-in-law Betty Ruth Goldstrom passed away on Sept. 8, and there was a graveside service for her on Sept. 14 at Bikhor Cholim Cemetery in Omaha.

Dave (Robyn) Hubbard's mother Jeanette Hubbard died at Hospice House on Sept. 23, the same day as their son, Jim's wedding. Jeanette was present in spirit. A family gathering is planned for the first week of October.

*Countryside is a caring congregation that offers support to its members in numerous ways. Along with our pastors, who are always willing to provide you with compassionate direction, care and advice when called upon to do so, we have a wonderful support system with our Care Team and Stephen Ministers.*

### Care Team

*The Care Team consists of thoughtful, generous members of the congregation who provide various types of comfort or assistance to those in our church family experiencing times of hardship.*

### Stephen Ministry

*Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support and hope to those who are facing difficulties in their lives.*

### AGAPE

*The AGAPE group has been a ministry of love and support for many decades, providing a warm and loving fellowship opportunity following memorial or funeral services.*

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117

Email: [janb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:janb@countrysideucc.org)



**WNA Suppers** 5:30 - 6:20 PM see menu page 10

### Grade/Middle School Programs

Holy Moly (gr K-2): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 112

Holy Moly (gr 3-4): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 114B

Core 56 (gr 5-6): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 110

Confirmation (gr 7-8): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 119

### Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 5:30 – 6:40 PM

Spirit of Grace : 6:45 – 7:45 PM

### The Converging Paths Podcast

In-house Podcast : 6:30 – 7:00 PM

Guided Meditation : 7:00 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy a community meal, educational opportunities, adult choirs and *The Converging Paths Podcast*. Note: Children and Youth choirs are being moved to Sunday afternoons as part of the new Arts Affirmation program (see page 8). This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

## CONVERGING PATHS PODCAST

The Converging Paths Podcast is a weekly audio podcast with Dr. Eric Elnes where “God experiences” converge with everyday life, turning each day into a potential encounter with the Holy. Dr. Elnes has interviewed nationally-recognized faith leaders Floyd Thompkins, Chuck Marohnic, Marcia McFee and Bruce Van Blair about their “God experiences” and how these experiences continue to inform their everyday life and work. After the interview, Dr. Elnes offers a guided meditation in which wisdom is gleaned from the interview, is organically integrated into an experience of prayer and meditation that may just provide that “meeting ground” between yourself and God that you've been looking for. Upcoming speakers to be interviewed include Susan Smith, Ashely Swartz and fellow Tri-Faith leaders.



## CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS



### Rev. Mark Hanson: Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation and Deepening Our Interfaith Dialogue

October 5, 7:00 PM

Serving as the Executive Director of Augsburg's Christensen Center for Vocation, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson leads national and international initiatives to advance interfaith dialogue, inspire peacemaking, and support the College's commitment to vocational discernment.



### Jan Phillips: What You Have Seen Me Do... Working Miracles in a Modern Age

November 9, 7:00 PM

What classifies as a miracle today? What does it look like to heal one another, to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers? What does an updated version of the Good Samaritan story look like? Explore what it means to be prophetic in a divided world.



### Jan Phillips: Retreat - All Are Called, All Are Chosen: Becoming the Light We Hope to See

November 10-11: (Friday, 7:00 PM and Saturday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM)

Discover connections between our spirituality, our creativity and our action across the world. Tickets: \$75 (retreat tickets includes Thursday event)

### Let Me Be Frank- The Traitorous Turnabout of an Evangelical Heir Apparent

January 11-12, 2018, 7:00 PM

Thursday night movie viewing followed by a question and answer session with Frank Schaeffer and Scott Griessel.

Tickets: \$10, child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countrysideuucc.org



Tickets to above events \$10 (except Jan Phillips retreat) at eventbrite.com (search Center For Faith Studies) child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countrysideuucc.org

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Rabbi Aryeh Azriel - Mondays, 10 -11:30 AM

Our Scholar-In-Residence, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, will be teaching a class on the Judaic religion. It will be in Memorial Hall on Monday mornings from 10:00-11:30, October 16-November 20. Please check our website for details at centerforfaithstudies.org.

### Adult Ed Brown Bag - New Series: The World's Greatest Churches

The churches explored in this course "are large and small, urban and rural, old and new, and in one instance, unfinished. Some are elaborately decorated, while others are stunningly plain. Some are 'must see' for millions of travelers, while in others, the visitor may be alone. We will examine churches on five continents and in 20 countries, from Columbia to South Korea and from Ethiopia to Iceland." This group meets Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring your lunch. Please join us.

### Books, Bible & Beyond - New Series: Who Wrote the Bible, by Richard Elliott Friedman

The contemporary classic the New York Times Book Review called "a thought-provoking [and] perceptive guide," Who Wrote the Bible? by Richard E. Friedman is a fascinating, intellectual, yet highly readable analysis and investigation into the authorship of the Old Testament. Join us Wednesdays at Noon in the Chapel.

The Center for Faith Studies provides learning opportunities for the faithfully inquisitive Countryside Community. We encourage lifelong learning, growth and deepening understanding utilizing current scholarship through the CFS community lecture series, adult education classes and community partnerships.

#### Racial Justice Book Group

Racial Justice Book Group - Beginning in August, we will study the UCC Curriculum "White Privilege: Let's Talk," in collaboration with First United Methodist Church. Group #1 and Group #2 will alternate Monday evenings in the Commons from 7:00-8:30 PM for these discussions. In November, both churches will gather together for a closing event and discussion at First United. If you are interested in joining these group studies, please contact Mary Jo Barbusch Weiss at mjbbarbeiss@gmail.com .

#### Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. Currently studying: The World's Greatest Churches - from The Great Courses series.

#### Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Currently we are reading and discussing the book Who Wrote the Bible? by Richard Elliott Friedman.

#### Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying Native Peoples of North America.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Chris Alexander**

**Office Phone:** (402) 391-0350 ext. 130

**Email:** chrisa@countrysideuucc.org

or **Courtney Holiday**, CFS Admin. Assistant

**Office Phone:** (402) 391-0350 ext. 119

**Email:** courtneyh@countrysideuucc.org

**Website:** www.centerforfaithstudies.org

**Face book:** Center-for-Faith-Studies

# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Convergence University-A Passport for Your Christian Journey

Convergence University is a revolutionary approach to Christian study based upon the Phoenix Affirmations and The By This Way of Life small group resources from Darkwood Brew. The curriculum is designed to help guide you along your spiritual journey, building a deeper connection with God, the Countryside community and yourself. As you begin your journey into the Three Great Loves: Love of God, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Self, you will also be encouraged to focus on a Certificate of Specialization in: Spirituality, Leadership and/or Vocation. Whether you wish to enroll as part of a small group or as an individual, C.U. can be tailored to fit your spiritual needs and your progress will be tracked using our Passport program. Contact Chris Alexander for more information [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org).



### Journey to the Heart of God - New groups are forming

New groups are forming for extended discussions of the worship series: Journey to the Heart of God. This series will be led by clergy of all three Abrahamic Faiths, two services each, helping us journey to the heart of God by highlighting two understandings that are core to their faith tradition. One of the distinguishing features of this Age of the Spirit is the awareness that all three Abrahamic Faiths worship the same God, even as the traditions are quite different from one another. Consider joining a journey group to discuss these differences and the revelations they share with us about God. To register for a group please leave your contact information and the times you are available at the Information Station or contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org).

### Journey Groups

Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our still speaking God is calling us to do in our lives, community and the world. In the process, we form deep relationships offering support to one another through life's journey.

New Journey Groups are regularly forming that meet to discuss the current sermon series, watch and discuss Darkwood Brew videos or engage in special small group studies. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships. Contact Rev. Chris Alexander to get plugged into a Journey Group.

### Free Darkwood Brew Membership

Did you know that as a member of Countryside you have free access to the entire Darkwood Brew video library? You can watch any of the 28 series with topics ranging from forgiveness to the environment at [www.darkwoodbrew.org](http://www.darkwoodbrew.org). Use the username: CCCUCC and the password: tryside8787.

### QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Rev. Chris Alexander.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 130

Email: [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org)

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS:



**JAN PHILLIPS**  
*What You Have Seen Me Do...  
Working Miracles in a Modern Age*  
Thursday, November 9, 7:00 PM

We will explore what it means to be prophetic in a divided world, how we amplify our powers to love and heal, and why it's important to challenge our thoughts.

Retreat: November 10 - 11  
(Friday, 7 - 9 PM and Saturday, 9 AM - 3 PM) *see page 4 for details*



*Please Join Us For  
New Member Classes*

Sundays, November 5 & 19  
12:15 - 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel

New Member Sunday  
December 3, followed by Advent Brunch

Contact Robyn Hubbard at  
[robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org) with questions

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS:

**REV. MARK HANSON**

*Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation  
and Deepening Our Interfaith Dialogue*

Join us as we commemorate 500 years of the reformation and learn about Rev. Hanson's initiatives to advance interfaith dialogue both nationally and internationally.

*See page 4 for details*



**SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE  
RABBI AZRIEL**

next class series  
Monday Mornings  
10 - 11:30 AM  
October 16 - November 20  
in Memorial Hall

*Sign up at the Information Station*



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Lock In & Haunted House - Saturday-Sunday, October 28-29, 8:00PM-8:00AM**

Meet at church at 8:00 PM for a fun night in the church. There will be a trip to a haunted house before midnight. Food and fun in the church for the rest of the night. Sleeping bags are optional. Cost is \$15

#### **Sundays in October**

- 4:30 Faith Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (9th - 12th Grade Choir)
- 6:00 Dinner for all COYO Sr High, Faith Singers, and COYO Jr High
- 6:30 COYO Sr High in Youth Room (Friends, Faith, and Service)

## COYO JR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Skinny Bones - Friday, October 21, 7:00 PM-10:30 PM**

Meet at church at 7:00 PM to go to Blair for a corn maze, haunted house (sort of), bonfire with s'mores, hayrack ride. Cost is \$10. If you want to buy snacks or hot chocolate bring extra money. Flashlights optional.

#### **Sundays in October**

- 4:30 PM COYO Jr High (Friends, Faith, and Service)
- 6:00 PM Dinner for all COYO Jr High, COYO Sr High, and Faith Singers
- 6:30 PM Confirmation Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (7th & 8th Grade Choir)

### TRI-FAITH YOUTH EVENT

#### **SOZO Coffee House - October 14, 2:00-4:00PM**

Meet at at SOZO Coffee House (1314 Jones St 68102) come for fun and friendships with other Tri-Faith high schoolers. There will be games with prizes, an untalent show, and more. The event is free but if you want to buy coffee, beverages, or pastries bring money.

Countryside Youth (CoYo) serves students in grades 7-12. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities that develop community, encourage spiritual growth, and serve the wider community in Omaha. Monthly events and summer trips are offered to enhance youth experiences.

#### **COYO Jr High**

COYO Jr High meets during the school year on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

#### **Confirmation**

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30 PM during the school year. It is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders to explore the Phoenix Affirmations, the Bible, and the church.

#### **COYO Sr High**

COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships and serve the community.

#### **Mission Trips**

Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

#### **Choirs**

Faith Singers (high school) meets 4:30 - 6:00 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer

Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Sundays 6:30 - 8:00 PM and sings once a month in church.

### QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

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

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



COYO retreat at Camp Kitaki



First COYO meeting



COYO retreat at Camp Kitaki



COYO retreat at Camp Kitaki



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### October 1 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Books and worship bags and are available to borrow from a cart in the Narthex/Foyer.

### October 8- Sunday School

Joseph and his Brothers: Reconciliation

In a nutshell: There are times we lose trust in people. The story of Joseph and his brothers reminds us that God can help us forgive and mend relationships within our families and communities, restoring the love that God intends to be central.

### October 15 - Children's Church

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

### October 22 - Sunday School

Moses and the Ten Commandments

In a nutshell: The Ten Commandments remind us of how to honor God and how to honor and love one another as God loves us. When we remember these guidelines, we bring more peace to our community.

### October 29- Children's Church

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Core 56

Our Core 56 groups welcomes all students in 5th and 6th grade to meet to discuss scripture stories that center primarily around the New testament and the teachings of Jesus. Each week, we will discuss scripture stories, consider historical and cultural context, and contemplate how we can use what we have learned from them in our lives today. Please ask your Core 56 student to bring their bible—if you don't have one, just ask Rebecca! At the beginning of each class, we will spend 3-5 minutes in a meditative prayer sit.

### Holy Moly

Our students meet in two classrooms on the lower level in groups of K-2nd graders and 3rd and 4th graders. Each week this fall, we will explore an Old Testament tale with storytelling, a short video, and an activity. In October, we will cover the stories of Exodus, The Stone Tablets, Deborah, and Samuel.

### Sunday School

We are very excited to study scripture stories with our Countryside children! During the 9am service, our students will meet together into two classrooms: pre-K and one large group for Kindergarten through 6th grade. During the 11AM service, our students are divided between four classrooms: Pre-K, K-1st, 2nd-4th, and 5th & 6th grades.

We leave together as a group after the Children's Moment and head to classrooms. Students remain in their classrooms until collected by a parent or guardian. Please remember our students and teachers in your prayers as they explore scripture stories together this semester!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

### Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

#### 9:00 Service

Room 114A - Grades K-6

#### 11:00 Service

Room 117 - Grades 2-3

Room 114B - Grade 4

Room 112 - Grades 5-6

### Upper Level

(same as the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery)

#### 11:00 Service

Room 214 -Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

*Children's Education offers programs designed to inspire, explore, and develop a solid faith foundation. Through story, discussion, and experiential activities, our students embark on a Christian path encouraged by enthusiastic study, adventurous approach to Scripture, and cultivation of a strong faith community.*

### Nursery

*Childcare is available during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery volunteers are trained and have passed background checks.*

### Vacation Bible School

*Vacation Bible School is a short summer camp designed to immerse our students in a community experience of scripture stories and activities.*

### Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

*During the school year, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts, activities, and storytelling.*

### Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

*On Wednesday nights, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus's ministry and work. We also fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.*

### Sunday School

*Our students and teachers engage with scripture and activities with our in-house curriculum through Countryside's theology and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.*

### Family Worship

*Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers the opportunity to share scripture, message, and communion as a family! Children's Bibles, books, and age-appropriate activity bags are available.*

### Children's Church

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

## QUESTIONS?

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

Email: [rebeccam@countrysideucc.org](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideucc.org)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A Great Start for Arts Affirmation

Our new opportunity for budding artists is off to a great start!

The kiddos are exploring new ways to express their understanding of God and how God works in the world. More importantly, they are designing their own learning! So far, they have written a modern Gregorian Chant, started building a blooming Tree of Life, and choreographed their own dance. Look for their work in worship very soon!

There is an exciting addition to the program; we have revamped the graded groups so that we can include wee preschoolers, too! It is never too late to join in the fun. Email Amy at [amyl@countriesideucc.org](mailto:amyl@countriesideucc.org) to let us know that you'd like to get started.

You can also follow Arts Affirmation on Facebook to see what we are up to each week!



Preschoolers working on the Tree of Life in Art class

Countryside has one of the most celebrated music and arts ministries in Omaha. We have excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through the creative arts. Our halls are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as everyone brings their unique creative talents to worship services.

### Arts Affirmation

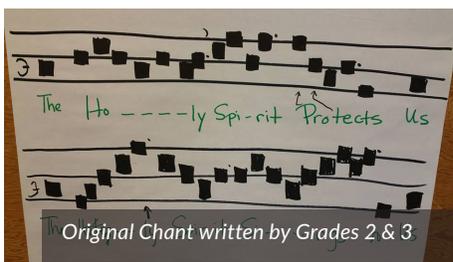
Children in grades K-6 will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. All projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations. Sunday afternoons 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

### Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers (formerly Covenant Choir) is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

### Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 PM. The choir sings most weeks during the school year.



Original Chant written by Grades 2 & 3



#ChantRehearsal #GroupSelfie #Grades2&3

### Confirmation Singers are Ukulele Lovers

The middle school choir is meeting for an extended rehearsal each Sunday evening at 6:30 PM. The group is small, but devoted, and have asked to expand their learning beyond just singing. They have voted unanimously to learn how to play ukulele together. We are only on C, G, and F chords right now, but it won't be long until they are accompanying themselves in worship!

You can follow Confirmation Singers on Facebook, as well. Go there now to hear their first song, the ever-popular "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"!



#UkuleleLife.com

### Calling All Artists!

On each day of December, leading to Christmas, we will reveal one 11" x 14" shadow box containing an original art piece by one of Countryside's many talented visual artists. Each piece will be inspired by a poem from Ann Weems' collection *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, on which the choral Christmas cantata is also based. Artistic offerings can be in any media: paint, paper quilling, watercolor, fabric, cross-stitch, charcoal, wood carving, or any other medium. Items will be auctioned and proceeds contributed to the Christmas offering for 2017.



SilhouetteDesignStore.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact Amy Luckenbill.

Amy Luckenbill  
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115  
Email: [amyl@countriesideucc.org](mailto:amyl@countriesideucc.org)  
[www.countriesideucc.org](http://www.countriesideucc.org)



## THE BOX FOR OCTOBER

Believe it or not, the lack of reliable access to sanitary menstrual items keeps many women from going to work and/or school every month. Because we recognize the impact of providing this need, the Board of Christian Outreach is launching a call for large donations of this kind that we will distribute locally through Youth Emergency Services (YES!), Together Inc, and directly to ANPO WICAHPI, the Pine Ridge Girls' School near Porcupine, SD. We intend to amass a sizeable amount of these items during October so that we can make a noticeable difference at all three organizations. Please bring some to Countryside this month if you can afford it.

*If you have ideas for how we can use the BOX to help others, please send a note to [christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org)*

## LOOK AT THIS SMALL SERVICE GRANT (SSG)!

A non-profit organization called One Nation Walking Together (ONWT) has been building chicken coops on Native American Reservations. The locations are carefully selected for where nutrition is scarce and protein comes at a premium. Young hens are provided places along with several months of food and bedding. Countryside members Don Sarton and Ryan Palmer participated in the latest build following Don's request for an SSG to help pay for a portion of the construction materials. With guidance from ONWT over Labor Day weekend, they joined forces with a few folks from Don's former church, First Christian Church in Colorado Springs. This was the fifth and largest coop built by ONWT, and it will house 30 chickens. The forthcoming eggs (and fertilizer) provide fresh and valuable commodities to ANPO WICAHPI, an all-girls school with 24 students on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

## SHOW US YOUR SSG

We are looking for projects that need a relatively small amount of money, to help make a relatively powerful impact. If you have an idea for an SSG, please send an email to [christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org), or find and print the SSG form at [countrysideucc.org/serving-together/ssgs/](http://countrysideucc.org/serving-together/ssgs/)

*Christian Outreach embraces opportunities that reflect appreciation, respect, and love where there was otherwise much neglect - providing funding and service opportunities that nurture lasting change in our congregation, our community, and our world.*

### The Box

*...is where specific items are collected each month to address various needs. "The Suitcase" is where we continuously collect hotel-size toiletries. Both are in the Foyer near the front doors.*

### Community Cupboard

*A large mobile food pantry takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!*

### Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

*Each year the Board of Christian Outreach directs two special mission offerings—the Christmas and Easter offerings. These offerings are given to organizations both locally and internationally.*

### Small Service Grant (SSG)

*Countryside members who volunteer with local groups/events may apply for a small service grant (SSG) of less than \$500 to cover materials and supplies. Contact us or find the SSG request forms on the church website.*

# RELOCATION UPDATE

## WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE IS EXCITED ABOUT IN OUR NEW CHURCH!

The Committee members had a close look at the latest plans for the social/gathering spaces in the new church. Some of the plans that were met with greatest enthusiasm are:

### Narthex/Welcome Center

- This spacious area is the crossroads of the church. All are welcome here!
- All members and visitors into the church will flow through this inviting space.
- Welcome Center will have a screen announcing all daily events and locations.

### Common Grounds:

- Next to the Narthex/Foyer and Welcome Center
- Kitchen/service area serves both coffee house and Chapel.
- Use of one of our stained glass pieces.

### Memorial Hall:

- It is an attractive space for in-house

events, wedding receptions and funeral gatherings.

- Several of our stained glass windows will decorate the space.
- Flexible layout allows for varied food service options. Buffet, plated table service, etc.
- Audio-visual capabilities.

### Kitchen:

- The kitchen layout has defined cooking, service and clean-up areas.
- Thoughtful traffic flow for workers and casual buffet service area.
- Walk-in cooler.
- Lots of open storage, moveable prep tables, cooking area suitable for catering or in-house food prep.

The hard work of this Committee can be found in the design of the fellowship areas of the new building. Applause to Joyce Davis and her Committee!

## PLEDGE NOW

[www.countrysideucc.org/pledge](http://www.countrysideucc.org/pledge)

## QUESTIONS?

*If you have questions or comments, see one of the following committee members: Rick MacInnes, Tim Kerrigan, Cyndi Kugler, Paul Nelson, Pam Kregg and Nancy Behringer or email [crc@countrysideucc.org](mailto:crc@countrysideucc.org).*



# LIFE MINISTRIES



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Wednesday Night Alive Suppers October's Menu:

Join us Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:20 in Memorial Hall for fantastic fellowship and some really well planned, balanced and delicious meals! Cost is only \$5/person!

Oct. 4: White Chicken Chili, Salad, Cookies - Hannah & Tom Reilly

Oct. 11: Grilled Cheeseburgers, Corn on the Cob, Watermelon & Local Apple Cider - Karin Waggoner

Oct. 18: Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Local Apple Cider - HyVee

Oct. 25: Chili, Salad, Cornbread with local honey - FATE Committee

WNA supper helpers are still needed! Contact Christy at [Christysuepalmer@gmail.com](mailto:Christysuepalmer@gmail.com) ASAP if you would like more information. Your expenses will be reimbursed.

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

**Countryside's Family Activities Committee** invites you to Vala's Pumpkin Patch, Friday, October 6, 5:00-10:00 PM. Bonfire A25 is reserved just for us as we roast hot dogs, s'mores and other campfire goodies. Countryside families of all ages and stages (with or without children) and their friends are asked to drop by the bonfire before or after roaming through the pumpkin patch. Stop by the Information Station to sign up for a great evening of Fall fellowship and fun!

**Lunch Bunch Circle** will meet on Monday, October 9, at the church at 11:30 AM for a trip to John Lajba's studio in the Old Market. He is the sculptor for the Durham Museum's life-like figures in the Great Hall. Mr. Lajba is currently working on the Broom Man Sculpture. A catered lunch will be enjoyed at the studio. Barb Laughlin is the October hostess. Please call Gloria Ried for more information at 402- 333- 3115 if you would like more information on this trip or this wonderful group of women.

**Ollie the Trolley Tour** - Friday, October 20 the members of FAME are taking an Ollie the Trolley tour to learn about Omaha's history during the early 1900's. FAME has decided to open this tour to other seniors in the church who would enjoy learning more about this period of Omaha history. The cost is \$20 per person (payable the day of the tour). The trolley will pick us up in the circular drive of Countryside Church and will depart at 10:00 AM and return no later than 1:00 PM. Reservations for the tour may be made by signing up at the Information Station. The tour is limited to 40 participants. Questions? Call Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

**Nine to Dine Groups** are looking for singles or couples who would like to join in a monthly visit to local restaurants for an evening of great food, fellowship and some warm conversation. Interested? Contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or [marybeth@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybeth@countrysideucc.org).

**Classics and Conversation** will meet on Friday, October 13th, 7:00 PM in the Chapel. The movie of the month will be not only a classic, but a favorite of many generations of film goers. Here's a clue... "Everybody goes to Ricks", Rick's Café Americain. Any guesses? Rick and Ilsa? Still not sure? OK...Bogart and Bergman. Romance and adventure...the classic Casablanca. A love story with a twist. A true cinema classic directed by Michael Curtiz. Stop by for a great film, fellowship and some pretty good popcorn! "Here's looking at you kid!" Any questions, suggestions or requests, contact Ed Huddell at 402-401-8401.

*Life Ministry supports and improves the quality and "wellness" of family life. Life Ministry strives to engage people in a wide variety of social and educational activities for individuals and families. It is designed to strengthen family bonds and provide outreach in support of family members. Life Ministry also brings strength and continuity to Countryside's volunteer base by advising staff and by serving as a conduit between congregation and Countryside's Life Ministry and Volunteer programs.*

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 112

Email: [marybeth@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybeth@countrysideucc.org)

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Kitchen Help

Volunteers are needed to help keep our church's 3 large kitchens in shape! This would include a weekly walk through each kitchen, emptying dishwashers, cleaning counters, general "wipe down" where needed. To learn more about this, contact Mary Beth at [marybeth@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybeth@countrysideucc.org) or at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, October 7. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact [communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org).

### Board of Deacons

Countryside's Deacons support worship life, special church receptions, coordinate weekly communion servers & greeters, coordinate church memberships and participate in other activities as scheduled. The Board meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. We are always looking for additional volunteers to help us with our various tasks. Bring your strengths & creativity to the Board of Deacons & meet a group of committed individuals! If you have any questions, contact Shelley Boyd at [sboyd@mpsomaha.org](mailto:sboyd@mpsomaha.org).

### Volunteer highlights for October

A special thank you to Jim Gilbert! Jim was a great help this past month when he volunteered to do a much needed "make over" on one of the portable lecturns at church. This "well loved" piece of furniture needed a great deal of sanding, gluing, staining and all around love. Jim was our guy and we can't thank him enough. It looks absolutely beautiful! Kudos, Jim!

Thanks to the Board of Trustees for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the month of October. Be sure to chat with one of the board members to learn all the areas that this board represents.

### Community Cupboard Update

The September pantry provided food for approximately 173 families which accounts for 532 individuals. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who not only provide food for those who are food insecure, but for creating a community based on trust and commitment to one another.

## SOCIAL GROUPS

### Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Life Ministries Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

### Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

### Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project or teach others to knit/crochet. Open to knitters of all skill-levels. Meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM at Whole Foods. Contact Jeanne Cunningham at jkcunningham@cox.net.

### WNA Supper Group

This group consists of volunteers in our congregation. If there is a meal you and your family really love, then share it with the church on Wednesday evenings. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

### Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month at First Watch, 1222 S 71 St. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

### Nine-to-Dine

Consisting of 9 individuals, this group meets on a monthly basis at various restaurants in Omaha or sometimes someone's home for a nice home-cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

### Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Gloria Reid at g-g.ried@cox.net or 402.333.3115.

### FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

This group dabbles with watercolor paints and adult coloring books. We listen to music, laugh a lot, share stories and a pot of coffee (or two!) and enjoy being together. Contact Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

### Men's Breakfast Group

This group of Countryside men (all ages) share their breakfast at 7 AM every Tuesday morning at Rockbrook's Garden Café. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countysideucc.org.

### Mahjong

This multi-generational group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Commons. They teach and play Mahjong with anyone who would like to learn. Jeri Lundblad is the coordinator of this group and you may contact her at jeri62lynn@gmail.com for additional information.

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES

See [countysideucc.org/about-us](http://countysideucc.org/about-us)

## HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

### T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Thursday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

### InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

## EDUCATION GROUPS

### Faith and the Environment (FaTE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

### Adult Education

See full listing under Center for Faith Studies on page 4.

### Journey Groups

See page 5.



[trifaith.org](http://trifaith.org)  
[americanmusliminstitute.org](http://americanmusliminstitute.org)  
[templeisraelomaha.com](http://templeisraelomaha.com)

## TRI-FAITH KIDS Calling All Families!

Tri-Faith Kids is a family-centered group that invites community members to gather once a month to share stories and a potluck meal. We learn about each other's faith beliefs, prayer and customs in a non-threatening, non-evangelical way through storytelling, conversations, and community service.

Tri-Faith Kids meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from 5:00-6:30 PM, and is open to families with infant through high school aged youth.

Please see [trifaith.org/events/interplay-events/](http://trifaith.org/events/interplay-events/) to see the 2017-2018 schedule of events.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, e-mail Anji at [anjistanek1@gmail.com](mailto:anjistanek1@gmail.com).



## TEMPLE ISRAEL

### This is Hunger - October 1-4

This Is Hunger is rolling into Omaha! Join us and embark on a 45-minute multimedia experience that will challenge your beliefs about who in America struggles with hunger and why, and empower you to take action. Visit [thisishunger.org](http://thisishunger.org) to reserve free tickets! #thisishunger - Four times are offered: Sun. Oct. 1 at Noon, Mon., Oct. 2 at Noon, Tues., Oct. 3 at Noon and Wed., Oct. 4 at noon. The event will take place at Temple Israel, 13111 Sterling Ridge Drive.

### In Harmony: Shabbat Worship Friday, October 27, 6 p.m.

Ruth Meints, the Executive Director of the Omaha Conservatory of Music since 2005, will be joined by several Conservatory students and Artist Faculty to celebrate Sabbath. Ms. Meints will discuss the building renovations to our former building on Cass Street which is now home to an outstanding artist-faculty with over 700 students taking private lessons and over 1,100 young musicians enrolled in the Omaha Conservatory's community programs, such as String Sprouts. In Harmony is under the auspices of the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning sponsored by Debbi and Speedy Zweiback. Tri-Faith partners are welcome to attend.

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

### Muslim

Muharram is October 1 marks the start of the Islamic New Year and is a joyful day as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) told us when Allah saved Moses from Pharaoh, so he requested a fast celebrating that victory.

### Jewish

Sukkot is October 4-11. Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. Extending hospitality, especially to the needy is a Sukkot custom. Many Jews invite guests outside of their families to join them for a holiday meal in the *sukkah* (symbolizes the frail huts in which the Israelites lived during their 40 years of wandering in the desert).

Simchat Torah is October 12-13. Immediately following Sukkot, Jews celebrate Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, a fun-filled day during which they celebrate the completion of the annual reading of the Torah and affirm Torah as one of the pillars on which they build their lives. As part of the celebration, the Torah scrolls are taken from the ark and carried or danced around the synagogue seven times.



[facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/](https://facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/)  
[facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/](https://facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/)  
[facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/](https://facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/)

**WORSHIP SERIES**  
October 22 - November 26

**JOURNEY to the HEART of GOD**

Join us on October 22 when we reveal our new worship series.

**Worship Series**  
**PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**  
September 10 - October 15



Family Activities Committee invites you to:

Fall Family event with a...  
Bonfire (where families and marshmallows come together), S'mores, Hot dogs and more...



**VALA'S PUMPKIN PATCH**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017**  
5:00-10:00 P.M.  
12102 S. 180th Street, Gretna  
Campfire Site 25 B

**COYO SR. HIGH**  
**LOCK IN**  
October 28-29  
8:00PM-8:00AM



Meet at church at 8:00 PM.  
There will be a trip to a haunted house before midnight.  
Food and fun in the church for the rest of the night.  
Cost is \$15

DETAILS PAGE 6

**YOU are the Basket**



**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2018**

Commitment cards available in pews and foyer. Please return by Oct. 15.

To sign up for online giving go to:  
[countrysideucc.org/gms](http://countrysideucc.org/gms)  
see page 1 for details