

# MARCH



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday Services: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM  
Palm Sunday Brunch: 10:00 AM  
Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00 PM  
Good Friday Service: 7:00 PM  
Easter Sunday Services : 7:00 AM\*, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM  
\*Sunrise service to be held on Tri-Faith property

## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (March 20) with children parading and waving palm branches in the air, and (maybe?) tickling the ear of the person parading in front of them! Continuing from this, we practice Maundy Thursday (March 24), Good Friday (March 25), and Easter morning (March 27). This is the time of year we remember the culmination of Jesus' journey throughout Lent, to Jerusalem. With his arrival, Jesus spends time with his disciples preparing them for the trials to come.

During this Holy Week commemoration and celebration, Countryside takes on a whole new life of waving palms on Sunday, sharing communion on Thursday evening, grieving through music at the foot of the cross with a quartet on Good Friday, and praying through the darkness of Holy Saturday. Easter morning presents special worship opportunities to once again discover an empty tomb at our 7:00 AM Sunrise Service, when we will gather on our

Tri-Faith property for prayers and singing. We celebrate in our morning worship services at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM in our sanctuary that what was once dead now has new life, and we commemorate this time with baptisms of individuals in our own community during the services. It's a great time to relive together the story of God's love for us in the life Jesus. We are strengthened through these events to face our trials and move through them into new ways of being God's people in our world today.

Holy Week is a great time to bring a friend with you as we experience together the journey through lent, Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, and his death and resurrection, revealing for us yet again how we are loved beyond our wildest imaginations!

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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

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Website - [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countrysideucc.org)

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

## **Assistant To The Ministers**

**Gayle Noble**  
Interim Ministers' Assistant, ext. 103  
[gaylen@countrysideucc.org](mailto:gaylen@countrysideucc.org)

## **Business Office**

**Dan Loven**  
Dir. of Admin & Communication, ext. 102  
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**Debbie Vihstadt**  
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100  
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[jerryg@countrysideucc.org](mailto:jerryg@countrysideucc.org)

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

## **Audio/Visual**

**Nicholas O'Bradovich,**  
AV Tech Leader  
[nicholaso@countrysideucc.org](mailto:nicholaso@countrysideucc.org)

**Ben Semisch,**  
Videographer  
[bens@countrysideucc.org](mailto:bens@countrysideucc.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** - childcare (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 towards 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, donuts 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.

**Box, Basket and List** - The Box, Basket and List, are three ways that Countryside shares our gifts with one another and our community: The Box is a way to share our material possessions with one another and is located in the Foyer; the Basket is Countryside's way of sharing financial offerings with our community for the support of our ongoing program ministries. The baskets are located at the back of the Sanctuary; and the List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another and is printed in the Order of Worship.

**Rest Rooms** - Rest rooms are available on the main level by the offices and on the lower level by the elevator and by the gym.

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

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Deacons are receiving your orders for flowering plants to help us decorate our sanctuary for Easter morning. We will have a variety of spring plants available for you to take home after the 11:00 AM Easter service. The cost is \$15.00 per plant and orders are due by March 20. Order forms are available at the Information Station or you can call the church office. Please note that we will be using silk Easter lilies along with our spring plants due to allergic reactions to live lilies.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Debbie Vihstadt joined Countryside in February as our new Administrative Assistant working in the front office. She is married to James with an 11-year old son (Christian) and 10-year old daughter (Jessica). She is from Omaha and went to college at UNO. She has a background in graphic design and marketing and is very much looking forward to her new position with the Countryside staff.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Pastoral Care Coordinator Open Position**

Countryside is looking for a Pastoral Care Coordinator. This position will coordinate efforts to build an environment of support while reaching out to and comforting Countryside members who are suffering under more than normal burdens, trials, or temptations. Working closely with the Senior and Associate Ministers and as staff advisor to the Board of Pastoral Care, the Coordinator oversees the Care Team, Stephen Ministry, and Agape Team. This is a part-time position: 25 hours per week. Applications can be sent to Rev. Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org).

### **Friday Mornings Need You!!**

Is the winter weather giving you a case of the doldrums? We have a cure for you – the Friday Art and Music Experience (F.A.M.E.). Every Friday morning at 10 AM a group gathers to paint, color, drink a cup of coffee, eat some goodies, listen to music from the 40's, 50's and 60's and have an hour of fellowship. We have a resident "bugologist" as well as an expert on painting blizzards! We've even been known to share some trivia and "name that tune". Come join us by the windows in Memorial Hall!



## CONGRATULATIONS

Ben Sikola and Caitlin Brayfield welcomed their first child, daughter Parker Lynn, on February 9 in Denver, CO. Proud grandparents are Marvin and Donna Rhodes and great grandparents are Don and Bennie Rae Beins.

Aly and Geoff Amstutz welcomed their first child, son Henry William, on February 25. Proud grandparents are Margie and Bill Bolte.

*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 Margie Bolte.

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

**Email:** [margieb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:margieb@countrysideucc.org)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT "ALIVE"

During the midweek gathering time known as Wednesday Night Alive, we serve a community meal followed by choir rehearsals and educational groups for children and adults as well as a variety of small group gatherings that range from knitting and parenting to financial planning. This is a perfect way to reconnect with church friends, create new friendships or to take time just to breathe!

### **WNA SUPPERS**

Meals are \$5/person or you can purchase a month's ticket for \$20/person not to exceed \$80/family. Place reservations at the Information Station. Meals are served from 5:00 to 6:20 PM.

March 2 – Green chili enchiladas with rice

March 9 – Quinoa spinach and cheese gratin, carrot and beet salad

March 16 – Vegetarian chili with corn bread

March 23 – NO MEAL

March 30 – Ravioli potage, green salad, fruit

### **GRADE/MIDDLE SCHOOL**

#### **Choirs**

Cherub Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114

Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117

Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

#### **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) : 7:00 - 8:00 PM - rm 119

### **ADULTS/HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **In The Commons**

For more details about these upcoming speakers go to "Center for Faith Studies" section on Page 4.

March 2, 6:30 PM: Krystal Boose  
Inclusive Communities: Transformative Power of Simple Conversation

March 9, 6:30 PM: Dr. Greg Love  
The Fullness of Life

March 16, 6:30 PM: Denise Cole  
Fighting Cancer with Knowledge

March 23, Holy Week  
No Wed Night in Commons

March 30, 6:30 PM: Bill Williams  
Heartland Honor Flights - Memorials and Healing Soul Injury

#### **Adult Choirs**

Chancel Choir : 6:25 – 7:55 PM

Spirit of Grace : 8:05 – 9:05 PM





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **March 13, 3 - 5 PM, Racial Justice Accountability Session**

Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice Accountability Session is being held 3 to 5 PM in the Moderator's Room. Featuring an exclusive showing of a one-woman show, Anna Deavere Smith (Nurse Jackie, West Wing) "Standing Shoulder to Shoulder". Following her performance, participants will have the opportunity to talk openly and honestly about their questions, thoughts and experiences living in a racialized Omaha. Where in the last month have I seen the impact of race in my community/How can I act to lessen its impact? You do not need to have attended the conference to attend this session. Register on the CFS website or by contacting Kelly. Free and open to the public.

### **March 29, 7 PM - Holocaust Education Week of Remembrance Speaker Series**

The Annual Institute for Holocaust Education Week of Remembrance Speaker Series features Hungarian Holocaust Survivor Testimonies of Agnes Schwartz and Magda Brown. This is a free event, see ad for more information.

### **March 31, 7 PM - Community for Mindful Living Annual Speaker**

Hosted at CFS. Michael Ciborski, trained in the Buddhist tradition of Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. He lived as a monk for seven years in Plum Village, France, and has worked intimately with Thich Nhat Hanh and the monastic community to organize, support and offer meditation retreats around the world. A skilled musician, he informally studied voice training and chanting of several European and Asian traditions and served for several years as an English language chant master in the monastery. This is a free event, with free will donations accepted. See ad for more information.

## IN THE COMMONS - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

**6:30-7:15 PM: Program**

**7:15-8:00 PM: Optional Fellowship, Dialogue and Refreshments**

"In the Commons" has a double meaning – describing the place and the programming itself. A "commons-based" worldview emphasizes the concept that there IS such a thing as the common good, and that bringing people together in dialogue is essential to the sustainability of the human community. We begin at 6:30 PM, with baristas/snacks and an invited guest presenting for about 15 minutes, and then continue with casual but surely engaging dialogue with the speaker and each other. You can come for the speaker only—but most like to stay for the dialogue!

**March 2 - Krystal Boose, Inclusive Communities: Transformative Power of Simple Conversation**

**March 9 - Dr. Greg Love, The Fullness of Life**

**March 16 - Denise Cole, Fighting Cancer with Knowledge**

**March 23 - No Wed Night in Commons, Holy Week**

**March 30 - Bill Williams, Heartland Honor Flights – Memorials and Healing Soul Injury**

For more information see [www.centerforfaithstudies.org/wednesdaynightalive](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org/wednesdaynightalive)

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, Wednesday Night Alive events, adult education classes and community partnerships.

### **Racial Justice Book Group**

Mondays at 7:15 PM in the Commons. Readings and videos on the concept of race in America. They are currently reading Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*.

### **Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch**

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring your lunch and learn. Drop in any time! Current series: *The Old Testament*. Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. (Great Courses)

### **Books Bible and Beyond**

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Next book *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* by Victor Rios. Join at any time.

### **Adult Ed Forum**

Sundays at 10:10 AM in the Moderator's Room. Come whenever you can! Current series: *The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World*. Professor Robert Garland. (Great Courses)

### **Omaha Earth Vigil**

Monthly meditation over shared grief, faith and hope for the planet. We meet on first Thursdays 6:30 to 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Sponsored by Community of Mindful Living.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Kelly Keller**.

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

**Email:** [kellyk@countrysideucc.org](mailto:kellyk@countrysideucc.org)

**Website:** [www.centerforfaithstudies.org](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Faith-Studies-120882397136>



**Kelly Keller, Director of Center for Faith Studies**

# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What is Converging Paths?

The Converging Paths Ministry strives to strengthen the church community - both Countryside and the larger Church - by supporting faith formation and leadership formation through small groups (Journey Groups). The Converging Paths Ministry is developing small group resources based on the solid theological foundation of *The Phoenix Affirmations*. Members of Journey Groups have said that they believe they make better, more Christ-led decisions in their lives. Ask me, Terri, about Converging Paths. I'd love to tell you more!

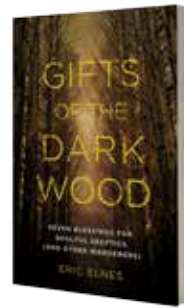
### Sacred Journeys Group Looking for Countryside Members!

Would you like to form relationships with Christians from other denominations and congregations? There is an inter-denominational Journey Group that meets here at Countryside. They have members from several local churches and are hoping that a few people from Countryside will join them. This Sacred Journeys group meets at 5 PM in the Moderator's Room on the second Sunday of each month. Let me know if you are interested and I'll put you in contact with them.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Gifts of the Dark Wood Begins March 8

A brand new Journey Group is forming that will explore Dr. Elnes' latest book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (And Other Wanderers)*. Learn more about how we meet God in the depth of our struggles. This is an excellent opportunity to finally join a Journey Group. The group will be facilitated by David Leslie and will meet Tuesday evenings 6 PM to 8 PM for six weeks from March 8 through April 12 in the Youth Room. Contact Terri to register or sign up at the Information Station on Sunday.



*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.*

### A Journey through Luke

Several of our Journey Groups are following the sermon series, *The Way of Jesus: A Journey through Luke*. It's not too late to join a group. This series runs through Easter, March 27.

### Darkwood Brew

New Journey Groups are forming that watch and discuss *Darkwood Brew* videos. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships.

### Gifts of the Dark Wood




Plan on joining this group in March, which will be studying Dr. Elnes' newest book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Terri Vincent.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 121

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

## Standing Shoulder to Shoulder...

for racial justice accountability session featuring exclusive viewing of a performance by Anna Deavere Smith (*Nurse Jackie, West Wing*) Followed by conversation.

**Sunday March 13**  
3:00 - 5:00 PM  
Moderator's Room



## Annual Holocaust Survivor Speaker Series

March 29 | 7:00 PM

Hungarian Survivors, Agnes Schwartz and Magda Brown will speak about their experiences as teenagers during the War.

Free and open to the public.




## Practicing Mindfulness Toward Wholeness

March 31  
7:00 PM

Free & Open to the public



with Michael Ciborski

## Worship Design Studio with Dr. Marcia McFee Coming to Countryside!

### SAVE THE DATE!

April 2 – May 3, 2016

5-Week Course:  
Meaningful and Memorable Worship  
Saturday Workshop and 5 Tuesday Evenings

Workshops on:  
Meaningful Worship; Visual Arts;  
Verbal Arts; Music Arts; Media Arts;  
and Dramatic Arts.







# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Student Leadership is Sunday, March 20 at 9 AM**

Any and all COYO Sr High students are invited to be student leaders. Meet in the Youth Room every third Sunday at 9 AM. Student leadership will help decide on programming and how to best include COYO Sr High students. Come once or always.

#### **606 - Check it out Wednesdays at 6:06 PM**

Exploration of the Christian Faith from the ground up. Everyone in high school is welcome to attend. Come once or come every week. Meet in the COYO Room.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Papio Fun Park Unlimited and Free Fun - March 13, 6 - 9 PM**

Meet at church at 6 PM to go to Papio Fun Park for unlimited games and go carts. Everything is free play (pool, air hockey, video games, laser tag, space ball, and more) Plus free unlimited go carting. This is in place of regular COYO that night. Bring a friend and sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh>.

#### **Mystery Bus Tour - Friday-Saturday \* April 22-23 \* 8 PM - 8 AM**

Drive around the city doing various activities all night. Activities may include bowling, mini-golf, service project, broom ball, pool, scavenger hunt, hike in the woods, truck stop breakfast, laser tag, roller skating, ice skating, or other things. Sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh/MBT>.



## COYO JR HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **New Confirmation Pages on the Website**

As the end of the Confirmation year approaches 8th grade students wishing to be confirmed will have some extra assignments. These can be found in the ABOUT section of <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/confirmation>. Students can also fill out sermon note sheets, outreach reports, and affirmation reflections, as well as fill out the 8th grade year end info that we need before Confirmation Sunday.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Urban Plunge in Lincoln - March 18 - 20**

COYO Jr High Urban Plunge in Lincoln. Leave church at 5:00PM on Friday, Return by 3:00PM on Sunday. Serve at 9 ministries and go to 3 churches in the Lincoln area. This fulfills all your confirmation outreach requirements for the year. And it is fun. For more info or to sign up, go to <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/plunge>.

#### **Hiking in Colorado - July 10-15**

Four days of backpacking all around the spectacular rock formations in the Lost Creek Wilderness of Colorado. Take in the creative work of God and listen for what God has to "say" to you without your cell phone. Cost is \$150. For more info and to sign up, by March 1, go to <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/wilderness>.



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.

#### **Confirmation**

Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 7 PM and Thursdays at 3:45 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.

#### **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.

#### **COYO Sr High**

COYO Sr High meets Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and to grow in faith.

#### **COYO Sr High 606**

Exploration of the Christian Faith from the ground up. Everyone in high school is welcome to attend. Come once or come every week. Meets Wednesdays at 6:06 PM in the COYO Room.

#### **COYO Jr High**

COYO Jr High meets 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 to grow in faith.

### 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](mailto:willh@countrysideucc.org)



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

### March 6 - Family Worship

Children remain in in the sanctuary with their families.

### March 13 - Sunday School

Lesson: Jesus Prays at Gethsemane. (See below for classroom information.)

### March 20 - Children's Church

Palm Sunday! Located in the chapel. (Same level as the sanctuary/nursery.)

### March 27 - Sunday School

Easter! Lesson: Recognizing God's Kingdom (See below for classroom information.)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

### Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

#### 9:00 Service

Room 114B - 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)

#### 9:00 Service

Room 215 - Pre-Kindergarten

#### 11:00 Service

Room 214 - Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Its Peep diorama time! All are invited to select a scripture passage and create a diorama with marshmallow peeps! We have a few extra shoe boxes (and could probably find more!) so contact Rebecca if you need one. We will display the dioramas on April 3rd. Feel free to bring your completed dioramas to Rebecca's office the week before we display them! Be sure to include a typed title and creator card with your chosen scripture reference (not the scripture passage).

Nursery Ministry is looking for dedicated church members to keep this important ministry going! While children are ALWAYS WELCOME in our community Worship, our volunteers help to provide care in a safe environment as an alternative.



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.

### Acolytes

Our Fireflies bring the light of Worship into the Sanctuary each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in your child becoming an acolyte, contact Rebecca.

### 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. In 2016, it will take place July 11-15.

### Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

On Wednesday nights, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum that teaches Bible stories with multi-media, crafts and activities, and storytelling.

### Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

During the school year, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus' 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

On the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers 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 5 year-old through 6th grade.

## QUESTIONS?

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109

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



# MUSIC MINISTRIES

Countryside church has one of the celebrated music ministries in Omaha. We have many excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through music. Our music rooms are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as our singers prepare for worship services. Each group participates at least monthly in services.

## **Cherub Choir**

The Cherub Choir is for children in Kindergarten and second grade. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. This group sings monthly in worship.

## **Pilgrim Choir**

Pilgrim Choir is for children in the third through sixth grades and rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. This group sings monthly in worship.

## **Covenant Choir**

Covenant Choir is for middle school youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation in the Junior Choir Room. This group sings monthly in worship.

## **Faith Singers**

Faith Singers is a choir for grades 9-12 and regularly rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. This choir sings most weeks during the school year for one of our worship services.

## **Chancel Choir**

Chancel Choir is a "traditional" church choir for post-high school youth and adults. This choir sings each week for one of the worship services. Regular rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:25-7:55 PM.

## **Spirit of Grace**

Spirit of Grace is a group of adults of all ages that explore contemporary church music. This group rehearses on Wednesdays from 8:05-9:05 p.m. Spirit of Grace generally sings once or twice each month, alternating between the first and second services.

## **QUESTIONS?**

For more information about Music Ministries contact Bruce Blanchard or Vicky Palmisano

Bruce Blanchard  
Email: [bblanchardh@gmail.com](mailto:bblanchardh@gmail.com)

Vicky Palmisano  
Email: [vickyp@countrysideucc.org](mailto:vickyp@countrysideucc.org)

Alex Ritter - Organist

Tyler Gruttemeyer - Interim Faith Singer Director  
Dawn Donner - Substitute Cherub Choir Director

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Searching for New Director of Music Ministry**

The Search Committee is receiving resumes from candidates from across the country - even abroad! The caliber of the applicants is impressive. We are now reviewing these resumes and beginning the initial interviewing process. We will keep you posted as our search progresses.

### **Special Music Classical Series**

Sunday, March 6 – 9 AM Classical Service

- Selections from Rachmaninoff's Etudes-Tableaux - Alex Ritter, Piano

Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday – 9 AM Classical Service

- Berg's Piano Sonata - Alex Ritter, Piano

Thursday, March 24 – Maundy Thursday - 7 PM

- The Music of Barber, Rachmaninoff, and others with soloist Karina Brazas, Soprano.

Friday, March 25 – Good Friday – 7 PM

- Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time - Joseph Weber, Clarinet, Chris Hake, Violin, Sophia Potter, Cello, Alex Ritter, Piano

Sunday, March 27 – Easter Sunday – 9 AM Classical Service

- Selection from Handel's Messiah with postlude - Hallelujah Chorus sing-a-long

### **Hallelujah Chorus Sing-a-long**

Have you sung the Hallelujah Chorus at some time? Perhaps in college, perhaps in high school, perhaps in the shower? Maybe you have just not had that opportunity yet. Good news! Besides the many other reasons to come to church on Easter, this year will be your big chance. The postlude for the 9:00 AM Easter service will be a Hallelujah Chorus sing a long. Music will be provided and no judgments will be allowed. Even if you are going to the later service, you can come early and join in the fun.

### **Maundy Service Special Music**

Our special guest soloist for the 7 PM Maundy Thursday service on March 10 will be Karina Brazas, Soprano. She will be singing The Music of Barber, Rachmaninoff, and others. Soprano Karina Brazas, described as "fiery and fetching" (Ladue News), and as performing with "sweetness, clarity, great beauty and innocence," (Broadway World) is praised for her vocal beauty in opera, concert, and oratorio work. She graduated magna cum laude with her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Washington State University, and received her Master of Music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



### **Good Friday Special Music**

Our special music will be Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time with Joseph Weber on clarinet, Chris Hake on violin, Sophia Potter on cello and Alex Ritter on piano. Quartet for the End of Time (In French, Quatuor pour la fin du temps) is a quartet in eight movements for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano by French composer Olivier Messiaen. The piece premiered on January 15, 1941, at the Stalag VIIIA prisoner-of-war camp, in Görlitz, Germany, where the composer had been confined since his capture in May 1940. The work's instrumentation was determined by the instruments and performers at hand.



# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



## THE BOX FOR MARCH

In March, we are collecting individually packaged toothbrushes, lip balm, and deodorant/antiperspirant for Youth Emergency Services (YES). This organization works with youth in crisis to empower them to become self-sufficient, with a goal of ending youth homelessness in Omaha by 2020. Thank you for remembering to bring a few of these items this month.

If you know of an agency that would benefit from in-kind donations like these, we welcome and encourage your recommendations as we plan for 2016 recipients of The BOX. Please contact: [christianoutreach@countysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countysideucc.org)

## SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

The recipient of the 2016 Special Easter Offering is Inclusive Communities. This organization creates environments where people have important conversations about their own experiences with things like prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination. The funds raised will go towards IncluCity, a four-day leadership and skill building workshop bringing together a diverse group of 75 high school student delegates representing schools in the region. Starting in March, check your mail for a letter sent out to the congregation with more information and a request for donations. If you wish to contribute to this special offering, please make your donation during March using the return envelopes mailed out, the special envelopes in the pews, or by going online to [countysideucc.org/easteroffering](http://countysideucc.org/easteroffering). Please make checks out to Countryside Community Church.



## QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information regarding Countryside Christian Outreach, email [christianoutreach@countysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countysideucc.org). To find out about how you can volunteer at the food pantry, contact [communitycupboard@countysideucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countysideucc.org).

*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 8:00-11:30AM. 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 Grants (SSG)

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

# RELOCATION UPDATE



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



*Sunday, April 10*

10:00 AM One Worship Service

Building Plans Unveiled

Celebration Brunch

Full Invitation Coming!

To stay informed of what is happening with the relocation efforts, look for the Relocation icon in Countryside's communications: the display area outside the church office, weekly C10 emails, monthly newsletter, and the Countryside website [www.countysideucc.org](http://www.countysideucc.org).

## 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@countysideucc.org](mailto:crc@countysideucc.org).



# LIFE MINISTRIES



*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: [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org)

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Chair Yoga Returns! Donna Miesbach will facilitate another 6 week session on Tuesday afternoons, 2 - 3 PM in the Foyer starting March 29. A suggested donation of \$50/6 week session or \$10/drop in to a class is appreciated. Registration at the Information Station.

## UPCOMING IN MARCH

### Healthy Basics - March 8

Healthy Basics, a four part class based on the award-winning Food for Life Program, is coming to Countryside for four consecutive Tuesday evenings in March beginning March 8. Classes will be held in Memorial Hall from 6 - 7 PM. These classes are open to everyone. Subjects that will be explored include The Power of Your Plate, How Foods Fight Diabetes, Foods For a Healthy Weight and How Foods Fight Heart Disease. A suggested donation of \$65/person for all 4 classes will be greatly appreciated. These classes are sponsored by FATE. For additional information, please contact Ann Naylor at [annnaylor32@gmail.com](mailto:annnaylor32@gmail.com).

### Palm Sunday and The Pancake Man - March 20

The Family Activities Committee has invited the Pancake Man to join us on Palm Sunday, March 20, after both services. He will be flipping piping hot pancakes as well as serving up sausage, fruit and coffee, milk or juice in Memorial Hall; all are welcome to come enjoy! Cost of the event is a free-will donation with a suggested minimum donation of \$5/person. This event is a fundraiser for Inclusive Communities, Countryside's 2016 Easter Offering recipient. Signups are available at the Information Station. Should you have any questions, contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org). Looking forward to seeing you there!

## FEBRUARY FOLLOW UP

### Sweet Sunday

Our church family came together once again in true Countryside fashion to revive Sweet Sunday on February 14. Thank you to all who baked, packaged and shopped to raise \$690 to allow COYO to adopt a family through the Lutheran Family Relocation Program. Thank you Emma Boyd for heading up the task force to put Sweet Sunday back on the Calendar. Your sweet childhood memories of Sweet Sundays from the past reignited those same memories for many others. Thank you for being exactly you.

### Hors D'oeuvre Contest Winners!

Game Day Special (most easily replicated for the game crowd!) – Tie between Ken Hutton and Todd Samland. Prize went to Ken Hutton for Glazed Bacon! Lazy Way Out! (For those who don't , won't or forgot to cook for the event) Tie between Will Howell and Ryan & Christy Sue Palmer. Prize went to the Palmers for Organic Popcorn. BAM!!! (Most eye appealing) – Prize went to Dan Loven for Mardi Gras at the North Pole. Julia Child's Award of excellence (best overall entry) – Prize went to Deb McCollister for Taco Bob.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER



## THE LIST

The List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another. Each week we lift up an opportunity to volunteer within a specific ministry at Countryside. Check the Order of Worship each Sunday or the weekly email to learn what is the List for each week.

### Weekly Kitchen Help

Looking for 3-4 dedicated volunteers who would take responsibility for Countryside's kitchens on a weekly basis. This would involve putting dishes away, wiping counters, emptying dishwasher and keeping an inventory of necessary supplies. If interested then stop by the Information Station on Sunday morning.

### Conscientious Dishwashers Seeking Same

Volunteers are needed to help with washing mugs after the 11AM worship service. It is easy and many hands make light work, but we really need the hands! If interested contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Mobile Meals

This caring, monthly ritual takes only 2 hours, but truly feeds not only those receiving the meals, but also the people who are delivering them. We are currently looking for 2-3 more volunteers who would be willing to give of their time so that others may be fed. The schedule for thru May of 2016 is now being created. If interested stop by the Information Station.



## SOCIAL GROUPS

### Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support of 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 Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### Enhancing True Commitment (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 marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project and 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 marybethl@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 marybethl@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 marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### Lunch Bunch Circle

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

### 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.

### Reel Faith

This group meets in the Chapel for a great movie, snacks and discussions! Meets on the second Friday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Molly Anderson at moanderson@cox.net.

### 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 marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This new group is open anyone (all ages) interested in bicycling. They meet periodically when the weather is calling them to ride! Contact Mark Stursma at mstursma@yahoo.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 1st Monday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Ann Naylor at annnaylor@cox.net.

### LGBTQ 101

LGBTQ 101 is a monthly class held on the 2nd Thursday of each month and is facilitated by PFLAG members. The class covers LGBTQ issues and increases awareness of gender identity and expression. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### Adult Education

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

### Journey Groups

See full listing under Journey Groups on page 5.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

### T'ai Chi Chih®

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

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

### Church Council

Between congregational meetings, the Church Council acts upon all issues facing the Church. They establish the overall policy of the Church and work with the staff on the general direction of the activities of the Church. Meets the 3rd Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Jennifer Hamann, Moderator, at moderator@countysideucc.org.

### Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and to select organizations to receive special offering grants. Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair, Sarah Miller at swaetzig14@hotmail.com

### Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

This board brings strength and stability to Countryside's educational efforts by advising staff and providing both adults and children with educational programs. Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Contact board chair, Jan Brown at janbrown@youthfrontiers.org

### Board of Art & Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact board chair, Brenda Stursma at brenda.stursma@gmail.com

### Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Contact board chair, Mary Johnston at zjeesgram@aol.com

### Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair, Mike Murphy at mike@nelsonmurphyinvest.com

### Board of Trustees

This board oversees the financial and property concerns for Countryside, including stewardship, budgeting process and regular review of the financial position of the church. This board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. Contact board chair, Tim Kerrigan, at tgerrigan@investorsomaha.com

### Board of Pastoral Care (PCB)

This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair, Joyce Davis, at joyce.davis809@gmail.com.

### Board of Deacons

This board is responsible for any church tasks that are related to worship and fellowship as well as communicating with new members and visitors. Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair, Bonnie Buckland at bonniebuckland@outlook.com

### Nominating Committee

This committee is composed of 9 - 12 church members and past chairs of the boards and moderator. They meet weekly from September through November. The mission of the Nominating Committee is to recruit church members to serve on the eight leadership boards at Countryside Church, the vice moderator-elect and the church delegates who attend Nebraska's Annual Conference of the United Church of Christ. Contact board co-chairs, France Blanchard at fblanchardh@gmail.com, or Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net





Countryside

Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST | 8787 PACIFIC STREET | OMAHA, NE 68114

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# Pancake Breakfast

Palm Sunday  
Sunday, March 20  
10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Featuring:  
The Pancake Man

hosted by  
Countryside's Family  
Activities Committee



402-391-0350 | COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG

## Easter Flowers Available for Purchase

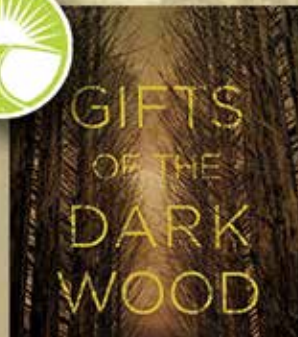
Countryside would like your assistance in decorating the Sanctuary for Easter by purchasing a variety of spring potted plants in honor or memory of loved ones. Please complete the order form and return to the office by Sunday, March 20.

**\$15**  
**PER PLANT**

Pick up your order form in the foyer and return to the office.

## Gifts of the Dark Wood

Tuesday Evenings  
March 8 - April 12  
Youth Room  
6:30 - 8:00 PM



A Brand New Journey Group!

ERIC ELNES

A brand new Journey Group facilitated by David Leslie is forming that will explore Dr. Elnes' latest book. see page 5 for details

## Join us in the kitchen

March 8 - 29  
Tuesday Nights 6:00 PM

# healthy BASICS

Four Class Series

Based on the award winning Food for Life Program

**\$65 per person or  
\$115 for two**

(from the same household)

Class is sponsored by the Faith and the Environment Committee