



# Currents

From the Desk of Rev. Chris Alexander | Associate Minister

## SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, August 16**

Tri-Faith Picnic  
at Countryside Community Church



More information coming soon...

Welcome to the Tri-Faith Initiative! As the official newcomer to the neighborhood, Countryside will be hosting the **Tri-Faith Picnic** this year. The date is **Sunday, August 16, at 12:30 p.m.** We will have a big tent and lots of food and entertainment for kids and adults! So Please **Save the Date** on your calendars to spend the afternoon celebrating with our new neighbors!

As a new participant of the Tri-Faith, many of our Countryside members have been asking me about some of the social courtesies we can extend toward our brothers and sisters at the temple and the mosque. This Tri Faith Picnic is a great way to begin those discussions about things like food restrictions that are different for each faith tradition and their cultures.

Last year, during our discernment period, I interviewed some of the Tri-Faith leaders and asked them about the nature of being neighbors. Within these interviews was a

conversation about food restrictions and how we Christians might be considerate of our neighbors when hosting meals for the whole Tri-Faith community. Nuzhat Mahmood, from the American Muslim Institute, answered the question with this:

“As a gesture of friendliness or neighborliness, what some groups have done over the years is, on the food table, they might put a little sticker that says ‘this item has pork in it’, just so we know, as we are going along, we are going to skip this one. And when we say pork, it might be gelatin, like a Jell-O salad that has gelatin in it, which we don’t eat because it is made usually of swine or pig bones. That would help as we are going down the line, and it helps us not hold up the line because we are standing there going ‘oh my gosh what is this or what isn’t this.’”

She continued, “The main restriction really is swine. The challenge is just to know that prosciutto is made from pigs. That bacon is made from pigs. That ham is pork. Because I have honestly had people say, ‘It’s not pork, It’s ham!’ Most folks at Countryside probably know this, but the more people get away from farms and ranches, people don’t always know where their food comes from. Things like pepperoni and all those versions of sausage and bacon originate in the pig. And then likewise pig bones, which is what goes into gelatin, and then Jell-O and marshmallows, which are made from that. Gelatin is what helps marshmallows come together and be sticky. Gelatin is also used in low-fat versions of dairy products like yogurt. If you use yogurt in your recipes, it is better to use the *Dannon* brand that uses beef gelatin, or just stay away from low-fat versions of dairy.”

The term *Halal* is often used when talking about food restrictions for Muslims. Most often this is spoken of in terms of meat preparation. Muslims do not eat pork in any form, but beef also needs to be prepared in a specific way. To be truly “Halal Beef” the animal must be slaughtered specifically by a Person of the Book and in the name of Allah, and the animal must be left to hang for a period of time to drain all the blood from its body before it is prepared, since blood itself is one of the major restrictions. For more information on the definitions of terms and dietary restrictions for Muslims you can read here: [Hala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halal) {<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halal>}.

Our Jewish neighbors do not eat pork either, nor do they eat shellfish, because shellfish do not have fins or scales, and only those creatures who live in the water that have fins and scales are considered Kosher. To find out more specifically what the dietary laws of kosher are, click here: [Kosher](http://joi.org/qa/kosher.shtml) (<http://joi.org/qa/kosher.shtml>)

So, for hosting the Tri-Faith Picnic this year, please keep these restrictions in mind. Grilled Halal Beef Burgers, Kosher Hot dogs, and cool drinks and water will be provided, while the rest of the food is up to you. We are asking for a variety of potluck dishes; to share with everyone. You might choose to stay away from Pork (not even bacon in the salads, please!), Gelatin or Shellfish altogether in your shared dishes, but if you do use any of these, please list the ingredients of your recipe on your dish so our volunteers might make signs for our guests.

As we gather with our neighbors, perhaps ask them about their dietary customs and how they follow them in their faith traditions. It will be a great way to learn from one another, and show our neighbors that who they are matters to us.

Hope to see you all in August!

Rev. Chris Alexander

# BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

In July, the BOX continues our support of our partner **Countryside Community Cupboard**. In past years, we have supported Cupboard clients as they started the school year by providing school supplies. This year, we are helping with a different fundamental need: **socks and underwear**. With your help, we can equip students for the school year by providing these foundational garments which allow them to feel that they are like everyone else. Children of poverty do not wear underwear because it is what does not show, so it is what is left out for clothing economy. Adults may not notice, but other kids do, especially in the restrooms, locker rooms, etc. These boys and girls are embarrassed, and it prevents them from full participation in school life and activities. Underwear would help immensely for their dignity.

While it may seem early, we hope you will keep these items in mind as you are shopping and possibly planning for school shopping. **We are looking for new underwear and socks of all sizes for boys and girls and of all ages.** The items will be provided to the Countryside Cupboard volunteers for distribution at an upcoming pantry distribution. This is another chance for us to support our Cupboard partners as part of their outreach to our community. Thank you for your continued support of the **BOX** and of the **Countryside Cupboard**.

*May follow up: Thank you for your support of the Countryside Cupboard and their requested high-need items. In addition to a combined total of 40 packages of feminine hygiene products, 38 deodorants and 50 tubes of toothpaste, you donated 220 toothbrushes and 18 bottles of shampoo and conditioner, as well as soaps, lotions, brushes and bandages. These items will be distributed at an upcoming Cupboard event. Thank you!*

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## The Conference Needs Us

At the recent Annual Gathering of The Nebraska Conference of The United Church of Christ, the importance of our full participation in the conference life was reinforced.

The majority of the Nebraska UCC congregations are in smaller communities. As the population in these towns continues to shrink and age, churches do also. Fifty years ago, a part-time lay pastor was a rarity in the UCC. Today almost half of Nebraska congregations are served in this manner. As an example, a young mother in the Sandhills is serving as the lay pastor to three different UCC churches in three different towns. In two of these towns, this is the only church. She is the only staff member and is paid at a part-time rate. As you consider all she has to juggle; three budgets, three bulletins, three sets of meetings, etc., stop to think about just getting to all three churches every Sunday morning on Sandhills roads in all weather. Her only real support as a pastor is through the conference office. Every budget year we eye the OCWM line item with a red pencil in hand and some years we have reduced our giving. Our Church's Wider Mission is how we support our fellow Nebraska congregations. Other ways we could help include becoming a 5 for 5 church, which are five annual free will offerings to benefit UCC needs. Many of these struggling churches participate, but we do not. There are more needs in the world than any church can fund, but I urge you to remember our denominational needs.

You, as a congregation, would have been proud to hear the cheers and applause that greeted the update about our Tri-Faith participation. The emotional support given to our church was heartfelt, truly wonderful. There is real pride in this happening within the Nebraska Conference.

Bruce Blanchard

Countryside Delegate to the 2015 Annual Gathering of The Nebraska Conference of The United Church of Christ

# LIFE MINISTRIES

For more information about Life Ministries or to register for an activity, contact Mary Beth Link at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org) or 402-391-0350 ext. 112, or sign up on Sundays at the Information Station in the Foyer.

## **ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**Omaha's Pride Fest 2015** was held on Saturday, June 20, at Stinson Park in Aksarben. Thanks to Diane Scott for her continued commitment to Countryside's presence at this event and for her coordination of volunteers again this year!

**Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-thon** will be spearheaded by Tom Korth again this year. This event will be held on Saturdays, August 8 & 15. Be watching for more information or contact Tom at [tkorth2@gmail.com](mailto:tkorth2@gmail.com).

**Where do your Faith and environment intersect?** Are you concerned about climate change and just don't know what to do about it? Then come check out the Faith and the Environment committee. **FATE** is a dedicated group of Countryside members who are motivated by the love of God's creation to advocate, educate and commit small acts to mitigate the effects of global warming in our church and homes. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 28, 5:30 p.m. in the COYO Room. While the purpose of our meetings is very serious, our meetings are not. We have a lot of laughs and enjoy getting to know each other. See you there!

**T'ai Chi Chih®** is a series of gentle movements that may be done by anyone. Classes are held on Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for drop in or \$50.00 for six weeks. Mark your calendars—NO CLASS on July 23. For information, contact Rita at [RMOTIS@outlook.com](mailto:RMOTIS@outlook.com).

**InterPlay** will be held on Saturday, July 11, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Foyer. Contact Rita Otis for additional information.

**LGBT 101** will meet in Memorial Hall on Thursday, July 10, at 6:00 p.m. For additional information on this educational small group, contact Joni at [jws@spsattorneys.com](mailto:jws@spsattorneys.com).

## **SOCIAL GROUPS**

**Wednesday Night Alive! Suppers** brainstorming session will be held Wednesday, July 22, 5:30 p.m. in the Commons. We are looking for only 2-3 more folks who would like to create a meal for us on Wednesday evenings this fall. Contact Mary Beth if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets on Tuesday mornings, 7:00 a.m. at the Garden Café in Rockbrook Shopping Center (108th and Center). This is open to all men of the church.

**Women's Lunch Group** will meet on Monday, July 6, 12:00 p.m. noon at First Watch, 1222 S 71st St. Come for lunch, a

cup of coffee or just good fellowship. This group is open to all women. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Knit-n-Wit** meets on Wednesday evenings at Whole Foods. If you would like more information regarding the group, contact Jeannie Cunningham at [jkunningham@cox.net](mailto:jkunningham@cox.net).

**Family Activities Committee** members will meet on Sunday, July 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Office.

**ETC members** will meet on Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Together office. You are asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. We will be working on the golf tournament.

**Countryside's Angels bicycling group** is getting ready to get out and enjoy the summertime weather! Contact Mark Stursma at [mastursma@yahoo.com](mailto:mastursma@yahoo.com) for more information.



## ***COUNTRYSIDE'S ROAD RUNNERS!***

***Are you a Countryside senior? No, not the high school kind – the 60 years and older kind! If you are, then this article is for you!***

Due to the overwhelming success of the trolley trip to view the Millionaire's Mansions north of Dodge Street, we are beginning a new social group, The Road Runners (thanks to Virginia Reinders for the name). This group of Countryside members ages 60 and over will gather each month to take trips to various destinations both in Omaha and the surrounding area. Some trips will be taken by trolley, some by bus, some by car, depending upon the destination. Venues will encompass history, the arts, horticulture, education and just plain entertainment. The time and costs will also vary based on the activity. The goal of this group is to have fun going places and doing things together. The more the merrier!

The details for our first outing on August 18 are below. A sign-up sheet may be found at the Information Station in the Foyer, or you can make a reservation by calling Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350 or Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866. We hope you will join us!

- **Gritty City Trolley Tour** – a tour highlighting “downtown Omaha, pointing out several historic sights, including the former home of Madame Anna Wilson, The Brandeis Building, and the Paxton Hotel. This tour highlights the impact of noted individuals and events in our city's sometimes turbulent history.” This tour takes approximately one hour. As always, museum admission is included with the tour, so participants may tour the

# LIFE MINISTRIES continued..

museum after the tour concludes and there is that soda fountain!

1:00 p.m., August 18 | \$15.00 per person  
Meet at the Durham Museum at 12:45 p.m.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Countryside Craft Boutique** A meeting time has been designated for Wednesday, August 19, 5:30 p.m. in the Commons. Anyone interested in planning, organizing and executing a craft boutique at Countryside, contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

**Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Together** will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2:00 p.m. at Miracle Hills Club. Your registration form is in this newsletter.

### **GET INVOLVED...VOLUNTEER...SHARE THE STORY**

PlantOneMore.org, coordinated by Vicky and Eva Houston, is a new Countryside project for 2015! PlantOneMore is specifically designed to help those who are food marginalized. They ask those of us who plant vegetable gardens to "plant one more" plant of your choosing. The produce from that plant (and any other additional vegetables that you may wish to donate) will then be brought to Countryside Church on **Sunday mornings, July 12 through September 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-**

**11:00 a.m.** This produce will be donated to various organizations throughout the city (i.e. YES, Together, Community Cupboard). "Our mission at PlantOneMore.org is



plant a little more than you can use, so it can be shared with the community."

**Looking for 3-4 dedicated volunteers** who would take responsibility for Countryside's kitchens on a weekly basis. This would entail putting dishes away, wiping counters, emptying dishwasher and keeping an inventory of necessary supplies. If this speaks to you, stop by the Information Station this morning and speak with Mary Beth.

**Conscientious Dishwashers Seeking Same.** Volunteers are needed to help with dishwashing mugs after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. It is easy and many hands make light work -- but we really need the hands! Please contact Mary Beth to be added to the list.

### **Thank YOU!!!**

**Thanks to the Board of Christian Education** for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of July. Be sure to chat with one of the members to learn about the activities and/or events they provide in for our church families.

## PASTORAL CARE

*For more information about Pastoral Care, contact Margie Bolte at the church office or [margieb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:margieb@countrysideucc.org)*

Coming Soon!

### **Living Well Past 50...**

#### ***Body, Mind and Soul***

People are living longer than ever with the help of modern medicine, but are they living well? The Pastoral Care department at Countryside will be hosting a workshop addressing the whole-person approach to optimal aging. Jeannie Hannan, PhD, HFD, and Wellness Manager with the EngAge Wellness program at UNMC, will be presenting information on the six dimensions of wellness (social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, emotional and vocational).

We were originally planning for this event to be held in August, but due to scheduling conflicts with the guest facilitator, we will be moving the date forward by several months. Stay tuned for further information on the new date and time...it will be worth the wait!

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### **Congratulations:**

Rod and Dee Bennett celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 18. Congratulations Rod and Dee, on this wonderful milestone!



# Youth Ministries

## COYO (COUntryside YOuth)

Get Connected! <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo>

**COYO Sr. High 8th Grade Welcome**  
**August 3 \* 8:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.**  
**Cost is \$25**



COYO Sr. High will welcome the new **Freshmen** class and say goodbye to the graduated **seniors** on a trip to **Worlds of Fun**. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at church to take a bus to KC and return by **midnight**. All are welcome and so are friends!

For more details and to sign up go to:

<http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh>

## COYO Sr. High & Faith Singers FALL RETREAT



All COYO Sr. High and Faith Singers are invited to the Fall Retreat. This is the place to go if you are at all interested in Faith Singers for 2015-2016. Great Fun and group building for the whole youth group too! Cost is \$25.

For more details and to sign up go to:

<http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh/retreat>

## Mission Sunday JULY 19

Students of COYO Sr. High and Faith Singers will be leading the services. Come worship God and hear about experiences in Bamboo, Jamaica, and on the FS Tour.

**COYO Jr. High in July**  
Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

**July 5 - NO COYO JR HIGH**

**July 12 - COYO Jr High Camping Trip** (see below)

**July 19 - COYO Jr High at Westridge Pool**

Includes food and drinks. Meet at church at 4:30 for a ride and plan to get picked up at 7:30 at church. Bring a swim

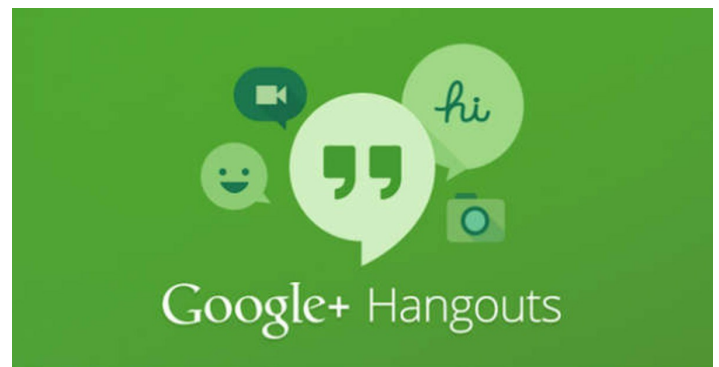
**COYO Jr. High Camping Trip**  
**July 12-14**



Pawnee State Recreation Area near Lincoln.  
Lakeside Camping, boating, fishing, swimming,  
and great fun with friends! Cost is \$20.

Sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh>

**COYO Jr. High Hangouts**  
Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.



COYO Jr. High will meet up online during the summer. All you need is a Google account with Google + activated. Email [willh@countrysideucc.org](mailto:willh@countrysideucc.org) from your Gmail account and you will be added to the Hangout, or go to [countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh](http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh) and click on the Hangout.

# MUSIC MINISTRIES

## Faith Singers Tour

As I write this, we've just returned from the Faith Singers Mission Tour 2015. We travelled 2300 miles, sang two worship services and five concerts, had three host-home stays and five group overnights. Concerts went wonderfully and sight-seeing was great fun. Our Home Concert was deeply moving. Would that the room had been full of Countrysiders to hear these incredible youth.

The best part of the trip was simply spending time with these 14 fantastic young adults, full of love, life, joy, fun, deep thoughts and feelings, and the desire to be together as a unit in our mission: to bring God's message of love and acceptance to all for whom we sang. "Family" was an important word for us during the week, living together, sharing meals, ups and downs; lifting each other up in fellowship, encouraging each other in word and deed, supporting each other at all times. They are an inspiration to those of us who were chaperones. They were real, honest, uninhibited and open to all the experiences of the week.



On a personal level, it was a bit of a milestone: this year's graduated seniors were in kindergarten when I arrived at Countryside in 2002. I've watched them grow and develop into incredibly beautiful young-adults. We didn't have any graduating seniors in Faith Singers last year, so I've been able to enjoy this group for two years as leaders. Although letting go of the seniors is something I do every year, this group seems twice as hard to set free. Yep, they're that special!

I look forward to the fall and a new incarnation of the Faith Singers with the addition of fresh, new faces and voices!

Namasté!

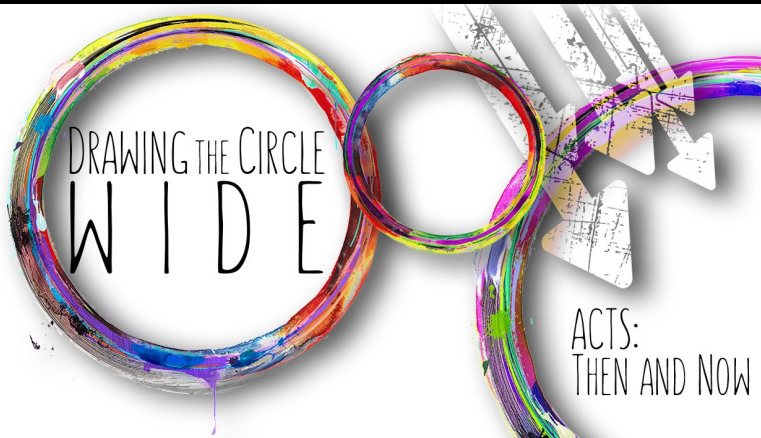
Jim Larrabee

Minister of Music

## Rehearsal Start-up Dates for Fall 2015 – Mark your calendars!

- All Wednesday night choirs will begin on August 19
  - Faith Singers will begin with a retreat on Saturday/Sunday, August 22-23
- ⇒ First Sunday rehearsal for Faith Singers will be on August 30.

# CONVERGING PATHS MINISTRY



## Drawing the Circle Wide

### Acts: Then and Now

To find, join, or lead a small group: Contact Terri Vincent (402-391-0350 ext. 121 or [terriv@countrysideucc.org](mailto:terriv@countrysideucc.org)),

or sign up at the

Information Station on Sundays.

# Garage Sale!

## **Countryside Community Church**

**Friday, July 31, 8 a.m.— 4 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Aug. 1, 8 a.m.— 2 p.m.**

Donated items can be brought to the church 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays through July 28. To arrange for a pick up, call the church office at 402-391-0350.

Contact Peggy Dunn at [pegdunn1@gmail.com](mailto:pegdunn1@gmail.com), 402-639-9145 or Shelley Boyd at [boydsters@cox.net](mailto:boydsters@cox.net), 402-651-7447 if you can help before or during the sale.

**Pre-sale for church members only**  
**Thursday, July 30, 6-8 p.m.**

All proceeds support Countryside's youth mission work and programming.

# COYO Garage Sale





# Countryside

Community Church

## Golf Outing & Dinner

### Miracle Hills Golf & Tennis Club

1401 N. 120th St.

**Sunday, September 20, 2015**

2:00 p.m. — Four person scramble

6:30 p.m. — Dinner

Maximum — 124 golfers

Adult — \$75.00 per person

\$300.00 per team

Funds to Benefit



## SPONSOR and DONATION FORM

Hole Sponsor \$250

Golf Prize Donations  
(identify on line provided)

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Donation \_\_\_\_\_

*Consider this form as your receipt for your donation. THANK YOU!*

Have your check(s) accompany this form to register. Make ALL checks payable to:

Countryside Community Church

8787 Pacific Street

Omaha, NE 68114



## REGISTRATION FORM

Fill out the information below. Make your own foursome, or we will assign you to a foursome.

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	Golf \$75	Meal only \$10



# TRI-FAITH UPDATE

The Countryside Church Council has accepted the appointment of the Tri-Faith Coordinating Committee (TFCC) to spearhead the implementation of the church's decision to move to the Tri-Faith Campus. This group will function, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our lay leadership, until the process is complete.

The following members and their assignments are:

Rick MacInnes - Chair

Tim Kerrigan - Vice Chairman and Finance Committee Chair

Pam Kregg /Nancy Behringer - Communications & Logistics Co-Chair

Ex-Officio Members - Eric Elnes, , Dan Loven

Paul Nelson - Building & Design Committee Chair

Cyndi Kugler - Capital Campaign Chair

The Countryside Tri-Faith Advisory Committee (TFAC), made up of those responsible for leading the Visioning & Conceptual Planning Report, interviewed 2 firms and recommended to Church Council that we hire Project Advocates to help us through the project management process of building a new church.

A presentation was made to Church Council which shared the history of our extensive selection process for hiring Alley Poyner Macchietto (APM) of Omaha and Hammel, Green and Abrahamson (HGA) of Minneapolis to do our Visioning Process earlier this year. A motion was presented and accepted by Church Council to request a proposal from APM and HGA and enter into contract negotiations for architectural services to complete the design of our new building. The proposal to the firms includes several steps, one of which is the production of three design options for our discussion and possible approval. The Tri-Faith Coordinating Committee will keep the Church Council informed and final approval will be required prior to beginning construction.

The process of acquiring the land for our building is underway and the Church Council and congregation will be given a progress report.

Joyce Davis has agreed to serve as Countryside's representative on the Tri-Faith Initiative Board's Communications Committee. That committee is responsible for the dissemination of information through various media and among the three faith communities.

Tri-Faith Coordinating Committee (TFCC)



Please join us for food & fellowship  
at the annual Tri-Faith Picnic!

**Sunday, August 16, 2015**

**12:30-2:30pm**

(Rain or shine!)



**Hosted by**

**Countryside Community Church**

8787 Pacific Street

Halal burgers and kosher hotdogs provided

**Bring a side dish to share!**

(Please, no pork, shellfish or gelatin dishes)

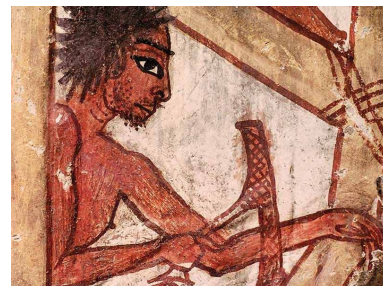
**Open to all supporters of the Tri-Faith Initiative!**

Call 402-934-2955 or E-mail [info@trifait.org](mailto:info@trifait.org) with questions.



# ADULT EDUCATION

**Sundays Adult Education Forum**—led by Nancy Knight, this is a large class of about 25-35 people. The group has just started *The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World*. Taught by Robert Garland, PhD of Colgate University, the course looks at history from a “nontraditional perspective, that of the weak and the marginalized—the poor, the sick, the disabled and elderly, as well as the refugees, the slaves, serfs, women and children from the Neanderthal period to the Pilgrims. This group meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Moderator’s Room—enjoying coffee, donuts, and stimulating education and conversation. Participants can check out the DVD to catch up on the classes they may have missed—but it is not required in order to enjoy the course. Anyone is welcome to drop in at any time, but please register your email with Nancy so she can apprise you of changes and include you in discussions about future topics. Her email address is Noknight@live.com.



**Mondays Adult Education Brown Bag Lunch**—Every Monday at 12:15 p.m. in the Chapel, the Brown Bag Adult Ed Group gets together to study *The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World*. (see above description) It is never too late to join in! You are welcome and will be able to fully participate. If you desire, you can also checkout the DVD and guidebook to catch up on classes you may have missed.



CENTER FOR  
Faith Studies

## Save the dates! Center for Faith Studies Lecture Series.

Our next theme is “*The Mythic Journey: Serving Beauty and Hope in the Everyday World.*”

September 10, 2015—We kick off our season as the world premiere of Dr. Eric Elnes’ newest book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood* which is receiving advance praise from Publishers Weekly as a “key title” in religious books, released this fall. Parker Palmer and Brian Maclaren are among those praising the book!

October 1, 2015—Chris Hedges, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and author. His most recent book *Wages of Rebellion: Moral Imperative for Revolt* is sure to ignite discussion about the nature of representative democracy and what it will take to ensure the American experiment does not fail.

October 4, 2015—Sr. Lucy Kurien from the Maher Ashram in India will be at Countryside through a collaborative event sponsored by Sustainability Leadership Institute, CFS, UNO Women’s Studies Department, Creighton University, among others. Sr. Lucy has developed an interfaith model for empowering the most marginalized women and children from the streets of India.

October 22, 2015—*The Hero’s Trail*. T.A. Barron is the award-winning author of fantasy novels such as *The Lost Years of*

Merlin epic—soon to be a major motion picture. He serves on a variety of environmental and educational boards including The Nature Conservancy and The Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, and is the founder of a national award for heroic children. His books explore the power of myth to uncover the reluctant hero and the winding journey it often takes to accept one’s gifts that are being called for service in the world.

November 12, 2015—*Planet Hunting: Looking Up, Seeking Life, Finding Home*. Lucianne Walkowicz, Astrophysicist. We rescheduled her after storms grounded her in Chicago in April. Walkowicz is a Ted Fellow and astrophysicist with the Adler Planetarium.

In 2016: January 21-23, we will be a partner site for a high-power conference out of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on Wall Street. This year’s topic : ***Listening for Change: Sacred Conversations on Racial Justice***. Featuring Michelle Norris, Emilie Townes and others! March will continue with our collaboration with Institute for Holocaust Education and Community of Mindful Living speakers. Stay tuned!



Under the leadership and wisdom of volunteers Sheila Hargreaves and Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss, the James Hicks Memorial Library at Countryside is currently being updated and revised. First on the list is accounting for all the volumes we have in the collection. YOU can help us with this. Do you have a library book you never got around to returning? We would still very much welcome the book and ask that you look on your shelves and return any books you may have borrowed from the library by bringing them to the office or to the library return basket located in the Commons. Then we can determine which volumes may still

need to be replaced out of the limited funds. **We also now have a new email address for the library—**

**library@countrysideucc.org.** You can use this email to ask questions or to renew a book. Thank you for your help.





## Sunday School Fall 2015

This fall, our children's Sunday School schedule will look a bit different.

Sunday School will occur every other week (twice a month), alternating between Family Worship and Children's Church.



Our lessons throughout the first semester will focus on Old Testament stories, sharing history and folklore that informed Jesus' life. Then, as the Spring semester begins, we will transition to New Testament stories that engage the children in Christian faith foundation and exploration.

We rely on Countryside members to help guide our children and we are adding to the teaching roster this year! Due to the new schedule, our teaching teams will lead student groups a maximum of twice a month—which fits perfectly into a variety of different (read: packed) schedules!

Consider this rewarding ministry and contact Rebecca for more information!

## Changes to Lil' COYO

This coming fall, our 5 and 6 graders will begin Wednesday nights with a new format!

Our students will begin meeting in small groups of 6-8 students with two adult guides. We will still use the Connect Bible and lessons but the smaller group will encourage more conversation and more time for discussion!

Here's the catch: in order to keep all groups on Wednesday night, we will need parents and Countryside members to help facilitate these small groups. Otherwise, students may be assigned to a group that will meet another evening.

In light of the new format, we will ask that each participant register through the Countryside website—which will open later this month!

Stay tuned for the new name announcement in August!



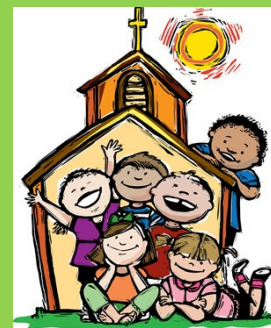
## Vacation Bible School 2015—

Please pray for our Countryside students as we embark on VBS 2015 July 6-10!

## Summer 2015 Worship Schedule:

July 5— Family Worship  
 July 12— Children's Church  
 July 19— Family Worship  
 July 26— Children's Church

August 2— Family Worship  
 August 9— Children's Church  
 August 16— Family Worship  
 August 23— Children's Church  
 August 30— Family Worship





**Countryside**  
Community Church

United Church of Christ | 8787 Pacific Street | Omaha, NE 68114

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Rev. Chris Alexander  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

**Assistant To The Ministers**  
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**Music Ministry**  
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**Dir. of Children's Choirs/Pilgrim/Covenant**  
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**Minister of Spiritual Direction**  
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Thomas Hodder

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Breann Lundblad, Nursery Coordinator  
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**Kindernook Preschool**  
Stacey Carnazzo, Director, ext. 114  
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**Return Service Requested**

402-391-0350 | countrysideucc.org

**Membership Class is Beginning Soon!**

Are you interested in joining Countryside Church or exploring Countryside more deeply? Then consider joining us for membership classes from 7:00-8:15 p.m. on Tuesdays, August 4, 11, 18 & 25. These classes will enable you to get to know more about the church, the church staff, and programs. You will get to know yourself and God better, too.

Indicate your interest by signing up at the Information Station on Sunday mornings—or contact Patti Tu at 402-391-0350 ext. 103 or pattit@countrysideucc.org.

We'd love to have you join the Countryside family!



**Office Hours -**

Church office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Only the main office door will be open during that time. For night activities, access to the church after 4:00 p.m. will be through the northwest door (upstairs by the gym) only.



**Countryside**  
Community Church

Connect with us on Countryside's Facebook at - [www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha](http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha)