



Currents



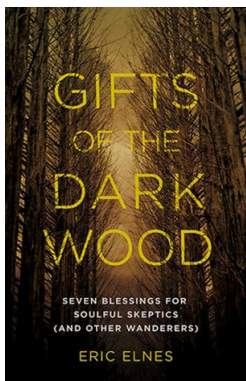
From the Desk of Rev. Chris Alexander | Associate Minister

I am on study leave, sitting in my living room, surrounded by stacks of books, gathering quotes, and researching for just the right phrase to explain the energy I feel at Countryside for my thesis proposal that is due at the end of the month. All my windows and doors are wide open, and the wind is strong enough to flip the pages of the books and articles strewn around me. I am forced to either shut a window or throw on a sweatshirt and gather a series of makeshift paperweights to stay comfortably put. I love

fall. Especially surrounded by books. Fall reminds me of all the years spent in the educational cycle, in my own experience, as well as raising my children in it. In the education cycle, fall is the beginning of the New Year, not January as the calendar might report, nor April as the budding leaves breaking through into new life might suggest.

In the church calendar, the New Year technically begins with Advent at the end of November, but again, the *life* of the church would suggest otherwise. Fall is when everyone gathers again after sporadic absences throughout the summer visiting family, friends, or far off lands, and the excitement is contagious. The atmosphere is one of hope and pregnant possibilities. Our children return to Kindernook, Sunday School, Wednesday night choirs and fun interactions with friends as they engage the Bible stories together with *Holy Moly* and *Connect*. Our newest members are building new friendships as they engage the *Phoenix Affirmations*, and many of us are returning to our weekly small groups (which we are now calling "journey groups"), while we kick off a new year of Wednesday night suppers, adult choirs and a new ministry gathering time we call "Wednesday Night Alive *In the Commons*."

Every Wednesday, Countryside is opening the coffee bar for specialty drinks and offering light snacks as folks gather to get to know each other a little better. As an icebreaker, we are bringing in speakers to set up a topic of conversation for us. When you are at a loss for what to say to someone who you might not know very well, you can pick up the questions provided at each of the tables, and practice conversation with one another as you share your experiences within these topics. Before you know it, community emerges and is surrounding you at every step!



And this fall, we are kicking off our new lecture series for the Center for Faith Studies, "The Mythic Journey," with Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D. This event is Eric's first stop of his book tour presenting his newest book *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. This event is Thursday, September 10, at 7:00pm. with Father Tom Griesen, from the archdiocese of Omaha as a respondent to Eric's presentation. There will be plenty of time for discussion afterward, as well as a celebration for Eric as we send him off with our prayers on his four-week book tour.

The first book I chose to read among the stacks surrounding me on my study leave was Eric's. Have you read it yet? It's a perfect read for those of us who feel the energy of something new coming alongside of us, but have no idea how to name it, or engage it, in our everyday living. Eric has provided us with some terrific language to get us talking to one another and engaging the Spirit who provides the energy that gathers us together in community, encouraging us to share our uncertainties, our emptiness, and our common sense of feeling lost, so that in our discussions we might experience these things as the gifts that transform us to the fullness of life. And isn't this what we are looking for when we come together as church?

Catch the contagious energy and consider trying something new this fall, maybe show up on Wednesday night *In the Commons*, join one of the choirs, attend one of the many great lectures lined up for a Center for Faith Studies, or start a new Journey group discussing *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, along with the Darkwood Brew series by the same name that covers each of the gifts Eric discusses. You never know where you might end up as the Spirit's energy calls you into places you may not go on your own! Welcome to fall! I really think our Jewish Brothers and Sisters have something by celebrating their New Year in September (*Rosh Hashanah* is September 14)! Let's celebrate together!

Peace to you -
Chris

LIFE MINISTRIES

For more information about Life Ministries or to register for an activity, contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 112, or sign up on Sundays at the Information Station in the Foyer.

ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Where do your Faith and environment intersect? Are you concerned about climate change and just don't know what to do about it? **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 Tuesday, September 8, 5:30 p.m. in the COYO Youth 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. For information, contact Rita at RMOTIS@outlook.com.

InterPlay will be held on Saturday, September 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Foyer.

LGBT 101 will meet in Memorial Hall on Thursday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. For additional information on this educational small group, contact Joni at jws@spsattorneys.com.

Contemplative Prayer Experience will be held on Saturday, September 19, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Contemplative Centering Prayer invites us to the sweetness of surrender. It opens our hearts and minds to a landscape of peace and guidance from the Holy. Entering into prayer opens pathways, renews our soul vision and brings union to our longing for connection to God. This experience will be facilitated by our own Donna Knutson, who graduated from the Haden Institute in North Carolina in January of 2015 as a Spiritual Director.

Nominating Committee will begin meeting on Monday, September 21, 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Leading this year's Nominating Committee are Sandy Sueper and France Blanchard. They ask the congregation to begin thinking of how they can best serve through leadership boards. Be watching for upcoming self-nominating forms which will be in the Sunday bulletin and the C10. If you have any questions concerning the nominating process, contact either Sandy at jasueper@aol.com or France Blanchard at fblanchardh@gmail.com.

SOCIAL GROUPS

The Welcome Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons. RSVP regrets only to Mary Beth.

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.

Lunch Bunch Circle RETURNS on Monday, September 14, at noon. in the Moderators Room. Our hostesses are Marilyn Hale and Jeanne Spires. We will have our usual pot luck lunch and then a Book exchange. Bring any kind of book you have to exchange with someone in our group. It can be serious, religious, biography,

romance or just fun. Everyone is welcome to join us. Call Gloria Ried for information 402-333-3115.

Women's Lunch Group will meet on Monday, September 14, (because of Labor Day) 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 jkcunningham@cox.net.

Family Activities Committee members will meet on Sunday, September 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Office. We will be discussing the role of FAC at the Tri-Faith Picnic on August 16.

ETC members will meet on Tuesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m. at Spirit World. We will be finalizing arrangements for 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 for more information.

Friend to Friend will meet on Thursday, September 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Moderator's Room kitchen. If you have questions, contact Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net.

Parenting with Love and Logic classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel, September 30-November 4. Mary Johnston, a trained Love and Logic facilitator, will be leading the classes again this year. Parenting with Love and Logic classes are entertaining, educational and interactive. Cost is only \$50 for this 6-week course and covers the cost of all materials. Sign up at the Information Station or contact Mary Beth.

Young at Heart...September is almost here and with it comes the beginning of another season of Young at Hearts. This is a group of seniors who gather on the second Thursday of the month for lunch at noon. This month's picnic lunch on Thursday, September 10, lovingly prepared by Friend to Friend circle, of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and ice cream sundaes will be served on the patio, weather permitting—otherwise, Moderator's Room. The cost for the homemade meal is \$5.00. A sign up sheet can be found at the Information Station or you can make a reservation by calling Mary Beth Link 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or Pam Kregg 402-896-3866.

COUNTRYSIDE'S ROAD RUNNERS!

Ahoy Road Runners!

Ever want to take a gondola ride on a canal in Venice? Well, we can't make that happen, but we have arranged for a private gondola ride on Heartland Gondolas Carolina, a large gondola that takes groups on a private ride on the Heartland of America Park Lagoon. On Tuesday, September 29, we will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. to carpool down to Heartland of America Park, where we will board our private gondola at 11:00 a.m. for a ride on the lagoon. The cost of the ride is \$10 per person (payable at the time you make your reservation). We are limited to 25 passengers, so you'll want to get your reservation in early. After our gondola ride, we will all

gather for lunch at a nearby restaurant (location to be announced at a future date). A sign up sheet will be available at the Information Station in the Foyer. Contact Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net or Mary Beth Link if you have any questions. Anchors aweigh!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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. You'll not want to miss this fun-filled event!

PlantOneMore.org, coordinated by Vicky and Eva Houston, was specifically designed to help those who are food marginalized. The Houstons have asked us to bring produce from your garden that you wish to donate to families in the Omaha area who are in need, to church on Sunday mornings through September 6 from 8:30-11:00 a.m. All donated produce will be given to YES. Thanks for your help as you help others.

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.

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.

On-going Gardeners are needed! If you can identify weeds vs. flowers, we are looking for your expertise! We are looking for folks to help maintain our gardens. You can pick your own "plot!" Stop by the Information Station and talk to Mary Beth.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry is signing up volunteers for the **September 5 pantry**. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. Contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or Andi Lawlor at lalalallawlor@cox.net for additional information.

Volunteer receptionists needed for the office. Do you enjoy meeting and greeting people and welcoming them to Countryside? We are looking for volunteers to help answer phones, monitor doors and greet visitors during the day. Help needed Monday-Friday with flexible hours. Contact Dan Loven at 402-391-0350 ext. 102 or danl@countrysideucc.org.

Thanks to the Board of Deacons for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of September. Be sure to chat with one of the members to learn about the activities and events they provide in for our church families.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

In September, the BOX will partner with the Covenant Choir in support of the upcoming Pet Blessing event on October 7. The Covenant Choir will create a bulletin board and encourage members of the congregation to attend a simple ceremony of prayer for their pets on this date. We are collecting **dog and cat food, blankets and towels** to support the **Nebraska Humane Society** and animals that have nowhere else to go. They provide clean kennels, warm beds, loving hearts and kind hands to every abandoned, stray and lost animal who arrives at their door. In addition, we are gathering **empty and clean prescription bottles** that the organization uses to provide medication for the animals. This is a great opportunity for us to collect items for the Nebraska Humane Society to ensure these rescued animals have the opportunity to receive a small blessing of their own through the care they receive as they wait for the family in their forever home.

In June and July we collected new socks and underwear as part of a back to school drive, to help provide children of Countryside Cupboard clients with respect and dignity as they returned to classes. Between congregation donations and money approved through an SSG, we distributed more than 1,300 items (socks and underwear) at the August Cupboard event. A very big Thank You to all who helped with the collection and distribution it was amazing to have all of these items to share!

CONVERGING PATHS MINISTRY

For more information about Converging Paths Ministries or to register for a Journey Group, contact Terri Vincent at terriv@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 121.

"Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart." I was liturgist a few weeks ago as we sang the words of this favorite hymn. I stood at the front of the Sanctuary and watched tears flow down the cheeks of quite a few of you. You have heard God calling in the night.

Have you answered God's call? Or are you, like so many of the rest of us, searching for a way to answer that call? If so, you don't have to search alone. Join a Journey Group. Journey Groups (formerly known as Disciple Bands) are small groups that meet each week or so to accompany one another on life's journey – asking thorny theological questions, supporting one another in good times and bad, and discovering what God is calling each of us to do.

Each Journey Group approaches this in a different way. They meet at different days and times of the week. Some meet here at the church, some in people's homes, and others in local restaurants. Right now, many are studying the Book of Acts. Others use Darkwood Brew study materials or find other books or resources that interest them. All of the groups have one thing in common – lots of fun, joy and laughter. Contact me to find the Journey Group that is right for you.



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

Youth Ministries

COYO (COuntrieside YOuth)

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

COYO 2015-2016 SUNDAYS

4:30-6:00 p.m. COYO Jr High

4:45-6:00 p.m. Faith Singers Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Dinner for Everyone!

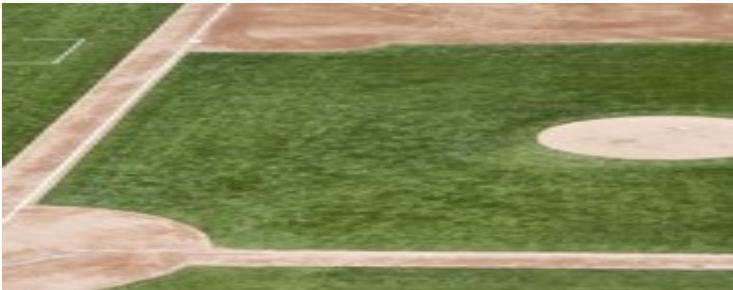
6:30-8:00 p.m. COYO Sr High

STARTS SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

TRI-FAITH SOFTBALL GAME

Sunday, September 20 * 2:00 p.m.

Peterson Field (1100 W Lincoln St, Papillion)



All COYO Jr High and Sr High students and friends are welcome to gather a team (9 players) and have a good time with Tri-Faith partners. You can organize a team by recruiting some friends or you can sign up and be assigned to a Countryside team. Food and beverages will be provided by St. Martha's Episcopal Church. Feel free to bring something to share. COST IS FREE!

Sign up at:

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

DINNER HELP NEEDED!

Organizers are needed for Sunday night COYO dinners. The job is to organize the dinner, including what to serve and how to get it cooked, served, and cleaned up. That means you don't have to do everything...you can team up with someone. Receipts will be reimbursed and donations are gladly accepted. Please use the sign-up genius to volunteer.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044faea923a4f94-sunday>

Confirmation 2015-2016

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. & Thursdays 3:30 p.m.

STARTS SEPTEMBER 2



Confirmation is a two-year study of *The Phoenix Affirmations*, the Bible, the Sacraments and the history and current organization of Countryside Community Church. The class is for 7th & 8th graders and is open to anyone. Classes start on **September 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall.** **Parents** are encouraged to come to the first class to meet the teachers and find out the requirements. This year the class is also being offered on **Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in the youth room.** Students may choose which class to attend.

To register go to:

<http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/confirmation>

First COYO JR High event of the year

Papio Fun Park

Sunday, September 27 * 12:00-4:00 p.m.



Meet after church for lunch and Papio Fun Park where you can ride go-carts, play laser tag, mini-golf, spaceball and jumpshot. After the park there will be a DQ run. Cost for this event is FREE, so be there!

Sign up at:

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

MUSIC MINISTRIES

**The Young Americans
at Countryside and Westside Middle
School!
October 29-31, 2015**

The Young Americans believe in the power of music and the impact it has on children throughout the world. They use music as a tool to help students believe in themselves. This powerful mission is being accomplished through their International Music Outreach Tours.

Our students have the opportunity to perform with the international cast of the Young Americans on **Oct. 29-31**. This music, dance, and performance workshop and final performances are for **students in grades three through twelve**.

This 3-day workshop brings an incredible combination of high-energy, team-building, confidence boosting **FUN!** Using music as the tool, the cast of specially-trained college-age performers/teachers provides a safe and fun atmosphere for students to learn, explore, create, and **GROW!** All participants are encouraged to be themselves and will learn an hour-long variety show to perform for their family and friends. The final experience on stage alongside The Young Americans will last a lifetime.

Countryside is partnering with Westside Middle School to host this fantastic event. Our friends in the **Tri-Faith** have also been invited to participate! For more information contact Vicky Palmisano at 402-689-0900 or vickyp@countrysideucc.org. [Click](#) here for more information or to register for the workshop or search The Young Americans//Outreach Tours.



2015 CoYo Garage Sale the best yet!

Last year, 2014, I wrote that the Garage Sale was the best on record. Well, I can say the same thing again this year! With “sales” of over \$18,600 we will have what looks to be “profit” of \$17,500, to be used to keep next year’s high school mission trips and choir tour affordable for our youth and provide scholarships to those who may need them. Bravo and thank you, Countryside for your support of your youth ministries! Many, many thanks to church members Gail Wickersham of Wicks Trucking, and Rick Russell of Millard Lumber, for donating a semi-trailer and storage space for the trailer so that we could begin collecting donations in April. Our sale would not be the success it is without them!

Jim Larrabee, Minister of Music

Celebration of Jim!

As most of you know, after 13 years Jim Larrabee is ending his ministry at Countryside Church. Though we don't want to see him go, we want to gather and celebrate Jim's wonderful time with us. So, on Sunday, September 13, both between the services AND after the 11:00 service, we will hold receptions in Memorial Hall. We hope this will give members and friends of Countryside an opportunity to celebrate with and thank Jim for sharing his many talents with us. A basket for cards will be available at the reception. Should you wish to give an honorarium to Jim in the form of a check, please make checks payable to "Jim Larrabee." Please join us in Celebration of Jim!



PASTORAL CARE

For more information about Pastoral Care, contact Margie Bolte at the church office or margieb@countrysideucc.org

Congratulations:

Lindsey and Corey McGranaghan welcomed their third child, daughter Ryann Sue, on July 15. Ryann joins siblings Natalie and Mason.

Living Well Past 50 ...

Body, Mind and Soul

October 17, 2015 | 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Countryside Community Church Chapel

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, Ph.D., 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 hope you'll plan on joining us to gather information and resources for your personal wellness journey.

If you would like to attend, contact Margie Bolte at

(402) 391-0350 ext. 117

or margieb@countrysideucc.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

There is no charge to attend.

RELOCATION UPDATE

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

CRC Update Aug. 23, 2015

The CRC received and reviewed a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the architectural firm of Alley Poyner Machietto/HGA. Paul Nelson, chair of the CRC Building and Design committee, gave a presentation on this RFP to the Church Council at their August 20 meeting. Church Council moved to approve the proposal with firm qualifications and execute an AIA B101 - 2007 standard form of agreement between the Owner (Countryside Community Church) and the Architect. The contract will incorporate specifics cited in the proposal which will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Countryside Community Church uses a fund-based accounting system. At an earlier meeting of the Board of Trustees, approval was given to establish a separate fund and savings account for the relocation project. The Trustees approved at their August 18 meeting, the initial funds necessary during the next 6 months for the relocation project. A comprehensive church budget will be developed and presented at the annual meeting that includes both the church's operational annual budget and the relocation budget for 2016.

The CRC will be putting together building subcommittees utilizing volunteers who served on committees during the visioning process, as well as those who have volunteered recently. Watch for further communications for opportunities to become involved.

The CRC is actively working on plans for project budgets, project timelines, capital campaign and communication strategies. Vice Chair, Tim Kerrigan and Project Advocates (Countryside's owners representative) presented a preliminary budget for planning, construction and relocation purposes. The cost assumptions followed the guidelines arrived at during the visioning process back in January 2015. This budget is very preliminary and will change as we get further into the design process. It will also be impacted by the capital campaign. The CRC will notify the congregation as information is available.

What we recycled from the Tri-Faith Picnic:

1. Utensils: 12 lbs
2. Solo cups: 11 lbs
3. Other plastic (food containers, etc.): 4 lbs
4. Paper napkins: 7 lbs. (this was composted and not recycled. My family's garden thanks you).
5. Total: 34 lbs of waste that was not put in a landfill today, but reused.

Financial Cost Savings: we saved the City of Omaha \$0.90, \$0.53 in recycling revenue and \$0.37 in landfill avoidance charges. Prices are from the wasteline website: http://www.wasteline.org/cont_pri.htm I'm assuming Countryside's waste charges are fixed, but I don't honestly know. A potential cost savings to the church long term for regular meals (i.e. Wednesday nights). This also gives you an idea of how cheap our landfill costs are in NE: \$21.79/ton. U.S. average is \$49.78/ton in 2013.

Environmental Impact: I made some assumptions here as the utensils and solos cups didn't have a breakdown of materials (i.e. how much polystyrene is in one cup versus other plastics, fillers, glues, etc.). Secondly, since solo cups and the utensils are mostly polystyrene and polystyrene is non-biodegradable, the landfill CO2 emissions for polystyrene is actually low. Global Warming Potential numbers and decomposition numbers are guesstimates and will vary landfill to landfill, so there is some error here. Assume paper napkins have 40% carbon wet weight.

Recycling the solo cups and utensils (23 lbs). Assuming 67% of product is actually polystyrene (15.4 lbs) and assuming 50% of that actually gets reused (7.7 lbs), then we saved 26.6 lbs of new CO2 emissions to make new #6 plastic instead of using recycled polystyrene.

Recycling the 4 lbs of "other" plastic. Assuming 67% of product is actually recyclable plastic (2.68 lbs) and assuming 50% of that actually gets reused (1.34 lbs), then we saved 0.89 lbs methane emissions (CH4) with a GWP of 22.25 (assuming the landfill doesn't collect the methane) lbs of CO2 emissions and 4.02 lbs of CO2 emission from the plastics, a total savings of 26.27 lbs of new CO2 emissions to make new plastic instead of using the recycled plastic.

Composting the 7 lbs of paper napkins prevented 1.9 lbs of methane and 5.1 lbs of carbon from being released into the atmosphere, a total GWP of 51.8 lbs of CO2 that would have gone to the atmosphere if that paper was thrown away and ended in a landfill.

Produced by David Holtzclaw

ADULT EDUCATION

To join an Adult Education group, contact Kelly Keller at kellyk@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext.



To live will be an awfully big adventure. —Peter Pan

Myth. Story. For some, these words are negative – to be equated with delusional, fanciful thinking or, even worse – outright deception. However, for those who have found sanctuary in libraries and book stores and never tire of seeing a compelling movie over and over again, powerful myths and stories are important vehicles for apprehending a truth deeper and richer than simple facts can possibly portray.

What do myths and stories tell us about ourselves, the world we live in, and the ways in which we should respond to crises and challenges that arise in our lives? Is there value in imagining ourselves as the heroes and heroines of the great stories when

facing our own personal dragons, enchanted forests, and descents into darkness? Myths can inspire us to choose paths that serve life, beauty and hope, to do our part to save the world.

Joseph Campbell once said he was uncomfortable with the term “ordinary person” because he had never met one. Is it hubris to see our lives as unique opportunities to serve a God of life? By waking up to our call and setting on the path, we expose the lie that we are too insignificant to make a difference. Is it possible that each and every one of us has a uniquely mythic, epic life to live? Each of our speakers this season hints at the ways in which this world and even the universe beyond beckons our inner hero to live life fully and creatively in the service of beauty and hope.

Attention small groups! Any small groups who attend as a small group can contact Terri Vincent for discounted tickets.



Sept 10 at 7 p.m.
Gifts of the Dark
Wood



Oct 1 at 7 p.m.
Chris Hedges



Oct 4 at 2:30 p.m.
Tea with Sr. Lucy

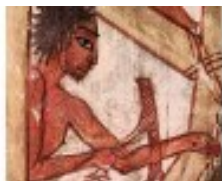


Oct 22 at 7 p.m.
T.A. Barron—
Wisdom of Merlin

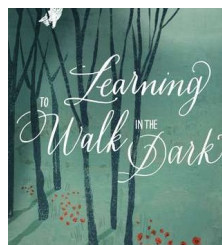


Nov 12 at 7 p.m.
Planet Hunting

Adult Education Offerings This Fall



The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World—two groups are currently studying this course of the Great Courses by The Learning Company. *The Other Side of History* gets beyond the abstract dates and figures, kings and queens, and battles and wars that make up so many historical accounts. **Mondays O'Dell Brown Bag Lunch meets** at 12:15 on Mondays in the Chapel. Note—Monday September 7 is Labor Day and the group will not meet that day. **Sunday Adult Forum**—meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Moderator's room.



Wednesdays Books, Bible and Beyond—Running every Wednesday starting September 9, this group takes various books of interest and discusses them. The book to start the year is Barbara Brown Taylor's newest, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. In her new book, Barbara Brown Taylor decides not to believe everything she hears about the dark. Instead of turning away from it she heads into it instead, embarking on a year-long journey that takes her into dark caves, underground nightclubs, subterranean chapels, and unlit cabins in the woods on nights with no moons. Along the way she discovers a spirituality of darkness that provides a life-saving antidote to the full solar spirituality available in the marketplace. The book is available at the Bookworm. Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Contact Nancy Ethington at nethington522@gmail.com.



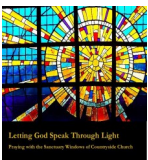
Wednesday Night Alive in the Commons

6:30-7:00 p.m. program, 7:00-8:00 p.m. optional fellowship, dialogue and refreshments

Countryside is offering new bite-size programming Wednesday evenings in the Commons. “In the Commons” has a double meaning – as it also aptly describes the programming itself. A “commons-based” worldview emphasizes social justice, democratic participation, and environmental protection as essential elements to the sustainability of the human community. We will cover a wide range of ways that engage us in our world and with each other, toward the common good. We will begin at 6:30 p.m., with 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 or stay for the dialogue!



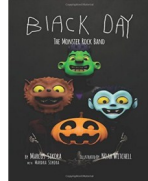
September 2nd—Tunette Powell, board member of The Omaha Star, educator with the Omaha Street School and Girls Clubs, 2014 CFS speaker and TED Omaha speaker. Nationally recognized for her engaging speaking style, her blogs on the “preschool to prison pipeline” have gained national acclaim including the Huffington Post.



September 9th—Rita Otis, Countryside’s own Minister for Spiritual Direction. *Letting God Speak Through Light: Praying with the Sanctuary Windows of Countryside Church*. Rita will lead a reflection based on her beautiful book and our stained glass windows!



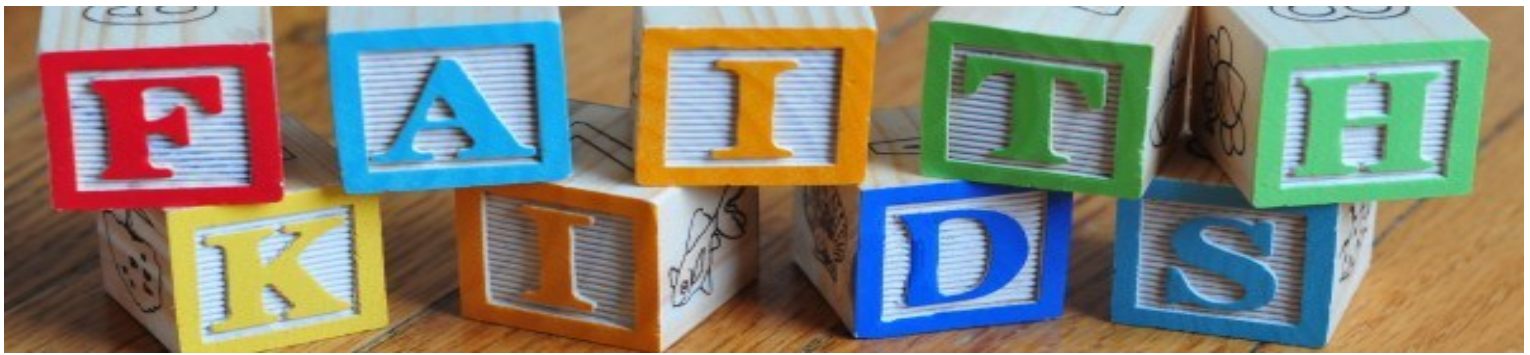
September 16th—Rev. Kim Morrow. Rev Morrow was one of 12 faith leaders in the United States honored by the White House as “Champions of Change” for their efforts in protecting our environment and communities from the effects of climate change. Far from depressing, her presentation will ignite your hope that we are being called to conversion into new life.



September 23rd—Mardra & Marcus Sikora. Mardra is an author, speaker, & advocate who believes in the power of words and uses both fiction and non-fiction to advocate for and with her adult son, Marcus, who has Downs Syndrome. She and Marcus have written a book for children called *Black Day* which they will have available for sale. Meet these two testimonies to the strength of the human spirit.



September 30th—Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. A special gift for Countrysiders—an evening preview of the next evening’s CFS event and time to interact with this nationally known and respected author, journalist and truth-seeker!



Family Activity Idea :

Create a prayer space for your students!



With a few throw pillows, blankets, and creative lighting, you and your children can build a quiet prayer space in which to spend time connecting with God! Encourage each family member to spend quiet meditation time weekly in the prayer space!

Questions about Children's Education Department?



Contact Rebecca at rebeccam@countysideucc.org

Mark Your Calendar:

- Sept. 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.— WNA
- Sept. 6— Family Worship
- Sept. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.— WNA
- Sept. 13—1st day of Sunday School for Fall '15
- Sept. 19, 7:00– 9:00 p.m.— Core 56 Movie Night! Meet in the Chapel.
- Sept. 20— Children's Church
- Sept. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.— WNA
- Sept. 27— Sunday School
- Sept. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.— WNA

The [Children's Education Calendar](#) is also available on the CCC website!

Be sure to visit our website to register your students for Sunday School, Core 56, and **Wednesday Night Alive Children's programming (Holy Moly!)**. We will use these registrations to prepare supplies for each gathering and communicate important information to parents and guardians—like which days to wear paint clothes, cancellations, etc.— to parents and guardians!

[Click here](#) to register your students!

September Nursery Schedule

	7:00 p.m.— Breann	10:30 a.m.— 12:30 p.m.— Veronica & Sammi
Wednesday, Sept. 2: 6:30-8:30 p.m.— Sarah W.	Sunday, Sept 13: 8:30-10:30 a.m.— Jaime, JJ, Joe F., and Reagan F.	Wednesday, Sept. 23: 6:30-8:30 p.m.— Breann & Eric
Sunday, Sept. 6: 8:30– 10:30 a.m.—Tim K & Breann 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.— Beth & Breann	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Mike & Maureen H.	Sunday, Sept. 27: 8:30– 10:30 a.m.— Breann & Eric 10:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.— Marc & Karen F.
Wednesday, Sept. 9: 6:30-8:30 p.m.— Sarah W.	Wednesday, Sept. 16: 6:30-8:30 p.m.—Breann & Eric	Wednesday, Sept. 30: 6:30-7:30 p.m.— Breann & Eric
Thursday, Sept. 10 (PFLAG/CFS):	Sunday, Sept. 20: 8:30-10:30 a.m.—Sammi & Isaac	



Countryside
Community Church

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

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Stacey Carnazzo, Director, ext. 114
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Return Service Requested

402-391-0350 | countrysideucc.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
"ALIVE"

*Something
for all ages!*

*Nursery available

Intergenerational

WNA Suppers

Grade School

Children's Choirs | Holy Moly | Core 56

Junior High

Confirmation | Choir

Youth and Adults

In the Commons (Adult Ed) | Adult Choirs

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