

JULY



Vacation Bible School 2015



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 11 - 15

Vacation Bible School is almost here! The electricity and enthusiasm that drives our work planning and preparing our leaders and volunteers has been building and is about to come together for create a special week for our VBS participants. The week is filled with fun activities, crafts and time to spend together with other children sharing their faith, their questions and their ideas about the scripture stories.

This year, our theme is "In the Beginning..." and we are planning to look at the Creation stories in our faith tradition. I am particularly delighted that our VBS kids will have opportunities to interact with nature, cook and prepare snacks for each other and explore where our food comes from.

The kids are not the only part of VBS that makes it an unbelievable experience. Our leaders and volunteers are amazing and return year after year to help make this week happen! Our pool of

experience and creativity is deep and wide. In addition to the planning, preparing, coordinating and executing each part of the day, our leaders find interesting ways to engage the students. It is amazing to hear how our gifted adult and youth leaders facilitate discussions and encourage the children to share their experiences with the scripture story, pulling all the crafts, dramatic play, and activities together for reflection at the end of each day. Our group makes it possible for each part of Vacation Bible School to introduce or explore aspects of the Countryside Mission statement, our dedication to environmental and social justice, as well as an awareness and respect for other faith traditions. Vacation Bible School is open to all children; your neighbors, your cousins, any child in pre-k through 4th grade Register at countrysideucc.org.

-Rebecca Morello, Children's Education Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
 Phone - 402-391-0350
 Email - office@countrysideucc.org
 Website - www.countrysideucc.org
 Facebook - 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

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

Assistant To The Ministers

Robyn Hubbard
 Executive Admin. Asst., ext. 103
 robynh@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven
 Dir. of Admin & Communication, ext. 102
 danl@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder
 Financial Secretary, ext. 123
 sharig@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez
 Administrative Assistant, ext. 101
 steveg@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
 Administrative Assistant, ext. 100
 debbiev@countrysideucc.org

Jerry Gray
 Church Clerk
 jerryg@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
 Building/Property Coordinator
 brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Nicholas O'Bradovich
 AV Tech Leader
 nicholaso@countrysideucc.org

Ben Semisch
 Videographer
 bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
 Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129
 rmtotis@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.

Restrooms - Restrooms 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 or call 402-391-0350.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you interested in joining Countryside Church or exploring what Countryside has to offer for you? Then consider joining us for membership classes from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on Tuesdays July 12, 19, 26 and August 2. These classes will inform you about the church, staff and programs. You will get to know yourself and God better, too. Please sign up at the Information Station on Sunday morning or contact Robyn Hubbard at 402-391-0350 Ext. 103 or robynh@countrysideucc.org. We would love to have you join the Countryside family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Pray with Me" will be meeting in Jan's office from 10:30-10:55 on July 10. All are welcome to pray for those on our prayer chain and those in your hearts.

Margie Bolte and Jan Brown will be hosting a fleece-tying, baby-blanket-making groups at 1PM on Wednesday, July 20, in Memorial Hall. No special talent is required, but you probably should be ready to listen to some Motown as you "work." Come join us!

JOYS

Emily and Jeremy Wadhams and their family had a baby girl named Charlotte Faith on June 8; she weighed 10 pounds and all are doing well. Welcome to the world, Charlotte! We can't wait to meet you. God, thank you for babies, and we ask for your protective blessings on this little girl.

We welcome Zach and Abbyjo Bjornsen's daughter Hattie Pearl who was born on June 18, weighing 8 pounds, 10 oz. Thank you, Creator God, for families which grow and for little girls. Bless and protect precious Hattie Pearl.

IN MEMORY

Countryside member Bob Joyce died of pancreatic cancer on June 4, and the funeral was at Countryside on June 8 with Eric Elnes officiating. Bob's wife and Countryside member Kathy Joyce died of ovarian cancer on June 19, and her funeral was at Countryside on June 24, with Rev. Chris Alexander officiating. We grieve with the Joyce's adult children and their families, offering our prayers of comfort on behalf of Kasey Grell (Dave) and their boy Julian; Andy (Sydney), and Skip (fiancé Katy). Lord, we offer thanksgiving for lives well-lived, for Bob's and Kathy's happy marriage and many adventures together, and for their dear family and friends who will miss them so. We ask that your peace resides with all who loved them during a time of such loss.

Robyn Hubbard's father William F. Ginn died June 3, and the funeral was at Dundee Presbyterian on June 9. Robyn is a Countryside member and also our new Executive Administrative Assistant, and we offer her and her family our loving support. Thank you, Lord, for William's long life; surround Robyn, her husband Dave, her mother Sarah and their family with your Spirit of comfort.

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

Care Team

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

Stephen Ministry

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

AGAPE

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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117
 Email: janb@countrysideucc.org

REFUGEE FAMILIES UPDATE

Thank you Countryside for your generosity in donations!

One of our families is coming the 2nd week of July!

We can use volunteers to help with move-in day!

Sign up at the Information Station or email kellyk@countrysideucc.org

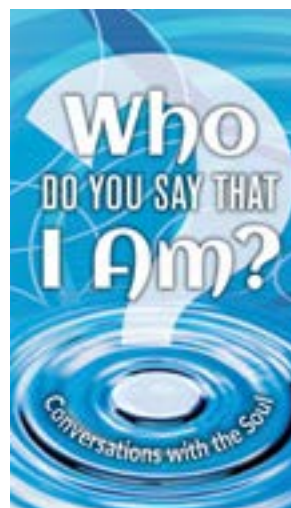
Stay informed at:

<http://countrysideucc.org/caring-together/refugee-support/>



FALL FAITH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Center for Faith Studies Fall 2016 Lectures: Who Do You Say That I Am? Conversations With the Soul



“...on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’” Mark 8:27-29

Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell this story of Jesus responding to the worry of his disciples by asking them to reflect on who they, the people closest to him, say he is. As we today journey in our faith, we are challenged to ask and answer that question. Who do we say that God is? Who does God say that we are? Who does God say the people I am called to be in relationship with are? James Fowler, widely known for his work on the psychology of religion and Stages of Faith.

It is a dialectical and evolving conversation. This season, the Center for Faith Studies invites us into this interactive understanding of faith so we can dialogue with the soul on this very powerful question.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4 - Roger Gabriel, Master Educator Chopra Center for Wellness. The Law of Dharma - Fulfilling Life's Potential.

Roger Gabriel was born in Liverpool, England and spent his formative years in the United Kingdom where he first learned meditation. Roger has assisted Deepak Chopra with numerous training programs, seminars and workshops, taught thousands of people on all continents to meditate, and assisted in training hundreds to be teachers of meditation, Ayurveda and yoga. Roger currently serves as a Chopra Master Educator, member of the Chopra Center Certification's Advisory Board, and teaches regularly at Chopra Center workshops, seminars and teacher training programs. His presentation will focus on the law of dharma - the first step of which begins with the discovery of the trueself -or soul- and ends with how this self is uniquely equipped to serve others in this time and place.



Roger Gabriel

August 25 - Melvin Bray - Better: Waking Up to Who We Could Be. (A Darkwood Brew Favorite!)



Melvin Bray

What if the world we have—with its racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, religious hatred, ecological disregard—is exactly the world people of faith storied into existence with the hostile faith stories we tell?

What if we could actually change the world by telling better stories? In his forthcoming book, Better, Bray explores what it means for people of faith to join in seeking sustainable cooperative and courageous answers to the most intractable problems of our time.

Workshop Opportunity! In addition to the Thursday night lecture, Friday morning we are offering an opportunity for a workshop with Melvin to reflect, write and dream together of better stories. There is a \$20 workshop fee.

All events are \$10. Tickets can be purchased between services on Sunday July 24 and July 31. Tickets are also available at EventBrite.com (search Center for Faith Studies).

For more information see www.centerforfaithstudies.org

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 Rev. Chris Alexander about Converging Paths. She would love to tell you more!

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Journey Groups following the Half Truth Sermon Series

Jerry and Shirley Brown - Sundays at 10:00 AM between services in the Junior Choir Room (Downstairs)

Kris Hess - Sundays between services at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room

Diane Scott - Sundays at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room

Trish Hoffman-Ahrens - Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in her home

Karen Stokes Group - Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Chapel

If you are interested in joining a journey group with this series, please contact Rev. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Reel Faith Sermon Series

We close out the summer with "Reel Faith", a sermon series that explore seven movies and their insight into our daily life in the Spirit. If you would like to follow this series with a journey group, let us know and we will find you a group that fits your schedule! Here are a list of the movies being explored:

July 17: Oh, God!

Aug 14: Chocolat

July 24: The Bridge to Terabithia

Aug 21: About Schmidt

July 31: Groundhog Day

Aug 28: Shrek

Aug 7: The Spiritual Wisdom of Harry Potter

Advertisement for VBS 'In the beginning...' featuring silhouettes of children playing, the text 'VBS In the beginning...', and dates 'July 11 - 15'. It also lists activities like 'Games & Crafts' and 'Science & Scripture'.

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 Place to Call Home

Several Journey Groups are following the sermon series, A Place To Call Home, discovering what it means to be truly at home in this world by exploring the interplay between physical and spiritual spaces in the Bible.

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

This Journey Group explores Dr. Elnes's latest book, Gifts of the Dark Wood. Learn more about how we meet God in the depth of our struggles.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Chris Alexander.

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

HELLO

New Members Class

Are you new to Countryside and want to learn more about the church, staff and programs?

Join us in our New Members Class!

Tuesdays, July 12 - August 2

7:00 - 8:15 PM

Contact Robyn Hubbard at: robynh@countrysideucc.org to register or sign up at the Information Station.

see page 2 for details

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: kellyk@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: https://www.face book.com/Center-for-Faith-Studies-120882397136



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 - on summer recess until fall

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

COYO Sr High 606 - on summer recess until fall

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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818
Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 111
Email: willh@countrysideucc.org
www.countrysideucc.org/coyo

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garage Sale Information

Last Drop Off / Pick Up at Millard Lumber
Saturday, July 16, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Last chance to bring stuff to the truck for the garage sale. You can also schedule your stuff to be picked up that day at <http://goo.gl/forms/fbBDAyocCLlflOiz2>

Garage Sale Drop Offs at Church

July 30 – August 4

You can bring your stuff to church and get help unloading it starting July 30 at 9:00 AM on Saturday, 12:00 PM on Sunday, and 1:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

Garage Sale Pre-Sale for Members and Donors

Thursday, August 4, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Come shop the sale early before the crowd arrives on Friday. All members of Countryside and people who donated items are welcome.

Garage Sale

Friday, August 5, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday, August 6, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Lots of great stuff left, so tell all your friends and neighbors. New yard signs will be available in the foyer the week of the sale. COYO Stockholders get 5% off if you wear your lanyard.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mission Trip

COYO Sr. High spent a week in June at Waters Cave Area Wilderness in Minnesota. The Boundary Waters offered some spectacular days and nights of wilderness in the northern part of Minnesota on the Canadian Border. They spent six days and five nights exploring the lakes of Northern Minnesota and Canada. They worked together as a group to accomplish routes, made food, set up campsites, built deeper friendships and experienced the love of God first hand. After being in the wilderness for six days, they learned a different perspective on God's vastness and how they are made. They were able to swim, fish and relax away from all distractions.



A week in Minnesota



Canoes at Boundary Waters

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet at church at 7:00 AM, ready for an 11-hour drive to the Lost Creek Wilderness in Pike National Forest. Camp at Lost Park Campground before starting on a four-day hike. You can follow the trip on Facebook at <http://Facebook.com/coyojrhigh> and you can also sign up to receive an email from the SPOT locator which will send you coordinates of where the group is. Email willh@countrysideucc.org to get on that list.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

July 3 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

July 10 - Children's Church

Children begin in the Sanctuary until the procession to the Chapel.

July 17 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

July 24- Children's Church

Children begin in the Sanctuary until the procession to the Chapel.

July 31 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Core 56 will meet each week in July on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM. Please use the courtyard doors (on the east side of the building near the Youth Room and Memorial Hall) to drop off and collect your students. Bring a snack to share and a water bottle.

In the Beginning..., our Vacation Bible School 2016 will be held July 11-15. During VBS, our students spend time exploring the stories of Creation through storytelling and then participate in crafts and science experiments that invite our students to consider their connection and interactions with God's creation in their daily lives. Our leaders encourage our students to not only ask questions, but also seek answers from leaders, other students and their own experiences. The VBS team incorporates music, physical activity, snacks, crafts, experiments and reflection to create a community building environment for kids to share and develop their faith and relationship with God.

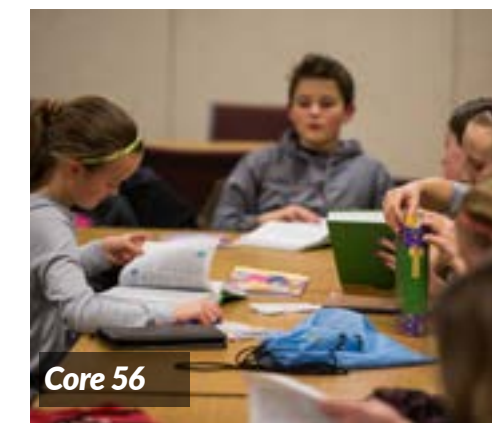
Our day begins at 9:00 AM in Memorial Hall as we greet each other, gather in our groups, and prepare for our day with songs and stories. We conclude our day at noon and students will be collected in Memorial Hall. Registration is now www.countrysideucc.org to get your pre-k through 4th grade student signed up!

Children's Ministries is looking for a creative group of decorators to help design an exciting, colorful, and educational environment for Children's Church, Sunday School, and VBS. Four times a year, we will gather to design and create interactive displays and classrooms to encourage active learning. Contact Rebecca if you are interested.

Our **Nursery Ministry** is dependent on volunteers and in need of dedicated Countryside members to cover some Worship services this summer. Our nursery shifts run from 8:30am until 10:30 AM and 10:30 AM until 12:15 PM. As our Nursery Coordinator is on Maternity Leave, (HOORAY! Welcome little Lundblad!) please contact Rebecca with questions and interests in volunteering.



Nursery Puppies!



Core 56

QUESTIONS?

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109
Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

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

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

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

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

Sunday School

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

Family Worship

Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers 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 years-old through 6th grade.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming in July - 9:00 AM Service

July 3- American Spirituals - Bruce Blanchard, baritone

July 10 - Partita in E minor by J.S. Bach

July 17 - Trish Hoffman-Ahrens, Soprano

July 24 - French Clarinet Music with Joseph Weber

July 31 - Schumann Piano Sonata no. 2 in G minor

Welcome Our New Director of Music and Arts Ministries

Welcome Amy Luckenbill!

Dr. Amy Luckenbill, her husband, Don, and sons Dallas and Andrew, arrive in Omaha this month when Amy takes the helm as our new Director of Music Ministries. The choirs and music staff are eagerly awaiting her arrival and are looking forward to making music that will enrich our worship experience. When you see Amy and her family, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome them to Countryside.

Faith Singers Tour

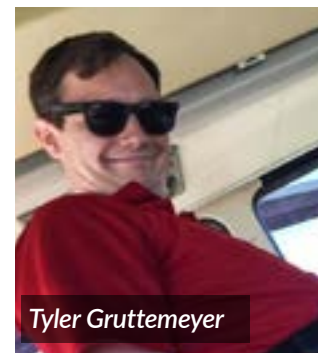
The Faith singers tour was an AMAZING experience! But one way that God surprised me was at one of our closing activities on our last night in Iowa. We were supposed to sit in a big circle with our eyes closed. Then Tyler read off some meanings like "someone who makes you feel like you matter." Then, when your number was called you would go around and touch that person but they didn't know it was you. This surprised me because at the end we were all bawling our eyes out and hugging each other. It just reminded me that we are a family and nothing will ever change, no matter what crazy things may happen.
- Kaylee Parmentier



Faith Singers Tour



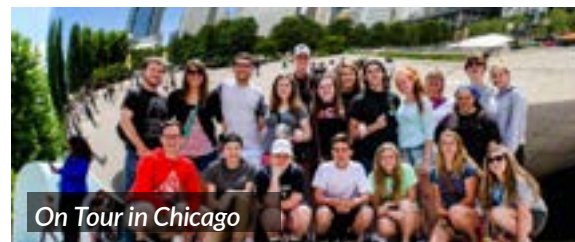
Grand Ole Opry



Tyler Gruttemeyer



Faith Singers



On Tour in Chicago

Countryside church has one of the most 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 worship services.

Note: All choirs are now on summer recess and will resume in late August.

Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir is for children in Kindergarten through 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. 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 explores 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 Amy Luckenbill.

Amy Luckenbill
Office Phone: 402.391.0350

Email: amyl@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org

THE BOX FOR JULY

We are collecting school supplies for NorthStar. NorthStar is the only single sex, boys only after-school program in Greater Omaha whose mission is building the promising futures of school-aged boys, to help them achieve success both academically and in life is essential to transforming our community and building the next generation. Please pick up some extra school supplies of any kind and bring them to Countryside during the month of July. Folders, pens, pencils, rulers, paper clips, staples, tape, etc. A list of supplies will be available at the Information Station to make your shopping a little easier. You can learn more about NorthStar at www.northstar360.org.

SHOW US YOUR SSG

The Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) was recently pleased to receive a Small Service Grant (SSG) request from Countryside member Sheila Hargraves asking for a few hundred dollars to buy some books. The books were to be purchased and given away at the Community Cupboard, at the Church on the first Saturday of the month. Shelia says there is always room for more new or "gently" used books on the shelves in the NW corner of Memorial Hall (so feel free to bring some any time!)

This SSG was asking for money she could use to purchase children's books that have words in at least two languages, as well as some Spanish/English and French/English dictionaries. Giving these kinds of books away to people who may not otherwise have them clearly has potential to help make a big difference in their individual lives. This kind of small service is why the SSG program was created, and the board is grateful to Shelia for submitting a request with such inclusive intentions that directly helps to break down barriers of language. The vote was unanimous to approve the SSG grant maximum of \$500.

QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information regarding Countryside Christian Outreach, email christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org. To find out about how you can volunteer at the food pantry, contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

JULY UPDATE

What happened at a nightclub in Orlando, FL is unspeakable and illustrates and the deep need in our country for Omaha's Tri-Faith Initiative project. The theology and mission of the United Church of Christ demands this "Bold Act of Love," and Countryside's own Mission Statement calls us to act on it. Period. These Mission Statements are crafted from the very words and teachings of Jesus, who calls us to love one another in every sense of the word. It is a real challenge in a real world...it is not just an empty platitude.

Our congregation voted over a year ago to boldly pursue our call to accept the invitation to be part of the Tri-Faith Initiative. Muslims, Jews and Christians who model collaboration and respect for diversity, and who will stand up for each other and for those who are not a part of the Tri-Faith, is a goal worthy of the best beliefs and traditions of all three Abrahamic faiths. To create a peaceful and caring neighborhood at 132 and Pacific is a visible sign of God's work in the world.

We are asking for your monetary pledge to support this vision and help us move forward. For those of you who haven't yet turned in a pledge card, please consider doing so today. If you have lost your card or didn't receive one, we have them in the lobby or main office. You may also make your pledge online to countrysideucc.org. Thanks to all who have turned in your pledge!

Much news has been focused on the details of the Orlando tragedy. We have a unique opportunity to offer a message of hope by engaging in our own "Bold Act of Love" as part of our faith and calling.

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.

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

PLEDGE NOW

www.countrysideucc.org/donate

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.countrysideucc.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 crcc@countrysideucc.org.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Plant One More

Our mission at **Plant One More** is to encourage home gardeners and community gardens to plant a little more than they can use so it can be shared with the community.

This year we will be donating our produce to Youth Emergency Services and Together Inc. This is how it works:

1. You have a garden
2. You plant one more tomato plant, one more

cucumber plant or one more of any vegetable

3. You bring the produce from that plant to Plant One More

4. You provide fresh, local produce to those who might not have it otherwise

Donations will be received at: Countryside Community Church July 17 through September 4, 2016, 8:45 AM until 11:00 AM. More info is available at www.PlantOneMore.org.

E.T.C. (Events that are Totally Cool)

ETC, (Events that are Totally Cool), helps to energize Countryside Church and its membership! Their mission is to bring Countryside members together in social gatherings and events filled with fun and fellowship. They blend together traditional and well attended events, while continually creating new adventures and gatherings, which allow our membership to branch out and enjoy each other's company. They welcome members to help out with any of their signature events, and they always keep an eye out for those members who want to join a creative and involved ETC board. Perhaps that's you? ETC could be your calling.

UPCOMING IN JULY

Chair Yoga

Yoga will continue through Tuesday afternoon, August 30 in the Foyer at Countryside Church from 2-3:00 PM. For additional information contact Donna Miesbach at 402-330-2747 or at dmiesbach@cox.net. They will NOT meet July 5.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, August 14 - Tri-Faith Picnic

Sunday, September 11 - Hog Wild for Countryside

SOCIAL GROUPS

Family Activities Committee

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

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

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

Knit-n-Wit

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

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@countrysideucc.org.

Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This new group is open to 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@countrysideucc.org.

Adult Education

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

Journey Groups

See 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 Thursday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

InterPlay

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

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@countrysideucc.org.

Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and selects 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 Bill Sellgren at sellgren3@cox.net

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 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Tim Kerrigan, at tgerrigan@investorsomaha.com

Board of Pastoral Care

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, Tom Scates at omahascat@cox.net.

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 including 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



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@countrysideucc.org

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 about the List for each week.

Wednesday Night Supper Teams for the 2016-17

Only four additional teams are needed to complete our teams for next fall's Wednesday Night Alive suppers! Prayerfully consider giving of your time and culinary talent, or your "ordering out" expertise! Your time commitment would be only once every six weeks. If you would like more information, contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org or stop by the Information Station.

Mobile Meals

We are looking for 2-3 more volunteers for two hours a month who would be willing to give of their time so that others may be fed. The schedule through May of 2017 is now being created. If interested stop by the Information Station.

Volunteer Receptionists

We are seeking 6 to 10 individuals who would help out in the front office receptionist's desk during the week. You can pick your time frame. Hours are 8:30-11:30 AM or 12:00 to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information, contact either Robyn Hubbard or Mary Beth Link.

Center for Faith Studies Volunteers

Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas this coming Fall season.

- Folks to be a part of the CFS planning committee
- CFS event support: 1-2 refreshment volunteers to set up the cookies, coffee and water on CFS nights.
- A person versed in Facebook and social media who would like to post pictures after events, post upcoming events, post to community calendars and develop a list of media contacts.
- A volunteer to deliver and post flyers to area libraries, coffee houses, bookstores, Hotshops, etc.

Should any of these positions intrigue you, please contact either Kelly Keller at kellyk@countrysideucc.org or Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed for the Pantry on July 2. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. If interested contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org. or Andi Lawlor at communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org





Reel Faith

Worship Series

July 17 - August 21

The Bridge to Terabithia
Groundhog Day
Chocolat
Oh, God!
About Schmidt
The Spiritual Wisdom of Harry Potter
Shrek

See page 5 for details

PLANT ONE MORE

Our mission at Plant One More is to encourage home gardeners and community gardens to plant a little more than they can use so it can be shared with the community. This year we will be donating our produce to Youth Emergency Services and Together Inc. This is how it works:

1. You have a garden
2. You plant one more tomato plant, one more cucumber plant or one more of any vegetable
3. You bring the produce from that plant to Plant One More
4. You provide fresh, local produce to those who might not have had it otherwise

Donations will be received at Countryside Community Church July 17 through September 4, 2016
8:45 AM until 11:00 AM
More info is available at www.PlantOneMore.org.



August 4

6 PM - 8 PM

Preview night for Countryside members

August 5 & 6

8 AM - 4 PM

LAST DROP OFF DATE

July 16

Bring items you want to donate to Millard Lumber (12900 I St).

You are free to drop

items off at church starting July 30.

Contact Will at willh@countrysideucc.org

with garage sale questions.

See page 6 for details

No exercise equipment or CRT TV's

BRUSH UP NEBRASKA PAINT-A-THON

SATURDAY August 13
SATURDAY August 20

All Countrysiders who are able and willing to paint and or spruce up a home for a family of elderly and disabled folks! (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

To sign up contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org

Invest in the future of Countryside and our Mission.

PLEDGE NOW

We have almost reached the two million dollar mark in pledges from our church family!

Our goal is 100% participation. If you have not pledged yet, please do so. We want to hear from you!

Thank you to all who have responded so generously.
www.countrysideucc.org/relocation

see relocation update on page 9