

JANUARY



CHILI & CHOCOLATE

Another year begins. A new year provides us with a new chance to grow together, to reach out, to start new friendships and strengthen old ones. Fellowship is at the heart of Countryside's mission as we welcome all to God's table of love and acceptance.

There are so many fun fellowship opportunities held at Countryside throughout the year. The Chili and Chocolate Contest is our first activity of 2017; a delicious, competitive, fun and filling chance to be together.

ETC, the multi-generational social committee at Countryside, is again sponsoring this year's contest in Memorial Hall. It will take place on January 22 directly following the second worship service. ETC would like to see even more people attend this event than last year. That means we need more than 30 original chili recipes to taste and more than 28 different chocolate desserts!

We ask you to register at the Information Station before January 15 to let us know if you will be bringing chili, chocolate or both. Please bring your dishes to Memorial Hall by 10:30 AM on January 22 and then be prepared to serve small dishes of your recipe after our service.

You will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite chili and chocolate by dropping your spare change into the designated jar of your favorite dish. All of the money we collect will go towards Together Inc., this year's designated Christmas Offering organization.

On Sunday, February 5, at the Annual Meeting, everyone will be able to enjoy the winning recipes in both categories from this event. Countryside's Board of Deacons will be preparing the Annual Meeting meal and will use these winning recipes along with other delicious soups for us to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you on January 22!

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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



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

Executive Admin. Assistant

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

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
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danl@countrysideucc.org

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Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129
rmotis@outlook.com

WELCOME

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

OUR MISSION

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

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Box, Basket and Journey - The Box, Basket and Journey 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 Journey is the way we share lives together through Journey Groups.

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.

WELCOME KRIS HILL TO COUNTRYSIDE

Kris Hill joined the Countryside staff as an Administrative Assistant on December 5. Kris has a degree in business administration from Mount Marty College in South Dakota. Prior to joining Countryside, she worked in recruiting after spending several years as a stay-at-home mom.

Kris has been married to her husband, Jim, for 20 years. She has a 15-year-old daughter, Katie, and a 13-year-old son, Collin, who keep her very busy. She moved back to Nebraska with her family four years ago to be closer to extended family. In her spare time, she likes to read and travel. She also serves as Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 429 in Omaha.



Kris Hill



ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 8 is Countryside's Memorial Sunday when we will honor those loved ones who passed away in 2016.

JOYS

Cecilia Ann Pettigrew was born November 23 to Kaitlan Scates-Pettiford and Benji Pettiford of Omaha. Cecilia's grandparents are Tom and Ann Scates.

Madeleine Johanning was born December 12 to Countryside members JJ and Jaime Johanning. Madeleine's great grandparents are Rod and Dee Bennett.

Katherine ("Kit") Grell was born recently in the St. Louis area to Kasey Joyce Grell and her husband. Kit's grandparents, Countryside members Bob and Kathy Joyce, both passed away this fall.

CONCERNS

We continue in prayer for Mary Mitchell, Isaac Barchus, Scott Carroll and Jeanne Peters Huelskamp's husband Ray.

IN MEMORY

Glenn Ried, a long-serving Countryside member, died December 6. Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiated the funeral at Countryside on December 9. There was an ice cream reception in Memorial Hall after the service.

Bill Jacobus died December 9 and there was a gathering for friends and family at Forest Lawn on December 15.

Dr. Mildred (Millie) Flansburg died December 11, and Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiated the funeral at Countryside on December 15, with a reception at Happy Hollow afterwards.

Dottie Otis's funeral was on December 20 at Countryside. Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiated. A reception was held in Memorial Hall.

Greg Kucinsky died on December 20. A memorial service is being planned for early January.

Two Countryside members have lost parents recently: Amy Worth's mother Betty Puckett, and Nancy Ethington's mother Jane Ruth.

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

WNA

W E D N E S D A Y N I G H T A L I V E

Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy a community meal, choir rehearsals and educational opportunities. This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

WNA SUPPERS

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

See page 10 for the menu.

GRADE/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Choirs

Joyful Noise (Pre-K): 5:15-5:30 PM
Carol Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114
Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117
Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

Programs

Holy Moly (gr K-2): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 112
Holy Moly (gr 3-4): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 114B
Core 56 (gr 5-6): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 110
Confirmation (gr 7-8): 7:00 - 8:00 PM - rm 119

Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 7:30 - 8:45 PM
Spirit of Grace : 6:20 - 7:20 PM

ADULTS/HIGH SCHOOL

In The Commons

Come hear live music, enjoy barista drinks, and connect with good friends. Occasional programming events, too!

JANUARY PROGRAMS

January 4: New Year's Playlist

January 11: Sister Kathleen Erickson-*Diapers in Detention: Immigration and Families*

January 18: Roger Bergman: *The Pope's Encyclical*

January 25: Music by Ingrid and Connor



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

Racial Justice Book Group

Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Readings and videos on racialized America. Sign up through CFS office. Current book: *Blood Done Sign my Name* by Timothy B. Tyson.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, Bring your lunch. Resumes in January.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Current book: *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* by John Shelby Spong

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Moderator's Room. Currently studying *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds* with Dr. Robert Garland.

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: kellyk@countysideuucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

SPRING CFS EVENTS

March 25-26 - Lisa Sharon Harper, author & Sojourners staffer

Friday Night and Saturday interactive workshop on concepts of shalom, race, and working to piece together this broken world. Details to follow soon on the CFS website under Racial Justice.

Institute for Holocaust Education's Week of Understanding

Tuesday, March 29 at 7 PM - Survivor Speaker: Marion Lazan Blumenthal. Subject of Marion's Triumph, and Four Perfect Pebbles as featured on PBS.

Sacred Prism: Tri-Faith Prayer Retreat- March 31 and April 1

Deepening your own sense of the sacred while discovering beauty in the spiritual practices of all three Abrahamic Traditions. Imam Bashar Arafat, Rabbi Shefa Gould, and Father Masud Syedullah will lead us through a weekend interfaith prayer retreat exploring the sacred texts, music, chants, and prayers in all three traditions that mark the beauty, mystery, and transforming power of God. \$25 ticket includes lunch on Saturday.

Links for tickets on the Center for Faith Studies website www.centerforfaithstudies.org



Lisa Sharon Harper



Marion Lazan Blumenthal

Great Decisions 2017. Wednesdays from 7 to 8 PM- January 25 through March 22, Chapel.

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching a 30 minute DVD and discussing the most critical global issues facing America today. After discussions, you can add your opinion to The National Opinion Ballot Report which is presented to the White House, members of Congress, the departments of State and Defense and the national media - a valuable way of sharing the informed opinions of citizens with the people who shape U.S. foreign policy. Sign Up at the Information Station starting December 4. Briefing Books are \$25 .

James Hicks Memorial Library

Located in the southwest corner of Memorial Hall, the James Hicks Memorial Library has been relieved of some of the out-of-date materials and highlights newer titles, popular authors, as well as the classics in biblical, spiritual and theological thought. What's New:

- A library binder which contains a spreadsheet with all the instructions for check out including the new check-out card and system.
- More visible numbers have been placed on the spines to facilitate discovery of your next favorite book.
- Books can be checked out for 30 days and renewed for another 30 via email.
- Books can be returned in a tray located outside the Center for Faith Studies office (Chapel Hallway).
- If you lose a book, you will have the opportunity to replace the book at cost free of guilt!
- We have an email! Contact us through library@countysideuucc.org to renew a book, suggest a book for the library or to offer donations.

Thank you to Sheila and Mary Jo for their attention to this project and for providing this important resource as a "community of faith seeking understanding."

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series-Reclaiming Eden

We invite our Journey Groups to follow along with our new master worship series, Reclaiming Eden. The first worship segment within this series is Imago Dei and it begins January 8 and takes us through February 19.

You can't understand much about Jesus or the Church that bears his name unless you understand Genesis and Exodus - the foundational books of the Jewish and early Christian communities. In this series, we'll start with some key stories in Genesis, then move to key stories from Exodus that have affected Christianity strongly since the beginning and still do. We begin by turning to Genesis 3 and the story of "the fall," which is the basis for the Christian doctrine of Original Sin (a doctrine not shared by Jews or Muslims, by the way, even though they consider the same story to be foundational). Join us as we study each of the seven deadly sins and the seven lively virtues that balance them.

If you do not presently participate in a journey group and would like to learn more about them, please contact Rev. Chris Alexander at Chrisa@countrysideucc.org. She will get you some information and let you know how you might join a group that is already meeting, or how you might start your own group.

We provide each group with resources for discussion each week including group discussion questions, a link to the video of the week's sermon and an attachment with Pastor Eric's weekly commentary on the week's message or a transcript of the sermon. You are never on this journey alone.

Let us know how we can get you started on your journey!



Worship Series
IMAGO DEI
January 8 - February 12

Journey Groups

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

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

Free Darkwood Brew Membership

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

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

SACRED PRISM

Interfaith
Prayer Retreat
March 31 - April 1
\$25 includes lunch on Saturday
see page four for details

February 5
YOUTH SUNDAY
10:00 a.m.
see page six for details

DISCERNMENT
#40 DAYS
Sunday, December 4 -
Wednesday, January 11

COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG/40DAYS

Workshops and panel discussions
Community conversations
Open prayer times and guided meditations
Please contact Rev. Chris Alexander or any member of the Board of Life Ministries for more details.

Visit countrysideucc.org/40days
for a calendar of discernment opportunities.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jersey Shore Mission Trip 2017, June 10 - 18, 2017

Work with St Bernard Project (sbpusa.org) to rebuild homes on the Jersey Shore that were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. You will be painting, hanging drywall, cleaning, roofing, siding, and doing other jobs alongside AmeriCorps members. You will stay at Camp Evans in Township, NJ and work in nearby communities. Cost will be \$500 before fund-raising. Sign up by February 5 with a \$100 deposit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Sunday, Sunday, February 5 at 10:00AM

On this Sunday there will be one service entirely run by students before the Annual Meeting. Come participate as a part of the sermon, readings, greeters, ushers, or do some music. Let us know what you want to do. The launch of the Stock Sale is also this day. This year, instead of the stock sale, we will be building a model house that represents a house we will be working on during the Mission Trip to the Jersey Shore.

COYO JR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation is back!

Confirmation resumes on Wednesday, January 4, at 7PM in Memorial Hall. Please make sure you have read Affirmations 1,9, and 6 in the Phoenix Affirmations book.

COYO Jr High is back!

COYO Jr High resumes on Sunday, January 8, at 4:30PM in the Youth Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Jr High Spielbound - Friday, January 20, 7-9 PM

Spielbound is a board game café that has thousands of board games. Come have fun with COYO Jr High at Spielbound. Bring money if you want drinks or food. Check it out at spielbound.com.



Spielbound 2016



Spielbound 2016



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

Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 7 PM 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 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



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

January 1- Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

January 8- Sunday School

After his baptism, Jesus left the company of people and went into the wild. There, he fasted and prayed and listened for 40 days. Satan tempted him with power and riches, but Jesus chose God as his partner, listening for guidance for the rest of his days.

January 15- Children's Church

Children will process to the Chapel for a kid-centered Worship.

January 22- Sunday School

Fishers of People: Jesus invited Peter, Andrew, James, and John to join him in recognizing God's kingdom around them and to share in the journey. They left their fishing nets to follow Jesus.

January 29- Children's Church

Children will process to the Chapel for a kid-centered Worship.

Please be aware that there are five Sundays this month so our children will enjoy an additional Children's Church followed by a Family Worship Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Activities

UPDATE: Our Holy Moly and Core 56 groups will not meet again until January 11.

Holy Moly will begin exploring New Testament stories of Jesus and the disciples.

Core 56 will be completing their Advent Project this month. Our completed dog/cat blankets will be delivered to the Nebraska Humane Society.

VOLUNTEERS

Nursery Ministry

The Nursery Ministry is in the middle of an exciting transition! The Board of Christian Education is currently developing a personnel plan that will address the staffing challenges the Nursery faced last year. As we finish implementing these changes, please be patient with our volunteers who are working really hard to keep this ministry going!

Parents—we will no longer offer diaper changing while your little one is in the Nursery. Please be sure to leave your cell number when you sign in so that we can contact you for diaper duty! Thanks!



2016 Advent Workshop



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

9:00 Service

Room 114A – Grades K-6

11:00 Service

Room 117 – Grades 2-3

Room 114B – Grade 4

Room 112 – Grades 5-6

Upper Level

(same as the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery)

9:00 Service

Room 215 – Pre-Kindergarten

11:00 Service

Room 214 – Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 – Grades K-1

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

Nursery

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

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.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

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

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

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

Sunday School

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

Family Worship

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

Children's Church

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

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Arts Opportunities

Do you have a wee musician in your family? Great! Now's the time to get them playing during the service. We are looking for instrumentalists to play during the travel time for Children's Moment and Children's Procession. It does not matter what song, style, or level of difficulty your child plays, we will find a way to support your budding instrumentalist. Contact Amy for details on how we can work together to make this happen.

January Rehearsals

Regular Wednesday night music rehearsals for all groups pick up on January 4th. Please see the side bar for the schedule.

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

Kids Music

Joyful Noise (Pre-K), Carol Choir (K-3) and Pilgrim Choir (4-6) are designed to allow younger musicians to develop their new music skills for worship. Rehearsals for the Carol and Pilgrim Choirs are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. Joyful Noise rehearses from 5:15-5:30 PM. Each group sings monthly in worship.

Covenant Choir

Covenant Choir is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation Class in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. The choir sings most weeks during the school year.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings once or twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:20-7:20 PM.

Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 PM.



December Choral Concert



December Choral Concert



Jazz Coffeehouse 2016

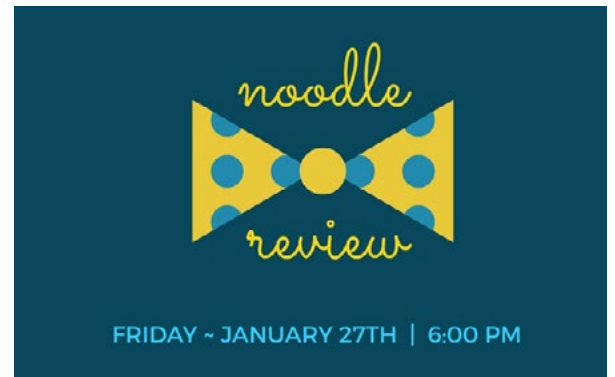
QUESTIONS?

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

Amy Luckenbill
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115
Email: amyl@countrysideucc.org
www.countrysideucc.org

Calling All Comedians!

Are you a funny girl? Are you a hilarious guy? Then, we need you to star in the first ever Noodle Review on January 27th. Hosted by the Boards of Arts & Music and Family Life, we'll gather together to present an evening of humorous skits, sketches, and songs while our guests enjoy a bowl of their favorite pasta noodles. Come help us make this a great 2017 kickoff!





THE BOX FOR JANUARY

We are collecting personal hygiene products for Youth Emergency Services. Please bring things like soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and feminine items to Countryside during the month of January. They will be distributed to local at risk youth at the end of the month. Please send questions or ideas for the 2017 BOX to christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING: TOGETHER

If you have not already heard, the recipient of the 2016 Special Christmas Offering is Together, Inc. You can learn more about the history and mission of the organization at togetheromaha.org. The funds raised through our 2016 Special Christmas Offering are specifically supporting Veterans and their families. Tax-deductible donations can still be received after December 31, but the transaction will be dated 2017. If you intended to give or want to give more, please make your final decisions and make checks out to Countryside Community Church with "Special Christmas Offering" on the memo line or use the web: countrysideucc.org/give.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD UPDATE

Two Christmases ago, the Community Cupboard received Countryside's Special Christmas Offering. That gift is still providing food to local families on a monthly basis! For example, on November 5, 223 families (a total of 831 people) came and received food provided by Countryside's Pantry. Thanks again to all of the dozens of volunteers in our congregation and community who donate their time each month to help relieve hunger. If you would like to see how this miracle works; the next chances are on Saturday, January 7, and Saturday February 4, 2017. To find out how you may be able to help, contact Andi Lawlor: communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

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.

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

The Box

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

Community Cupboard

A large mobile food pantry takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!

Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

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

Small Service Grant (SSG)

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

RELOCATION



RELOCATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our beautiful new church is becoming a reality!

On December 12, twenty-six Countryside Committee members met at the office of our architects, APM and HGA for a progress report and exchange of information on future design decisions. A review of our aspirations for the building project and an update on changes/modifications to the plans since the Schematic Design phase were presented. Much progress has been made! A few of the design elements discussed include:

- plans for an outdoor space just north of the building
- organ/pipe placement in the sanctuary
- interior room plans "right-sized" as a result of the full inventory of items we will take with us (furniture, storage needs, etc.)
- placement of some mechanical elements

The design team requested further input on:

- exterior design plans and exterior building materials (wall and roof options.)
- interior floor plan adjustments
- placement of the "treasures" we will take with us such as the sanctuary cross, stained glass art.
- Audio/visual/communications requirements for sacred spaces, meeting rooms and offices.

Budget estimates for the project continue to be refined by John Taylor of Project Advocates.

The next full committee meeting with the architects will be mid-January. The Design Development phase is on schedule and will be finalized in mid-February.

The Challenge Grant for the Relocation Campaign will Continue Until We Make Our Goal!



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 crc@countrysideucc.org.



LIFE MINISTRIES



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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

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

Email: marybethl@countysideucc.org

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Wednesday Night Alive Suppers for January

Dinners run from 5:00-6:20 PM in Memorial Hall. Pre-registration is GREATLY appreciated!

Here is the list of dinners for January.

- January 4: Lasagna, garlic bread and salad, hosted by Maureen Karpf and Megan Seymour
- January 11: Indian Chicken Tikka Masala and Aloo Gobi with rice, hosted by Christy Palmer
- January 18: TBA, hosted by Margaret Gilmore and Rebecca Morello
- January 25: TBA, hosted by Jenna Gallagher

The suggested donation for Wednesday Night Alive Suppers is \$5/person or you may purchase by the month not to exceed \$80/family. THANKS to Christy Palmer for her organization and coordination of this family-based ministry!

Interplay

will be held on Saturday, January 7, 9:30-11:30 AM in the Foyer of Countryside Church. For additional information, please contact Rita Otis at rmotis@cox.net.

NEW SOCIAL GROUPS

Movies...Movies...Movies!

There are many folks who would like to see the Cinema Group return to Countryside. If you enjoy viewing the current films, doing so with old friends as well as new and going out for coffee and discussion after then this group is for you. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Lights! Camera! Action! Join us for some "Reel" fun the second Friday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Chapel beginning in February. "Classics and Conversation" will begin on January 13, 2017, so be watching for upcoming movie titles, reviews and more. Mark your calendars now for an evening of great films, friends and food!

It's all About Nature!

How about spending time in nature! Even though the weather might be "uncomfortable," we still need to keep ourselves active, energized and warm! So how about an afternoon of ice skating, sledding in Mahoney State Park, walking through Lauritzen Gardens or the Gene Leahy Mall as we get caught up in the sparkle of the twinkling lights? Bundle up, put on some hiking boots and let's go!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Thank You

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

Social Media Help

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. If interested contact Dan at danl@countysideucc.org.

Kitchen Help

Kitchen helpers are needed on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:30 PM and Sunday mornings. Contact Mary Beth.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks to help set up and distribute food at the January and February food pantries. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

In January, we are shining the spotlight on the Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO). The board of 16 volunteers is charged with directing the financial and volunteer resources of Countryside Church to further the work of God in the community, the nation and the world. The board strives to seek out and meet human need, to train and serve the Christian conscience of the congregation in expressing our love of mankind through contributions and service outside the church and to challenge the membership to participate to the fullest. They created Service Quest 2016 this Fall, inviting seven community agencies to Countryside to share their mission and volunteer opportunities with our church family. They are also responsible for determining Christmas and Easter offerings along with individual grants (Small Service Grants) available to church members as seed money for personal and community mission.

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@countysideucc.org.

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

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

Knit-n-Wit

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

WNA Supper Group

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

Women's Lunch Group

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

Nine-to-Dine

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

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Marilyn Vincent at darellvincent@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@countysideucc.org.

Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This 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 msturmsma@yahoo.com.

Mahjong

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

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 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

LGBTQ 101

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

Adult Education

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

Journey Groups

See 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@countysideucc.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 Arts and Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 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 Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM. 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 tkerrigan@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 omahascats@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.

Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation (CCCF)

The Foundation is an independent organization created by the Church to support and supplement the programs and facilities at Countryside. This board is composed of 7 church members. They meet quarterly. Contact Foundation chair, Mike Jones at mjones@ellickjones.com.



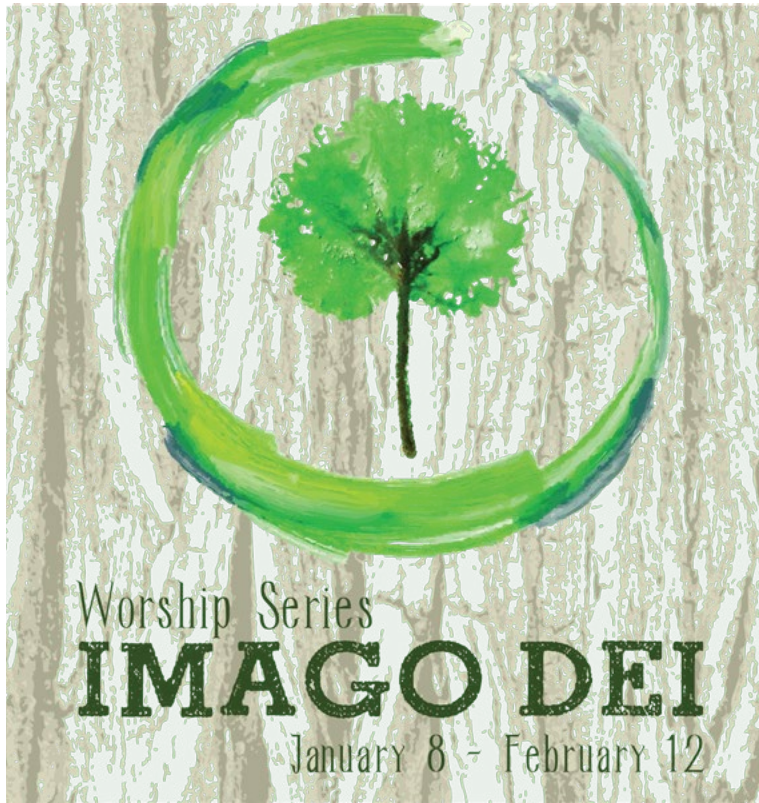


Countryside

Community Church

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

402-391-0350 | COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG



Worship Series
IMAGO DEI
January 8 - February 12

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More Than A Joke



Sean O'Casey's Pub
2523 S. 140 Ave.

Sunday evenings | Jan. 8 - Feb. 19
5-6:30 PM *will not meet Feb. 5*

What happens when a Jewish rabbi, a Christian minister, and a Muslim leader walk into a pub? While humor is sure to ensue, what happens is more than a joke!

This series will explore the same theme as our morning worship series, only from a causal, Tri-Faith perspective.

SUNDAY
January 22
Memorial Hall
12:15 - 2:00 p.m.



Prepare your favorite chili or most decadent chocolate dessert. All are invited to sample and vote for the best.



Prizes will be awarded to the winners of both the chili and chocolate categories!

Sign up at the Information Station



Countryside
Community Church

Annual MEETING 2017

Sunday, February 5
12 Noon

Annual Meeting with
chili lunch to follow the
10 AM Youth Sunday Service