

MAY



EASTER AT COUNTRYSIDE



GROUNDBREAKING JUNE 5, 2017

Omaha - home of the College World Series, the Henry Doorly Zoo, the Old Market, the Oracle of Omaha and now the site of the Tri-Faith Initiative. The Tri-Faith Commons, on the southeast corner of 132nd and Pacific Streets, is truly unique. Nowhere else in the world have the three major Abrahamic faiths intentionally built individual houses of worship on the same tract of land with the intent to promote dialogue, transcend differences, foster acceptance, and build bridges of respect and trust while practicing their own individual faiths.

In the aftermath of 9-11, members of Temple Israel walked to a neighboring mosque to show their support of their neighbors. That event led to a conversation that eventually resulted in the Tri-Faith Initiative. In 2014, Countryside Community Church was invited to become the Christian church in this endeavor and in April of 2015 Countryside members voted to relocate

our church to join with our Jewish and Muslim friends in promoting peace and understanding in our conflicted world.

The Tri-Faith Initiative holds much promise in setting an example of how people of different faiths cannot just coexist but grow and prosper. It is with this promise in mind that we are pleased to announce the date of our groundbreaking of our new home at 13130 Faith Plaza.

On Monday, June 5, we will gather and break ground for our new church. The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, UCC National President, will be our guest speaker and we are delighted to have him with us. At 5:00 p.m. we can gather for socializing and light refreshments and at 5:30 p.m. the groundbreaking program will begin.

continued on page 3

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](#)

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
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

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100
krish@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 125
debbiev@countrysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countrysideucc.org

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 NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Courtney Holiday began her work at Countryside on April 8, she is the Administrative Assistant for Center for Faith Studies and will be working directly with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander. She comes to Countryside from Scholastic where she was a Field Representative. She is looking forward to her new position with CFS at Countryside and said she is "most excited to help make a positive change by educating our community on issues that impact our society." When not at work, Courtney is busy with her four school-aged boys and husband, Rusty.

Robert Cunningham started on April 14, he is the new Audio Video Technician. Robert is currently attending the University of Nebraska Omaha working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology and Jazz Band. He worked for Countryside previously as the AV technician for the New Church. We are happy to have Robert back



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Ministry -Our next two monthly meetings will be on Tuesdays, **May 2 and June 6**. 5:30 PM is Leadership Team in Jan's office, and 6-8:00 PM is Peer Support in the Chapel.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Ewan Lawrence Seymour-Karpf was born on March 26 to Eric and Maureen. Welcoming Ewan home were big brothers Eric and Elliott, and big sister Edith. The happy grandparents are Megan and Bob Vacha. Thank you, Lord, for growing families and for Ewan's entry into such a joyful family; protect and guide him all his days.

Kristabelle Denzlinger has been at UNMC the past few weeks due to health complications. For Kristabelle, Kristen and Abram, Lord, hear our prayers for strength, good medical care, and clarity for this path.

David Davis: David hopes that this latest round of a different chemo at Methodist will allow him to return "home" to Maple Ridge. We pray for our friend, Lord, that he may feel cared for and hopeful.

IN MEMORIAM

Annette Pitzer passed away on April 24. There will be a visitation at Countryside on Sunday, May 7, 4-6 PM, with the memorial service on Monday, May 8 at 4pm with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Dorothy Peters died on March 29, and Rev. Eric Elnes officiated at her funeral on April 4. The funeral was held at John A. Gentleman Funeral Home.

Gene Gilmore, former Countryside Moderator, passed away on April 2. Gene's son is Rick (Chris) Gilmore. Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander will officiate at Gene's service in the Countryside Sanctuary on Sat., June 10, at 2 PM.

Marge Holsteen died on April 16, and Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiated at a memorial service in the Countryside Chapel on Sat., April 22.

Two Countryside members have recently lost dear family members: Maria Gaebler's oldest brother **Richard Knaup** passed away in St. Louis, and Donna Knutson's mother **Evie Offendahl**, age 91, died on April 17 in Fargo, N.D.

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

GROUNDBREAKING - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Temple Israel is already on site. The American Muslim Institute will open in late May, with a grand opening event scheduled for early July. Our general contractor has been selected, the church design is in its final stage of completion and it is now time for Countryside to take this next step in our faith journey. This is a momentous time in the history of Countryside Community Church. Just as Roger Manners led our congregation west in 1949, Countryside is again moving westward to our new home on the Tri-Faith Commons. We hope you will join us in this celebration!

OMAHA GIVES



Countryside is proud to be participating in Omaha Gives!, a 24-hour charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. We will be calling on the Omaha community to support our move to the Tri-Faith campus.

The online giving holiday will take place May 24 from midnight to midnight. Mark your calendars because we will need your help! We will be joining more than 800 local nonprofits to raise money together and compete for prize money-the more donors we get to give to us, the more likely we are to win prizes.

Omaha Gives! is a community-wide event to show off Omaha's spirit of giving, raise awareness about local nonprofits, and celebrate the collective effort it takes to make this city great. Learn more at OmahaGives.org/countryside.



CFS EVENTS

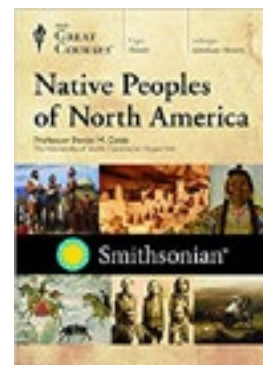
Ongoing Learning Groups

The program year for Center For Faith Studies has come to an end yet, we still have several learning groups and classes available for participation throughout the summer:

Adult Forum: Native Peoples of North America

Sundays, 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room

Walk-ins are welcome!



Brown Bag Adult Forum:

Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds

Mondays 12:15 PM in the Chapel

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

Racial Justice Book Group – Meets Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Explores books, articles and podcasts around the racial landscape of America. Come anytime, but let us know so we can inform you of last minute changes like field trips.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. Currently studying Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Reading Welcome to the Wisdom of the World by Joan Chittister, OSB. Wednesdays at Noon in the Chapel

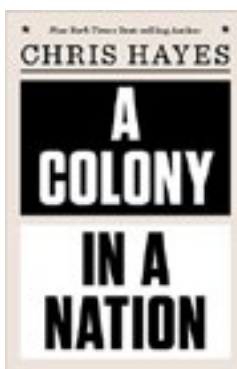
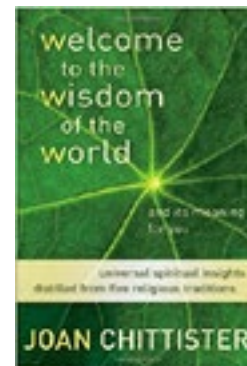
Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying Native Peoples of North America.

Books, Bible, and Beyond:

Studying Welcome to the Wisdom of the World by Joan Chittister.

Wednesdays, Noon in the Chapel



Racial Justice Book Club:

Studying "A Colony In A Nation" by Chris Hayes

Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Commons

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel - Save the Date - Mondays, June 12- July 10, 10 AM

Save the Dates for Rabbi Azriel's next Class:
Monday mornings at 10 AM, June 12- July 10

Also, did you know you can go back and watch any of the CFS events on video at YouTube/Center For Faith Studies, including the previous classes from Rabbi Azriel! Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CountrysideOmaha/videos>

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Chris Alexander**.

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series-Ecclesia Spiritus

A new Series is beginning called Ecclesia Spiritus. This series will explore how the early Christian community formed itself around both the ongoing memory of Jesus and their ongoing relationship with him as Holy Spirit. Discussions will include conceptions of Jesus (the second Adam, our Passover) and how the implications of these concepts were borne out in the lived community.

Our Worship Series Schedule for this series is:

- April 30: Ecclesia of Misfits
- May 7: Ecclesia of Peace
- May 14: Ecclesia of Holiness
- May 21: Ecclesia of Eden
- May 28: Ecclesia of the Kingdom
- June 4: Ecclesia of Spirit (Pentecost Sunday)



Journey Groups for Ecclesia Spiritus

Consider joining one of our 17 already existing Journey Groups, or beginning your own. There are groups which meet at a variety of times and locations throughout the week, so let us know your schedule and we'll help you get connected. Contact Rev. Chris Alexander chrisa@countrysideucc.org for more information.

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

2017 BOX CITY
MAY 5, 6 PM - MAY 6, 8 AM

First United Methodist Church

Join hundreds of area youth for an overnight program dedicated to raising awareness of homelessness.

For more information contact Will Howell at: willh@countrysideucc.org or 402.391.0305 ext. 111

SAVE THE DATE

Rabbi Azriel's next class series Mondays at 10 a.m. June 12 - July 10

Details will be in the June newsletter

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation
Sunday, May 28

Show your Sunday School Teacher a little LOVE!

see page 7 for details

2017 COYO GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY DROP OFF DATES
May 6 | May 20

drop off
Millard Lumber
12900 I Street
9 a.m. - Noon

GARAGE SALE
June 2 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
June 3 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Go to countrysideucc.org/garagesale to schedule a pick up.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Box City at First United Methodist Church-6:00 PM

This is an overnight, multi-church event. You will learn lots about youth homelessness in Omaha and hear some great music. Then you will sleep outside in a box. Ends at 8 AM on Saturday morning. Looks like a cool event! And it's FREE! Sign up online www.countrysideucc.org/learning-together/youth-ministry/srhigh

Baccalaureate and Senior Sunday - Sunday, May 14, 11 AM

Graduating seniors will be honored at the 11:00 service. Wear your graduation gowns and be in the youth room at 10:30 AM for pictures and instructions. Please fill out the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/8hjRu60SorVAowZv2>

COYO Senior Sunday - Sunday, May 14, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Seniors will be honored at the last COYO Sr High youth group meeting.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Jr High cookout and games - Sunday, May 21, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

This will be the last COYO Jr High of the year. Come eat and play.

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Drop Offs at Millard Lumber - May 6 and May 20 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Come sort donations into boxes and put them in the truck. Go to <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale> to sign up for shifts

Garage Sale Tables and Shelves Setup - May 26, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Come help set up tables and shelves in the rooms. Go to <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale> to sign up for shifts

Garage Sale Setup - Saturday May 27, 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Unload the truck and set up the rooms with donations. Go to <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale> to sign up for shifts



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

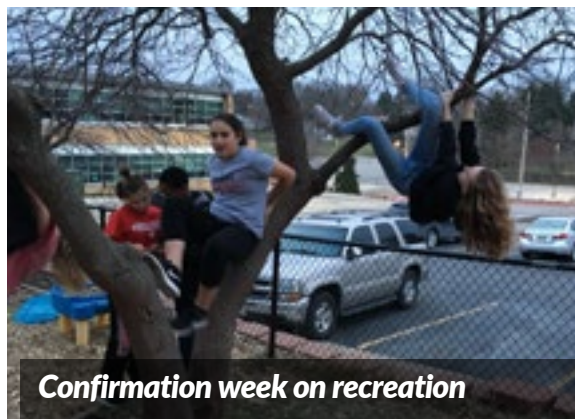
Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

COYO Sr High

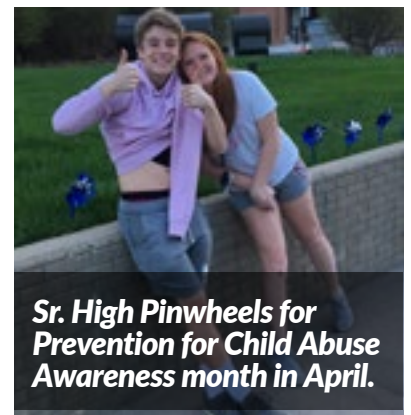
COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships and serve the community.

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.



Confirmation week on recreation



Sr. High Pinwheels for Prevention for Child Abuse Awareness month in April.

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 MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

May 7- -Sunday School

Road to Emmaus: God shone through Jesus, showing God's self to us through the life of Jesus. After Jesus's death, travelers on the road to Emmaus encountered God in a fellow traveler; when they shared bread and wine with him, they knew that Christ lived.

May 14- Children's Church

Children will process together to the Chapel for children centered worship.

May 21- Sunday School

Many Parts, One Body: Paul reminds the people of the church at Corinth that: "You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything."

May 28 - Family Worship/Teacher Appreciation

We will honor our teachers during the Children's Moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teacher Appreciation, Sunday, May 28

Please be sure to join us for Sunday worship on May 28 as we share our gratitude and love for our Sunday School teachers: Deb McCollister, Beth Anderson, Sarah Schultz, Morgan Lenigan, Ingrid Howell, Stacey Carnazzo, Maureen Hornacek, and Margaret Gilmore. We are also so grateful to our regular classroom helpers McKenna Hornacek and Abbey Hess.

Core 56 Summer Edition 2017

Our Core 56 group will continue to meet during the summer on Wednesday nights from 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM. We will NOT meet during May but will resume on June 7. We will meet in the Youth Room and you are invited to drop your students off at the courtyard doors on the northeast end of the building.

Nursery Ministry

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!

A special thanks to the youth who were integral in providing child care for our young members during our Nursery Ministry transitions: Danielle Dircks, Isaac Bonner, Mallis Bonner, Emma Boyd, and Ingrid Howell. Please be sure to show them some appreciation for their dedicated, hard work!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Registration begins June 1 online for Pre-K - 4th Grades. VBS dates are July 17-21.



Kids gathering on Youth Sunday

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 multi-media, 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



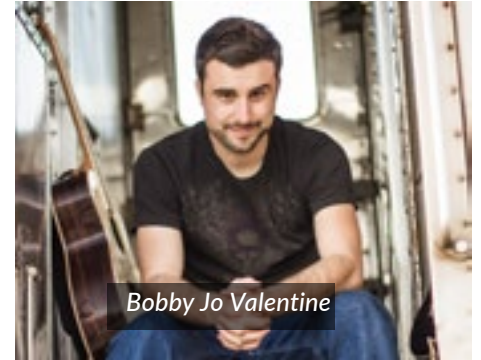
MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bobby Jo Valentine- Common Grounds, Thursday, May 11th, 7 PM

Countryside favorite, Bobby Jo Valentine, returns for a Coffeehouse Concert on May 11 at 7 PM. This is a terrific opportunity to invite friends and family who may not be ready to visit Countryside for a service, but would still like to check us out and enjoy a great evening of music, too.

Light snacks will be provided. A free will donation will be accepted at the door (\$10 suggested).



Bobby Jo Valentine

Teacher Appreciation

The Children's Choir Directors will be honored during worship with the Sunday School Teachers at the 11 AM service on May 28. It would be great to have all of the kids back together on this Family Worship Sunday to thank them for their work this year, too!

Congratulations Kiddos!

The Children's Choirs did a phenomenal job presenting Down by the Creekbank in service on April 23. Kudos to all of you! Thank you for your hard work and for sharing your gifts in worship.

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. Resumes in the fall.

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. Resumes in the fall.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 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.



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL, APRIL 23



Children's Choirs

Joyful Noise, Carol Choir, Pilgrim Choir and the Covenant Choir are done for the summer. Thank you for a wonderful year and we look forward to seeing you back in the fall!

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

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



THE BOX FOR MAY

Believe it or not, one of the largest unmet needs at Omaha's Sienna Francis House is men's and women's underwear. This organization regularly provides homeless with beds, food, clothing, medical services, employment training and education, but often comes up short on this basic item. Please bring new underwear for men and women of all sizes to THE BOX at Countryside during the month of May.

2017 SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING UPDATE

In our continued efforts to be a truly inclusive family of faith, we selected a local nonprofit called "InCOMMON" for our Special Easter Offering. The running total is \$8,444! Many thanks to all who contributed funds for this special gift. To learn about how you can help through contributing your time or talents, please call 402-933-6672, visit 1340 Park Avenue in Omaha, or go to incommoncd.org.



2018 SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

We are beginning the process of selecting the recipient for next year's special offering now! If you are thinking of a nonprofit organization that would be a good community partner for Countryside, please contact Diane Poots, Sarah Miller or send an email to christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org. Each organization is to submit a one-page Community Partner Interest Indicator form by June 1 in order to be considered for the next special Easter offering, and invited to make a presentation at Wednesday Night Alive in the Commons.

SHOW US YOUR SSG FOR 2017!

This year we have already awarded \$500 towards purchasing discounted multi-lingual books and dictionaries that are to be given away at Countryside's Community Cupboard. If you have an idea for an SSG, please find and print the form on www.countrysideucc.org under Serving Together.

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 9:00-11:30AM. 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 UPDATE

RELOCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE - MAY

The Relocation Committee is pleased to announce the engagement of Vrana Construction to build our new church. The General Contractor selection process, facilitated by Project Advocates, refined the list of competing firms to two that were invited to make oral presentations. The Selection Committee, made up of CRC and building committee members, after careful consideration unanimously recommended pursuing an engagement with Vrana Construction. The Vrana team shares a passion and interest in our project and in the Tri-Faith Initiative that assures us that our church construction project will receive their highest commitment and care.

The Relocation Campaign will participate in the Omaha Community Foundation's 5th annual "Omaha Gives!" campaign on May 24. Mary Balluff is leading this effort. She is planning a Testimonials Page for positive comments on Countryside's programs by participants in those activities. Our

community enrichment services, Kindernook, Center for Faith Studies, and Community Cupboard will be highlighted. Cheer Pages are another opportunity for social media friends to connect with each other and invite a financial gift to be sent through the "Omaha Gives!" website (www.omahagives.org/countryside). We invite a community-wide effort as we look to Omaha for donations to build a future of mutual respect and caring among all faith communities.

Design Development Drawings for the new church were reviewed by Building Committee Chairman, Paul Nelson, and Relocation Chairman, Rick MacInnes. Paul and Rick met with the architects to discuss the questions, comments and suggestions that arose from the review process. Discussions will continue as details of the building design evolve. Applause for these tireless volunteers and the countless hours they have given and will continue to give throughout our building project.



PLEDGE NOW

www.countrysideucc.org/pledge

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



ALL CHURCH PARTICIPATION

- Earth Day Potluck and program will be held on May 7. See below for additional information.
- Nine to Dine Groups will continue meeting through June 4.
- Plant One More returns on Sunday, May 7. See below for additional information.
- Pentecost Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 4 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, May 8 at Noon at Olive Garden, 7505 Dodge Street. The hostess this month is Jeanne Spires and the discussion will center around the bronze statue of the Broom Man. For additional information contact Marilyn Vincent at 402-397-0679.

Earth Day Potluck will be held in Memorial Hall on Sunday, May 7, beginning at 12:30 PM. A wrap or sandwich bar will be provided by FATE. You are encouraged to bring a side salad or dessert to share. Lunch will be followed by Cait Caughey from The Big Garden, who will be speaking from 1:00-2:00 PM on Bee Friendly: Gardening practices to maintain a healthy pollinator population. Earthy friendly garden crafts including seed bombs and bee houses will be available for the youth to create. Sign ups are available at the Information Station or by contacting christysuepalmer@gmail.com .

Classics and Conversation - Countryside's in-house movie group will meet on Friday, May 12, 7:00 PM in the Chapel. The featured movie is **Freeheld**, a true love story of Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree and their fight for justice. This is considered to be one of the cases that was instrumental in the Supreme Court legalizing same sex marriage. Should you have questions or requests, contact Ed Huddell at 402-401-8401 or leave a message in the church office for him.

Plant One More Returns for a Third Year! On Sunday, May 7, Plant One More will be handing out FREE seedlings in the Countryside courtyard from 9:45 AM until 11:00 AM (supplies may run out earlier). It is their hope that those receiving the seedlings will bring back some of the produce to share with the community.

Plant One More was founded in 2015. It's mission is to encourage home gardeners and community gardens to plant a little more than they can use, so it can be shared with those who wouldn't have fresh produce otherwise. Look for Plant One More this summer in the Countryside Community Church Courtyard, Sunday mornings, July 16 thru September 3, 8:45-11:00 a.m. Questions? Contact Vicky Houston at info@plantonemore.org

Community Cupboard Update: During 2016, the Community Cupboard received and distributed 192,045 pounds of food from the Food Bank of the Heartland. That translates into 160,038 meals provided throughout the year at a cost of \$0.05/meal! Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who not only provide food for those who are food insecure, but for creating a community based on trust and commitment to one another.

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

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Kitchen Help

Kitchen helpers are needed on on Sunday mornings. Contact Mary Beth.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, May 6. (no pantry in April) Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Should you have interest in any of these positions or would like additional information on volunteer opportunities at Countryside Church, please contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

Volunteer highlights for MAY

In May we spotlight the Children's Education volunteers who willingly volunteer their time on a weekly basis, teaching Countryside's children about God in their world through prayer practices, scripture stories and interfaith exploration. Due to their consistency and commitment, they have developed trusting and loving relationships with the children of our church. Please thank one of our remarkable teachers: Laura Mann, Jenna Gabriel-Gallagher, Denise Cole, Beth Hughs, Morgan Lenigan, Deb McCollister, Margaret Gilmore, Sarah Schulz, Ingrid Howell, Maureen Hornacek, Deb Anderson, Stacey Carnazzo and Rebecca Morello, Director of Children's Education.

Thank You

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

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 Life Ministries Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@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 marybeth@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 marybeth@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 marybeth@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 marybeth@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 marybeth@countysideucc.org.

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 (FateE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

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 Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Bruce Blanchard 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 chairs, Sarah Miller at swaetzig14@hotmail.com or Diane Poots at dianepoots@cox.net

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 Jodi Klein at klein.jodi13@gmail.com.

Board of Arts and Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM. Contact board chair Marian Kaiser at mskaiser@cox.net

Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month, 12:30 PM. Contact board chair Dinah Gomez at dinahann@me.com or Shannon Avard at stamper2k@cox.net.

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 7:00 PM. Contact board chair Jan Jalbert-King at jenj0702@yahoo.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 Tom Korth at tkorth2@gmail.com

Board of Pastoral Care

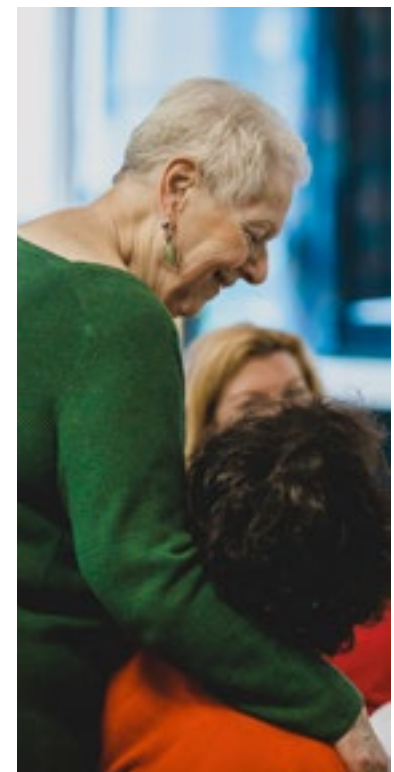
This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support, contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair Tom Scates at omahascats@cox.net.

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 6:30 PM. Contact board co-chairs Shelley Boyd at sboyd@mpsomaha.org, or Donna Rhodes at donna.r.rhodes@emcins.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 President, Geoff Kregg at geoffgg1@cox.net.





NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebraska
Permit No. 106

GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY

June 1

6 PM - 8 PM

*Preview night for
Countryside members*

FRIDAY

June 2

8 AM - 4 PM

SATURDAY

June 3

8 AM - 2 PM

See page 6 for details



VBS
The Good Samaritan

July 17-21

Pre-K - 4th Grade

Registration starts June 1

www.countrysideucc.org/vbs

Questions? Email Rebecca.
rebecam@countrysideucc.org

see page 7 for details

COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

Countryside will be conducting a communications survey from May 1 through May 27. Your participation and feedback are essential in making sure our church communications are as useful and informative as they can be. Your answers are completely confidential.

Thank you for your assistance. The survey can be found at: www.countrysideucc.org/survey



Countryside
Community Church