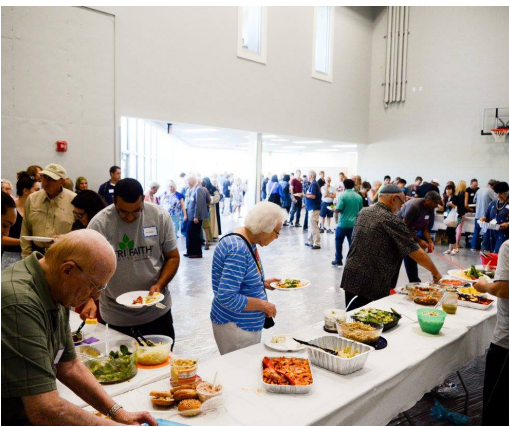


# SEPTEMBER



**TRI-FAITH PICNIC**



## WELCOME TO FALL

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Countryside programming year. There are some exciting changes for all ages that we hope you will take advantage of.

### Wednesday Night Alive (WNA)

This year WNA dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 PM in Memorial Hall with the hope that more people will be there at the same time to enjoy deeper community and to make new friends.

All programming will take place from 6:30-7:30 PM. There will be Holy Moly for grades K-4, Core 56 for grades 5 and 6, and Confirmation for grades 7 and 8...all at the same time! There will also be a new service, led by Rev Dr. Eric Elnes at 6:30-7:30 PM called Converging Paths that will meet in the Commons. The first half of the service is a pod-cast with special guests discussing relevant issues of faith and religion in today's complex world. The second half will be a service of meditation and reflection. Chancel Choir will rehearse 5:30-6:40 PM in the Choir room and Spirit of Grace will rehearse 6:45-7:45 PM in the Choir room. For the kids choirs, see

the new Sunday schedule below.

### Sundays

New opportunities are on the horizon for our young artists. See the music page for the full explanation of the new Arts Affirmation. Grades K-6 will rotate through three different art areas from 4:30-6:00 PM, and then have the opportunity to eat dinner together in Memorial Hall with each other and Countryside Youth (COYO) students.

COYO Jr High meets 4:30-6:00 PM for friends, faith, and service, with dinner at 6:00 PM in Memorial Hall, then the newly titled Confirmation Singers (formerly Covenant Choir) will rehearse in the Jr Choir room. Faith Singers (9th -12th grades) rehearses 4:30-6:00 PM in the Choir room, then go to Memorial Hall for dinner, then to the Youth room for COYO Sr High 6:30-8:00 PM.

We are excited about these changes that will not only enhance the opportunities for everyone to grow in faith, but will create a better community through a more cohesive schedule.

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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114  
Phone - 402-391-0350  
Email - [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org)  
Website - [www.countysideucc.org](http://www.countysideucc.org)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/](http://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@countysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countysideucc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
[chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org)

## **Executive Administrative Assistant**

**Robyn Hubbard**  
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103  
[robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org)

## **Business Office**

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**Kris Hill**  
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**Bonnie Buckland**  
Church Clerk  
[bonnieb@countysideucc.org](mailto:bonnieb@countysideucc.org)

**Brian Palmer**  
Building/Property Coordinator  
[brianp@countysideucc.org](mailto:brianp@countysideucc.org)

## **Audio/Visual**

**Ben Semisch**  
Videographer  
[bens@countysideucc.org](mailto:bens@countysideucc.org)

## **Minister of Spiritual Direction**

**Rita Otis**  
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129  
[rmotis@outlook.com](mailto: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@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org) or call 402-391-0350.

## **OUR PATH TO TRI-FAITH: MILESTONES AND CHALLENGES - SEPTEMBER 24**

A Congregational Meeting is being called by the Church Council for Sunday, September 24 at 12:30 PM. following the 11:00 AM worship service. This meeting is for informational purposes only; there are no action items on the agenda.

There will be an updated report from the Countryside Relocation Committee with the newest renderings of our new church building. Come get the latest peek at our future home! We will also hear from our Stewardship Committee regarding our budget planning for 2018 and the challenges before us.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. You do not have to be on the membership roster of the church to attend since there will be no votes taken at this meeting. A light lunch will be provided between 12:00 and 12:30 PM. Child care will also be provided for ages 0-3.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

- Peer Support resumes September 12 from 6-8pm, either in the Chapel or in the Moderator's Room. The next three dates are Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5. All Stephen Ministers are welcome, but especially those who have current caregiving relationships.
- Stephen Ministry Leadership will meet the same nights, but at 5:30-6pm in Jan's office.
- A new class of Stephen Ministers will begin at the end of January 2018, and so please consider joining this meaningful ministry! We'll begin recruiting in December, but you're also welcome to chat with Jan or any Stephen Minister at any time.

## JOYS

Lara and Todd Andrews had their second child, **Wilder James Andrews**, on Father's Day. Wilder's big brother is Kingston.

**Madeleine Claire Johanning** was baptized on August 13; her parents are JJ and Jaimee Johanning.

**Iyla Elizabeth** and **Scarlett James Kamrath**, the daughters of Scott and Jolene Kamrath, were also baptized on August 13.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Curt Hickman** died on July 29, and he is survived by his wife Deb, and their two sons' families. Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiated at Curt's Countryside funeral on Aug. 8.

Ron and Anette Volberding's granddaughter **Victoria Erin Mullen**, age 19, died in Scottsdale at the end of July. Victoria's parents, Jen Waggoner Mullen and Scott Mullen, survive her, as does her aunt Karen Waggoner.

Johann (Jessica) Johnson's father **Hugh Johnson** passed away at the beginning of August.

Jeanne Peters Huelskamp and her husband Ray have suffered the loss of Ray's brother **Henry Huelskamp**, who passed away in Chicago on August 11.

Barb Nelson's mother **Marilyn Stein**, 94, died on Aug. 19. Marilyn and Elmer, who had died in 1980, were founding members of Countryside.

## FALL WORKSHOP - THE PERSONAL GOODBYE

Please come to the Board of Pastoral Care's fall workshop on Saturday, September 30 in the Chapel from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, This workshop will provide helpful information about an informal, creative process which culminates in a blend of respectful and personal choices for memorial services. This event is free and open to the public; we'd appreciate knowing if you can attend by Sept. 25. Contact Jan Brown, Pastoral Care Coordinator at [janb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:janb@countrysideucc.org) with any questions.

*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](mailto:janb@countrysideucc.org)



**WNA Suppers** 5:30 - 6:20 PM

### Grade/Middle School 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) : 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 119

### Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 5:30 - 6:40 PM  
Spirit of Grace : 6:45 - 7:45 PM

### The Converging Paths Podcast

In-house Podcast : 6:30 - 7:00 PM  
Guided Mediatation : 7:00 - 7:30 PM

RESUMES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy a community meal, educational opportunities, adult choirs and *The Converging Paths Podcast*. Note: Children and Youth choirs are being moved to Sunday afternoons as part of the new Arts Affirmation program (see page 8). This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

### NEW THIS FALL!



The Converging Paths Podcast is a weekly audio podcast with Dr. Eric Elnes where "God experiences" converge with everyday life, turning each day into a potential encounter with the Holy. Starting September 6, Dr. Elnes will interview nationally-recognized faith leaders about their "God experiences" and how these experiences continue to inform their everyday life and work. Then, Dr. Elnes will offer a guided meditation in which wisdom gleaned from the interview will be organically integrated into an experience of prayer and meditation that may just provide that "meeting ground" between yourself and God that you've been looking for.



## CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS



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 – Beginning in August, we will study the UCC Curriculum “White Privilege: Let’s Talk,” in collaboration with First United Methodist Church. Group #1 and Group #2 will alternate Monday evenings in the Commons from 7:00-8:30 PM for these discussions. In November, both churches will gather together for a closing event and discussion at First United. If you are interested in joining these group studies, please contact Mary Jo Barbush Weiss at [mjbarbeiss@gmail.com](mailto:mjbarbeiss@gmail.com).

### 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*. Resumes September 11.

### Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Will resume on September 6.

### Sunday Adult Forum

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

## QUESTIONS?

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

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

**Email:** [chrisa@countriesideuuc.org](mailto:chrisa@countriesideuuc.org)

or **Courtney Holiday**, CFS Admin. Assistant

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

**Email:** [courtneyh@countriesideuuc.org](mailto:courtneyh@countriesideuuc.org)

**Website:** [www.centerforfaithstudies.org](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org)

**Face book:** Center-for-Faith-Studies

### Practicing the Presence of People: Experiencing the Trinity with Mike Morrell

September 14, 7:00 PM

Discover a deeper sense of self and unity with others. Learn to see and appreciate everyone we interact with and connect more fully.

### Breakfast with Mike Morrell

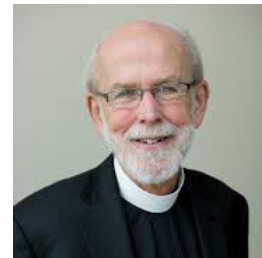
September 15, 8:30 AM Join us for a question and answer opportunity with Mike.



### Rev. Mark Hanson: Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation and Deepening Our Interfaith Dialogue

October 5, 7:00 PM

Serving as the Executive Director of Augsburg’s Christensen Center for Vocation, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson leads national and international initiatives to advance interfaith dialogue, inspire peacemaking, and support the College’s commitment to vocational discernment.



### Jan Phillips: What You Have Seen Me Do... –Working Miracles in a Modern Age

November 9, 7:00 PM

What classifies as a miracle today? What does it look like to heal one another, to be our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers? What does an updated version of the Good Samaritan story look like? Explore what it means to be prophetic in a divided world.

Tickets to above events \$10 at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) (search Center For Faith Studies) child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.397.0350 ext 119 or [courtneyh@countriesideuuc.org](mailto:courtneyh@countriesideuuc.org)



### Jan Phillips: Retreat - All Are Called, All Are Chosen: Becoming the Light We Hope to See

November 10-11: (Friday, 7:00 PM and Saturday, 9:00AM-3:00 PM)

Discover connections between our spirituality, our creativity and our action across the world. Tickets: \$75 (retreat tickets includes Thursday event)

## ADULT EDUCATION

### White Privilege - Let’s Talk

#### The Racial Justice group begins a new series on White Privilege:

The Racial Justice Group and CFS are collaborating to present a study using curriculum created by the UCC to address the issues surrounding white privilege. Countryside will be offering this study in tandem with First United Methodist Church. It is a six-week study and there are four groups so there are a variety of times and locations to choose from for participation. Two groups from

Countryside will meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM, and FUMC has a group meeting on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM and a group meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. For more information contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countriesideuuc.org](mailto:chrisa@countriesideuuc.org).



# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Convergence University-A Passport for Your Christian Journey

Convergence University is a revolutionary approach to Christian study based upon the Phoenix Affirmations and The By This Way of Life small group resources from Darkwood Brew. The curriculum is designed to help guide you along your spiritual journey, building a deeper connection with God, the Countryside community and yourself. As you begin your journey into the Three Great Loves: Love of God, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Self, you will also be encouraged to focus on a Certificate of Specialization in: Spirituality, Leadership and/or Vocation. Whether you wish to enroll as part of a small group or as an individual, C.U. can be tailored to fit your spiritual needs and your progress will be tracked using our Passport program. Contact Chris Alexander for more information [chrisa@counttrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@counttrysideucc.org).



### LIVING LECTIONARY

Countryside is partnering with San Francisco Theological Seminary to offer a thematic approach to a preaching Lectionary. Rather than providing a scripture based lectionary, the Living Lectionary allows you to choose a theme first and then pick from a wide selection of crowd sourced resources and scripture that addresses the theme. The Living Lectionary is centered on the 12 Phoenix Affirmations will be the foundation for our Worship Sermon Series for 2017-2018. Journey Groups that wish to follow these sermon series can do so as a part of Convergence University or just on it's own. There are several crowd-sourced resources online for following this lectionary. Just go to <https://thisweaffirm.org/> and pick your affirmation and you will find many creative ideas for working with these themes.



### 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](http://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@counttrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@counttrysideucc.org)

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS

**Practicing the Presence of People:  
experiencing the Trinity with Mike Morrell**

September 14, 2017, 7:00-9:00 PM

Discover a deeper sense of self and unity with others.  
Learn to see and appreciate everyone we interact  
with and connect more fully.  
*See page 4 for details*

**Parenting with  
Love and Logic®**

Wednesday evenings  
Sept. 18 - Oct. 23  
6:00 PM in the Chapel  
*see page 10 for details*

Register at the  
Information Station  
or contact Mary Beth  
[marybethl@counttrysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@counttrysideucc.org)

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS:

**REV. MARK HANSON**

*Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation  
and Deepening Our Interfaith Dialogue*

Join us as commemorate 500 years of the reformation and  
learn about Rev. Hanson's initiatives to advance interfaith  
dialogue both nationally and internationally.  
*See page 4 for details*

*The Personal Goodbye*

September 30, 2017 - 9:00 to 12:30 PM  
Countryside Community Church Chapel  
A community workshop about respectful choices  
for memorial services.

*For information contact Jan Brown 402.391.0350  
[janb@counttrysideucc.org](mailto:janb@counttrysideucc.org)*

Sponsored by Countryside's Pastoral Care Board

*This event is free and open to the public. See page 3 for more details.*



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Sundays in September

4:30 Faith Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (9th - 12th Grade Choir)  
 6:00 Dinner for all COYO Sr High, Faith Singers, and COYO Jr High  
 6:30 COYO Sr High in Youth Room (Friends, Faith, and Service)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### September 9-10, COYO Sr. High and Faith Singers Fall Retreat

Meet at church at 9 AM on Saturday. Bring your own bedding and \$30. Returns at 5:00 PM on Sunday. You can try out Faith Singers on the retreat and find out if is for you.

## COYO JR HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Confirmation Begins September 6 at 6:30 PM in Memorial Hall

Parents and students are welcome to come to the first class to hear about the requirements and the curriculum for the class.

Everything Confirmation is online at <http://countrysideucc.org/confirmation>

#### Sundays in September

4:30 PM COYO Jr High (Friends, Faith, and Service)  
 6:00 PM Dinner for all COYO Jr High, COYO Sr High, and Faith Singers  
 6:30 PM Confirmation Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (7th & 8th Grade Choir)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### COYO Jr High Lock In, September 29-30, 8 PM - 8 AM

Have fun in the church all night. Sleeping bags are optional.

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.

#### 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

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Choirs

Faith Singers (high school) meets 4:30 - 6:00 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer  
 Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Sundays 6:30 - 8:00 PM and sings once a month in church.

### 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](mailto:willh@countrysideucc.org)  
[www.countrysideucc.org/coyo](http://www.countrysideucc.org/coyo)



Faith Singers in July



Faith Singers in July



Sr. High Mission Trip in June



Jr. High Camping Trip in July



Senior Day in May



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### September 3 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Books and worship bags and are available to borrow on a cart in the Narthex/Foyer.

### September 10 - Sunday School

Joseph and his brothers: The Coat Story

In a nutshell: Joseph is learning to listen for God's guidance, but is insensitive to the feelings of his family. His brothers react in a way that places Joseph in great peril, and God remains with Joseph as he matures into his role as a leader in God's community!

### September 17 - Children's Church

Children will process together to the Chapel for child-centered worship.

### September 24 - Sunday School

Joseph and Pharaoh's Dreams

In a nutshell: Joseph shows us what living with God at the center of our lives can mean for our communities. God gives Joseph insight into Pharaoh's dreams, which results in food being stored for the famine which lies ahead. An insight that benefits many.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Core 56

Our Core 56 groups welcomes all students in 5th and 6th grade to meet to discuss scripture stories that center primarily around the New testament and the teachings of Jesus. Each week, we will discuss scripture stories, consider historical and cultural context, and contemplate how we can use what we have learned from them in our lives today. Please ask your Core 56 student to bring their bible—if you don't have one—come to church on September 3 or just ask Rebecca!

### Holy Moly

Our students meet in two classrooms on the lower level in groups of K-2nd graders and 3rd and 4th graders. Each week this fall, we will discuss an Old Testament story! In September, we will cover the stories of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, and Baby Moses.

*While it is not required, we ask that you register for Holy Moly and Core 56 by completing the corresponding Google forms on the Countryside website. It is helpful in our planning.*

### Bible Sunday

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 3 as we present bibles to our Kindergarteners, 2nd graders and 5th graders! These bibles are New Revised Standard Version and include some activities and questions that can help spark conversations and explorations of scripture stories. We will present bibles during the children's Moment that Sunday!

## 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)

#### 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**.

Email: [rebeccam@countrysideucc.org](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideucc.org)



# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

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.

### Arts Affirmation

Children in grades K-6 will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. All projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations. Sunday afternoons 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

### Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers (formerly Covenant Choir) is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

### 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, 6:45-7:45 PM.

### Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 5:30-6:40 PM.

## QUESTIONS?

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

Amy Luckenbill  
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115  
Email: [amyl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:amyl@countrysideucc.org)  
[www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org)

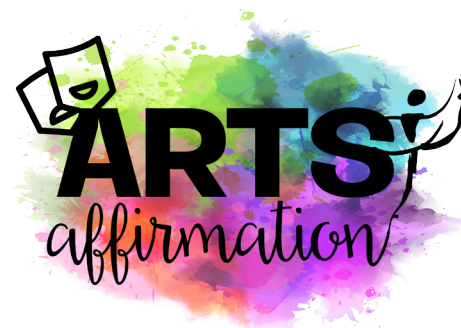
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Arts Affirmation

It's not too late to start! The kids meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 PM to coincide with youth activities (only one drop-off for parents!) Contact Amy at [amyl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:amyl@countrysideucc.org) with questions.

### Staffing Announcement

Tyler Gruttemeyer served as Interim Director of Faith Singers and helped the staff through transition prior to Amy Luckenbill's arrival last year. He continued as Co-Director with her last year. This fall, we are happy to announce that Tyler has agreed to serve as the Director for Faith Singers. We continue to be blessed by his presence and by his leadership for this group. Hip, hip, hooray for Tyler!



Tyler Gruttemeyer

## LEA MARSHALL ART EXHIBIT/AUCTION

Remember Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander's sermon series earlier this summer "Never the Less She Persisted" which featured original artwork created by our own Lea Marshall? Lea has very graciously offered to let us display the artwork featured in the sermon series as well as other pieces of her work including nature scenes, florals and batik prints on Sunday, September 10 and Sunday, September 17. These one of a kind pieces of art will be available for purchase with proceeds going to the relocation campaign. The sale will be a silent auction format with bids being written on individual bid forms and placed in a collection box. On Monday, September 11, the bids will be opened and the highest bid price (no name attached) will be displayed on each picture. On Sunday, September 17, people will have one more opportunity to submit a higher bid to purchase their favorite piece of art. Monday, September 18, the bids will be opened and the highest bidder for each piece\* will be announced at the congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24, with bidders able to pay for and pick up their artwork at the end of the meeting. If bidders cannot attend the congregational meeting, they will be contacted and arrangements made to pick up their art.



Rev. Lea Marshall

For those new to our congregation, Lea Marshall has been a member of our church since its beginning, even participating in the original groundbreaking in 1954. Lea was ordained in 1985 and served as Associate Pastor from 1985-95. Lea brought the Stephen Ministry program to Countryside in 1986. In 2006, Lea returned to serve as an interim associate pastor and liked it so much she served until 2010. Lea is an accomplished artist and has worked with multiple media. She will be in the commons on both September 10 and 17 to answer any questions you may have about the various pieces.





## THE BOX FOR SEPTEMBER

This month we are collecting disposable table items for Grief's Journey. This is a local non-profit organization located at 78th and Farnam Drive in Omaha. It is a place to find help, understanding, comfort and hope after suffering a loss. Please consider picking up a few packages of paper plates, cups, napkins, and/or plastic cups & utensils. Bring them to the BOX this month, we will make one large delivery at the end of September.

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH SERVICE QUEST 2017

Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach invites you to learn more about three (3) outstanding agencies in the Omaha area during Service Quest 2017: Table Grace, Heartland Family Service and NorthStar. These three agencies will be with us on Sunday, September 10 between services and at the All Church Welcome Brunch following the second service. They will have representative available to speak with you regarding their mission, volunteer opportunities they provide and how they are impacting the Omaha community. Stop by their tables, chat with them and then prayerfully consider how you can share your time and/or talents in the service of others. If you would like more information on these groups, contact Diane Poots or Sarah Miller, co-chairs of BOCO or stop by the Information Station and chat with Mary Beth.

## BOX RESULTS FROM JULY

During the month of July, members and guests of Countryside donated school supplies for the BOX. It was all donated to Partnership 4 Kids (P4K), a goal setting and group mentoring program that builds hope for under-served students and helps them create a foundation for success from kindergarten to careers. The Board of Christian Outreach is so grateful to all who participated. Thank you for helping to make a powerful impact on the lives of many under-served students. The donation included over 2200 individual school supplies as well as 490 snacks! Learn more about what else you can do to help at [www.p4k.org](http://www.p4k.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 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



## SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Countryside has safety policies and procedures in place for our building and the people who work and meet within its walls. With the coming move to a new home it is time to update these measures for our remaining time here and the future.

The Safety and Security Committee has been meeting for several months. It is studying our existing policies, accumulating additional information from many sources and working with the building committees, architects and commercial vendors.

The committee's "to do" list includes:

- Finalize safety and security features on architectural drawings
- Update existing policies for the church to respond in the event of crises:
  - weather or environmental hazards,
  - medical emergencies,
  - man-made or outside threats causing danger or disorder.

- Select security-related vendors for new church.
- Establish safety/security communication and coordination with our Tri-Faith neighbors and local law enforcement.
- Identify and implement safety and security training/information required by staff, volunteers and congregation.
- Communicate with the congregation about matters pertaining to safety and security.
- Establish a permanent Safety and Security Committee within the existing church governmental structure..

Committee members are: Bob Buckland, Chairman, Mary Balluff, Dan Loven-Crum, Rick MacInnes, Kris Hess, Pam Kregg, Mark Ward, Nancy Behringer.

## PLEDGE NOW

[www.countrysideucc.org/pledge](http://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](mailto: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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Wednesday Night Alive Suppers** will resume on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 PM in Memorial Hall! WNA supper helpers are needed! Christy Palmer is currently asking for volunteers to create a Wednesday Night Supper and serve it. Your expenses will be reimbursed. The average number of those attending suppers is roughly 40-50 folks Contact Christy at christysuepalmer@gmail.com or Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org if you are interested in helping.

**Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) invites you to the all church WELCOME BACK Brunch**, Sunday, September 10 after the 11:00 AM service. You are asked to register at the Information Station or contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or at marybethl@countysideucc.org. A free will donation will be greatly appreciated to help off-set the cost of the brunch. BOCO will be introducing Service Quest 2017! Check the BOCO section in this newsletter for all the information on Service Quest 2017. See you there!

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

**Lunch Bunch Circle** will resume on Monday, September 11 at the Arboretum, 8141 Farnam Drive, for lunch and a Book Exchange. You are asked to bring a book you have enjoyed and find another one to take home. Lunch will be served at an \$11.00 cost to you. Please call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you would like to join this wonderful group of women!

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

**Ladies Lunch** group will meet one week later due to Labor Day, at First Watch on Monday, September 11, 12:00 PM.

**Classics and Conversation** resumes on Friday, September 8 at 7:00 PM with the viewing of a Chaplin classic, "The Gold Rush." It is directed by Charlie Chaplin. Mr. Chaplin also wrote the movie, the music and stars in the film as well. The theme of the film centers on two "little guys" who overcome the odds and become the "big guys." Contact Ed Huddell at 402-401-8401 for additional information. No registration required, see you there!

**Parenting with Love and Logic** classes return to Countryside on Mondays, September 18-October 23, 6:00-7:30 PM in the Moderator's Room. Mary Johnston will be facilitating the classes this year. Mary is a trained Love and Logic facilitator and has practiced Love and Logic when she taught as well as through many years of classes at Countryside. Contact Mary Beth for additional information or stop by the Information Station to register for the class.

## THANK YOU

**Tri Faith Picnic volunteers** - What a great day we had celebrating together. It was an amazing crowd, great food and warm fellowship...just exactly what we expected!!

**Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-thon volunteers** - Another great job sharing your talents and dedication to not only the Omaha community but as representatives of Countryside! Thanks for all you did!

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Board Members

Self-nomination forms are located on the Information Station. If you are interested in learning more about the leadership boards at Countryside or would like to nominate yourself or someone whom you feel would be a responsible board member, please stop by and pick up a form. Chat with Mary Beth should you have any questions regarding this process.

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, September 2 and October 7. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org.

### inCOMMON

Volunteers are needed at inCOMMON to help with youth programs, park clean-up days and special events. Email Rachel for more information at Rachel@incommoncd.org.

### Volunteer highlights for September

The Nominating Committee consists of 12 elected volunteers, the past board chairs and past Moderator of Countryside. These 20 volunteers meet weekly for 6-8 weeks filling the vacancies within the leadership boards of our church. This year 46 volunteers will be rotating off their board commitments within the eight (8) leadership boards. This is a daunting task, one filled with great deliberation and reflection, yet one that is gratifying and rewarding! This year's leadership for the Nominating Committee is Pam Kregg and Patti Tu. We thank them in advance for their diligence and commitment to Countryside's future leadership.

Thanks to the Board of Arts and Music for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the month of September. 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 Gloria Reid at g-g.ried@cox.net or 402.333.3115.

### 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.

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

See [countysideucc.org/about-us](http://countysideucc.org/about-us)

## 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.

## 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 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.



[trifaith.org](http://trifaith.org)  
[americanmusliminstitute.org](http://americanmusliminstitute.org)  
[templeisraelomaha.com](http://templeisraelomaha.com)

## AMI - AMERICAN MUSLIM INSTITUTE

### Summer Open House a Big Success

The American Muslim Institute (AMI) had over 1,500 people attend their open house at the mosque in July. Visitors lined up at the door to tour the two level mosque including a station manned by volunteers where guests could ask questions about Islamic culture. Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi was quoted in the Omaha World Herald as saying, "History is being written here on this spot," he said. "This project comes at a very crucial time of violence, divisiveness and intolerance in our nation to help promote education, peace and brotherhood."



Visitors at AMI in July



[facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/](https://facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/)  
[facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/](https://facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/)  
[facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/](https://facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/)

## TEMPLE ISRAEL

### Meet the Senior Rabbi



Rabbi Stoller  
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Stoller grew up in Houston, TX, and attended The University of Texas where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Honors Business Program & Finance in 1996. After graduation, he first worked as a Political Consultant and Hill Consultants in Houston and then serviced as Press Secretary for U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald (IL), Washington, DC. Rabbi Stoller has stated, "Seven years in politics is enough to drive you to God. That is my short explanation for why I left my career as a U.S. Senate press secretary to become a rabbi - although, in truth, there is a lot more to the story. While politics can certainly be disillusioning, I see my journey from the Capitol to the rabbinate as a personal spiritual evolution toward a fuller, more authentic version of myself, a deeper engagement with things that really matter, and the realization of my destiny to be a teacher and spiritual guide to others." Rabbi Stoller is married to Karen Flayhart and they have two children, Lindsay (7) and Zachary (3).

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

On Friday **September 1**, AMI invites Countryside to celebrate **Eid al-Adha** - in Arabic this literally means "festival of the sacrifice", and for Muslims it commemorates the day when prophet Abraham was going to sacrifice his son but was instructed by God to offer an animal instead. Muslims celebrate this holiday with a pilgrimage to Mecca called Hajj. If you wish to attend this holiday at the mosque please arrive early for the 9:00 prayer service in order to remove your shoes, cover your heads, or otherwise prepare to enter the prayer room by 9:00 AM. A greeting to use on this day would be "Eid Mubarak."

**Rosh Hashanah is September 20-22.** Rosh HaShanah (literally, "Head of the Year") is the Jewish New Year, which marks the beginning of a 10-day period of prayer, self-examination and repentance. Common on Rosh Hashanah is the salutation "shanah tovah u'metukah". It's Hebrew for "a good and sweet new year."

**Yom Kippur is September 29-30.** Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. A common greeting for this holiday is, "Have an easy fast."

NEW WORSHIP SERIES

# Pilgrim's Progress

SEPT. 10 - OCT. 15

Join us in September when we reveal our new worship series.

# CONVERGING PATHS PODCAST

by *Darkwood Brew*

Wednesdays during WNA

The Converging Paths Podcast is a weekly audio podcast with Dr. Eric Elnes where "God experiences" converge with everyday life, turning each day into a potential encounter with the Holy. Starting September 6, Dr. Elnes will interview nationally-recognized faith leaders about their "God experiences" and how these experiences continue to inform their everyday life and work.



**Our Path to Tri-Faith:  
Milestones and Challenges**  
Sunday, September 24  
12:30 PM following Worship

Come have a light lunch, get a peek at our future home and learn about the budget challenges in 2018.

This is an informational meeting and no vote will be taken so all are welcome to attend.

Child care will be provided for ages 0-3.  
*see page 2 for details*



### SELF NOMINATIONS

Self-nomination forms are located at the Information Station. If you are interested in learning more about the leadership boards at Countryside or would like to nominate yourself or someone whom you feel would be a responsible board member, please stop by and pick up a form.

Email Mary Beth should you have any questions regarding this process.  
[marybethl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countrysideucc.org)



**BOCO SERVICE QUEST 2017**

Sunday, September 10  
between services  
and at the brunch following  
the 11 AM service

Representatives from Table Grace, Heartland Family Service and NorthStar will be available to speak to you regarding their mission, volunteer opportunities they provide and how they are impacting the Omaha community.



**NORTHSTAR**

*see page 9 for details*