

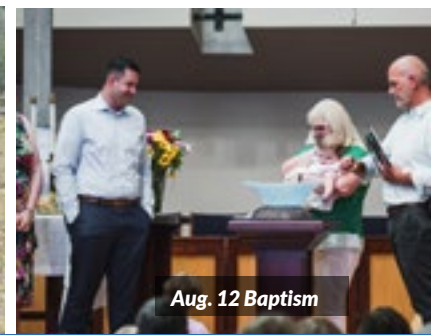
SEPTEMBER



COYO Jr. High Hike



COYO Jr. High Hike



Aug. 12 Baptism

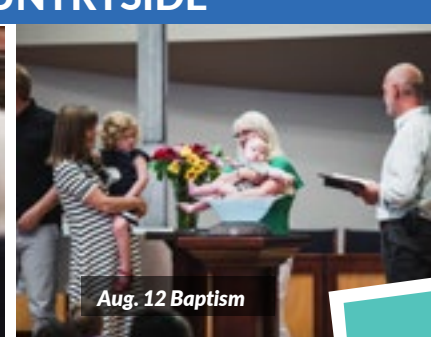
AUGUST HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE



Tri-Faith Picnic



August Worship Service



Aug. 12 Baptism

COME AND SEE!

Can you feel the excitement? We have children running through the hallways on their way to Core 56 and Holy Moly, blended voices raised in song coming from the choir rooms, videos playing from the small group rooms with heartfelt discussions in response, Confirmation students gathering for conversation and faith formation, Kindernook parent cars lining up in the turn-a-round dropping off children for classes, and parents of all types gathering to learn how love and logic can make them more open and available to the needs of their children. And all this excitement is just on Wednesdays!

Then we have COYO Sr. High and COYO Jr. High students sharing their life experiences and eating dinners together, other students learning about arts and music as an expression of their faith through Arts Affirmation, and a group of worship participants gathering to explore new forms of liturgy, all adding their energy to our shared spaces on Sunday evenings.

Throughout the week we have Stephen Ministers gathering for their monthly peer support, boards and committees gathering for their leadership discussions, social advocacy

groups gathering to plan opportunities to engage with our larger Omaha community, Community Cupboard volunteers continuing to welcome our neighbors, and the Countryside staff ramping up their energy to support and resource the whole lot of it!

What a wonderful and marvelous expression of following God's energy in the world! You can't help but get caught up in it and feel the joy that drives it all. Countryside is on the move and inviting everyone to join in the CELEBRATION! We are hosting an All-Church Picnic on Sunday, September 9 at the Elmwood Park Pavilion beginning at 12:30. Check out the details on page 10. Register at the Information Station on Sundays, online through the website or the link in the weekly C10 email.

With all this energy and activity surrounding us every day of the week, its bound to be a terrific start to the program year that will carry us into our new location on the Tri-Faith Commons come spring! The disciples of Jesus must have felt a similar energy and excitement when they asked Jesus what he was up to, and Jesus responded, "Come and See!"



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- [Welcome - Page 2](#)
- [Pastoral Care - Page 3](#)
- [Center For Faith Studies - Page 4](#)
- [Engaging in Worship - 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/Tri-Faith - Page 11](#)

WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countysideucc.org
Website - www.countysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/
CountysideOmaha/

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

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 102
danl@countysideucc.org

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

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

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

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

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

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

WELCOME

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

OUR MISSION

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

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

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

Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services. 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.

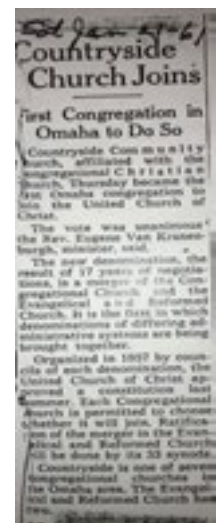
Free Gift - If you are a first time visitor at Countryside, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of the pastors in the Foyer, after the services, so we might offer you a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us.

Countryside Email list - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at office@countysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER - GLORIA RIED

An Omaha World Herald article from January 21, 1961 reported that Countryside Community Church affiliated with the Congregational Christian Church became the first Omaha congregation to join the United Church of Christ. After 17 years of negotiations, it is a merger of the Congregational Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Each Congregational Church was permitted to choose whether it will join.

It was the first in which denominations of differing administrative systems were brought together. At that time, 1961, there were seven congregational churches in the Omaha area. The Evangelical and Reformed Church had two. The vote by Countryside Community Church was unanimous to join United Church of Christ.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 30, 12:30 PM:

Congratulations to our Director of Youth, Will Howell, on his graduation from Chicago Theological Seminary last May! The next step to becoming an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ is to receive a "call" for ministry in a congregation. Countryside's Personnel Committee and Board of Trustees has recommended to Church Council that our congregation extend a call to Will to be our Minister of Youth and Family. We will hold a special congregational meeting on Sunday September 30 at 12:30 PM to consider this recommendation as we review the changes and responsibilities implied with such a call. Please mark your calendars to attend this special meeting and look for more information about the congregational call process in a letter to be sent to your home in September.



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATES AND GRATITUDE

September 11 – 5:00 PM, Stephen Ministry Leadership Team in Jan's office

September 11 – 6:30-8 PM, Stephen Ministry Peer Support for all new and recently active Stephen Ministers

LOVE IS LOVE: For all current and former Stephen Ministers to ponder: What's portable about our Stephen Ministry program as we prepare to move to the TriFaith Campus? Are there curricular pieces which could be altered so that we're more inclusive of Jewish and Muslim caring traditions? If you're interested in exploring these exciting concepts which represent an "expansion, not rejection" of care, please contact Jan Brown. We're starting to dream and make room for the workings of the Spirit.

BAPTISMS

Two Baptisms were held on Sunday, August 12 at the 11:00 AM worship service (see front page for pictures):

Niles Christopher Johnson, son of **Beau** and **Alissa Johnson**.

Jillian Claire Pasko, daughter of **Dan** and **Laura Pasko**.

IN MEMORIAM

Todd (Cathy) Fisher's father **Dr. Eugene C. Fisher**, 86, passed away in Omaha on August 9.

FALL PASTORAL CARE WORKSHOP - "TURNING POINTS"

Overheard after church recently:

"I don't understand why she did that! I thought we were on solid ground with each other."

The response: "In these days, it seems there is no solid ground between people."

Relationships – one bucket of stress.

"My kids want me to look at assisted living places, but the way I figure it, it's just cheaper to stay in my home until there's some kind of crisis I can't fix." Changing needs as we age – another bucket of stress.

"I worry about my adult daughter; is she such an introvert that she'll never find a partner? How do I parent an adult child anyway?" Families – maybe our biggest bucket of stress.

Stress: Danger or Opportunity? No matter your age or situation in life, this topic may really resonate. Stress motivates us to be on top of our games, but yet at some point it can also be a harmful health risk. How do we know when there's too much stress, and how can we each cope? Join us to uncover some answers. Bring your teenagers, your partner, your parents, your friends. Morning refreshments will be served, there is no charge, and this is open to the wider community.

Contact Jan Brown, Pastoral Care Coordinator, for any questions or to sign up. This workshop just might be an important "Turning Point" in your life!

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO COMBAT "FACEBOOK ZERO" AND SPREAD OUR MESSAGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

When you follow a page on Facebook with the hopes of staying up to date on that organization's latest goings on, you would expect to see all of their posts show up in your Facebook feed.

However, that's not how Facebook works now. Facebook doesn't show you everything from your friends or the pages you follow. Instead, it uses an algorithm to pick and choose the types of posts from the people and pages you follow that it thinks you would like to see. Those are the posts that end up in your Facebook feed.

In the past, you would receive a mixture of posts from personal Facebook friends and Facebook pages you follow (such as brands, organizations and news media). However, Facebook has recently changed its algorithm so that most of the posts you see will be from your Facebook friends, and many less posts you see will be from Facebook pages. This new change is called "Facebook Zero."

Engagement to fight Facebook zero

One of the best ways to fight Facebook Zero is to increase the engagement of our posts. Engagement is any interaction with a post

such as shares, likes, reactions or comments. Facebook Zero puts an emphasis on interaction with friends, so if a Facebook friend shares a post from a page to their personal Facebook profile, it is more likely that people will see it. In fact, any post that sparks meaningful interaction is more likely to show up in the Facebook feed. This includes posts that prompt lots of comments and discussion too.

We would like to encourage our members to visit the Countryside Facebook page, to give a like, reaction or comment to the posts and to share posts to your personal Facebook timelines if applicable. Also you can select Countryside's page in a "see first" option so that the church's posts are guaranteed to end up in your news feed.

Follow Countryside on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/>

If you have questions about Facebook zero email Debbie Vihstadt, Communications Assistant, at debbiev@countrysideucc.org. Thanks for your help!



CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

2018/2019 Lecture Series; Seeds of Acceptance, Conversations in Diversity

Center for Faith Studies is excited to introduce the 2018/2019 Lecture Series; Seeds of Acceptance, Conversations in Diversity. Explore the many faces of diversity and move beyond "tolerance" towards true us.



Dr. Joe Starita - Postponed until February 28 - If you have purchased tickets please contact Courtney Holiday - 402.391.0350 or courtneyh@countysideucc.org



On March 14, 1889 – 31 years before women could vote and 35 years before Natives were considered citizens in their own country – Dr. Susan La Flesche overcame enormous racial and gender barriers to become the nation's first Native American doctor. Her story is one of unimaginable courage and extreme devotion to her beloved Omaha Indian people.

Rev. Traci Blackmon: Social Justice and Faith -Faith Rooted in Activism Thursday, October 18, 2018 7 PM

An executive leader in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and passionate advocate for social justice, Rev. Blackmon seeks to use the church as a sacred launching pad of community engagement and change.

Dr. Jana Riess & Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes: The Prayer Wheel: Prayer Retreat

Jana and Eric collaborate to rediscover a spiritual practice with a timeless solution for the modern faithful. Renew your faith and explore ancient prayer practices as found in Jana's book, The Prayer Wheel.

ADULT EDUCATION

Earth University

Thursday evenings, September 6 - October 11, 7:00-9:00 PM in the Chapel

Earth University is a series of classes specifically designed around the scientific explanation of climate change as related to our spiritual reality and to the ethical teachings found in our religions. Each series will consist of between four to six classes designed to engage participants intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually with the intention of providing a path to mindful action. Check the church website for the class schedule. Sign up today by contacting Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or by registering at the Information Station.

Rabbi Azriel Returns

Mondays beginning September 24, 10-11:30 AM in Memorial Hall

Rabbi Arhey Azriel, our Scholar-In-Residence, begins a six-week series of classes on Judaism beginning Monday, September 24. If you would like to know more about his faith tradition and be part of the ongoing conversation with Rabbi Azriel, we would love to have you attend. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org.

LtQ2 (Living the Questions)

Wednesdays starting August 29, 6:30-7:30 PM

LtQ2 is an open-minded study that strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts, LtQ2 consists of 21 sessions including: "Invitation to Journey," "Honoring Creation" and "Call to Covenant." LtQ2 includes a 20 minute video with leading voices of faith, plus weekly readings and discussion questions. Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander will lead the discussion with a 20-minute video segments from leading voices of faith, and then facilitate a group discussion following. For more information contact Chris at chrisa@countysideucc.org.

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.

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying "The History and Achievements of the Islamic Golden Age".

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15pm in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Currently studying The Celtic World by Great Courses.

Racial Justice

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com)

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Resumes September 5.

Convergence University

If your group is interested in Convergence University curriculum and would like access to additional resources provided from This We Affirm Website, please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org for login information.

Darkwood Brew Membership

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.
Username:CCCUCC Password: tryside8787

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countysideucc.org

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

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

Email: courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Worship Series: Bridging Our Divides: Why Liberals and Conservatives Need Each Other - September 9 through October 14

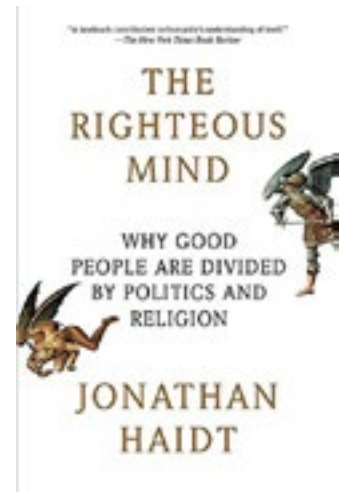
You are invited to attend worship regularly this fall for our new series, Bridging Our Divides: Why Liberals and Conservatives Need Each Other. To accompany this worship series, the Center for Faith Studies will be sponsoring an all church read from a book suggested by clergy from Temple Israel. The book is: *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Dr. Jonathan Haidt.

Countryside warmly welcomes and embraces a diverse group of people, representing a wide variety of political beliefs and personalities, educational and religious backgrounds, and social and economic circumstances yet we sometimes step on each other's toes, or mistakenly believe that everyone thinks or believes the same way. This series will draw inspiration from the Bible. Each week, we'll engage biblical stories and teachings, and lift up observations made by Dr. Haidt, illustrating ways in which political and religious "liberals," "conservatives," and those who relate to neither label can, and should, benefit from listening to each other and acting with mutual respect.

If you are someone who is as weary of the political and religious infighting as I am, this series should offer a breath of fresh air, allowing you to stand more strongly against the cultural tide to stand on a foundation of hope.

All Church Read

Calling all small groups and anyone else interested! Center For Faith Studies is sponsoring a church read of *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt for additional background for the sermon series beginning September 9! Eric says you can skip the first 97 pages and jump right into the heart of the discussion! Let us know if your small group would like to discuss this book or if you would like to start a small group for this sermon series! Contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org.



WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays in the Conference Room

For more information about Worship contact Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 113

Email: erice@countrysideucc.org

TURNING POINTS

CRISIS ← **STRESS** → OPPORTUNITY

Pastoral Care Workshop
Saturday, September 22 9 AM - Noon

see page 3 for details

Center for Faith Studies Presents

seeds OF ACCEPTANCE
Conversations on Faith

DR. STARITA

A Woman of Faith: The Story of Dr. Susan La Flesche
Tuesday, September 27, 2018 | 7 p.m.
Tickets online at eventbrite.com

POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 28

details page 4

EARTH UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY EVENINGS
SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 11
7:00-9:00 PM IN THE CHAPEL

CHECK COUNTRYSIDE.ORG
FOR CLASS SCHEDULE.

REGISTER AT THE INFORMATION STATION

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

Parenting with Love and Logic

Wednesday evenings
Sept. 19 - Oct. 17
6:00 PM in the Chapel
see page 10 for details

Register at the
Information Station
or contact Mary Beth
marybethl@countrysideucc.org



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Sr High & Faith Singers Fall Retreat - Sunday Evenings

It's not too late to join COYO Sr High and Faith Singers on Sunday evenings and for events, service projects, and faith formation.

4:45 Faith Singers, 6:00 Dinner for all students, 6:30 COYO Sr High

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCK-IN - September 28-29

Come spend the night in your favorite church 8pm-8am. Bring a snack to share. Sleeping bags are optional.

COYO Jr High on Sunday evenings

It's not too late to join COYO Jr High on Sunday evenings and for events, service projects, and faith formation. 4:30 COYO Jr High, 6:00 Dinner for all students.

ALL COYO Families

Come to the Countryside Picnic on Sept 9 at 12:30 at Elmwood Park. Food and fun at the Pavilion. Bring your favorite yard game and if your last name starts with A-R, a side dish, S-Z a dessert. Bring your own dishes so we can make it green.



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 4:45- 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 Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:30 PM and sings once a month in church.

QUESTIONS?

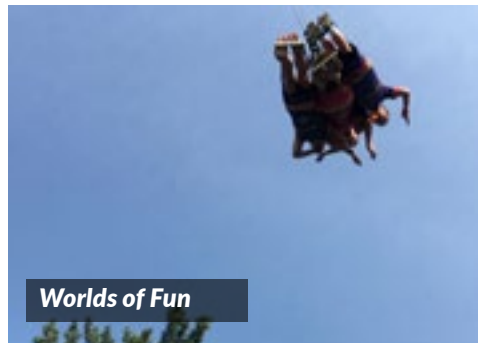
For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 111

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



Worlds of Fun



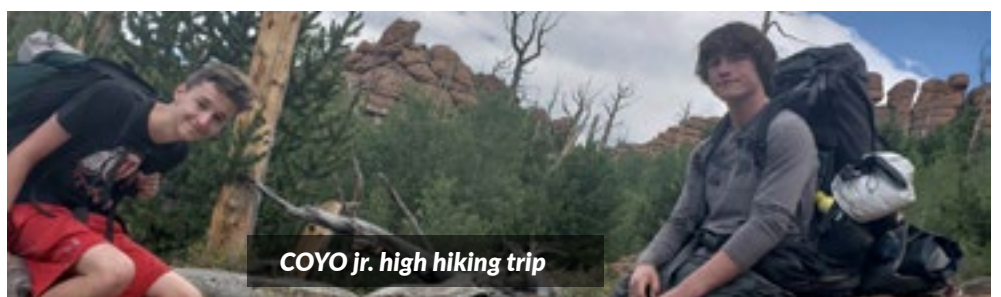
Worlds of Fun



COYO room at new church



COYO room at new church



COYO jr. high hiking trip



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER SERVICES

September 2- Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Activity bags and books are available to borrow on a cart in the Foyer.

September 9 - Sunday School

Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael-- Hagar was distraught. She was honest about her sorrows and doubts and anger. God heard her. God sees us and loves us through all our hardships and joys.

September 16 - Children's Church

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

September 23 - Sunday School

Creating All Things New-- Our loving God created a world of beauty and wonder and pronounced it good. And God's world and the wonder of it continue to unfold and call us to participate in God's creative spirit.

September 30 - Children's Church

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 9

Sunday School is an opportunity on Sunday mornings for our students in grades Pre-K (3-5 year olds) through 6th grade. During our time together, our classes explore scripture stories from the Christian tradition through discussions, activities, and prayer practices!

To register your student for Sunday School 2018-2019, please check our webpage: countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

We are excited to return to our programming. See below for a description of our Wednesday night classes (Core 56 and Holy Moly).

CORE 56

Core 56 meets in the moderator's room from 6:30 until 7:30 PM. This group is for students in 5th and 6th grades. This year, we will explore scripture stories, work on developing skills for acting as an ally to marginalized communities, and spend time in fellowship! If your 5th or 6th grade student is planning to attend, please register on our webpage: countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/core-56/ Students are welcome to bring friends!

HOLY MOLY!

Our Holy Moly! groups meet in the classrooms downstairs from 6:30-7:30PM. Group 1 is for students in grades K-2 and Group 2 is for grades 3-4. Holy Moly curriculum is written by Sparkhouse Publishing and each lesson focuses on a single scripture story with a video, story, and activity. Please register your Holy Moly student by visiting our church webpage: <http://countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/holy-moly/>

NURSERY

Our nursery staff is available on Sundays from 8:30 AM until 12:30PM. In the interest of keeping everyone in the nursery safe, we want to remind everyone that the Nursery is reserved for infants and children up to age 2. We can usually accommodate a 3 year old pretty easily, but if you have older children that require care during normal nursery hours, please make other arrangements. Thank you!

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 staff is trained and have passed background checks.

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.

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.

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.

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 enjoy fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

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.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organ Donor to the Rescue

- A note from Alex Ritter

This summer has been an exciting time for Countryside's music program, as our search for a firm to build our new organ comes to a conclusion. Roy and Gloria Dinsdale's incredible generosity could not have come at a better time for Countryside. Their significant gift towards a new organ reflects their love of music and desire for an instrument that complements the beauty and significance of our new church.

Just to illustrate the magnitude of this act, ours will be the first new organ in Omaha in 15 years, since St. Cecilia replaced theirs in 2003. Similar in caliber to St. Cecilia's, the new instrument will serve Countryside for at least a century, have far fewer maintenance needs, and support the music program in many ways our current instrument simply cannot.

Much work has been done in the past few weeks to ensure that the new organ will not only be an exquisite musical instrument, but a work of art that will complement the architecture of the new sanctuary.

Our committee comprises Rick MacInnes, Diane Hill, Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens, Bruce Blanchard, and Amy Luckenbill. I serve as their consultant. This group worked diligently and sacrificed a great deal of time to this effort in a short timeframe though such a process would typically take more than a year. They traveled across six states, covering 1,800 miles by car, and more by plane, to listen to 16 instruments from nine different builders. Their effort has been worth it – each of our finalists would build an extraordinary instrument for Countryside's worship and outreach. Soon we will have a final decision.

I'm so excited for what this gift means to Countryside's musical future.

Sincerely,

Alex

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 Pre-K through 6th grade 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 is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

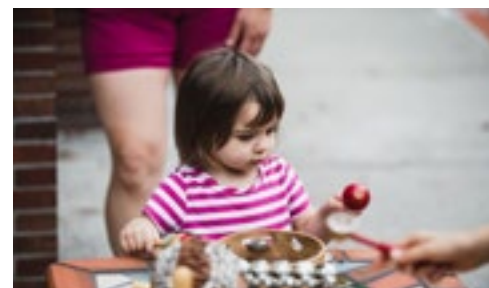
Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings 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
www.countrysideucc.org

Children checking out the Instrument Petting Zoos on Sundays, August 12 and 19.



THE BOX FOR SEPTEMBER

The box for September will be canned protein for the Countryside food pantry. Items like canned tuna, chicken and ham are greatly appreciated!

TOGETHER

Together is the third in our series of agencies which have been created through the generosity and vision of Countryside Community Church.

Together is a local, independent non-profit that was initially conceived in response to the tornado disaster in 1975 that struck the metropolitan area in 1975 and left hundreds of families homeless, hungry and in great need. The leaders of Countryside Community Church, Dundee Presbyterian, Temple Israel, Kountze Memorial Lutheran, Trinity Cathedral, First United Methodist, St. Cecilia's Cathedral, and many others organized the "Together" cooperative effort to meet the immediate needs of the hundreds of families that were struggling with the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, and shelter. However, our founders soon realized that thousands of families in Omaha need relief every day and opened the FREE services of Together to the community year round. Together is currently in the 43rd year of helping people in our community, but do so with a more streamlined and data enhanced approach. Together case managers utilize tools to either rapidly rehouse or keep a household in their home. These tools include: case management, financial assistance, employment assistance, financial education assistance, navigation services, food, furniture, bus tickets, and identification.

People often think of donating food and material goods such as furniture and household goods to Together. In order for organization to best serve the people in our community with the most need, your financial contributions are also needed. Your support allows Together to provide over 45,000 services to over 15,000 people with the most need. These numbers don't include the multitude of people assisted by the other 47 agencies we support at no charge in the Omaha Metro. When you provide funding, you become a vital partner to our mission. When you invest, you become a part of the solution.

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

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Organ Committee Update

The Organ Committee and the Relocation Committee are moving forward in final negotiations with our number one choice of pipe organ builder. The extensive search process to arrive at this point has been explained in prior CRC Update articles. The name of the company will be announced as soon as the agreements are signed.

Discussions have been very positive and approval of all parties is anticipated. These have included the church committees, the

pipe organ company and our donors, Roy and Gloria Dinsdale. There is much preliminary work to be done before a final design is presented and collaboration with our architects is already underway.

Ideas and plans have been shared among the design participants resulting in much excitement and creative energy. We shall have an excellent musical instrument that will look and sound like it belongs nowhere but Countryside's new Sanctuary!



Balcony in Worship area



Central staircase



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



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Family Celebration Sunday Picnic - Sunday, September 9 - This is the Sunday set aside to celebrate our church family coming back together after a fun filled summer. We will be celebrating friendships and community through an all church picnic held at the Pavilion at Elmwood Park, starting at 12:30 PM. You are asked to pack your picnic basket with dishes and tableware, bring your chairs and blankets/table cloths. Also, if your last name starts with A-R please bring a side dish or salad, S-Z please bring a dessert. The church will furnish the main dish, water and lemonade. There will be games and activities for the children, time for conversation and reconnection. Come to church dressed for the event. We plan on seeing you there! This event is co-sponsored through the Ministries of Children's Education, Youth and Life Ministry.

Signups are helpful. To let us know you're coming stop by the Information Station or register online. We are piloting registration through our new church database, Touchpoint. If you have been on line and set up your myData account, go to <https://countrysideucc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/120>. You have not had a chance to setup your myData account, visit the same link, enter your information and register.

Family fun night at Vala's Pumpkin Patch - Saturday, September 29 , 5:00-10:00 PM, campsite #32. We will have hot dogs, chips, water and makings for s'mores. You'll need to get your tickets for you and your family, \$14.95 per person/ children 2 and under are free. Sign up today at the Information Station to let us know you'll be joining us. This event is sponsored by the Family Activities Committee.

Parenting with Love and Logic classes September 19-October 17, 6:00 PM in the Chapel. Join facilitator Mary Johnston as she shares insight and information on how to navigate the world of parenting children of all ages. Sign-ups are requested to ensure we have enough materials for everyone. Suggested donation for the class is \$70/couple for new participants and \$15/person for a "refresher" course. Confidential scholarships are available upon request.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, September 10 at First Watch at Noon. We moved the date one week to accommodate Labor Day, which is celebrated on September 3. No need to sign up; just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal, warm conversation with women from Countryside Church, Temple Israel and AMI and lots of laughter!

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, September 10 at the Arboretum, 8141 Farnam Drive at Noon for Lunch and our annual September book exchange. Just bring a book that you have read and enjoyed and are willing to pass on to friends. Hostesses for the meeting will be Marilyn Hale and Jeanne Spires. Call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you would like additional information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Trivia Night at Countryside Church - Friday, October 19 - Put a table of 8 together (cost \$12.50/person), get your competition on and join in the fun as we friend-raise and fund-raise to help defer the cost of the "All are welcome" message at the new church! Fun, food, facts and frivolous information will be plentiful! This event is for ALL AGES, friends of our church family, Tri Faith participants and more. This event is limited to 250 folks, so sign up early! Be watching for additional information.

Ollie the Trolley Christmas Lights Tour! Thursday, December 6, 6:00 PM at Vino Mas, join friends and family for the second annual tour. Be watching for additional information. Event sponsored by E.T.C. social committee.

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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

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

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, Sept. 1. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Volunteer Corner:

KUDOS and a special THANK YOU's go out to a couple of very spontaneous and helpful gentlemen...THANKS to Don Ried for his help pruning the topiary evergreens in the corner of our lot! THANKS to Michael Owens for sweeping up the broken glass found in our parking lot! The two of you are perfect examples of caring church family members!!

Thank you!

Thanks to the **Board of Deacons** for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of September. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what that Board is responsible for and how you might help.

Kitchen helpers are needed!

THANKS to Cherine Bashara for her dedication and organizational skills as she keeps our church kitchens picked up and looking great! However, she is doing this all by herself! Countryside's four kitchens need a group of folks who are willing to come in weekly to clean countertops, empty dishwashers, wipe down appliances and general light cleaning so our kitchens are a healthy and more inviting place to work. Contact Mary Beth for more information.

Family Activities Committee (FAC) and E.T.C. Social Group

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to newpeople! If you enjoy working with a wide variety of folks, enjoy a good party or just like being around a delightful group of folks then one of these groups is for you. Stop by the Information Station and talk to Mary Beth to learn more.

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 multigenerational group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 4th 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.

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 Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net or 402.333.3115.

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes, facilitated by Cheryl Richards, are held on Monday afternoons, 5:45 PM in the Junior Choir Room. Suggested donation for the class is \$10/class. For additional information or should you have questions, please contact Cheryl at yoga.energy.oils@gmail.com.

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. Meets Fridays at 10:00 AM. 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

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 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 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
americanmusliminstitute.org

templeisraelomaha.com

TRI-FAITH KIDS - MUSLIM HOLIDAYS

Saturday, September 16

Tri-Faith Kids typically meets the 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:30-6:30 PM. Tri-Faith Kids is a family centered group that invites community members to gather once a month to share stories and a potluck meal. Families with infant through high school aged youth are welcome. Each family is asked to bring a potluck dish to share. This year's theme is "Nourishing Community through Faith, Friendship and Food." Please join us! For more information contact anjistanek1@gmail.com and put Tri-Faith Kids in the subject line.

TRI-FAITH/INTERFAITH COMMITTEE FORMED AT COUNTRYSIDE

Countryside's Church Council has approved the formation of a Tri-Faith Committee to facilitate Countryside's relationship with the Tri-Faith Initiative. It will be comprised of Countryside's members on the Tri-Faith Initiative Board of Directors, representatives from Countryside's eight boards and the Church Moderator. Their task will be to receive information from the Tri-Faith Board of Directors, disseminate information on Tri-Faith activities, convey information to the Tri-Faith Board of Directors regarding Countryside activities and encourage intra-board cooperation on Tri-Faith activities that need/require Countryside participation.

HOLIDAYS

Jewish

Rosh Hashana September 10-11, 2018

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. This period, known as the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe or High Holy Days), is widely observed by Jews throughout the world, many with prayer and reflection in a synagogue. Customs associated with the holiday include sounding the shofar, eating a round challah, and tasting apples and honey to represent a sweet New Year. repentance and self-improvement.

Yom Kippur September 19, 2018

Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. Part of the High Holidays, which also includes Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. In three separate passages in the Torah, the Jewish people are told, "the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: You shall practice self-denial." (Leviticus 23:27). Fasting is seen as fulfilling this biblical commandment. The Yom Kippur fast also enables us to put aside our physical desires to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer,

Sukkot September 24-25, 2018

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur on the 15th of the month of Tishrei, and is marked by several distinct traditions. One, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a sukkah, a small, temporary booth or hut. Sukkot (in this case, the plural of sukkah) are commonly used during the seven-day festival for eating, entertaining and even for sleeping.

Muslim

Muharram September 12, 2018

Muharram marks the start of the Islamic New Year and is a joyful day as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) told us when Allah saved Moses from Pharaoh, so he requested a fast celebrating that victory.



facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/
facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/
facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/



Worship Series

BRIDGING OUR DIVIDES

September 9 - October 14

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



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 30
12:30 PM following Worship
Light Lunch will be available.

Agenda

A discussion and vote on extending a ministerial call to Will Howell as the Minister of Youth and Family and a presentation on the successes and challenges as we move into our new building in 2019. Look for a letter from the Moderators with more information.

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



Family Celebration Sunday

Sunday, September 9
12:30 PM
Elmwood Park

Last names A-R bring side dish.
Last names S-Z bring dessert.

Pack your own dishes.
Church will provide chicken,
water and lemonade.

There will be games and activities
for the children.

Sign up at the Information Station!

Co-sponsored by the Ministries
of Children's Education and Youth
and Life Ministry

More information page 10

Family fun night
Vala's Pumpkin Patch

Saturday, September 29
5:00-10:00 PM
Campsite #32

\$14.95 per person/includes dinner
Sign up at Information Station
See page 10 for details