

OCTOBER















SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

"Day One" A New Concept in Worship starts October 14, 8 PM

Countryside's boards, committees and staff are doing everything in their power to create programming that is engaging not only to our present members, but also to those who may be attracted to Countryside once we open our doors on the Tri-Faith Commons. Toward this end, a 7-week worship experiment is taking place beginning October 14 that could potentially lead to a third weekly worship service at Countryside in 2019.

This service, held at 8 PM on Sunday evenings, will be quite different from our current offerings. Provisionally called "Day One," the service is meant to start your week, not end it. Its focus will be on connecting with the Holy Spirit in ways that keep you connected throughout the coming week.

This service is also meant for people who relate to the words "majesty," "mystery," and perhaps even "misfit" – as it's quite different from anything you'll find in Omaha or well beyond.

We'll try the service for seven weeks, and then evaluate what (if anything) happens next.

You are heartily invited to attend one or more of these experimental services. We are also looking for 30 "Worship Pioneers" who will commit to attending the majority of the seven services and offering feedback. Indicate your interest in becoming a Worship Pioneer at the Information Station or by contacting Robyn Hubbard in the office or at robynh@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350. Thank you for your willingness to try something new and be a pioneer into uncharted territory.

You are welcome to join us for one or all of the services. All are welcome to come at any time.







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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE

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@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES BEGINNING SOON!

Are you interested in the possibility of joining Countryside Church or learning what Countryside may have to offer for you? Then consider joining us for membership classes from 12:30 to 2:30PM in the Chapel on Sundays October 21 and October 28. These classes will help you learn more about the church, the church staff, and the many church programs. New Member Sunday is November 11 at 11 AM.Indicate your interest by signing up at the Information Station on Sunday mornings or contact Robyn Hubbard at 402-391-0350 ext. 103 or robynh@countrysideucc.org. We'd love to have you join the Countryside family!









Here is our latest group of New Members from this summer. Make sure to welcome them when you see them around church!

Church Office

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

Program Staff

Contact information for program staff can be found on individual ministry pages.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D. Senior Minister, ext. 113 erice@countrysideucc.org

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard

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

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum

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

Shari Garder

Financial Secretary, ext. 123 sharig@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez

Administrative Assistant, ext. 101 steveg@countrysideucc.org

Kris Hill

Administrative Assistant, ext . 100 krish@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt

Communication Assistant, ext . 125 debbiev@countrysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland

Church Clerk

bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer

Building/Property Coordinator brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch

Videographer bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis

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

PASTORAL CARE

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATES

October 2 - 5:30 PM, Stephen Ministry Leadership Team in Jan's office

October 2 - 6:30-8 PM, Peer Support in the Chapel

BIRTHS

Jim Hanson has a new granddaughter; **Bernadette James Bolton** was born on Aug. 28, 2018, to Melissa and Michael Bolton.

John and Cindy Kugler have a new grandson; **Sinclair Smith Frazier** was born Sept. 5., 2018, to Sara and Michael Frazier.

IN MEMORIAM

Linda Lovgren's father recently passed away.

Russ Shertz's father has died recently.

Dottie Sistek, longtime Countryside member who was Director of Christian Education for 26 years, died at age 93 in Lincoln. Her celebration of life was on Sept 22, at an Omaha funeral home.

Bruce (Pam) Govier died on Sept. 13, 2018. Bruce's life was celebrated at a funeral service and luncheon afterwards at Countryside on Sept. 17; Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiated.

NEW ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

From a 15th Century French word meaning "to put in the heart."

Jan Brown is leading a confidential group support for those who are experiencing stress or a difficult time of life. We'll learn ways to cope, grow and help each other. The group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 in the Pastoral Care office for eight weeks, beginning October 3. If interested, contact Jan at janb@countrysideucc.org before the group begins to see if this is a good fit for you.

"TURNING POINTS" FALL PASTORAL WORKSHOP: DID YOU KNOW?

Countryside members enjoyed three excellent speakers who made our annual workshop on Sept. 22 a meaningful experience. Here are just a few tidbits for you:

Every crisis is a turning point, providing both an opportunity to grow as well as the danger of choosing destructive solutions.

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.

OUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

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

The path to greater wholeness involves four steps: 1) acknowledge the problem and need to change; 2) turn to others for assistance; 3) discover new ways of living or thinking (which may be uncomfortable), and 4) find your new equilibrium and growth.

A quote from Children's Hospital Chaplain Dale Wratchford: "When we're wiser because of our experiences, I call that 'post-traumatic growth.' I've learned that my God doesn't hurt me – my God redeems all things, making beauty from ashes. But it's also fine to have 'lament days' on the path."

Allison Evans, MA, Life Coach and Countryside member, taught us more about how to turn TOWARD the ones we love with "magic words" such as "I noticed...." We can thus defuse a situation and affirm a loved one, giving ourselves to that person first.

Dr. Jonathan Sikorski, UNMC Director of Wellness, shared current research and many practical tips for managing stress. One wise takeaway: "Stress: TOO MUCH. Burnout: NOT ENOUGH." He recommended keeping a paper (not electronic) gratitude journal, naming two to five things we're grateful for each day. To go deeper: include people you will thank and thoughts on how painful experiences have strengthened you.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN O'NEILL, NEBRASKA

Countryside Family,

Please read the letter below that was written by Rev. Brian G. Loy, Pastor of First United Methodist church in O'Neill

"Dear Brothers & Sisters of the Countryside Community Church,

On Behalf ot he the O'Neill First United Methodist Church, the O'Neill Care Association, and O'Neill Ministerial Association, the friends and families of those affected by the ICE raid that took place in O'Neill on August 8, 2018, I want to say thank you for your generous donation to helping these victims.

Our mission in all this pain and chaos, is simply humanitarian in nature. We are not going to allow this sad situation to become a political battle that is to be played out within our church. Jesus calls us to serve our fellow man, and that is what we are striving to accomplish. Because of

your gift, those affected by this raid, will be able to feed their families and provide a home for near future.

Your donation was used for the caring of, the feeding of, and the financial assistance in paying for utilities and for medical costs necessary for the daily living of those in need.

May God richly bless you for your gracious gift.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Loy, Pastor"

With your continued support with donations both of food and finances, these families will be able to maintain a basic standard of living. We, the members of your Board of Christian Outreach thank you for your generous giving and your compassionate hearts.

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES CFS UPCOMING EVENTS 2018/2019 Lecture Series: Seeds of Acceptance, Conversations in Diversity Center for Faith Studies is excited to

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.



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. She will also be joined by special guest, Victoria Parker, Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church. Tickets are \$10 on eventbrite.com or can be purchased at the door.

Dr. Jana Riess and Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes: The Prayer Wheel: Prayer Retreat November 9 -November 10, 2018

Dr. Jana Riess & Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes on Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November 10. They will be leading an outstanding retreat focusing on an ancient prayer practice based on Jana's latest book, the Prayer Wheel. This book offers a timeless solution for the modern faithful. Cost for the event, which includes lunch on Saturday, is \$80/ person. Friday runs from 7:00-9:00 PM and Saturday goes from 9:00-2:30 PM. Both events are in the Commons at Countryside Church. Registration is available at the Information Station on Sunday mornings or you may contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or marybethl@countrysideucc.org to receive a registration email.

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. Check the church website for the class schedule or contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

The Inner Matrix: A Guide to Transforming Your Life and Awakening Your Spirit

Monday evenings, October 1 - November 12, 7 PM in the Chapel

A 6-week interactive program for people to come together and discuss their progress as they move through the life-changing process outlined in Joey Klein's book, The Inner Matrix

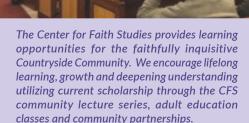
Rabbi Azriel Returns

Mondays beginning October 8, 10-11:30 AM in Memorial Hall

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, our Scholar-In-Residence, begins a six-week series of classes on Judaism beginning Monday, October 8. 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@countrysideucc.org.

LtQ2 (Living the Questions) Wedesdays, 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." LtQ2includes a 20 minute video with leading voices of faith, plus weekly readings and discussion questions. Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander facilitate a group discussion following the video. For more information contact Chris at chrisa@countrysideucc.org.



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. Studying Days of Awe & Wonder by Marcus Borg.

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@coutrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.org
or Courtney Holiday, CFS Admin. Assistant
Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 119

Email: courtneyh@countrysideucc.org
Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Series: The Gifts We Share: Distinctive Gifts That Judaism, Christianity, and Islam Bring To the World, and To You

As we anticipate our move to the Tri-Faith Commons, Countryside is once again offering a 6-week series meant to provide an "insider's perspective" on the relationships between the three faiths. Only, this year there's a twist! While we'll offer each leader a chance to reflect on a gift that their faith tradition distinctively (though not necessarily exclusively) brings to the table, leaders from Temple Israel and the AMI will also reflect on gifts they believe Christianity brings to the table. Finally, Dr. Elnes will offer a perspective of Judaism's and Islam's gifts to us through his eyes as well.

You don't want to miss this amazing series! It will definitely be a series to invite your friends to as well.

- October 21: A Gift of Islam for Christians and Jews Imam Jamal Dahoudi
- October 28: A Gift of Christianity Through A Muslim's Eyes Imam Jamal Dahoudi
- November 4: A Gift of Islam Through Christian Eyes Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes
- November 11: A Gift of Judaism Rabbi Deana Berzin
- November 18: A Gift of Christianity Through Jewish Eyes Rabbi Brian Stoller
- November 25: A Gift of Judaism Through Christian Eyes Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

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

To accompany this worship series, the Center for Faith Studies is sponoring an all church read from a book suggested by clergy from Temple Israel: The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion by Dr. Jonathan Haidt.

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.

Looking for Pioneers for New Worship Service

A 7-week worship experiment is taking place starting on October 14, that could potentially lead to a third weekly worship service at Countryside in 2019. This service, held at 8 PMon Sunday evenings, will be quite different from our current offerings. Provisionally called "Day One," the service is meant to start your week, not end it. Its focus will be on connecting with the Holy Spirit in ways that keep you connected throughout the coming week. We are looking for at least 30 fellow "pioneers" who will commit to attending the service regularly during the trial period and offering feedback.

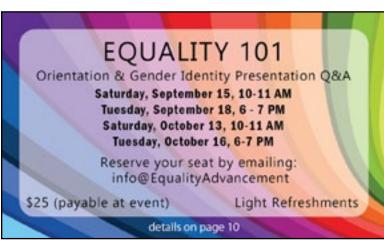
Call 402.391.0350 or sign up at the Information Station on Sundays to be one of the "pioneers." See page 1 for more details.

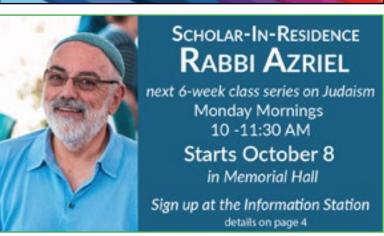
WORSHIP

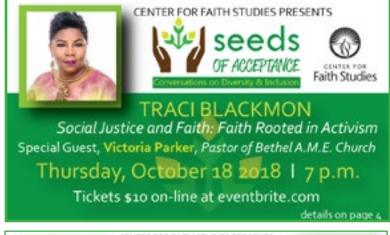
Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays in the Conference Room

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

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









November 9 - November 10, 2018
Countryside Community Church
Tickets \$80 on-line at eventbrite.com

details on page 4

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YOUTH MINISTRIES



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

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lock In - October 27-28 - 8:00 PM-8:00 AM

Come hang out in your favorite church and visit a haunted house in the area. Cost is \$5. Sleeping bags are optional. Bring a snack to share.

All COYO Families Dinner and Halloween Party -Sunday, October 28 - 6:00-8:00 PM

Bring your favorite Halloween party dish and the whole family. Costumes not required but will be enjoyed. All COYO Jr High and Sr High families are invited.

COYO Sr High & Faith Singers - 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

Skinny Bones in Blair - Friday, Oct 12 - 6:00-10:00 PM

Come enjoy a great corn maze, haunted trail, jumping pillows, big slide, and campfire with hot dogs and s'mores. Cost is \$5. If you want to buy snacks or drinks there, bring money.

All COYO Families Dinner and Halloween Party -Sunday, October 28 - 6:00-8:00 PM

Bring your favorite Halloween party dish and the whole family. Costumes not required but will be enjoyed. All COYO Jr High and Sr High families are invited.

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.









CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR OCTOBER SERVICES

October 7 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.

October 14- Sunday School

Rebekah's Betrothal and Marriage to Isaac—God can use all of us, but first we must listen and be willing to be used. When we look and listen carefully, we can see God at work in many lives, in many ways. Abraham, Abraham's servant, Rebekah, and Isaac all listened for God's Spirit.

October 21 - Children's Church

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

October 28 - Sunday School

Baby Moses—Even in the most difficult of times, God is with us. A mother, a sister, and a princess act to enable the baby Moses to live and to grow into a man who would respond to God's call and become who God called him to be.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered during worship 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! We consider how our faith stories are enhanced when we include the perspectives of our Jewish and Muslim friends, as we share many foundational stories and develop tools that help us use these stories to draw us closer to God. To register your student for Sunday School 2018-2019, please check our website: countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

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/

VOULUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of volunteers, particularly those who are willing to substitute periodically, to work with our young friends in Sunday School, Holy Moly, Core 56, and Children's Church. All that is required is the willingness to spend time with our young friends, to listen, to laugh at jokes (good or bad), to talk about your faith—how and why you look for answers even if you never find them, and to pass a background check. Please contact Rebecca if interested in this service work.

NURSERY

Our nursery staff is available on Sundays from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. 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.

On Wednesday evenings, our Nursery staff can support 3-5 year olds **but please let us know so we can prepare** age appropriate activities for them as well as take steps to maintain a safe environment for our infants and toddlers. 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 twoyear-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 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 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



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 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 4:45-6:00 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bring a Friend to Choir Day/Ugly Sweater Contest, Saturday, October 13, 9 AM

Everyone loves to sing Christmas music. Bring a buddy and your best ugly Christmas sweater to our first Christmas rehearsal. We'll have breakfast and social time, then dive into Christmas music.

Countryside Welcomes The Beard-Wolff Duo, Wednesday, October 17, 7 PM

Through a serendipitous meeting at a festival in Peru in 2014, American flutist Christine Beard and Brazilian guitarist Daniel Wolff became fast friends which naturally led the pair to share the stage together. The Beard-Wolff Duo gave their inaugural performances in the USA and Peru in the spring of 2015 for which they received fervent and enthusiastic reviews from both colleagues and critics. They have been performing regularly together ever since. Beard serves as Professor of Flute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Wolff is Professor of Music at the Brazilian Federal University (UFRGS). https://www.christiebeard.net/bwd



Beard-Wolff Duo

The World Needs Artists of Every Stripe

Each one of us is like a unique thread, and when we come together we create a beautiful tapestry. This fall, we will bring that idea to life with an all-church weaving project. Together we will make a beautiful statement. Anyone and everyone can participate.

- In October, purchase blue and purple fabric ribbon of various widths (1" minimum/no wires) and place them in the basket provided in the lobby.
- In November, we will have ribbons attached to banners and drapes in the Common Grounds. All you have to do is continue weaving where the last person left off. Our goal is for EVERYONE to weave at least one ribbon so that we can say, "Handmade with love by Countryside Community Church!"
- In December, mark your calendar to help decorate the sanctuary with the weaving we've all created for Advent. December 1st at 9:00 AM!

Artists Needed for Advent Shadow Boxes

The Advent project last year was so well received that we've been asked to do a repeat performance. Anyone interested in participating this year should contact Cindy Cronn at cronn.cynthia4@gmail.com or call her at 402 319-3195. This year our shadow boxes will be based on Christmas carols. We request that you let Cindy know what carol you would like to use as inspiration for your shadow box. We already have a request for "We Three Kings" so that is out of the running, but any other carol is fair game. Get your requests in early!







Make Friends with a Young Artist

Arts & Affirmation is looking for Spirit Circle hosts to share snacks and fellowship with Countryside's youngest artists on Sunday afternoons. It is a one-hour commitment with a lasting impact! Please contact Amy Luckenbill at amyl@countrysideucc.org to sign up.

All Saints Day Display

This November 1st is All Saint's Day. Sainthood isn't only given by a group of religious leaders in Protestant churches, but God grants sainthood to any common, salt-of-theearth person known or unknown. This year we request you give us a photo (copy) of someone you wish to commemorate as a saint to you; a person who has personally guided another to faith in Jesus, such as a friend or relative. We will display these photos in our Commons on the wall. So please submit a photo along with a small label of their name and relationship to you!! We want to show our thankfulness for these persons.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



THE BOX FOR OCTOBER

The Box for OCTOBER will be given to Child Saving Institute Emergency Shelter. They work directly with children who are placed in the Foster Care Shelter on an emergency basis. These children arrive with little more than the clothes they have on. Majority, 98%, of youth living at the Emergency Shelter are between the ages of 13 and 19. New personal items requested are: women's and men's underwear, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby wash, shampoo/conditioner, backpacks, crayons, markers, pens and notebooks.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE UCC SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS?

The United Church of Christ (UCC) Special Mission Offerings (SMOs) exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. We believe these SMOs collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us to work together to bring about. As a church within the UCC body, we have the opportunity to participate in special mission offerings throughout the year. These offerings are as follows:

One Great Hour of Sharing: Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Strengthen the Church: Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, youth and young adult ministries within conferences and administered by Local Church Ministries.

Neighbors in Need: One-third of this offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and two-thirds is administered by Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

The Christmas Fund: Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received annually on the Sunday before Christmas.

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

SNEAK PEEK!

Everyone loves a sneak peek be it a movie, new computer program, new restaurant... Now you have an opportunity to have a sneak peek of our new church home! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 7, from 12:30-2:30 PM.The Stewardship Team will be leading tours with members of the CRC, HGA and APM architectural firms, and Project Advocates available to answer any questions you may have.

Bring your pledge cards (cards will also be available on-site) and catch the excitement of our new church. Because this is an ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION SITE the following guidelines

must be followed:

- No children or minors under the age of 14 may tour the building. Childcare will be available at our current church at 8787 Pacific Street. Please bring a lunch for your children.
- No open toed shoes or sandals.

There will be limited parking on-site, feel free to park at the American Muslim Institute (AMI) which is located next door.

We hope you will join us for this exciting opportunity to view our new home. Come join us for this SNEAK PEEK!







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 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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

LIFE MINISTRIES

First Wednesday Night Supper will happen on the first Wednesday of each month giving our church family the opportunity to gather together, relax after a long day and best of all NOT COOK DINNER! Our first gathering will be held on October 3, 5:30-6:30 PM in Memorial Hall. We will enjoy a catered baked potato bar featuring all the trimmings plus a salad and cherry cheesecake for dessert! Cost of the meal is \$8/person and \$2/child. Paid reservations are GREATLY appreciated!

Parenting with Love and Logic classes September 19-October 24, 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.

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Saturday, October 13, 10-11:00 AM and Tuesday, October 16, 6-7:00 PM in the Commons at Countryside Community Church. This frank and open discussion exploring the basic science surrounding the biology, orientation and gender identity of our sexuality, the impact of bias on these issues and an outline of the services available to families, professionals and organizations. A suggested donation of \$25/person may be paid at the class or you may reserve your seat by emailing: info@EqualityAdvancement.com. This class is sponsored by Countryside's Board of Life Ministry.

Trivia Night at Countryside Church - Friday, October 19 - 6 - 9 PM. Put a table of 8 together (cost \$12.50/person - includes a soup supper), 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.

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.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, October 1 at First Watch at Noon. 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, October 8. at 12 pm at the churchin the Moderators room for a Pot Luck Lunch and a review of Jan Brown's most recent trip to Europe.

Nominating Committee members will gather beginning on Monday evenings throughout October at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room.

E.T.C. members will meet on Wednesday, October 24, at Brazen Head Irish Pub, 319 N. 78th Street to continue planning upcoming fall events. RSVP to Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Family Activities Committee members will meet on Sunday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Office to discuss upcoming Fall events.

Interplay will meet on Saturday, October 13, 9:30-11:30 AM in the Foyer at Countryside Community Church. For additional information or questions, please contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, Oct. 6. We need 60 volunteers every month. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Board of Deacons needs your support!

Join a dedicated group of people who act as spiritual ambassadors and set the tone for worship as ushers, greeters, and communion servers. It's not necessary to be a Deacon to volunteer. Sign up at the Information Station.

Thank you!

Thanks to the **Board of Trustees** for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of October. 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!

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 do some 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.

GET CONNECTED

SOCIAL GROUPS

Family Activities Committee

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 marybethl@ countrysideucc.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 marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Knit-n-Wit

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

Women's Lunch Group

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

Nine-to-Dine

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

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net 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. 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 marybethl@countrysideucc.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 countrysideucc.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 :30 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.

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.



trifaith.org americanmusliminstitute.org

templeisraelomaha.com

TRI-FAITH KIDS - JEWISH HOLIDAYS Sunday, October 21

Tri-Faith Kids meets October 21, 4:30 - 6:30 PM to learn about Jewish holidays. You can go to the Tri-Faith website, https://trifaith.org/events/ interplay-events/, for more information about this year's schedule. For questions please contact Anji Stanek at anjistanek1@gmail.com and put Tri-Faith Kids in the subject line.

TRI-FAITH SPONSORS ELDERS 4 THE **EARTH - OCT. 7-9**

The Tri-Faith Initiative is proud to co-sponsor the Elders 4 the Earth retreat, October 7-9 at Mahonev State Park! Two events:

Sunday, October 7, 10:30 to 4 PM

PUBLIC EVENT for all ages! Families for the Earth Sunday, October 7, 5 PM. is the official start to Elders for the Earth Chautauqua (designed for those 50 and older)! We'll enjoy a cooking • demonstration and then a delicious local food dinner and get acquainted. Monday and Tuesday are full of speakers, workshops, playshops and time to enjoy the park! Topics to be addressed include: OPPD and their commitment to renewable energy, organic farming, green burial options and more. Elders for the Earth Registration for Sunday evening through Tuesday: \$110 (Scholarships are available.) Details and registration at www. Elders4theEarth.com.

UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FAITHS

You know Countryside is just about to start the last part of our journey to the Tri-Faith Commons, but have you ever read the agreements made between the three faiths? Here is a summary of our understanding and a full memorandum can be found on trifaith.org under the tab UNDERSTANDING.

As we move forward to relocate our respective places of worship to a shared Tri-Faith commons, we have made the following agreements:

- We agree to foster an environment of acceptance, respect and trust-building towards each other.
- We do not proselytize to each other.
- We seek and create opportunities for communities, groups, families and individuals to gather, meet, interact and learn from one another.
- We look for opportunities to understand differences and build on commonalities among
- Each participant has an equal voice.
- We engage in open discussions, with sensitivity to other participants.
- We do our best to amicably resolve all conflicts.
- Each faith group will own, design, and maintain its own place of worship—and have total decisionmaking power over it.



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

SPOTLIGHT ON AMI'S IMAM MOHAMAD JAMAL DAOUDI

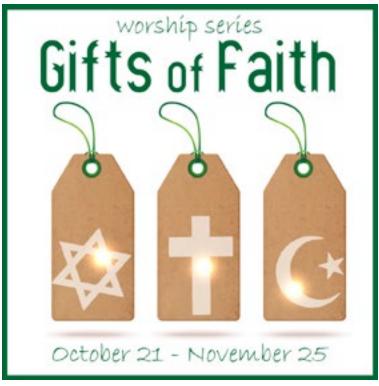


services!

Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi was born in Damascus, Svria. and graduated from Damascus University in 1988 with a BA in English Literature. He continued his Islamic education at The Islamic Call College/Damascus and graduated with a BA in Islamic

Sciences and Arabic Language in 1991. He came to the United States in late 1995 and started his first position as Imam at The Islamic Center of North Valley, Lancaster, CA in 1997. He then moved to Charleston, WV where he served The Islamic Association of West Virginia and achieved his "Doctor of Ministry" degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH in 2005. That same year, he became a US citizen. Imam Daoudi specializes in the areas of Qur'anic interpretation "Tafsir," Hadith, counseling and interfaith dialogues and activities. He has three children, a daughter and two sons. Imam Jamal will be speaking at our next sermon series on both October 21 and 28 so mark your

calendar to hear his word and meet him after





BRIDGING OUR DIVIDES September 9 - October 14



Friday, October 19 6 - 9 PM, Memorial Hall

Create a table of 8 players
Cost \$12.50/person
- cost includes soup supper at 6 PM
This event is for ALL AGES
Trivia Night is limited to 250 players
- sign up early!

Funds raised will help defer cost of the new "All Are Welcome" message at the new church!

details on page 10



BRING A FRIEND WEEK

Christmas Program Choir Rehearsal (Adult Choirs) Oct. 13 - 9 AM - Noon

Arts Affirmation (Grades K-6)
Oct. 14 - 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Faith Singers (Grades 9-12) Oct. 14 - 4:45 PM to 6:30 PM

Confirmation Singers (Grades 7 & 8) Oct. 17 - 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM

