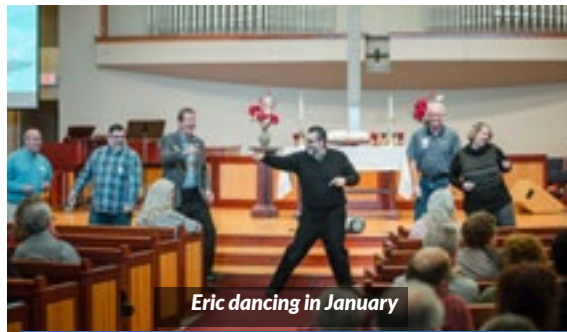


FEBRUARY 2019



COYO Ski Trip



Eric dancing in January



Snowing at the new church

JANUARY AT COUNTRYSIDE



Seven Letters Series



The Chancel Choir



Snowing at the current church

REV. WILL HOWELL'S ORDINATION

Let's Celebrate Rev. Will Howell's Ordination on Sunday, February 17!

After completing three years of seminary study with UCC-affiliated Chicago Theological Seminary, our congregation voted last fall to recommend Will for ministerial ordination and extend a call to serve as Minister of Youth and Families. Now, it's time to make it official and celebrate Will's achievement and our good fortune! Join us Sunday, February 17 at 4 PM for a Service of Ordination and Installation, which will be attended by area clergy as well as our congregation, and at 5 PM for a dinner in Memorial Hall.

Before Will left the Evangelical Covenant Church, he was on course for ordination within that denomination. When he chose to seek ordination in the United Church of Christ he transferred from North Park Theological Seminary to Chicago Theological Seminary to finish his Masters of Divinity. Choosing to upgrade Will from Director of Youth Ministry to Minister of Youth and Family Life reflects not only Will's strong sense of call to ordained

ministry, but our congregation's sense of call and long-standing commitment to youth and families. The additional depth and breadth Will has gained from his studies has already been enriching our congregational life as he works with youth, families, other members, and staff. Come worship and celebrate Will's commitment and our own!



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

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

Program Staff

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

Ministers

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

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

Business Office

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

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

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

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

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

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

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

WELCOME

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

OUR MISSION

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

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

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

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

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

It's time for us to come together as we prepare to move our beloved church from 8787 Pacific Street to 13130 Faith Plaza. Who is willing to help? Deb Hickman and her Board of Life Ministry have been charged with coordination of the move. There is currently a sign-up sheet at the Information Station for your convenience in registering to help. Most needed: BOXES - sturdy paper boxes, packing boxes from Craig's List, grocery store boxes, PACKING PAPER, PACKING TAPE! The church has a specific time line to follow. There will be roughly three stages to the move.

The first move will take place the week of March 15, followed by April 1 and finally the end of April/early May for Kindernook Preschool. Please stop by the Information Station to learn more about this process, how you may help and to volunteer your time. Should you have questions, please contact either Deb Hickman at deb.hickman@centurylink.net or Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS STARTING IN MARCH

Come learn what Countryside Community Church has to offer. Meet the staff and learn about the ministries and volunteer opportunities available. The next classes are Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, March 17 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM in the Chapel. New member Sunday will take place on March 31...our very last service in this building. If you are interested in these classes, please contact Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countrysideucc.org or sign up at the Information Station.





STEPHEN MINISTRY

February 5 – 5:30 PM, Leadership Team in Jan's Office

February 6 – 8:00 PM, Peer Support in the Chapel

PASTORAL CARE BOARD

February 10 – 9:45 AM or 11:15 AM: Help distribute Valentines before worship and/or before the annual meeting lunch.

February 12 – 6:30-8:15 PM, first board meeting of the year in Jan's office

IN MEMORIAM

Roger Holthaus passed away December 18, and his memorial service is being planned for March 30 at Dundee Presbyterian Church.

Sandra Lindwall died December 25, and her funeral will be held at Countryside on February 9 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander as officiant.

Elmador (Elmie) Castater passed away on January 2, and her memorial service was at Countryside on January 9 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Gerald (Jerry) Brown died January 6, and his memorial service was held at Countryside on January 11 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander as officiant.

Robert Hoig passed away January 8, and his funeral was at Countryside on January 12 with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating.

Brownie Gass passed away on January 23. A celebration of life will take place at Lauritzen Gardens this spring or summer.

MESSAGES FROM OUR HEARTS

Leaving a treasured place is a process. Here's one way we can begin:

The Pastoral Care Board is sponsoring a way for you to express yourself with some unique valentines this year. At the Youth Worship Service or during the Annual Meeting lunch on February 10, please pick up some valentines to complete and then return them to a board member that day. We'd like to collect your sentiments for these two "recipients" this year:

- Our beloved friend, the church building at 8787 Pacific. Where does your mind wander when you think fondly of this beautiful church we've been worshipping in for so many years? What messages of love and gratitude do your memories hold? Maybe you'd like to write a note of gratitude to the sanctuary, or to the chapel, or to the COYO room, or even to people who've been here with us in the past.
- The new faith community, Coram Deo, which will be inhabiting this building after we leave. What encouraging messages of goodwill and God's spirit might we share with them to help them better understand the history and people of this church building?

We hope you'll contribute your sentimental thoughts and enjoy this project. The valentines to this building will be posted in the Commons, and the valentines to Coram Deo will be shared with them upon their arrival here the beginning of April. Thank you from the Pastoral Care Board!

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



SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Countryside's Safety and Security Committee has been working over the last year to create policies, procedures and trainings to provide a safe environment for all to worship and to conduct church business at Countryside's current location and at the Tri-Faith Commons. The committee has completed drafting policies and procedures after consultation and input from security experts. The policies range from fire, medical emergencies, active threats, evacuations and severe weather. Once approved by Church Council, the policies and procedures will be available for review on the church website.

Last May, the Safety and Security Committee implemented a new Door Access Policy for the church. These changes allowed the church to better secure the current building and create habits that will carry on into the new building.

In addition to finalizing the policies and procedures, the committee has started training the staff and church leadership. The next planned trainings will be with the Board of Deacons, primarily the ushers and greeter teams. A variety of additional board and congregational training opportunities will be announced in the March Newsletter.

If you would like more information about the Safety and Security Committee's efforts, please contact committee members directly.

Bob Buckland (Chair), Pam Kregg, Kris Hess, Mary Balluff, Mark Ward, Stacey Warner, Rick MacInnes, Nancy Behringer, Dan Loven-Crum



CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Joe Starita - A Warrior of the People: The Story of Dr. Susan La Flesche
Thursday, February 28, 2019, 7 PM



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. Tickets are \$10 on eventbrite.com or at the door.

IHE presents Survivor Stories -with guest Peter Metzelaar
Tuesday, March 26, 7 PM

Born in Amsterdam in 1935, Peter was only seven years-old when the Nazis seized his entire family, except for his mother Elli and him. Seeking help from the Dutch Underground, Peter and his mother found refuge with Klaus and Roefina Post who risked their lives to shelter Peter and his mother on their small farm in Makkinga in northern Holland.



Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes - Prayer and Meditation 101
March 22 - 24, 2019,



Join Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes for a weekend adventure in prayer and meditation practices. If you have trouble connecting with God using "traditional" prayer practices, or are simply considering important questions right now and seek God's guidance, this retreat is for you! Contact Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countysideucc.org for more information.

ADULT EDUCATION

Convergence University

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM

Convergence University is a bible study and discussion group led by Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander o as part of our Wednesday night Faith Formation programing here at Countryside. The focus of the group is to speak to current issues of our time using our scripture and religious traditions to inform our discussions. These sessions are open to all and child care is available if needed. For more information please contact Chris at chrisa@countysideucc.org or just drop in any Wednesday evening.



Rabbi Aryeh Azriel - Scholar-In-Residence - new classes starting!



Monday Mornings, February 4 - March 11, 10 AM, Memorial Hall

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, as our Scholar-In-Residence, will be teaching another six-week series of classes on Judaism from February 4 through March 11. If you would like to know more about this faith tradition and be part of the ongoing conversation with Rabbi Azriel, we would love to have you attend. This class will be

held in Memorial Hall on Monday mornings from 10:00-11:30 AM. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander 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 Era of the Crusades."

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) for meeting information.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Studying Why Religion Matters by Huston Smith

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

Current Series: Seven Letters to Seven Churches: What Kind of Church Shall We Be(come)?

The "Seven Letters" series will be the last FULL series we hold at our present location until Lent, when we move in the middle of the next one. This fact wasn't lost on Countryside's Worship Team, who spent a long time considering what would be the most meaningful series to hold at such a significant time. This series was chosen because it will give us an opportunity to ask two important questions before our move: "What kind of church are we now?" and "What kind of church do we hope to become?"

By looking closely at seven letters written to seven different churches in the Book of Revelation, we'll find that the kinds of churches that existed "way back when" are little different than churches that exist today. Which one are we most like? What can we learn from all of them? While many people shy away from the Book of Revelation, you will find that when given some historical background these letters will really come alive for you and be quite engaging.

Incidentally, if you were at Countryside ten years ago, the title of this series may sound familiar. That's because Countryside used this same series to ask the exact same questions shortly after Dr. Elnes arrived as our new Senior Minister as we considered our future. Since that time, much has changed at Countryside and much as remained the same. Some of what changed was in direct response to what we uncovered in that series! Join us at this historical juncture in our church's life and ask what the Holy Spirit is inviting you, and our church, to be and become in our journey together!

Lent Sermon Series: The Lamb and the Beast March 6 - March 31

Due to the popularity of our Seven Letters to Seven Churches of Revelation series, we'll be extending our exploration of Revelation into Lent with "The Lamb and the Beast." In this series we will use historical insight to explore Revelation. In the process, we'll find many surprises - like God's power works in the opposite direction we would expect in Revelation - through that which is most weak. We will also discover Revelation's surprisingly buoyant view of our destiny: That all people will be saved - and perhaps even Satan (though not without being changed)!

This series schedule:

- **March 6:** (Ash Wednesday) Revelation 20: "Ralph and the Lake of Fire"
- **March 10:** Revelation 4: What is Worship and Who are We Worshipping?
- **March 17:** Revelation 5: Arnion v. Therion
- **March 24:** Revelation 6: The Seven Seals
- **March 31:** Revelation 7: Love Wins!

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

youth Sunday
February 10

Contact Will if you are interested in participating.
wilh@countrysideucc.org

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS

seeds OF ACCEPTANCE
Conversations on Diversity & Inclusion

CENTER FOR Faith Studies
details on page 4

DR. JOE STARITA
A Warrior of the People: The Story of Dr. Susan La Flesche
Thursday, February 28 | 7 p.m.
Countryside Community Church
Tickets \$10 on-line at eventbrite.com or at the door

Countryside's Hors d'oeuvre Contest

Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share.

Friday, February 22
6:00 p.m.
at the home of
Stephanie & Joe Sacco
2256 S. 186 Street

Sign up at the Information Station

details page 10

February 3 **COYO** 5:00 PM
SUPERBOWL Party!
Bring snacks to share

details page 6



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 is taking a break from the Sunday afternoon group sessions for the short term. Stay tuned for more information. 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

Last Lock in - Saturday- Sunday, February 2-3, 8 PM-8 AM

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

Superbowl Party- Sunday, February 3 - Starts at 5:00 PM

Come watch the Superbowl (or not) and eat Superbowl food. Predict the scores at the end of each quarter and see the new Superbowl commercials. Bring some Superbowl food to share.

Will's Ordination Party- Sunday, February 17

You are all invited to Will's ordination service at 4:00 PM, and then a dinner/party afterward in Memorial Hall. All COYO Families are invited for pasta and salad and fun. There won't be regular COYO Jr High and Sr High, but feel free to come and hang out together.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Urban Plunge is coming! - March 1-2 - time TBA

Urban Plunge is coming. A weekend of service projects. Counts as all your Confirmation outreach requirements. March 1-2.

Superbowl Party- Sunday, February 3 - Starts at 5:00 PM

Come watch the Superbowl (or not) and eat Superbowl food. Predict the scores at the end of each quarter and see the new Superbowl commercials. Bring some Superbowl food to share.

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COYO Sr. High Ski Trip



COYO Sr. High Ski Trip



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR FEBRUARY SERVICES

February 3 - 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.

February 10- Sunday School

The Transfiguration: Peter, James, and John saw the brilliance of God's love shining through Jesus on the mountaintop. May we each, following Jesus's example, be still, and connect to God within us so that God's love may shine through us into the world.

February 17- Children's Church

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

February 24 - Sunday School

Jesus as Good Shepherd—The Gospel of John tells us metaphorically that the Spirit of Jesus (the risen Christ) is like a shepherd who watches lovingly and protectively over us, as well as "other sheep" (John 10:16). Following Jesus's example, we care for all those around us.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

All children's activities will begin at 6:00 PM. From 6-6:30 PM, our Core 56 students will work with Ms. Aly while the Holy Moly students (K-4th) will gather to hear the story and watch the Holy Moly video with Ms. Morgan and Ms. Maureen.

Then, from 6:30-7:30 PM, Core 56 will meet as usual. Our Holy Moly groups will separate into two groups, K-2nd and 3-4th, and rotate between Holy Moly activity sheets and Music with Ms. Aly. All groups will end at our regular time of 7:30 PM.

If your Holy Moly student is unable to arrive at 6:00 PM-- no worries! Ms. Maureen and Ms. Morgan had time to share the story with our late arrivals before they worked on their activity sheets. Also, we have ordered a few more Holy Moly Storybooks that will be available to borrow!

NURSERY MINISTRY

We will offer childcare for children through 6th grade during the Annual Meeting. If you choose to send labelled snacks and stuff for your children to enjoy, please be sure that they are free from peanuts, tree nuts, and orange cheese powder (Doritos, Cheetos, etc.) as we have some young friends with serious allergies. Infants, toddlers, and children through the age of 5 will be located in the nursery room while older children, K-6th grade, will meet in the gym.

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 and Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds.

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 mission and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

9:00 Service - Upper Level
Nursery - Pre-K

Room 114A - Grades K-6

11:00 Service - Upper and Lower Level

Room 117 - Grades 2-3

Room 114B - Grade 4

Room 112 - Grades 5-6

Room 214 - Pre-K

Room 213 - Grades K-1

Children's Church

Upper Level in Chapel - This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like communion, prayer, and storytelling. It's open to children five years old through 6th grade.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

Lower Level - During the school year on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30, 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

Lower Level - On Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30, 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.

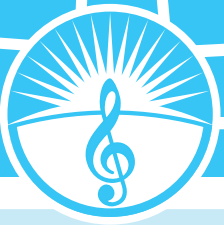


Working on art projects in Holy Moly

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

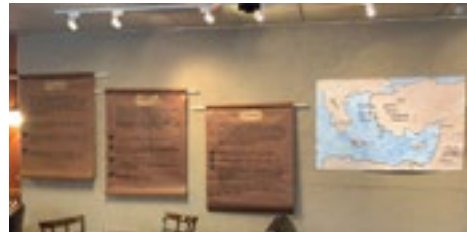
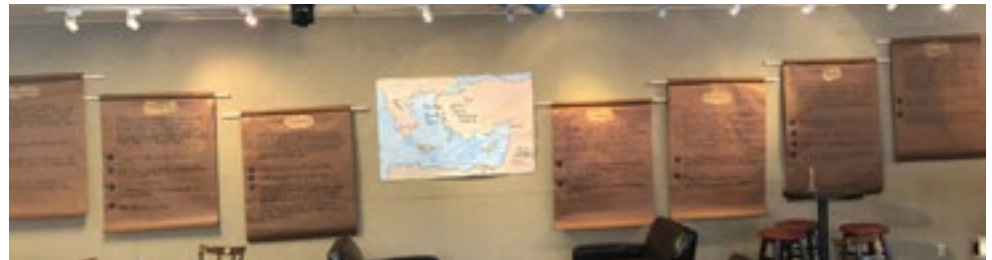


MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Arts

This month, our chancel design is inspired by the sermon series, "Seven Letters to Seven Cities." The fabrics, textures and colored bottles are reminiscent of the bustling trades and desert locales of these ancient cities. Visit our Common Grounds wall art to find interesting facts about each of the seven cities.



A closer look at the Common Ground wall and the chancel design inspired by the sermon series.



Reflections from our Children's Pageant in December.

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.

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:

Alex Ritter
Acting Artistic Director
Email: alexr@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR FEBRUARY

The Box for FEBRUARY is asking for diapers in sizes newborn to size 5 which will be donated to Together. Together, located at 812 S. 24 Street, is a local, independent non-profit that was initially conceived in response to the tornado disaster in 1975 that struck the metropolitan area and left hundreds of families homeless, hungry and in great need. 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, these 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 44th year of helping people in our community, but doing 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.

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA UPDATE

The O'Neill Focus Committee thanks you for strongly supporting their efforts this year through your donations of food staples, paper goods, and gift card donations for the families in O'Neill this year. Through your generosity, we were able to provide 38 Shopko gift cards for the families in need. We thank you so much for your kindness.

This is an ongoing project and your support is always appreciated! Currently, there is an immediate need for diapers of all sizes – but more specifically, the larger sizes as well as rice, sugar and dry black beans. Any donation is greatly appreciated. Should you have questions or would like to become involved in this humanitarian effort, please contact Bob/Nancy Davis at tomorrow24@me.com, Judy Varner at sheeplady424@gmail.com or Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss at mjbarbeiss@gmail.com.

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

FEBRUARY UPDATE

February 10 - Countryside Annual Meeting. Read the 2018 progress report of CRC Chairman, Rick MacInnes. We've come a long way in a year! See you there!

Important Countryside Relocation Committee Dates for Your Calendar:

Today through March 31 - Sorting, pitching, selling and packing up the contents of the church. Volunteers are needed. If you are an organizational genius...we want you! Contact Mary Beth.

March 31 - Our last Sunday Service at 8787 Pacific, surely an emotional morning for all of us.

April 1- 6 - Move in week, - All that packing will happen in reverse under the careful eye of our staff. They will organize their spaces with your help. Volunteers appreciated!

April 7 - Ribbon-cutting Ceremony and Dedication Service. The Ribbon-cutting will be at 9 AM with the Dedication Service at 10. This will be an exciting day for all of our church family!

April 21 - Easter Sunday. Our first of many high holiday celebrations in our new home.

Dates TBD - The official opening of various Tri-Faith Commons features such as Abraham's Bridge, Abraham's Tent, Gardens, etc. More info to come on this.

April 28 - Abraham's Tent Dinner

May 19 - Countryside Open House - We will open our doors to our neighbors and welcome the community to visit when we will show them around and share our story.

These are some of the highlights of the coming months. There will be more important dates that will come to our attention so keep a sharp eye out!



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or comments, see one of the following committee members: Rick MacInnes, Tim Kerrigan, Cyndi Kugler, Paul Nelson, Pam Kregg and Nancy Behringer or email crc@countrysideucc.org.



LIFE MINISTRIES

ALL CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS

Countryside's annual Hors D'oeuvre Contest - Friday, February 22, 6:00 PM at the home of Stephanie and Joe Sacco, 2256 S. 186 Street. This annual event is all about friends, old and new, food and relaxation! You are asked to prepare your favorite hors d'oeuvre, enough to share with roughly 50 people, name it and bring it along with your favorite adult beverage of choice. Everyone gets the pleasure of tasting all of the hors d'oeuvres entered in the contest. (that's the best part!) Then, ballots are passed out and voting begins for the four identified categories; Game Day – most easily replicated for the game day crowd, Lazy Way Out! – for those who don't, won't or forgot to cook something, BAM!! – most eye appealing and Julia Child's Award of Excellence – best overall entry. It is an evening of great food, warm conversation, friendly competition and loads of laughter!

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Saturday, February 9, 10:00-Noon OR on Tuesday, February 12, 6:00-7:00 PM. Both times the class will be held 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. You may reserve your seat by emailing: info@EqualityAdvancement.com or by signing up at the Information Station. (Sponsored by Countryside's Board of Life Ministry.)

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Making Merry is a new social group at Countryside Church! The Board of Life Ministry is introducing a new way for the church members to connect with each other. "Making Merry" will be an e-mail group where members can connect with others who want to participate in a variety of entertainment events. For instance, performing arts, sports, movies, dining, forming a card or gaming group and even for attending church events. This is not just for single people and is open to all. It could also be an opportunity to share an unused ticket to an event. Signups will be available the first Sunday in February. If you have more ideas to add, please contact Deb Hickman at debhickman@centurylink.net.

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, February 4 at First Watch at Noon. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal and warm conversation with women from Countryside Church, Temple Israel and AMI. See you there!

Family Activities Committee members will gather in the Family Life Office on Sunday, February 24, to finalize plans for the upcoming Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. RSVP to marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Interplay will not be held in February. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com should you have questions.

Tai Chi Chih classes will not be held during the month of February. Classes will resume in March. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com should you have questions.



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, February 2. We need 60 volunteers every month. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Community Cupboard December pantry provided food for 137 families which accounted for 452 individuals.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Life Ministry for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of February. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what Countryside's Board of Life Ministries responsibilities are and how you might help.

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new people! 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.

Volunteers needed for our upcoming move!

Are you a packer? Are you the person who loves sorting and throwing things away? How are you with labeling boxes, packing tape and hysterical church staff? If any of these areas interest you, please stop by the Information Station to sign up as we begin organizing personnel to help us with the move. The Board of Life Ministry is coordinating this adventure and they NEED YOUR HELP!

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.

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 9:30 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.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.



trifaith.org
americanmusliminstitute.org

templeisraelomaha.com

TRI-FAITH - MORE THAN A JOKE

Tuesday evenings, 6-7:30 PM
Feb 5 and 12.

Mayne St. Market in Benson, 6207 Maple St.
Join us Tuesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30 at Mayne St. Market in Benson for this light hearted series with Tri-Faith leaders. Refreshments will be served. Please register at eventbrite.com.

TASTE OF TRI-FAITH

Sunday, February 24, 3 PM, AMI, 13140 Faith Plz.
Join us for the third annual Taste of Tri-Faith as we get to know our new neighbors at the American Muslim Institute (AMI) and Temple Israel. Please bring a dish to share and as always, please avoid dishes with pork, shellfish, gelatin, and alcohol. We also ask that you provide a sentence or two describing your dish and identifying its ingredients and possible allergens.

SAVE THE DATE

Abraham's Tent

Sunday, April 28, 6 PM,

CHI Health Center, 455 N 10th St

Learn more about how Tri-Faith Initiative began and how our story continues to unfold...

TEMPLE ISRAEL HIRES A NEW CANTOR

It is with great joy and excitement that we announce the selection of Cantor Joanna M. Alexander to be the next Cantor of Temple Israel, beginning July 1, 2019! She will succeed Cantor Wendy Shermet, who will retire in May after serving our congregation with grace and distinction since 2001.



She enjoys teaching children to love Jewish music and brings experience and excitement to the work she will do with our new kids' choir, Kol Chokolad. She is passionate about helping teens develop a Jewish ethical approach to navigating life's challenges and is eager to build relationships with them as a teacher in our high school. As an active partner in interfaith work in New Jersey, she is inspired by the Tri-Faith Initiative and has creative ideas for how music can enhance this sacred work. Cantor Alexander will be an outstanding addition to our Temple Israel team and we know that she is the right cantor to lead us into the future. To read more about Cantor Alexander and listen to recordings of her singing some of our familiar prayers, visit her website at www.cantoralexander.org.

- excerpts taken from Temple Israel's Facebook announcement

ABRAHAM'S CIRCLE BRIDGE IS NOW COMPLETE

Full circle: the beautiful Abraham's Circle Bridge on the Tri-Faith Commons is now complete, and we hope this unique structure will be a catalyst for harmony between us. The official opening of the bridge will be in Spring 2019.



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



details page 5

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CELEBRATE WITH US



WILL HOWELL
*Service of Ordination
and Installation*

Sunday, February 17 at 4 PM
followed by a
spaghetti dinner
Memorial Hall at 5 PM



Annual MEETING 2019

Sunday, February 10
11:15 Soup Lunch
12:00 Annual Meeting
10 AM Youth Service
is only service this day.
following 10 AM service

COUNTRYSIDE

REALLY

REALLY

REALLY

REALLY

needs help packing!

If you have some time to
help please contact
Mary Beth at:
marybethl@countrysideucc.org
or sign up at the
Information Station

