

APRIL 2019



APRIL 7, 2019

Ribbon Cutting 9 AM
First Service 10 AM

LOOKING BACK WHILE MOVING FORWARD

It doesn't seem like that long ago when I made a leap of faith; to leave the religion of my childhood and start a journey of faith find a new church, a church where I felt like I truly belonged. I thought it would take a long time. Countryside was first on my list of churches to visit because I had a friend who spoke so lovingly about it and the Tri-Faith aspect was very intriguing to me. I arranged to meet her at church one Sunday and Eric gave a sermon that spoke to my heart. The people of Countryside were so warm and welcoming. I couldn't believe it. What I thought would be a long, difficult journey ended on the first Sunday I came to Countryside. I was home.

During the next three-and-a-half years, I took a job at Countryside and got to know the volunteers and the inner workings of the church. I also came to love the building. In one of my first positions, I was an administrative assistant and was the first one to arrive many cold, winter mornings and would walk the

hallways and wake up the building and get it going for the day. I have seen people comfort each other at many funerals and memorial services that happen while I am working. I hear children singing and playing at Kindernook, I feel the church physically slow down when summer arrives. On Sunday mornings, it has a completely different feel, the congregation is here and the church is filled with happiness and love – one of the main reasons I chose to become part of this congregation. This is what we will be taking with us when we move; the spirit that makes Countryside so truly unique. While I will miss my days at 8787 Pacific Street, I look forward to the new memories we will be making on Faith Plaza. The smiles, love, compassion and warmth. I will probably shed a few tears on my last day in the old building but I look forward to moving ahead with the people of Countryside Community Church, its heart and soul.

Debbie Vihstadt, Communication Asst.



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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

Rev. Will Howell
Minister of Youth & Families, ext. 111
willh@countrysideucc.org

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

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brianp@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.

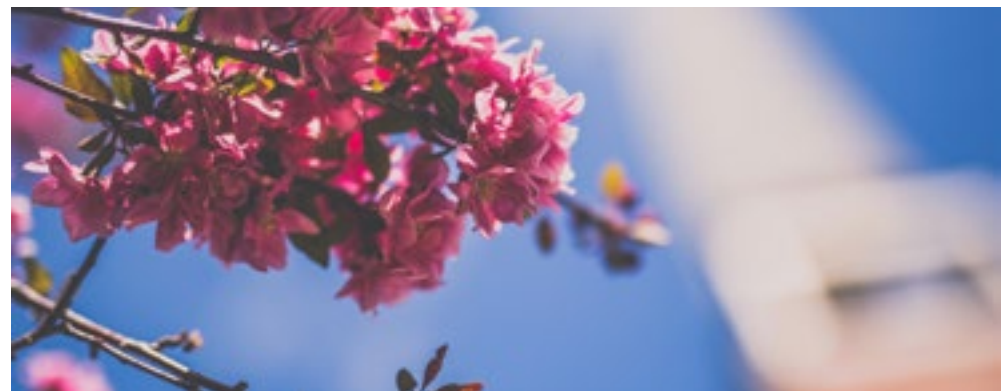
Information Station is located in the Foyer. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for any church activities, please stop by the Information Station.

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.



Farewell 8787 Pacific Street



STEPHEN MINISTRY

April 2: We'll meet in the Chapel for the last time, as the new rooms won't be ready for us yet. At 5:30 PM, the Leadership Team will gather in the Chapel. From 6-8 PM, Peer Support will be held there.

BIRTHS

Dylan and Mary Sopher are new parents to **Wyatt** who was born on January 28.

Todd and Kathleen Samland are new grandparents. **Tayah Samland** was born February 24 in Omaha.

Rick and Shannon Avard are also new grandparents; **Kaden James Bock** was born on February 28 in Omaha.

IN MEMORIUM

James Tangdall, passed away January 14 and his private memorial service was held on March 21 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander presiding.

Roger Holthaus passed away December 18, 2019, and his memorial service was held on March 30 at Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha.

ODE TO JOY

To add to Countryside's historic Year of Celebration festivities, the Pastoral Care Board will be featuring someone special each month by focusing on how they experience joy.

This month, for the first newsletter in our new space, we are delighted to feature Pam Kregg. Pam has been an integral part of the move to our new location. She has so graciously contributed her time and talents to our relocation process, showering enthusiasm and joy along the way, that we wanted to explore what brings Pam joy. Not surprisingly, Pam finds some of her greatest joy while sharing it with others. Pam enjoys people. Her family brings her great joy, especially her grandsons Ben and Jacob. "Young children look at everyday things with such a sense of wonder and awe because everything is new. This enchantment reminds me to take the time to appreciate the little things and not take my blessings for granted."

Pam also finds joy in singing with her fellow choir members. The time they spend together working on anthems is truly a gift. She also enjoys coloring and painting with the F.A.M.E. friends on Friday as they share jokes, experiences, memories and just being together. Working on various committees to plan our move to the Tri-Faith Commons and pondering how we can grow our Countryside ministries also bring her great joy. "God has blessed me throughout my life with people who have shared their time, talents and love. I cannot think of a greater blessing and example of God's love." Neither can we, Pam, neither can we. Until next month, continue to find joy in the journey!



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

Geoff and Pam Kregg

FROM GROUNDBREAKING TO OUR NEW HOME AT 13130 FAITH PLAZA





CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

The Center for Faith Studies provides learning opportunities for the faithfully inquisitive Countryside Community. We encourage lifelong learning, growth and deepening understanding utilizing current scholarship through the CFS community lecture series, adult education classes and community partnerships.

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@countriesideuucc.org

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

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

Email: courtneyh@countriesideuucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

Dr.Omid Safi - Radical Love: Getting Back to the Root of Faith **Thursday, April 11 - 7 PM**



Center for Faith Studies is partnering with Tri-Faith Initiative to bring you this fascinating lecture by Dr. Safi who will guide us through a vibrant immersion of Islam that will also resonate with the love teachings of Christian sages that still speak to us today. Here Love is not merely an emotion, not a sentiment, but the very unleashing of God on Earth.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

It's been another wonderful year of exploration and conversation through our Center for Faith Studies Lecture Series. We want to give a special shout out to all of the volunteers who helped make each of our events possible!

Our 2018-2019 series is in the final stages of confirmation of speakers and dates, and each event is an exceptional opportunity for our conversation on diversity and acceptance.

ADULT EDUCATION

Earth University Returns

May 2 - June 6, Thursday evenings, 7 - 8:30 PM

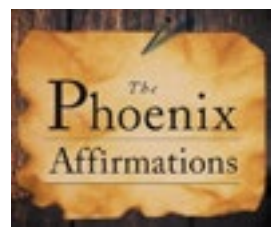
Countryside's F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) group is pleased to offer another six- week series through Earth University beginning May 2 and running for 6 consecutive Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 PM. This Spring, the six week classes will be dedicated to the SOIL. Areas for discussion include How Soil Got A Dirty Name, Dirt! The Movie, The Dance Beneath our Feet, Going Native, The More Things Change....., and a field trip to an Organic Farm. Be watching for complete information on all these classes in the coming publications. For additional information on Earth University, contact Ann Naylor at annnaylor32@gmail.com or Christy Palmer at Christysuepalmer@gmail.com.



Phoenix Affirmation Class

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

We are beginning a new Phoenix Affirmations small group which will meet April 10 through May 15 on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM. Because the Phoenix Affirmations are so fundamental to many of our ministries at Countryside, we strongly encourage our community to participate in this six-week discussion opportunity to learn more about these affirmations and how they describe us some of the joys we have within our Christian tradition. All are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countriesideuucc.org or leave your contact information at the Information Station and we will reach out to answer your questions.



New Journey Groups Forming for our next Worship Series

Contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countriesideuucc.org for more information on how to connect to Journey Groups.

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Sermon Series: Misfits, Leaders, Disciples, and Prophets: 12 Amazing Women of the Bible, April 28 - May 19

Nine of the main rooms in our new church building are named in honor of twelve important women in the Bible. This sermon series explores the women after whom our rooms in our new church are named for. Over the course of four weeks we'll introduce you to these women, who were considered misfits, leaders, disciples, or prophets – and they'll introduce us to some unexpected vistas within God's Realm.

April 28: Misfits

May 5: Disciples (Marys)

May 12: Leaders

May 19: Prophets

Room Names

There are nine spaces in our new church facility that need names or numbers: 7 meeting rooms and a library on the main floor, a conference room on the lower floor, and a great hall which we refer to as Memorial Hall in our present space. Numbers are easy, and what people expect. However, we will have a powerful teaching opportunity here.

Three of the women are considered prophets in the Bible: Miriam and Deborah (Hebrew Scriptures) and Anna (New Testament). According to the prophet Joel, God promises: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28). And when the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, Peter said: "this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16). While most people tend to think of prophets in the Bible as males, these three women remind us that both men and women are featured as people of Spirit, capable of delivering "the word of the Lord" to the community.

Four of the women were considered misfits/outcasts in the Hebrew Scriptures, yet are singled out in Matthew's Gospel as being part of Jesus' family tree, which is highly unusual given the common practice of listing only males in genealogies: Rahab (a prostitute), Ruth (a widow,

and foreigner, after whom the Book of Ruth is named), Tamar (who disguised herself as a prostitute to correct a series of gross injustices committed against her by Judah – founder of the Tribe of Judah – and gave birth to one of King David's predecessors), and Bathsheba (an "adulteress" who married King David and gave birth to Solomon). The deliberate mention of these four women in Jesus's genealogy (in addition to Mary, Jesus's mother) underscores one of the central messages of Jesus's life and ministry: that God not only loves all of us but invites us – whoever we are or whatever our path as been – to be citizens of God's realm and emissaries of God's grace.

Two of the women were leaders of house-churches in the New Testament (the earliest form of church) and thus were two of Christianity's first "ministers": Lydia and Priscilla. Many people are unaware that a surprising number of women led house-churches or served as teachers and evangelists. In the modern world, where some Christian denominations continue to prevent women from leading churches, or even teaching, naming two of our rooms after two house-church leaders serves as an important witness and source of encouragement.

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

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS

seeds OF ACCEPTANCE
Conversations on Diversity & Inclusion

CENTER FOR Faith Studies
details on page 4

Dr. Omid Safi
Radical Love: Getting Back to the Root of Faith
Thursday, April 11 | 7 p.m.
Countryside Community Church | 13130 Faith Plaza
Tickets \$10 on-line at eventbrite.com or at the door

CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY
APRIL 28 11 AM

SUNDAY MAY 5

GRADUATION
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

SUNDAY 11 AM

SAVE THE DATE

Phoenix Affirmations Classes
Wednesdays
April 10 - May 15
6:30 p.m.

The Phoenix Affirmations
A NEW VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY
ERIC ELNES



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 Sunday afternoon from 4:30 -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 Rev. 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

Garage Sale Drop Off / Pick Up and Lunch, Saturday, April 20 * 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet at Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) to receive donations and go pick up donations. Free lunch for all volunteers. Sign up for Drop Off shifts setup shifts and Garage Sale shifts at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10 will be the first confirmation class in the new building.

Confirmation Sunday - April 28 at 11:00 AM service

Those being confirmed need to be in the Youth Room at 10:00 to get your robes and take a picture in the sanctuary. There will be a cake reception after the service.

ALL COYO

All COYO Families Dinner - April 7 at 6:00 PM

Bring your whole family for dinner the first night in our new church! Bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

Moving to the New Building - April 7

April 7 will be the first Sunday in the new building, starting with the ribbon cutting at 9:00 AM and one service at 10:00 AM. At 6:00 PM celebrate with the whole family at the All COYO Families dinner. April 10 will be the first Confirmation class in the new building.



COYO Urban Plunge in March



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR APRIL SERVICES

April 7 - Ribbon Cutting/Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Only one worship today at the 10 AM service.

April 14- Sunday School

Jesus Prays: Gethsemane. Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He asked his disciples to stay awake and pray, but they fell asleep. "Abba," Jesus spoke an intimate prayer in the Garden, claiming his fear and sorrow. "if it is possible," he prayed, "may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

April 21- Children's Church

Easter! Family Worship-Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service to celebrate the best day ever!

April 28 - Sunday School

Recognizing God's Kindom. Jesus's strength was demonstrated by his refusal to bow to established religious or political powers. Answering only to God, he was willing to die rather than run or fight. When Jesus appeared to followers days after his crucifixion, the depth of God's everlasting love became evident.

HOLY MOLY AND CORE 56

April 3- classes held at usual times at 8787 Pacific building

April 10- first classes at usual times in our new building

April 17- Last classes of this school year!

NEW BUILDING INFORMATION

Our classrooms for both Sunday school and Wednesday night classes are located on the lower level of the new building. There will be signage and such to guide you to your students. I highly recommend spending a few extra moments on Sunday April 7, exploring the spaces with your children so everyone has a basic understanding of where to go.

Holy Moly and Core 56 working on creating a banner.



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.

Sunday School classes are located on the lower level in the new building. Please follow signage.

Children's Church

Lower Level in new building- 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.

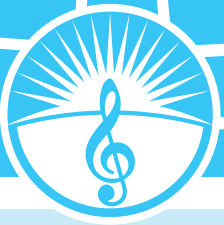
Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

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.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Singers Wanted for Dinner at Abraham's Tent 2019

Calling all use-to-be, wanna-be, shower and car singers. Express your faith through your voice. Volunteer to sing in the TFI Chorus at the Tri-Faith's main fundraising event of 2019, Dinner at Abraham's Tent.*

We will be signing three pieces of music, Shalom, Thanks, Alhamdulillah by Mark Kurtz, Oseh Shalom by Micheal Ochs, and God Bless this House by Marshall Portnoy. There will be one 90-minute rehearsal on Wednesday, April 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Priscilla Room at Countryside Community Church on the Tri-Faith Commons and one rehearsal just prior to the event from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. at the CHI Health Center arena. You will receive rehearsal reminders via email.

Sign up at the Information Station on Sundays or on SignUp Genius and experience great music, great fellowship, and a wonderful expression of your belief in the mission of the Tri-Faith Initiative!

*Tickets to the event are \$75 per person. Money should never be a barrier to participation. Please contact Wendy Goldberg at wgoldberg@trifaiith.org to request an accessible ticket at \$25 per person, which helps to cover the cost of the meal.

What gets packed...must be unpacked!

All those boxes we packed must be unpacked. Crazy, right? So...wait for it...the Board of Art and Music seeks many volunteers to open, unpack, organize, label, and file our music, instruments, sanctuary arts materials, and numerous other resources and equipment at our new building.

There is lots to do and all kinds of jobs available for all types of abilities. If you're concerned about lifting or can't stand for long periods of time, no worries! Labeling folders, sorting through and renumbering music are tasks that can be done while seated. Bottom line: there is something for everyone to do!

Look for more information in the weekly C10 email and a special invitation through SignUp Genius. Thank you in advance for your support and help. And remember...many hands make light work!



Spirit of Grace and Chancel Choirs



Spirit of Grace



Faith Singers

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 APRIL

The Box for April will be donated to Bethlehem House. They are asking for items that will help set up living spaces for moms with babies and young children. To make this donation easier for our congregation during our move, BOCO is requesting a donation of gift cards to either Walmart or Target, Bakers or HyVee which can then be used to purchase items such as coffee makers, laundry detergent, kitchen utensils, etc. Bethlehem House is a family-centered residential care setting which provides a place of hope and empowerment for women, pregnant and in crisis, to choose life for themselves and their unborn children. For more information on Bethlehem House check them out online at bethlehemhouseomaha.org.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Community Cupboard February pantry provided food for 167 families which accounted for 593 individuals. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org and sign up to help at the April 6 pantry. We have an increased need for 20 additional volunteers over the next few months. Please consider this great ministry!

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA UPDATE

The O'Neill Focus Committee thanks you for strongly supporting the families in O'Neill, Nebraska. For those of you who wish to continue support for the families in the O'Neill area that were affected by the ICE raid, there are two ways suggested at this time. Pastor Brian Loy of First United Methodist Church in O'Neill suggests donations of paper products, especially diapers. These items can be ordered through Amazon Prime or similar vendors and shipped directly to the following address:

Pastor Brian Lot

First United Methodist Church, 404 W. Cedar Street, O'Neill, NE 68763

Financial assistance can also be routed through Countryside Church by making donations to Countryside and marking the check "for O'Neill". Should you have questions or would like to become involved in this ministry, please contact Bob/Nancy Davis at tomorrow24@me.com, Judy Varner at sheep lady424@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



WHAT IS THAT BUZZING SOUND? IT IS COMMITMENT IN OVERDRIVE!

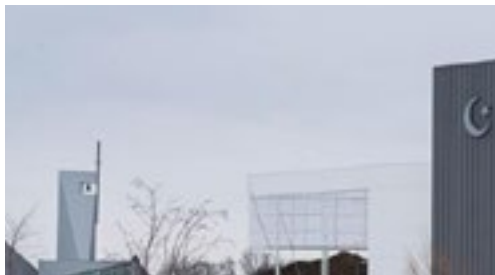
As the minutes tick toward Countryside's move to the Tri-Faith Commons our old and new churches are hives of activity. When a big family like Countryside makes a move, the pace of work which began years ago becomes a swirl of worker bees each accomplishing their assigned tasks and moving on to the next thing on the "to do list."

In the midst of this work we have the precious opportunity to pause for a morning of celebration and worship on Sunday, April 7 beginning at 9:00 AM.

Our family will gather at the entrance of the church. We will acknowledge the commitment of everyone who supported the effort to answer God's call to build a church in the neighborhood of our brothers and sisters of different faith communities. We will ask His blessing on the Tri-Faith adventure and offer thanks for the bounty that has enabled all of us to come to this new beginning.

We invite you to come celebrate and worship with our Countryside family. After the Dedication Service, beginning at 10:00 AM, the church will be open for you to explore and delight in the many wonderful spaces designed to help us maintain and grow in our mission.

What a joyous day it will be!



A view of all three faith community buildings.



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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH will be held on Sunday, April 14 starting at 9:30 AM in Mary's Hall. The Family Activities Committee members invited Chris's Cakes back again this year for this fun-filled, fellowship and fundraising event. Money that is raised will be donated to the Easter Offering, Bethlehem House. Suggested donation this year is \$10/adult and \$5/children under 10.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

You are amazing! Thank you so much for all your time, dedication, energy and fun that everyone put into packing and moving Countryside to its new home!

Now, we need to do some unpacking. Listed below are the dates and times available to you. As we know, many hands are needed to get this job accomplished. Deb Hickman and the Board of Life Ministry are asking once again for your help. There is currently a signup sheet on the Information Station for your convenience. Should you have questions, please contact either Deb Hickman at deb.hickman@centurylink.net or Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Tuesday, April 6:00-7:00 PM and Saturday, April 13, 10:00-Noon. Be watching for additional information or feel free to contact the presenters at info@EqualityAdvancement.com.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, April 1, 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, April 28, to begin planning spring and summer events for our church families. RSVP to marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, April 8 at the Lithuanian Bakery, 7427 Pacific, at Noon. Betty Salistean, the hostess for the event invites you to enjoy lunch and lots of conversation now that spring has arrived! Please call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you have questions about this welcoming and fun-loving group.

Tai Chi Chih - no classes in April.

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 January. If you have more ideas to add, please contact Deb Hickman at debhickman@centurylink.net.

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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

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

Email: marybethl@countysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, April 6. We need 60 volunteers every month but we have an increased need for 15-20 additional volunteers over the next few months. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Christian Education for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of April. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what Countryside's Board of Christian Education's 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.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has helped us pack, unpack, load, label, tape, sort and everything else it has taken to move our church to its new location. We could not have done it without you!!

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@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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 counttrysideucc.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

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

OMAHA COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

May 1, 7 - 9 PM

Temple Israel, 1311 Sterling Ridge Dr.

This year's Omaha Community Holocaust Commemoration is hosted by Temple Israel, and all are welcome. Our annual commemoration is marked by readings and music from our local clergy, along with a candle-lighting ceremony honoring our Holocaust survivors and those who perished. This year, the keynote speaker will be Scott Miller, recently retired Director of Curatorial Affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., who will speak about his book, *Tracing The Fates of the St. Louis Passengers*.

400 PEOPLE CAME TO HONOR VICTIMS OF NEW ZEALAND TERROR ATTACK

On March 17, more than 400 people from the Omaha community came to the American Muslim Institute to show their support for the victims of the Christchurch, New Zealand terror attack. AMI would like to thank all for attending.

ABRAHAM'S TENT

Abraham's Tent

Sunday, April 28, 6 PM,

CHI Health Center, 455 N 10th St



We believe that if we can laugh together, then we can live together.

The keynote speaker this year is Wajahat Ali, a journalist, writer, lawyer, an award-winning playwright, TV personality, and a consultant for the

U.S. State Department. He helped launch the Al Jazeera America network as co-host of *The Stream*, a daily news show that extended the conversation to social media and beyond. He was also a National Correspondent, Political Reporter and Social Media Expert for Al Jazeera America. There, he focused on stories of communities and individuals often marginalized or under-reported in mainstream media.

To make reservations and for more information about this event, please visit trifaith.org/events.

HOLIDAYS

Jewish

Passover - April 19 - 26

Pesach, known as Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home service called the seder (meaning "order") and a festive meal; the prohibition of chametz (leaven); and the eating of matzah (an unleavened bread). On the fifteenth day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, Jews gather with family and friends in the evening to read from a book called the haggadah, meaning "telling," which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings, and songs for the Passover seder. Today, the holiday is a celebration of freedom and family.



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





LOVE
starts here

EASTER SUNDAY

April 21 Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 AM

April 21 Easter Services
9 AM & 11 AM

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Pancakes by Christ's Cooks!

**Palm Sunday
Pancake Feed**

Sunday, April 14

After both services
Mary's Room
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Suggested donation this year is \$10/adult and \$5/children under 10.
Money raised will go to Bethel House.

Hosted by: Family Activities Committee



HOLY WEEK

April 14 Palm Sunday 9 AM and 11 AM
April 18 Maundy Thursday 7 PM
April 19 Good Friday 7 PM
April 20 Easter Vigil 8 PM

EASTER

April 21 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 AM
April 21 Easter Services 9 AM and 11 AM



DOCENT TRAINING

Recruiting volunteers to act as docents for tours of our new church on the Tri-Faith Commons.

See Karen Fallon at the Info Station for details and sign up.