

SEPTEMBER 2019



Picnic on the Commons



Picnic on the Commons



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AUGUST HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE



Paint-a-thon



Tri-faith Gardeners in August



Monica Maxwell -Turning Point

FALL IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES

Fall has always been bittersweet for me. I would come home after dropping my children off at school and mourn the passing of summer. And then I would look forward to the opportunities of fall as normal activities resumed and special occasions arose. Countryside has something for everyone this fall!

Children will have Sunday School, Children's Church or Family Worship on Sundays and Core 56 and Holy Moly on Wednesday evenings. Kindernook Preschool begins, too. Youth will have Confirmation on Wednesdays and COYO senior and junior high on Sunday afternoon/evenings.

Choirs will begin for all age groups! The newly named Countryside Community Church Choir (C4) will begin practicing on Wednesdays. The Confirmation Singers will also practice on Wednesdays. Faith Singers, the high school choir, will practice on Sundays. Children will participate in arts and music as part of the Wednesday curriculum. All are welcome to raise their voices!

Center for Faith Studies is offering two spectacular opportunities this fall. Wm. Paul Young, author of *The Shack*, is coming on September 24 to talk about "How do we do Faith

if God is not Religious?" Margaret Wheatley will be speaking about "Warriors for the Human Spirit" at a full-day retreat on November 16.

Adult Education will offer opportunities to learn:

About Mindfulness: On the second Wednesday of each month there will be Mindfulness Sits.

About Water: Earth University will be presenting opportunities to learn about our most precious resource, water.

About our neighbors: Stories from the Bridge will be a collaboration with our Tri-Faith neighbors on October 3.

About our religion: More Than a Joke will present a panel on Tuesday evenings discussing a topic from the perspective of all three Abrahamic Faiths followed by Wednesday lunch and learning discussions.

All this in addition to the small groups and activities we know and love.

So kiss summer goodbye and get involved in an activity or group at Countryside that calls to you!

- Robyn Hubbard, Executive Administrative Asst.



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



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Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countysideucc.org
Website - www.countysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/
CountysideOmaha/

Program Staff

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

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erice@countysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

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Minister of Spiritual Direction

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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, 11 AM Jazz Service and 8 PM Day One

Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both morning Sunday services. The Nursery is located on the upper level on the south side, next to the office.

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.

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

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Foyer.

Sunday School/Children's Church - see Children's Ministries, page 7.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS



June new members class - Top row left to right: Lisa and Mike Meehan with Jack and Max, Danika and Marie Schuett, Bobbie Escolas and Lisa Fahrlander. Middle row: Connie and Mark Ware, Katie and Andy Gorham with Malcolm and Gretchen, Nicole West, David Hubbard. Bottom row: Reva and Keith Karstens, Leslie Summers, Nicole West's son Joseph, and Bonnie and Roger Downer.

The next new members class is October 20 and 27 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM in the Ruth conference room. See Robyn Hubbard or email her at robynh@countysideucc.org if you are interested.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

September 10, Tuesday, Ruth Conference Room – We resume our regular peer support meetings. At 5:30 PM, the Leadership Team meets. From 6 - 8 PM, all Stephen Ministers are invited to attend Peer Support to support one another in our journeys as care givers.

PASTORAL CARE BOARD

NOTE OUR DATE AND TIME CHANGES for “Stories from the Bridge”

On Thursday, October. 3, from 5-8 PM, in Marys' Hall, please come to an evening of stories of resiliency and wisdom, music and fellowship. All are welcome! A few storytellers from our three faith communities will be sharing reflections, and there will be some time to meet new friends “across the bridge.” Appetizers will be served, too. We request a courtesy RSVP to Janb@countysideucc.org, or just call the church office (402.391.0350) by September 27.

BIRTH

Amanda and Ryan Underwood had a baby boy on August 1st. Isaac James, welcome to the world!

BAPTISM

Margaret Jayne Bender, daughter of **Jon and Ashley Bender**, was baptized at Countryside on August 11, 2019.

IN MEMORIUM

Jean Stewart's long-time partner Capt. Gaylen D. Taylor, USN (Ret), passed away on August 2, 2019, in Lincoln, and his funeral was also held there.

ODE TO JOY

“It’s all about love,” Marilyn Vincent said about all the things which bring her joy. The 92-year-old former kindergarten teacher has a long list of joys including her family, her 27 years as a volunteer docent at the Henry Doorly Zoo, the social and church groups she belongs to, and her neighbor and best friend of 52 years, Betty Salistean. Originally from upstate New York, Marilyn and a friend applied to a program in Hawaii to teach. She joined a church choir where she met her husband Darrell who was stationed at Pearl Harbor. They had two children, Lani and Dave. The family moved to Omaha 52 years ago because of Darrell’s job in Public Relations for AAA. At the zoo, Marilyn loved telling children how the cocoa tree blooms and explaining that it’s where Tootsie Rolls come from - as she would hand out the candy to children. Marilyn has her own small cat named Ziggy. Among Marilyn’s joys are her social and church groups: the Domino Dames and the Wet Hens. The Dames, named by a husband of one of the women, is a group of four who’ve met regularly for the past 30 years to talk and play dominoes. They play bridge too, but dominoes allow them more talking time. The group has seen each other through a lot of hardships such as the loss of Betty’s husband in 1990 and Darrell in 2004. The Wet Hens is Marilyn’s Friday morning swim group. Marilyn has found joy as a member of Countryside’s Lunch Bunch group; at church, she volunteers at the Community Cupboard, Countryside’s food pantry. She arrives at 7:45 AM to help set up.



Marilyn Vincent with Eric

When Marilyn talks about her best friend and neighbor, Betty, there’s a lot of joy in her voice. “Betty is everybody’s booster.” Marilyn’s and Betty’s families grew up together; though Marilyn’s son and daughter live outstate, Marilyn is a regular at the Salistean home for holidays. As Marilyn mentions her Medi-Alert and the neighbors who check on her, she summarizes her joy: “It’s all about love and supporting each other. I’m so lucky.”

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. 234

Email: janb@countysideucc.org

HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE IN SANCTUARY

To enjoy better hearing in the sanctuary, switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to one of the following settings:

- T
- T-Coil
- Telephone

if you find the setting is not working for you, contact your audiologist or hearing aid provider.





CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES

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 Deborah Room. Currently studying "The Era of the Crusades."

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Studying The Islamic Golden Age

Racial Justice

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com) for meeting information.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon. Returns September 4. Discussing "God: A Human History" by Reza

NEW BOOK CLUB! - Anji Stanek Book Club

Mondays from 7 - 9 PM in Miriam. First book is "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr

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. 230

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

or Courtney Holiday, Office Manager

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 227

Email: courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES

September 24, 2019
Wm. Paul Young
Lecture
"How do we do faith if God is not religious?"

New York Times bestselling author of *The Shack, Eve and Lies We Believe About God.*

October 16, 2019
Margaret Wheatley
Workshop
"Warriors of the Human Spirit"

Best-selling author of nine books, from the classic *Leadership and the New Science* in 1992 to her newest book *Who Do We Choose To Be?*

More Than a Joke Symposium – September-April 2019-2020

Done in Collaboration with our Tri-Faith Partners, this is a weekly educational opportunity to discuss topics from the perspective of all three Abrahamic Faith traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Our September topic begins with a Tuesday evening dinner and panel discussion of the three traditions and is then followed by three Wednesday weekly lunch and learn discussions led by the clergy of each faith tradition. All following months begin with three lunch and learn classes and then end with the Tri-Faith clergy panel discussion and dinner. The September schedule is as follows:
Made in God's Image: Jewish, Christian & Muslim Perspectives on Human Rights
Tuesday Evening Dinner and Panel Discussion, Sept. 3, 6:30-8:30 PM
Wednesday Lunch-and-Learns, Sept. 11, 18, 25, 12:00-1:00 PM
All September events will be at the American Muslim Institute.
For the full year schedule see countrysideucc.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

Convergence University, Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Convergence University starts September 4! We will still be focusing on the Phoenix Affirmations but adding a bit of a twist! Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander will be expanding on new ways to take in information and listen to God. She will be tying Convergence University into a variety of new experiences that include visual arts, discussion and Mindfulness Sits with Carlos Figueroa. See information below. Classes run September through April.

Mindfulness Sits - Second Wednesdays of the Month, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Starting in September, Carlos Figueroa will be presenting a new experience called Mindfulness Sits, in collaboration with the Mindfulness Outreach Initiative and Convergence University. Join Carlos every month as he guides you in a journey towards a better understanding of your spirituality. Classes run September through April.

Coming Soon! Sparks Beneath the Surface

Wednesday mornings, October 16 – November 13, 9:15-10:00 AM. How parents can have Conversations with their kids about the sacred (a spiritual education for our young souls). Classes will be taught by our own Rabbi Azriel. More information will be out soon.



ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series: "Listen! Hearing That Still, Small Voice and Finding Your Own"

Parker Palmer once observed, "The faith journey is less about making a big leap of faith than it is about putting one faithless foot in front of the other, and doing it again and again. What happens as you walk that way is sometimes transformed by grace."

This series, which starts Sunday, September 8, and runs for six consecutive weeks, is about the particular transformation that takes place by grace operating through prayer and mindfulness.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, the impact of this series will be made through experiencing God firsthand using insights gleaned from the Bible and Christian tradition, as well as insights from Judaism and Islam.

Each week, we'll be offering some concrete experiments to take home. Of course, there is no requirement that you do them, and you will always take home plenty of food for thought regardless. But if you do try them, you will be in the best position to form your own conclusions about God's ability and willingness to connect with you, "one faithless foot" at a time.

The History and Archaeology of Biblical Israel

Starting Sunday, September 15, Dr. Elnes will be leading a six-week study of the history and archaeology of biblical Israel from 6:45-7:45 PM in the Alward Chapel at Countryside. This will be a great opportunity to broaden and deepen your perspective on both the biblical world and the modern one, as well as your faith itself.

Stop by our Common Grounds Coffeehouse before the class begins to grab a cup of coffee/tea/espresso (free will donation suggested).

You can grab another beverage afterward and walk into our new Day One worship service at 8 PM. So, you can sleep in on Sunday mornings if you like and still take in a class, coffee, and worship on Sundays!

Word is spreading about Day One Worship

Have you tried out our new Sunday evening (8 PM) worship experience called Day One? A service with a similar meditative feel in Seattle regularly draws 500 or more participants, and has for years. We think ours will one day, too. While the service is currently small, it is growing as a result of the word spreading in the Omaha community.

Day One is quite different from our morning services. The sanctuary is lit by 99 candles up front. You smell incense. You hear prayers, singing bowls, and monastic-style chanting from the back. You hear our gorgeous piano up front. It all moves you more deeply into prayer. After 45 minutes you can hardly believe the service is already ending!

Come early to grab a coffee, tea, or espresso beverage in Common Grounds before it all begins. And do invite your friends. We anticipate this service being a significant growth opportunity for our church as it meets a need that is presently being unmet in Omaha.

WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 231

Email: erice@countrysideucc.org



**Countryside's
Hors d'oeuvre Contest**
Friday, Sept. 20 at 6:00 p.m.
Please bring an appetizer
and beverage to share.
at the home of Joan & John Allen
4416 S. 162 St.
Sign up at the Connection Link or
email marybethl@countrysideucc.org



Mindfulness Sits
with Carlos Figueroa
Mindfulness Outreach Initiative
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Second Wednesday of Month
September - April
details page 4



**Parenting with
Love and Logic**
Wednesday evenings
Sept. 11 - Oct. 16
6:00 - 7:30 PM
see page 10 for details
Register at the
Connection Link
or contact Mary Beth
marybethl@countrysideucc.org



Pastoral Care Board presents:
**STORIES FROM
THE BRIDGE**
Six storytellers from our three faith communities will be sharing
reflections, and there will be some time to meet new friends
"across the bridge." Appetizers will be served, too. Look for
more information in the next few weeks.
Thursday, October 3 **5 - 8 PM**



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Sr High begins this year on Sunday, September 8, at 6:00 PM.

Dinner at 6 PM, and COYO Sr High (9 - 12 grade) at 6:30 PM (Friends, Faith, Service). Bring a friend, or two! Register for COYO Sr. High at countrysideucc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/41

Sr High and Faith Singers Fall Retreat, September 14-15 at Camp Kitaki

Meet at church at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 14 to head to Camp Kitaki. Bring sleeping bag, pillow, swim suit, towel, toiletries, clothes for the climbing tower, games and a snack to share. Try out Faith Singers with a couple of special rehearsals. Retreat is \$20 for lodging, food, and tower. Other activities include hiking, swimming, gaga ball, games, snacks. Connect to new COYO Sr. High friends. Sign up on the Countryside website: countrysideucc.org/learning-together/youth-ministry/srhigh

Sign up for FAITH SINGERS

Faith Singers, Countryside's high school choir, for students in grades 9 - 12, They rehearse each Sunday from 4:45 - 6 PM in Rahab next to the music office. The Faith Singers is directed by Tyler Gruttemeyer. The choir usually sings twice a month in worship during the school year. Each summer, Faith Singers goes on a tour, singing and doing some mission work in different parts of the country. Another fun reason to get involved with this fun group of kids and its fearless leader! If you are interested in joining Faith Singers please register at countrysideucc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/124.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation starts September 4, at 6:30 PM in Youth Room

Everything Confirmation is online at countrysideucc.org/learning-together/youth-ministry/confirmation. You can read the requirements, fill out reflection forms, and watch classes and fill out the handouts. Last year's classes will all be online soon.

Parents are encouraged to attend the first class to hear about the confirmation requirements and to meet the teachers. Register for confirmation at countrysideucc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/40

COYO Jr High begins this year on Sunday, September 8, at 4:30 PM

Come for Friends, Faith, and Service, 7- 8 grades. Dinner for everyone is at 6:00 PM.

Sign up for Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for our 7th and 8th grade students. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 - 6:30 PM in Rahab next to the music office. The Confirmation Singers are directed by Amanda Stevenson (see page 8 for more information about our new choir director). Your 7th or 8th grader does not need to be in our Confirmation program to be a part of this choir, all they need is to love to sing! If you are interested in joining Confirmation Singers please register at countrysideucc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/125.

ALL COYO

Everyone involved with Countryside Youth needs to have a release on file. Please include allergies and food restrictions. You can go online at countrysideucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/COYO-Release-2019-2020.pdf or you can pick one up at the Connection Link on Sundays.



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 - 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

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. 232

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER

September 1 - Worship together in Sanctuary

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the worship service.

September 8- Sunday School

Noah and the Great Flood- In the symbolic story of the Great Flood, Noah teaches us the importance of listening for and trusting God's guidance. As we act in partnership with God, our thoughts, words and deeds can inspire tranquility in the world around us and new beginnings within us.

September 15 - Large Group Sunday School

Jacob and Esau

September 22 - Sunday School

Jacob's Ladder-- God wants to help us and is always with us, focusing on our possibilities more than our flaws – as individuals and as communities. When we remember to listen, God's messages come through...maybe even in our dreams.

September 29 -Children's Church

FALL SCHEDULE

Sundays

Be sure to check the weekly email or the newsletter each month as our fall schedule will be a bit different than usual. Each month will still begin with an opportunity to worship together as a family in the Sanctuary. After that, our Sundays will be a combination of Sunday School, an occasional large group lesson, and Children's Church. With this new scheduling, we are hoping to offer a little more continuity with lessons.

Wednesdays

6:00-6:30 Core 56 music in Tamar

Holy Moly (K-4) story and lesson in the Blue Room

6:30-7:30 Core 56 meets in the Yellow Room

6:30-7:00 K-2 Music with Aly meets in Tamar/ 3-4 Holy Moly activity in Blue Room

7:00-7:30 K-2 Holy Moly Activity in Blue Room/ 3-4 Music with Aly in Tamar



Students and Artist Christy Palmer of Bits and Pieces looking at pictures of Christy's work to brainstorm ideas and learn about collage work



Students and Artist Christy Palmer posing with their art works!

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 (Aug. - Apr.) 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

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.

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.

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in Rahab (next door to the music office). Their rehearsals will begin on September 4.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM in the choir room. in Rahab (next door to the music office). Their rehearsals will begin on September 8.

Countryside Community Church Choir (C4)

The C4 choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature as well as a classical choral repertoire. C4 sings regularly at Sunday worship services. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 PM in Priscilla. Childcare up to age 12 provided.

EXCITING NEWS TO KICK-OFF FALL PROGRAMMING

Introducing C4: Countryside Community Church Choir

The Board of Arts Ministry is proud to introduce C4: Countryside Community Church Choir. Rather than two separate choirs that occasionally combine, we are now one choir that will occasionally split into smaller ensembles for specific pieces, projects and events.

C4 is the technical term for “middle C” on the piano and also happens to be an explosive. This is a perfect title for a centerpiece of Countryside’s music program that is experiencing explosive growth – more than 50 participants attended the C4 Retreat – which will have a dynamic impact on worship and our church as a whole.

This gives us strength in numbers, makes the program more accessible to all, and enhances artistic creativity all at the same time. Whether you want to sing every Sunday or join us as your schedule allows, C4 offers that flexibility, and all are welcome to participate. Childcare is provided up to age 12. Please join us on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 PM for rehearsals. The year is going to be a blast.



Over 40 members of Countryside gathered for a choir retreat on Saturday, August 10 to kick off the start of the 2019-20 year of music.

Introducing Amanda Stevenson: Associate Youth Choir Director

We are very excited to introduce Amanda Stevenson as our new Associate Youth Choir Director. In this role, she will direct Confirmation Singers, our 7th and 8th grade choir, and accompany Faith Singers, our high school choir. She will also fill-in for Tyler when he is out and add an additional dimension of leadership for the group. Amanda brings a wealth of experience and expertise with the middle school age group, and will help build up the Confirmation Singers and Faith Singers programs.



Amanda Stevenson

She is the Founder and Managing Artistic Director of the Omaha Children’s Choir, an organization whose mission is to provide access to quality choral music instruction for students who want to sing, but may not have the resources to sing in a choir or take private lessons outside of school, especially in urban areas.

In addition to her role with the Omaha Children’s choir, she teaches at Titan Hill Intermediate School in Council Bluffs, is an instructor in middle school methods at UNO, and serves on the National American Choral Director’s Association’s Subcommittee for Diversity. She also sings with the NEXus Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and is a teaching artist for WeBop (Jazz at Lincoln Center’s early childhood jazz program) through Omaha Performing Arts.

FAME - Friends, Art, Munching and Enjoying

FAME is beginning the fall season by updating the meaning of its letters. The former Friday Arts and Music Experience is now “Friends, Art, Munching and Enjoying”. As the new meaning says, we are a group of people who gather every Friday morning in the Ruth room from 10:00 – 11:30 to enjoy water color painting, coloring, munching on yummy snacks, drinking coffee and enjoying conversing, maybe listening to some favorite music and just having fun being together. The group is open to anyone who would enjoy fun, food and fellowship. We would love to have you join us! The more the merrier! Email Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net if you have questions.

Instrument Petting Zoo

Please join us for an Instrument Petting Zoo on Sundays, September 8 and 15, after both services for an Instrument Petting Zoo. This is an exciting opportunity for congregants and guests of all ages to explore and play with a wide variety of instruments. If you’ve always wanted to play a boomwhacker, ukulele, or harpsichord, this is your chance!

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact:

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

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR SEPTEMBER

THE BOX for September is clothing for Lothrop Elementary school in the Omaha Public School District. **Items to consider include black dry erase markers (Expo), hand sanitizer, pull-ups for 2-3 year olds, underpants for 3-6 year olds (boy and girl).***

* Please note change from last printing. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Are you willing to volunteer at Countryside's monthly mobile food pantry, Community Cupboard? Each month it takes approximately 40-60 volunteers to do things like:

- Welcome and check in visitors
- Unpack food and set it out tables
- Set up snacks and coffee in Memorial Hall
- Play live music
- Talk with people about SNAP food money assistance, or how to
- apply for an eye exam/ glasses voucher (training provided)
- Make some pre-packed boxes of food for folks who choose this option
- Help carry groceries out to the parking lot



Peanut butter donated from the Tri-Faith picnic being organized for the pantry.

Your help is ALWAYS welcomed and needed! Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org or chat with Mary Beth about helping.

TRI-FAITH GARDEN AND ORCHARD

Volunteers are needed to help water, weed, gather and deliver the produce from the Tri-Faith Garden and Orchard. If you are interested in helping please contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Christian Outreach embraces opportunities that reflect appreciation, respect, and love where there was otherwise much neglect - providing funding and service opportunities that nurture lasting change in our congregation, our community, and our world.

The Box

...is where specific items are collected each month to address various needs. "The Suitcase" is where we continuously collect hotel-size toiletries. Both are in the Foyer near the Connection Link.

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.



COUNTRYSIDE CORNER



In May, over 40 volunteers went through docent training to educate the visiting public about Countryside Community Church. Karen Follon and her committee put together a treasure trove of information about the church and the significance behind its design and the materials used within. Each month we will share a portion of the docent training in this new section - Countryside Corner.

SUSTAINABILITY

Based on computer models of our new building design, annual consumption of energy is projected to decrease by 60% compared to our former church building.

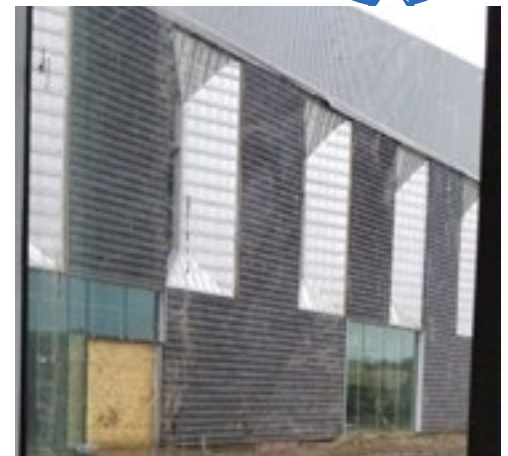
- Water consumption will decrease by 90%
- Natural gas consumption will decrease by 87%
- Electricity consumption will decrease by 20% compared to our former church building
- CO2 emissions will decrease by 59%

How this is all possible:

- The exterior walls are at least 34% more energy efficient than new construction

building codes and 45% more energy efficient than our current building.

- The envelope estimate allows 50% more insulation than guidelines require.
- The roof is at least 58% more energy efficient than new construction building codes and 64% more energy efficient than our former church building.
- The foundation walls are at least 65% more efficient than what we had.
- The glazing systems exceed industry requirements by 25%, providing higher performance windows that are more energy efficient.
- Light fixtures are LED.
- Natural day-lighting strategies are efficient, and with well controlled LED fixtures, will reduce energy consumption.
- All plumbing fixtures are low flow, allowing for responsible storm water management.
- Geothermal heat pump system uses the earth for heating and cooling of the building which is efficient and effective.



Exterior wall near grand staircase (during construction) - our exterior walls are at least 34% more energy efficient than new construction building codes.





LIFE MINISTRIES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Annual Hors D'oeuvres Contest - Friday, September 20 , 6 PM at the home of Joan and John Allen (4416 S. 162 Street). E.T.C. (Countryside's multi-generational social group) invites you to this warm fellowship event filled with great conversation, delicious food and drink and a fun/friendly hors d'oeuvres competition. The four categories of hors d'oeuvres are: Julia Child's Award (best overall), BAM (most appealing), Game Day and Lazy Way Out. You need not be an accomplished cook! Signups are now available in the Foyer at the Connection Link. For additional information, contact Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350 ext. 235.

Ollie the Trolley's Haunted Cemetery Ride, Friday, October 18, 7-9:00 PM (meet at Monster Bar in the Old Market). Ride if you dare! There are only 42 seats available for this premier event. Cost is \$30 per person and covers cost of the trolley (sponsored by E.T.C.)

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Parenting with Love and Logic returns on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 PM, September 11-October 23. Mary Johnston will be facilitating the class again this year. Be watching for brochures at the Connection Link in the Foyer along with registration options. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org for additional information.

Earth University - F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) group will be offering a six-week discussion on WATER, Thursday evenings beginning October 3 at 7:00 PM in Countryside's Chapel. Stop by the Connection Link in the Foyer to pick up your class brochure and to register for this very popular offering. For additional information, please contact either Chris Alexander at chrisa@counttrysideucc.org or Mary Beth Link at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, September 9, in Marys' Hall at Countryside Church. We moved the date one week to accommodate Labor Day celebrated on September 2. No need to sign up, bring a brown bag lunch with drinks provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy warm conversation and great fellowship with the women of Countryside Church, AMI and Temple Israel. See you there!

Family Activities Committee members will gather on Sunday, September 29, at 10 AM to finalize plans for the Advent Workshop.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet at the Fountain View (5710 S 108th St) on Monday, September 9, at Noon. Bring a book you've enjoyed as they will be having their Book Exchange. Bring one and take one home! Marilyn Hale and Jeanne Spires will be the hostess's for this event. Cost of the lunch is \$10 payable on site. Contact Gloria Ried (g-g.ried@cox.net) for additional information.

Interplay resumes under the coordination of Rita Otis Saturday, September 14, 9:30-11:30 in the Foyer at Countryside Church. They will then find a new place for lunch following. Contact Rita at rmotis@outlook.com for additional information or to register for the class.

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. 235

Email: marybethl@counttrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Community Cupboard Food Panty is needing additional help at the pantry on Saturday, September 7, 7:45-11:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 volunteers to put together, serve and clean up a Pantry Saturday. Your help is ALWAYS welcomed and needed! Contact communitycupboard@counttrysideucc.org or chat with Mary Beth about helping. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new, adventuresome folks! Stop by the Information Station to learn more about both of them by talking with Mary Beth.

Thank you!

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

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who volunteered at the **Tri-Faith Picnic in August!** Countless kudos to Trish Hoffman-Ahrens for her months of coordination, planning, recruiting and execution! Countryside's hospitality was at its finest and we all should be very proud of the outstanding event that happened here. It was a great success and fun was had by all!

Thank you also to **Countryside's Paint-a-thon 2019 volunteers!** Our team this year consisted of roughly seven volunteers from Countryside and volunteers from Offutt Air Force Base. The home, located on North 18 Street was both stucco and vinyl siding which made the clean-up both challenging and fun. A special thank you goes to Tom Korth who, despite a shoulder issue, brought the team together and had a great time. If you would be interested in helping in the future, please reach out to tkorth2@gmail.com, pegdunn1@gmail.com or marybethl@counttrysideucc.org for additional information.

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 (Friends, Art, Munching & Enjoying)

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

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

ABRAHAM: OUT OF ONE: MANY

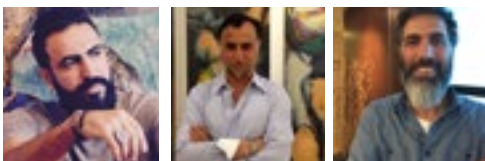
Sunday, September 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Congregation of Temple Israel

The "ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many" exhibit will make its U.S. opening at Temple Israel. Join us for this grand opening. The exhibit will be at Temple Israel from September 8 through October 18.

"ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many" is a timely artistic exploration on living harmoniously, inspired by Abraham; the common ancestor of three globally acclaimed contemporary Middle Eastern artists from the Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions.

The exhibition involves three globally acclaimed Middle Eastern contemporary artists - Sinan Hussein, Qais Al Sindy, Shai Azoulay - from Muslim, Christian and Jewish faith traditions. Each artist has created work that focuses on how Abraham's example can guide our world today toward living harmoniously.

Abraham Exhibit Artists



Sinan Hussein Qais Al Sindy Shai Azoulay

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINING

September 17, 6-8 PM

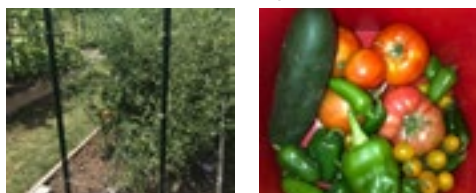
UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, 6400 South, University Drive Road N. Everyone living in the U.S. has certain basic rights under the U.S. Constitution. Undocumented immigrants have these rights, too. Recent events have caused many people to attend "Know Your Rights" workshops, or have been trained to provide "Know Your Rights" presentations. Understanding what a person's rights are, regardless of their immigration status, can help protect them from being deported or detained.

This event is to provide resources and training for individuals when interacting with law enforcement and immigration.

Hosted by Tri-Faith Initiative and the Omaha Area Sanctuary Network.

TRI-FAITH GARDEN AND ORCHARD

So many people have been working hard in the garden this summer and Countryside's Community Cupboard and the Chabbad House have been two of the recipients.



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR MIXER

Thursday, September 19, 5:00 - 7:30 PM
Congregation of Temple Israel

Have you heard about Neighbor to Neighbor? If you haven't, come and learn about this hallmark Tri-Faith program. N2N is a great way to make new friends and meet Tri-Faith families. If you already have a N2N group, come and help answer questions about how your group is working and the connections you've built. N2N provides opportunities for people from the three faith communities on the Tri-Faith Commons to connect, learn about the other faiths, share their own faith experiences and create meaningful relationships with others in a social environment that is safe, respectful and welcoming.



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



WORSHIP SERIES
September 15 - October 20



Hearing that still, small voice
and finding your own.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Connect!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS START SEPT. 4!

Children - see page 7 for details

Holy Moly 6:00-7:30, K through 4th grade

Core 56 6:00-7:30, 5th and 6th grade

Confirmation 6:00-7:30, 7th and 8th grade

Adults - see pages 4 & 10 for details

Convergence University 6:30 - 8:00

Mindfulness Sits 6:30 - 8:00
second Wednesday of each month Sept. - April

Parenting with Love and Logic 6:00 - 7:30
Sept. 11 - Oct. 16, sign up at Connection Link

Choirs - see page 8 for details

Confirmation Choir 5:45 - 6:30, 7th & 8th grade

Countryside Community Church Choir (CCCC) 6:00 - 8:00, Adult choir
Nursery is available from 6:00 - 8:00

REVIVE
Feeding the Body, Spirit & Community


Sunday, September 8
12:30 - 2:00 PM

All Church Lunch
Fall Programming Kick-Off
Community Service Project

Come to lunch, learn about our fall programs at Countryside, and give back to the community by participating in a small community service project.

Check countrysideucc.org for more information.

HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY of BIBLICAL ISRAEL



six-week study with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Sunday Evenings
6:45 - 7:45 PM
Alward Chapel
Starts September 13

Grab a cup of coffee and come learn about the historical events that shaped our Bible. Finish your Sunday evening with our Day One Service at 8 PM in the Sanctuary. Coffee, class and worship!
details page 5