



# HOLY WEEK

- April 10 - Palm Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.
- April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 p.m.
- April 15 – Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.
- April 17 – Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00 a.m.
- Easter Worship Services – 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



## MEMORIALS AND BIRTHS

### Birth:

**Val and Brian Newton** would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Ada June. She joins three-year-old twin big brothers, Liam and Gavin and proud grandparents **Bill and Margie Bolte**.

### Memorial:

**Kris (Steve) Hess's** mother, JoAnn Stenberg, passed away Sunday, March 20. Her funeral will be held at the Ralston United Church of Christ on Thursday, March 31.

## TASK FORCE UPDATE

Countryside Community Church COVID-19 Policy

At the March 22, 2022, Church Council Meeting, the Church Council moved to adopt as church policy the recommendation of the Reopening Task Force to follow the CDC Community Levels for Douglas County regarding masking. The following guidelines will be used for activities held at the church with the exception of children and youth activities, choirs, and upon the request of invited guests. Exception guidelines will be determined by the ministry staff and boards.

- **Current Douglas County Risk Level: LOW (green)**
- **Masks: Optional**
- **Current Douglas County Risk Level: MEDIUM (yellow)**
- **Masks: Recommended/Requested**
- **Current Douglas County Risk Level: HIGH (orange)**
- **Masks: Required**

At this time, children's and youth activities at Countryside Community Church, including Kindernook, will continue to mask through the end of the school/program year (May) and choirs will also continue to mask.

### Levels of CDC COVID Risk for Douglas County

#### LOW RISK

When the current Douglas County risk level is: LOW (green)

Masks: Optional

#### MEDIUM RISK

When the current Douglas County risk level is: MEDIUM (yellow)

Masks: Recommended/Requested

Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible

If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:

- consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
- consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

#### HIGH RISK

When the current Douglas County risk level is: HIGH (orange)

Masks: Required - wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings)

Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible

If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:

- consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
- consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

Individuals who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease

- Please follow your physician's instructions if you are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease. For more information, see COVID-19 for people with certain medical conditions
- Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection
- Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed COVID-19 Community Levels

## Staff

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# COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



## PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS

The next study of the Phoenix Affirmations will begin on Sunday, April 24 at 4:00 PM via Zoom and run for 6-8 consecutive weeks. These Affirmations are a set of 12 principles originally designed to define the emergence of Progressive Christianity. Join us as we learn more from each other about the Three Great Loves: Love of God, Love of Neighbor and Love of Self. You do not have to be a member to attend and if you have been a member for years and have never attended, you are welcome as well. Books are available at the Welcome Center. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Diane Scott at 402-707-1556 or [dianes@countrysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countrysideucc.org).

## SUNDAY MORNING RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP AT 8:30 AM

The Sunday Morning Racial Justice Book Group continues to meet each Sunday from 8:30 to 9:30 AM via Zoom. The link is on the church calendar. May 1 we will begin discussing *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century* by William Darity, Jr. and Kirsten Mullen. All are welcome! We hope you will consider joining us. For more information contact Sharon Royers at [sroyers@centurylink.net](mailto:sroyers@centurylink.net).

## MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS WITH CARLOS, WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Mindful Meditation Sits with Carlos Figueroa are continuing Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM via Zoom. You can access these sits through the Zoom link on the church calendar: [countrysideucc.org/calendar](http://countrysideucc.org/calendar) If you have any questions or would like more information about these opportunities, please contact the church office at [office@countrysideucc.org](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org) or call 402-691-0350

## F.A.M.E. (FRIDAY ARTS & MUSIC EXPERIENCE) EVERY FRIDAY AT 10 AM

Join a fun group of seniors every Friday at 10 AM at Countryside for an art project, a yummy treat and to listen to some good music. We may also have visitors from time to time. It is a great way to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends for an hour. Everyone is welcome. No reservations are required.

## DESIGNATION GROUPS

Faith and the Environment/Creation Justice Designation (F.A.T.E.)

Did You Know?

Seven years ago, the Nebraska Conservation Voters (NCV) organization, made it their mission to build support for clean energy on the governing boards of the three Nebraska utilities that generate most of the state's electricity. NCV helped elect green energy champions by winning in 88% of the elections in the past 7 years. Consequently, the three Nebraska utilities have set the following goals for net-zero decarbonization; OPPD by 2050, LES by 2040 and NPPD by 2050.

In 2018, NCV awarded Countryside member and Nebraska District 20 State representative, John McCollister, Legislator of the Year.

## F.A.T.E SCREENING - "YOUTH V GOV"

Countryside Youth and F.A.T.E (the Faith and the Environment Committee) invite you to join us in celebrating Faith Climate Action Week. We are hosting a screening of the film "Youth v Gov" a new film that follows the landmark lawsuit that 21 youth have filed against the United States government for its role in causing climate change and violating their rights to life, liberty, and property, while also failing to protect essential public resources.

When: Thursday, April 28, 6:30 PM

Where: Countryside Community Church

## SATURDAY MORNING ZUMBA CLASSES VIA ZOOM

These sessions are free, introductory classes, open to all ages. Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. For more information, contact Cynthia Lindenmeyer at [cynthia@sacredactivismtoday.org](mailto:cynthia@sacredactivismtoday.org).

## MEN'S BREAKFAST, TUESDAYS AT 8 AM

Looking for fellowship and great conversation? Check out the weekly Men's Breakfast at First Watch on 72 and Pacific. Every Tuesday morning at 8 AM feel free to stop in and have breakfast. You can come every week or stop in once a month, it's up to you! All are welcome to attend!

## LUNCH BUNCH - SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

Lunch Bunch meets on Mondays. If you're interested in joining this group, which is our traditional "circle" group from way back, please contact Gloria Ried at [g-g.ried@cox.net](mailto:g-g.ried@cox.net). The next meeting is on March 14.

## PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE THURSDAYS AT 9:30 AM

Thursdays following Easter, at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary, you are invited to come together to develop the spiritual practice of group prayer. We come together to pray for any and all prayer needs and requests, for ourselves and others.

# COUNTRYSIDE UPDATES



## CHURCH COUNCIL

We value your candid feedback on our church.

If you have topics of concern or would like the church to reach out to you, please write to [churchcouncil@countysideucc.org](mailto:churchcouncil@countysideucc.org).

We want to hear from you and we appreciate you taking the time to comment.

## RESOURCES FOR DISCERNMENT

During discernment Countryside members will be asking themselves the following questions:

1. How do we want to be challenged spiritually and intellectually?
2. What is our call to serve?
3. What does it mean to be the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative?

To learn more about the outcomes from the discernment small groups held last fall, go to: [countysideucc.org/discernment](http://countysideucc.org/discernment).

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) met twice in March as a large group. At our March 10th meeting we had a 90-minute conversation by Zoom with Rev. Sarah Jones, our UCC conference liaison. Rev. Jones provided the PSC members the UCC guidelines to follow for the search process and provided encouragement that there is a rich pool of interested clergy.

The PSC and a smaller work group is preparing a follow-up survey to the discernment process we engaged in this past fall. The discernment information was analyzed by several individuals with exceptional skills and by the entire PSC at their February retreat. Questions are being developed around three themes that will help us prioritize the traits we are seeking: What pastoral traits are important to me? (Self-Reflection) What pastoral traits are important in a settled minister for Countryside? (Leadership) What pastoral traits are important to the congregation as a whole? (Greater good of the Congregation) We are seeking the assistance of members of the congregation, and others, with survey research skills to help finalize the survey so it can be made available both electronically and on paper. More on this activity will be shared in the coming month in the C-10.

In late April a "Town Hall Forum" will be held to address additional topics that are important to the search but not as conducive to a survey format. The PSC believes that it is critical that varied input opportunities are provided to gather insights that may not be easily represented in a survey format. Your PSC is developing that meeting format and more information will be forthcoming in the C-10.

The congregation now has access an email address where you can directly send questions, comments, and concerns about the pastoral search for a settled minister. Correspondence will be answered in a timely manner. Send your communications to [pastoralsearchcommittee@countysideucc.org](mailto:pastoralsearchcommittee@countysideucc.org)

Your PSC is working prayerfully and diligently to collect insights and input from Countryside and we encourage you to participate in the upcoming survey, "Town Hall Forum" or our email address.

|                |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Kris Hess      | Mallis Bonner | Sharon Royers  |
| Mark Draper    | Bob Davis     | Adam Steinbach |
| Cathy MacInnes | Mimi Goings   | Elaine Wiles   |
| Shelley Boyd   | David Hubbard |                |

## INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Interim Search Committee is diligently proceeding on a multi-track path. We have been updating the United Church of Christ (UCC) Church profile, which is a six part document describing both the requirements we have for an Intentional Interim Minister, but also provides applicants with comprehensive information about our church. While updating this information to reflect our current needs and our current status, we have also been networking. We have had several conversations with the NE-IA-SD UCC Associate Conference ministers (Sarah Jones and Ellis Arnold, who were in attendance at the annual meeting), as well as ministers who know our church, and those we know to be in the Interim Ministry profession. We are also in discussions with staff and congregational members to get input and feedback. We will be doing more sharing as we continue our progress.

The Church Profile has been posted to the UCC job board. Applicants will make their first contact through the NE-IA-SD UCC Conferences office where the Search and Call team will do some initial vetting. Prospective candidates will then be forwarded to the Interim Hire Team for us to review materials. Eventually, we will select from the available pool of candidates to review more detailed information, such as recorded sermons, zoom interviews, and other selection screening tasks yet to be determined.

Our goal is to conduct this process with integrity consistent with our church's values, and guided by UCC input. We are available for questions and feedback.

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Teri D'Agostino | Pam Kregg       |
| Matt Atchison   | Rick MacInnes   |
| Mike Bonner     | Deb McCollister |

# BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND TRI-FAITH



## EASTER OFFERING

The Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) has joined with Countryside's mental health designation group to support Completely Kids with our Easter Offering for 2022. After two years of living in a pandemic, whether we are aware of them or not, we have all encountered mental health challenges - through our own families, loved ones, or personally. We have changed how we live our lives to stay safe physically, but our emotional selves have suffered. To go forward, to return to a "new" normal, we must take steps to safeguard our physical and emotional health. Completely Kids is helping young people - ages 4-17 - create a brighter tomorrow through its mental health programs.

Located in downtown Omaha, Completely Kids has been helping kids since 2013. Completely Kids' mission is to break the cycle of poverty and help kids and their families overcome the barrier to success. Originally tackling child hunger through a weekend food program, Completely Kids has expanded its services to include after-school programs, teen employment program, family services and most recently a dedicated mental health program. The mental health services have expanded from 1 therapist 2 years ago to 4 full time and 2 part time therapists currently. The mental health services also include group skill-based training in conjunction with their 16 after school programs. The skill-based groups gather kids together to discuss different topics and provide training to help kids learn positive ways to cope with life's struggles. Skills are focused around building their abilities to self-regulate, identify and master emotions, reduce stress and express themselves in a health way. These groups are a great way for kids to learn from each other as much as from their teacher. Finally, Completely Kids also offers Mindful Movement & Technique classes that help the kids through the development of mindfulness skills that can be applied to any area of life. All of these programs work to tackle concerns before they become issues.

Our goal, as the Countryside community, is to make a positive difference. Through supporting Completely Kids, we will make that difference - by helping one child at a time to believe in hope. Lulu Rangel of Completely Kids, related a story of a 4th grader who, in 2020, had experienced COVID in a very personal way - the death of her father. The family had taken significant steps to stay healthy at the onset of COVID, so were struggling with the shock and grief of his unexpected death. Angelica experienced severe anxiety over the loss of her father and was fearful for the health of her mother. Her anxiety resulted in a dramatic shift in personality - she was no longer engaging in virtual programming and isolating herself. Angelica's anxiety continued to grow until it resulted in extreme panic when her mother would leave the house for work or just to get groceries. Through therapy, she started to share her feelings of loneliness and low self-worth. She has returned to school as a 5th grader but still struggles with her anxiety. Completely Kids has helped her identify the triggers and assisted her in building a strong support system and healthy coping skills. Angelica is now helping others by sharing her own journey about how she processed the grief - helping others to see hope.

BOCO asks for your help to say: "We see you. We know you may be hurting. We share your urgency." We ask for your support for the Countryside Easter Offering and Completely Kids mental health program. If you have any questions, please contact a BOCO board representative.

## TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE

### WOMEN OF TRI-FAITH VIRTUAL LUNCH

Monday, April 11, 12 - 1 PM, online

The Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch is an opportunity to meet new friends, stay connected, and build intergenerational bonds between women of all faiths and identities.

Join us for sisterhood and casual conversation over lunch!

Registration required - go to [trifaith.org/events](https://trifaith.org/events) to register.

## THE BOX FOR APRIL



The board of Christian Outreach is tying the Box for April with the Easter Offering for Completely Kids.

Some items that would be appreciated are:

Fidget tools: stress balls, pop its

Individual snack packs: goldfish crackers, chips, fruit snacks

Markers

Pencils

Scented markers

Colored pencils

To give:

Go to [countrysideucc.org/give](https://countrysideucc.org/give), or if mailing a check, please make it out to Countryside Community Church with memo: Easter Offering 2022.

Thank you!



# LENT AND EASTER ACTIVITIES

## GUEST SPEAKER

Rabbi Deana Sussman Berezin will be Countryside's guest speaker on Sunday, April 3. Rabbi Berezin is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. She served as the Rabbi Educator at Central Reform Congregation, a vibrant congregation of 780 households in the city of St. Louis. Rabbi Berezin attended HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. She earned a Master of Arts in Jewish Education and was ordained in May of 2014. In addition to student pulpits at Temple Beth Torah, Temple Beth Shalom, Beth Knesset Bamidbar, and at the China Lake Naval Air and Weapons Station, Rabbi Berezin served as the Harold M. Schulweis Rabbinic Intern at Jewish World Watch, an organization that promotes education, advocacy and action around issues of genocide and mass atrocities. She had a second rabbinic internship at Our House Grief Support Center, providing pastoral care to both children and adults. Prior to her enrollment in rabbinic school, Rabbi Berezin attended Indiana University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies and a double minor in Hebrew and Psychology. Rabbi Berezin married Jared Berezin in 2016.

## LENT ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

Join us April 7 at 7:00 PM for our final Thursday evening special spiritual practice. This will be a walking prayer and meditation practice using both the labyrinth and Abraham's Bridge.

## LENTEN JOURNEY BY WALKING

The journey to Jerusalem continues Tuesday and Thursday mornings during Lent from 8:00 to 9:00 AM followed by prayer in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM. Please join Rev. Judy Waible as she walks Abraham's Bridge every Tuesday and Thursday morning during Lent. Abraham's Bridge is .25 miles for one round, four times around is a mile.

## PRAYER ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Rev. Dr. Norman Pavey will continue to lead Centering Prayer in the Sanctuary every Tuesday at 9:30 AM during Lent. Centering prayer is a meditative prayer that uses words or phrases from the Bible. As you breathe in and out you think of the word or phrase which the Spirit has given you, and you continue to do to this for the time you have chosen.

Prayers for the People will happen on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. These will be prayers for the church and for the congregation and any specific prayers people would like to bring to this holy place during this holy time.

## LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES will take place at 10:00 AM followed by Post-Sermon Dialogue and Sunday School at 11:00 AM

- April 3 - Rabbi Deana Sussman Berezin
- April 10 - Palm Sunday - Rev. Judy Waible
- Easter Sunday, April 17, sunrise service at 7:00 AM, followed by services at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

## FOLLOW THE CROSS

Countryside is once again offering Follow the Cross for the Easter season. There will be two opportunities to participate this year: Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15 from 5:00-7:00, immediately before the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The focus this year will be a continuation of the offerings on Thursdays of spiritual practices. We look for ways to connect to Spirit and be reminded of the season of Hope. As usual, the children will have their own experiences, as well. Due to the nature of this year's Follow the Cross, please wear comfortable clothes so you can fully immerse and enjoy the various experiences.

For more information contact Diane Scott at 402-707-1556 or [dianes@countrysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countrysideucc.org).

## PRAYER TREE

For Lent this year we are featuring a prayer tree in the Foyer. We invite you to write down something you would like others in our community to pray for. It can be prayers for yourself, your loved ones, your community, even the planet. You can then hang your prayer on the tree and then take someone else's prayer to pray for them over the Lenten season. This way of praying for each other brings people in our community together and this in itself creates healing for us during the season of Lent. We will also have prayer cards available to take home to help get you started on reflections and prayers for Lent.

Children are invited to participate as well. If they cannot write they can always draw a picture of what they would like another to pray for.

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



## SR. HIGH YOUTH

During three weeks in the month of March, youth from Temple Israel, AMI, and Countryside gathered together to learn about one another's faith practices, get to know one another, and to consider our different faith perspectives on engaging with the environment. At each location, students were given a tour of the building, played games designed to learn more about each other, and did a project together. While at Temple, the students planted seeds in the Nature Classroom (which is super cool and you should totally check it out). During their visit to Countryside, students created 100% compostable art projects using non-coated cardboard, food-based dyes, and newspapers. The third project, offered at AMI, was an art project that included symbology from each individual faith tradition. While this particular event was a limited-series, we are excited that the students had this time together and are looking forward to many more opportunities in the future.

For the month of April, here's our Sr. High Youth Group schedule for Sunday evenings from 6-8PM:

April 3—Focus on Farm Workers

April 10—Parkside Park clean-up day

April 17—EASTER—NO YOUTH GROUP

April 24—Trip to El Museo Latino—RSVP to Emma or Rebecca before April 17th

Remind texts will go out every Sunday to let everyone know logistical stuff like pick up and drop off information.

## JR. HIGH YOUTH CONFIRMATION

April 3 - Last Sunday for 7th graders—End of year conversation: What did you learn, what did you wish you learned, what do you wish you hadn't learned?

April 10 - Individual meetings with 8th graders and Confirmation leaders about their Faith Stories

April 17 - EASTER -NO CONFIRMATION

April 24 - Confirmation! Woohoo! 7th graders are expected to attend worship that day to support their classmates as the 8th graders become full members of Countryside.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Sunday School - 11AM Sundays

April 3 - Holy Week Stories

April 10 - Palm Sunday

April 17 - EASTER SUNDAY- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 24 - On the Road to Emmaus

### Core 56 - 6-7:30 PM Wednesdays

April 6 - Nature Walk and Avatar episodes

April 13 - HOLY WEEK—NO CORE 56

April 20 - Dinner together and Avatar episodes

April 24 - Scavenger Hunt! (and probably some Avatar episodes)



## COUNTRYSIDE MISSION STATEMENT

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, equality and justice in our conflicted world.

## NURSERY

Nursery services will remain on pause until COVID numbers are more reasonable. Although the nursery will not be staffed, the room will be available for parents of young children. The room will have toys, rocking chairs and a children's bathroom and changing area, and a monitor to watch the service. This is an option for parents who are wanting some extra space and focus on their children as needed while still having access to watch the worship service. For the record, your baby/toddler/young one is always...ALWAYS...welcome in worship complete with their little sounds, fussiness, giggles, grumps, and wiggles. All are welcome means all are welcome.



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## HOLY WEEK

### **April 10 - Palm Sunday Worship 10:00 AM**

Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week. It commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where palm branches were scattered in front of Christ as he rode into town. Join Rev. Judy Waible and a parade of palms as we celebrate Palm Sunday.

### **April 14 - Mandy Thursday Service - 7:00 PM**

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, commemorates the Last Supper. Come as we discover communion and the Last Supper as a community. Tenor and friend of Countryside, Justin Payne will be joining us.

### **April 15 - Good Friday Service - 7:00 PM**

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. Join the choir as we witness a tenebrae service.

### **April 17 - Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 AM**

We will begin celebrating Easter Sunday with a sunrise service outside beginning at 7:00 AM

### **April 17 - Easter Sunday Worship Services - 9:00 and 11:00 AM**

We will hold Easter worship services at both 9:00 and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Christ has risen! Risen Indeed!