



TASTE OF TRI-FAITH

Our Tri-Faith congregations are inviting each of us to come visit and share a worship and fellowship experience celebrating our three faiths.

CONNECT, LEARN, BREAK BREAD TOGETHER!

All are welcome to attend this series of weekend worship services. What an opportunity to enrich our understanding, appreciation and fellowship! You can register your attendance either on the Tri-Faith website or through our Countryside website or office. Watch for further details in the C-10 and the Tri-Faith announcements but mark your calendar now! May 21 will be at Temple, June 5 at Countryside, and June 21 at AMI. See page 5 for more information about our partner congregations.

PENTECOST AND PANCAKES AT COUNTRYSIDE

On Sunday, June 5 at Countryside we shall take our turn hosting our neighbors. We'll begin with the ever popular Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 - 9:30 AM in Marys' Hall, with seating available inside or we'll have a tent available for outside seating. We will be celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church, at a single 10 AM service. The sanctuary will be decorated with the traditional colors of "tongues of fire": red yellow and orange. All are encouraged to dress using those colors to help celebrate. The traditional worship service will include a narrator and screen explanations of how we worship including prayer, music, meditation, scripture readings, sermon and fellowship.

Children are welcome!

- Parents of young children are encouraged to bring a quiet activity to do during the Temple and Countryside services.
- At AMI parents, young children and guests who are not praying can watch the service on TVs outside the Sanctuary.
- There will be a children's activity during the cultural fair.
- Countryside will have a separate activity for young children during the breakfast

- **Saturday, May 21 - Tifilah at Temple Israel**
- **Sunday, June 5 - Pentecost and Pancakes at Countryside.**
- **Friday, June 21 - Experience the Taste of AMI**

Registration requested - go to trifaith.org/events.



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MEMORIALS AND BIRTHS

Births:

Diane and Don Scott have a new grandson! Bagas (Indonesian) Connor (Western) O'Reilly was born on April 4 to Jordan and Diana Tri O'Reilly.

Baptisms:

Declan Robert Leslie Gray was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022, by visiting pastor Rev. Dr. John Ross. Declan is the son of **Julianne and Shawn Gray**. He was born on July 8, 2021.

Memorials:

Cathy (Rick) MacInnes's sister, Diane Caulkins, passed away on Saturday, April 9. Her memorial will be held this summer in Lincoln. Diane is also the aunt of members **Alissa (Beau) Johnson and Amy (Dan) Podlesak**.

Former member Mary Guin Knoll passed away on February 21 in Omaha. Her memorial was held on April 15 at 1 PM Roeder Mortuary.

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.

- 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

For more detailed information on Countryside's new policy, please go to the Countryside website <https://countysideucc.org/covid19>.

SUNDAY GUEST SPEAKERS

May 1 - Daniel Lawse

Daniel (he/him) has amassed an exceptional range of sustainability expertise over a decade of experience. As Verdis Group's Chief Century Thinker, Daniel brings his passion to cultivate adaptive, regenerative, and resilient solutions for communities and organizations to thrive now and for generations to come.

May 8 - Mother's Day

May 15 - Rev. Dr. Norman Pavey - Retired UCC minister and Countryside member.

May 22 - Rev. Katie Miller

Rev. Katie has been the Associate Minister at First Central Congregational Church since June, 2016. She is passionate about people and ministry and the great outdoors, and can be found most non-work days hiking wherever there's a trail and a hint of sunshine.

May 28 - Memorial Day Weekend - Teacher Appreciation Sunday

COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS

The next study of the Phoenix Affirmations will begin on Sunday, May 1 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.

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. On 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.

MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS, WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM

Mindful Meditation Sits are continuing on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM via Zoom. You can access these sits through the Zoom link on the church calendar: 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. or call 402-391-0350

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 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.

F.A.T.E. (FAITH AND THE ENVIRONMENT)

Did you know that there is Eco Friendly laundry detergent in the form of sheets? We've counted at least 10 brands that leave behind only a small amount of thin cardboard or a recyclable package that can go into your Orange Bag. The same is true for dishwasher detergent that can be in the form of powder, tablets, or sheets. These choices eliminate plastic, and the reviews are positive. Ann Duey gave us the heads up on this. Thank you, Ann!

KINDERNOOK SPRING ART SHOW

Each year Kindernook Preschool celebrates artists and art with our program Exploration of the Arts. In January we had Mary Lorraine's Dance Studio come to teach us some new dance moves. In February, we learned about music with Miss Ashley from Kindermusik and folk musicians David Seay and Debby Greenblatt. The month of March we celebrated the art of acting with several Rose Theater visits. In April our MWF Green Room was visited by mixed media artist Tristan Abel. Tristan worked with the children to create an incredible piece of three-dimensional art.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year we have learned about all different types of art; sculpture, collage, watercolor, papier mâché, and more. Kindernook teachers collected artwork each month, and in May, we would like to invite all of you to the KINDERNOOK ART SHOW. May 1-13 the Art Show will be held in the Foyer. Please enjoy works of art from our 55 very talented and creative Kindernook students.

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.

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

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. The next meeting is on May 9.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE THURSDAYS AT 9:00 AM

Thursdays at 9:00 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 .

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.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) met twice in April and, in addition, a Task Force has been working to develop a survey related to the three themes mentioned in the April newsletter. The questions will be assembled from a careful review of the discernment information provided by the Congregation. We will keep you updated on the progress of our survey in order to gather additional information from our members.

Listed are some highlighted items we want to share as we move forward in our deliberate search for a settled minister -

1) Please join us for a Town Hall Forum scheduled for May 1 in Marys' Hall following the 10:00 Sunday Service. The PSC Committee is finalizing plans related to the format to ensure our Congregation has the opportunity to share thoughts related to the 2 questions below as well as other related issues as we move forward with our search.

*What attracts you theologically to Countryside Community Church?

*What do you see as the top 3 priorities for Countryside Community Church in the next 3-5 years?

2) Sharon Royers represented our committee at the April 3 church service with an update of our committee's progress. We will continue to provide our Congregation with up-to-date information on the first Sunday of each month.

3) We value your questions and feedback so please email any questions, comments or concerns to pastoralsearchcommittee@countysideucc.org and a response will be sent as soon as possible.

The Pastoral Search Committee looks forward to continuing to represent the members of CCC in our intentional search for a settled minister.

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

We are in the process of finalizing our methodology for evaluating the profiles of applicants. We want to have confidence that our methodology is as objective as possible, and is able to distinguish between candidates based on priorities the church needs from an interim minister. After our evaluation is applied to the application material we receive from interested candidates, we will invite the potential "best fit" candidates for interviews. We will describe the interview process as we get closer to that point in the process.

Right now we want to emphasize that our search is for an interim minister position only. We are searching for a candidate with intentional interim experience and training. We are being very clear with candidates that the need we have for an interim minister and the process to search for a settled minister are two separate processes.

Although the search for interim and settled ministers are different processes, we do plan to share the lessons we learn from the search process with the Pastoral Search Committee to help them benefit from our experience in any way they see fit.

We plan to utilize staff and congregational members to assist us at various times in the search for an interim minister to help us gain a broad perspective on potential candidates.

Teri D'Agostino

Pam Kregg

Matt Atchison

Rick MacInnes

Mike Bonner

Deb McCollister

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE AND OUR FAITH PARTNERS



TASTE OF TRI-FAITH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

TIFILAH AT TEMPLE

On May 21, Saturday, at 10:30 - 11:30 AM we are welcomed to join the Temple Israel congregation for a Shabbat (Sabbath) Morning Torah Service. We will learn about the study of the Torah followed by a Kiddush lunch featuring some favorite foods. Our Jewish neighbors and friends look forward to kicking off the first of these very special gatherings. Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

AMI

EXPERIENCE THE TASTE OF AMI

On Friday, June 21, from 1:15 - 2:15 PM the American Muslim Institute cordially invites us to visit the mosque for their Jummah (Friday) prayer service. Beginning at 2:15 PM there will be a cultural fair showcasing foods, clothing and traditions of the many diverse communities represented within the AMI community. Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Appropriate Dress

Guests are encouraged to dress respectfully for each service. Long dress pants or skirts are recommended for the Temple and AMI. Also, long sleeved shirts for all guests plus a headscarf for women is requested at AMI.

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE OTHER ACTIVITIES

TRI-FAITH UNITY GARDEN AND HOPE ORCHARD (South of Temple Israel)

Sunday, May 15, 1:00 PM

Save the date for this event celebrating the Tri-Faith Unity Garden and Hope Orchard's third birthday! There will be a corn blessing with Taylor Keen, tours of the garden and orchard, and a warm thank-you to everyone who has helped the team throughout these past three years.

ABOUT TAYLOR KEEN

Taylor Keen is a Kiewit Luminarium Advisory Group member, full-time instructor in the Heider College of Business Administration in Strategy & Entrepreneurship at Creighton University, and faculty member of the Creighton Native American Studies program. Taylor is known also by the name "Bison Mane" of the Earthen Bison Clan of the Omaha Tribe and is a lifelong traditionalist.

MAKING THE FAMILIAR STRANGE

Tuesday, May 17, 12-1PM, online

Join Education and Program Associate Ally ZimmerMas and Nate Shapiro, Executive Director of Temple Israel, for this session of Making the Familiar Strange. Nate will lead a conversation about the casting out of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden in Genesis, sharing his perspective on the story as a parable for major shifts in the human community's way of life. Read or review the story: Genesis 3

Nate Shapiro is the Executive Director of Temple Israel. He previously worked as the Executive Director at Beth Israel Synagogue, the Director of Development for the Jewish Federation of Omaha, and a Campaign Coordinator for the United Way of the Midlands. Nate has a degree in English with a minor in Judaic Studies from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He and his wife, Carly, are members of Temple Israel and are active in the Jewish Community.

Register at trifaith.org/events.

THE BOX FOR MAY

Peanut butter and canned meats for our Community Cupboard are the donations requested for the month of May. These protein-rich foods are an important addition to a family diet. Please add these items to your grocery shopping list. The nutritional needs of our community right now are great and your help with our Cupboard is appreciated.

To Give:

Please deposit your food offerings in the Box located in the church entryway, or go to countrysideucc.org/give. If writing a check, make it out to Countryside Community Church with the memo "Box for May."

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.



CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMANDS

Collin Hassman
Ellie Carnazzo
Ruby Mann
Hannah Miller

Avery Baker
Hudson Foral
Will Cartwright
Leah Pugliese

Beatrice Quam
Sky Radloff
Lily Gutta
Anika Gutta



Over the past two years, our Confirmands have spent time not only exploring their faith but also figuring out how that faith fits into our church community life and our life outside the church. As part of their Confirmation program, each Confirmand was asked to create a Faith Story. Some chose symbols, some chose art, and there was even a video submitted. Whichever method the student chose, what was far more important was their ability to articulate their faith experience and journey in their own words. While these Faith Stories will not be shared publicly, some of our Confirmands granted us permission to print the following excerpts.

“By knowing that I am always loved by someone, I can start loving other people and myself. That fact that I know that I’m already loved by someone else, makes it easier to do all the other things I need to do to love others. Or even forgive someone even if they did something wrong. I think that is the main point of Christianity, to be kind to one another and be a community. Not just to believe in higher power but to be together and enjoy one another’s presence.”

“I feel connected to God when I am being creative...”

“I think that most of this year during confirmation I have related things to my life way more than I was able to in past years practicing my faith. I remember going to confirmation class and thinking that a lot of the things that we learn relate to and help me with my struggles, my personal life, and even my anxiety. It helped me feel more connected with God and our church. My faith journey is not over and I am so excited to be confirmed to this amazing church.”

“God is different for everybody. For me I think God is a light. He helps me with things, guides me, and he shows me the way. I believe God is with me everywhere, and not just some places.”

One student did a project involving symbols that represented their faith. This is how they described one of their symbols, “this represents the moments of clarity I have in my faith, and when I can connect with God. I may find these moments while laying in a natural setting and looking at the sky, socializing with friends, or just being with my dog...These moments are what I can really base my faith on, and this is when I am the happiest.”

“For treating yourself with integrity I chose the sleeping z’s symbol. I chose this symbol because before you can treat others and the earth with integrity you have to treat yourself with it. To have enough energy to treat things with integrity you need to sleep.”

“Another place I feel connected with God is my church. I feel this way because in my church there are many people with their own special connection to God, and that just makes me feel even closer to God. Their connections to God look like the people interacting with each other, singing, praying, listening to the sermon, and maybe just waving to one another in the beginning of the service. The church feels like more than the building but the people, and God brings us together for it.”



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



SR. HIGH YOUTH

Congrats to our graduating High School Seniors! Here's a list of these spectacular folks to include in your prayers:

Isaac Barchus, Mitchell Fehr, Zola Madson, Ava Fehr, Paul Kuyper, Ava Van Gelder, Joe Stanek, Maggie Nikunen, Matt Stursma, McKenna Hornacek, Natalie Gettman, Josephine Gettman, Hailey Baca, Gretchen Nelson, Ella Krause, Jay O'Leary, Micah Gass, Abbey Hess, Virginia Holtzclaw, Maya Foral, Brenton Bauer, Liz Luehrs, Mallis Bonner, Christian Cole, Sam Jackson, Christian Vihstadt, Zoe Streeter, Ellie Anglim, Kidus Tewodros, Jordan Tipton, Katherine Paleogos, Madilyn Siebler, and Braden Yannone.

We'll acknowledge and celebrate these seniors in Sunday Worship on May 15! Caps would be great but gowns are not required. It's a busy month...do what you can.

YOUTH GROUP

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

May 1 - May Day! Reconnect with nature!

May 8 - No Youth Group

May 15 - Prayer Practices

May 2 - Learning about Seed St. Louis (if your student is planning to come on the Youth Summer trip, this meeting is mandatory)

May 29 - School's Out! Party in the Youth Room!

D & D GROUP

Fridays, May 6 and 20, from 5:30-8:30 PM—please let us know if you're coming as we provide dinner.

OPEN YOUTH ROOM

OYR Tuesdays from 4-7 PM and provide unstructured study time for students during this last month of school. Snacks provided.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday School - 11 AM Sundays

May 1 - On the Road to Emmaus

May 8 - Dear Friends

May 1 - Letter to the Corinthians

May 22 - Ambassadors for Christ

May 29 - Last day of Sunday School!

Core 56 - 6-7:30 PM Wednesdays

May 4 - Nature walk and art project

May 11 - Paper airplane races—bring 'em if you got 'em, but if you don't we'll make some

May 18 - Dinner together and Avatar episodes

May 25 - Last week of school celebration!

NURSERY

Nursery services will remain on pause until COVID numbers are lower. 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.



Welcome to our most recent class of new members
who joined Countryside in April!

Nancy Deetz
Holly Kelley
Rachel Mahlberg and Pete Danielson
Amy and Mike Phillips
Tom Welch

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



Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir

HOLD FAST — to — Dreams TOUR

Tom Trenney, conductor / Anne Wilson, accompanist

Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m.
Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE
featuring the Omaha Central High School Choir

