

# OCTOBER 2022



## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK - CANOEING THE MOUNTAINS

We live in the land that launched the expedition of Lewis and Clark. The Corps of Discovery launched from St. Charles and headed up the Missouri River. At the direction of President Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark were commissioned to travel up the Missouri River and find the water route across the country for the purposes of commerce. Jefferson understood that whoever controlled the waters controlled the land. So they traveled upstream on the Missouri River for 15 months until they came to the spine of the continent at Lemhi Pass where Montana meets Idaho, where the head waters of the Missouri River were found as a spring. The discoverers expected to cross over the pass to join the head waters of the Columbia River which would lead them to the Pacific. They imagined with glee that the canoes they carried would be used to float downstream to the Pacific and what did they discover? From atop Lemhi Pass, they were shocked to find mountain range after mountain range, nothing but snow-covered mountain tops. It was 300 miles of 14,000 foot plus mountains as far west as the eye could see. Those canoes? What they needed were pack animals.

Like them, we have left the map and are in uncharted territory. We are experienced river rafters who must now learn to be mountaineers. The story of the Corps of Discovery is the driving metaphor for our present moment. In every field, every business, every organization, leaders are rapidly coming to the awareness the world in front of us is radically different from everything behind us. In the words of futurist Bob Johansen, "after centuries of stability and slow, incremental change, in less than a generation our world has become volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous." This world will only become more so in the days ahead and will require all leaders to learn new skills.

Countryside is standing atop the Lemhi Pass. Will we turn around and take our canoes back downstream, reversing from the challenge of the future? Or will we drop our canoes and make snowshoes to accept the challenge of the future? We have a new pastor coming and with her or him will be a new wind of the Spirit. Will we trim our sails for the new directions we will be challenged to take?

Pastor Keith Herron

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# COUNTRYSIDE CARES



## BIRTHS, WEDDINGS AND MEMORIALS

### Baptisms:

Congratulations to **Luke Gregory Martin**, son of **Katie and Joel Martin**, who was baptized Sunday, September 4. He was joined at the baptism by his big sister, Lauren and big brother, Cameron.

### Memorials:

**Leslie Summers-Day's** mother, Suzanne, passed away on August 18. There will be a private family burial on October 1.

**Rick (Sharon) Royer's** mother, Mary C. Royers, passed away on August 28 and the funeral was held on Friday, September 1 in Dayton, Ohio.

**Pat Smith's** daughter-in-law, Laurie (Carey Smith) Kozeny passed away on August 23, after a three-year battle with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. Laurie's celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, September 25.

## BOARD OF PASTORAL CARE AND STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Veteran's Day and Quilts of Valor

The Board of Pastoral Care will honor veterans and currently serving armed forces members on November 13. There will be recognition during the church service and cookies in the Common Grounds. There will also be a sign-up opportunity for veterans to receive a Quilt of Valor. Quilts of Valor is a national and local organization that honors Veterans with a quilt and a ceremony recognizing their service. The sign-up opportunity will be available at the Member Information Center or you may e-mail [\\_ debhickman@centurylink.net](mailto:debhickman@centurylink.net) or Chris Gilmore at [bobtomg@msn.com](mailto:bobtomg@msn.com).

## PRAYING FOR COUNTRYSIDE - THURSDAYS AT 9 AM

Dan Loven-Crum leads a Prayer Group Ministry on Thursday mornings at 9 AM. You're invited to come together to pray for our church, our families, our community, our country and the world. We come together of one accord to pray for any and all prayer needs and requests, for ourselves and others. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Contact [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org) if you would like us to pray for you or someone you know.

## 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.



### Staff

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# GET CONNECTED



## PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS

Phoenix Affirmations classes resume this month. This is a 6 to 8-week study on the fundamentals of progressive Christianity. We've added a presentation on Faith, Homosexuality and the Bible to the study, which you can sign up for as a one-time participation event. Contact Diane Scott ([dianes@countrysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countrysideucc.org) or 402-707-1556) if interested in either or both.

## SUNDAY MORNING RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK GROUP

The Sunday morning Racial Justice Book Group meets from 8-9 AM via Zoom. (The link will be found on the church website calendar.) We will discuss Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Howard Thurman was a minister, author, and civil rights leader. Martin Luther King, Jr. viewed him as a mentor and carried his book with him as he traveled the nation advocating for equality for all. All are welcome to join our discussion. For more information contact Sharon Royers ([sroyers@centurylink.net](mailto:sroyers@centurylink.net)).

## RACE IN AMERICA

Race in America is discussing the New York Times bestseller, *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas. The discussion group meets on Wednesdays from 6-7 PM. The Zoom link is available on the church website, [countrysideucc.org/calendar](https://countrysideucc.org/calendar). For more information, contact Diane Scott, [dianes@countrysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countrysideucc.org), 402-707-1556.

## MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS, WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM

Mindful Meditation Sits on Zoom continue Wednesday evenings from 7-9 PM. You can access the sits through the Zoom link on the church calendar at [countrysideucc.org/calendar](https://countrysideucc.org/calendar). If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to the church office at [office@countrysideucc.org](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org), or call 402-391-0350.

## FAME (FRIDAY ARTS & MUSIC EXPERIENCE) EVERY FRIDAY AT 10 AM

Join a fun group of seniors every Friday at 10 AM for an art project, treats and good music. We may also have interesting visitors from time to time! It's a great way to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends for a while. Everyone is welcome! No reservations required!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Unnecessary outdoor electric lighting is a global issue negatively affecting the environment. The International Dark-Sky Association recommends five principles for responsible outdoor lighting. All light should be useful, targeted, low level, controlled by timers or motion detectors and use warmer colors. These principles will save energy and money, reduce light pollution and minimize wildlife disruption. For more details log on to [www.darksky.org/light-pollution](http://www.darksky.org/light-pollution).

## SERMONS FOR LIFE - RABBI ARYEH AZRIEL

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will resume his Monday morning classes on October 17, 10:00-11:30AM in the chapel. He will be continuing with his Sermons For Life: a view of Jewish life and tradition from the sermons of Rabbi Aryeh Azriel while serving the Congregation of Temple Israel in Omaha, Nebraska. You can also Zoom into the class. Access to the zoom link can be found on the church calendar at [countrysideucc.org/calendar](https://countrysideucc.org/calendar).

## MEN'S BREAKFAST, TUESDAYS AT 8 AM

Come out and make some new friends! Good food and great conversation – what a great way to start your day. Join us Tuesday mornings, 8 AM for the weekly Men's Breakfast at First Watch on 72nd and Pacific. 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

The Lunch Bunch meets the second Monday of each month, at noon. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Gloria Ried at [g-g.ried@cox.net](mailto:g-g.ried@cox.net).

## ADULT FORUM - SUNDAYS AT 11 AM

Money truly does make the world go round, or so they say. And yet, when it comes to studying the history of the world, most of us focus on politics, society and culture. The Adult Forum is now discussing Donald J. Herral's *An Economic History of the World since 1400*. We often overlook the importance of economics. Join us on Sundays at 11:10 a.m. either on Zoom or in person. Learn more about the history of world economics. If you can't join us in the Deborah Room, you'll find a Zoom link on the church website under [countrysideucc.org/calendar](https://countrysideucc.org/calendar).

# COUNTRYSIDE UPDATES



## UPCOMING CONCERTS AT COUNTRYSIDE

### Résonance presents Mozart's Requiem

Thursday, October 6,  
7:30 PM

### Halloween Organ

**Concert** Sunday, October 30, 4 PM

### Jazz Coffeehouse

Saturday, December 3,  
7 PM

### Christmas Pipe Organ

**Extravaganza** Sunday, December 11, 4 PM

## 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.

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) continues to meet and actively work on the church profile, using information from congregational surveys, to define who we are and telling Countryside's story, past, present and future. Three committee members met with the church staff during their weekly meeting to gather their insights and priorities that are important to them for a settled minister and to help us as we move forward in the search process. Adam Steinbach gave the monthly update on Sunday, detailing the committee's progress in putting together the profile that will help Countryside attract our next settled minister.

Our PSC retreat in August gave us the opportunity to discuss the profile in depth and divide the profile into sections to begin writing the profile. We are continuing to meet on a regular basis, to further develop and refine the profile, using all resources available through the UCC. PSC Chair Kris Hess met with Pastor Keith to discuss his support of the PSC. The committee looks forward to meeting with him this month, to draw upon his experience and insights pertaining to our search process.

The Pastoral Search Committee will continue to update our progress through monthly Sunday updates, the newsletter and C-10. We value your thoughts, questions and feedback and we welcome you to reach out to the committee through the PSC email, [pastoralsearchcommittee@countysideucc.org](mailto:pastoralsearchcommittee@countysideucc.org). We look forward to continuing to represent the members of Countryside in our intentional search to call a settled minister.

## RECHARGE EVENTS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

### Children and Youth Education, 6-7:30

Wednesday Wonderers and Core 56 will explore the theme *Joseph and His Brothers: The Coat Story*. Wonderers will separate into Pre-K, Kindergarten-2nd grade, and 3rd-4th grade. The Nursery will be staffed for Wednesday night programs.

### Bible Study with Don Sarton: Christian Faith and Diversity, 6-7:30

This 6-week series explores our Christian faith, values, and beliefs and how the Bible, written in ancient times by authors rooted in different cultures, shapes our faith today. Register at [countysideucc.org/register](http://countysideucc.org/register).

### Race in America, 6-7

Race in America began reading *The Hate U Give*. The Zoom link is available on the church website, [countysideucc.org/calendar](http://countysideucc.org/calendar). For more information, contact Diane Scott, [dianes@countysideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countysideucc.org), 402-707-1556.

### Choir Practice, 6:15

Choir meets for practice on Wednesday! Please join us - we are committed to making choir accessible for all, and can work *with* you to make it work *for* you!

### Mindful Meditation, 7

The Mindful Meditation group meets online each Wednesday. The Zoom link can be found on the church website calendar at [countysideucc.org/calendar](http://countysideucc.org/calendar).

### Common Grounds and Family Traditions Food Truck

Good news! Common Grounds will be open for coffee service on Recharge Wednesdays, October 5, 19 & 26, 6-7:30 PM. Family Traditions Food Truck will be on site for select Recharge Wednesdays - check the weekly C-10 for dates!

# COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTIONS



## TRI-FAITH NEWS

### United We Walk

Thousands of Omahans from across the city gathered on the Tri-Faith Center's lawn in the late afternoon hours of Sunday, September 11, 2022 for an unprecedented display of unity and community spirit. Some represented various faith communities, while others proudly displayed corporate and/or non-profit affiliations; many more came simply as curious neighbors with open hearts! Everyone brought their unique perspectives, but united we walked! Nearly 1,000 people visited the American Muslim Institute (AMI), roughly 200 people toured Temple Israel, and Countryside's foyer was completely full for an hour and a half. After exploring the interactive info fair with 20+ booths, many visitors ventured inside the Tri-Faith Center, where they caught an exclusive sneak peek pop-up of the Kiewit Luminarium, which opens at the RiverFront next year. If you were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed exploring - or perhaps rediscovering - this unique space. We're grateful for your support! Mark your calendars for September 10, 2023 - this year's United We Walk was only the beginning!

### Making the Familiar Strange

Join Abdullah Najjar, Assistant Imam-Administrator and Youth Director at American Muslim Institute, for this session of Making the Familiar Strange, exploring the story of Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) on Tuesday, October 18, noon to 1 PM. Zoom registration required. While not required, the program is best if you have access to the stories, which can be through a physical copy or online copy of a Bible, Tanakh, and/or Quran. Read or review the story in the Qur'an at <https://legacy.quran.com/12>.

To register or for more information, visit the Tri-Faith event page on their website, <https://www.trifaith.org/events/>.

## BIBLE STUDY

### Bible Study with Don Sarton: Christian Faith and Diversity

This 6-week series explores our Christian faith, values, and beliefs to discover how we can deepen our commitments. We'll discuss how the Bible, written in ancient times by authors rooted in different cultures, shapes our faith today. Through the lens of our Christian faith, we'll begin to articulate how deepening our own faith enables us to enhance our Christian relationships with our Tri-Faith partners through embracing diversity and pluralism.

One exciting outcome will be a shared development and definition of the basic values and the Vision of God that calls us into relationship with our Tri-Faith partners. Register at [countrysideucc.org/calendar](http://countrysideucc.org/calendar) for the Christian Faith and Diversity series which meets Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM. For more information, contact Danielle Galvin, [danielle-galvin7@gmail.com](mailto:danielle-galvin7@gmail.com).

## AMI

Abdullah Najjar has joined American Muslim Institute as Assistant Imam-Administrator and Youth Director. Abdullah is an award-winning youth director and mentor. He's a graduate student of law and religious studies, and is passionate about teaching religion and building community. He will lead the next session of Making the Familiar Strange for the Tri-Faith Initiative. (See Tri-Faith News to register.)



## THE BOX FOR OCTOBER

The Box is our way to share our material possessions with one another and is located between the double doors at the main church entrance. Each month The Box contains something different: from backpacks full of school supplies to bus passes to jars of peanut butter, to paper products, but it is always brimming with the gift of love that we share with people and organizations in need. You can find The Box in the church entryway. Watch the weekly C-10 for details on monthly needs.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# HELLO

## New Member/Orientation

Sundays September 25 and October 9  
Marys' Hall, 11:15 a.m.

*See Robyn: [robynh@countriesideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countriesideucc.org)*

### SPIRIT PLAY

Spirit Play is coming October 8, 10-11:30 AM in the Chapel. For more information, contact Rita Otis, [RMOtis@outlook.com](mailto:RMOtis@outlook.com) or 402-305-1303.

### THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT CONCERTS

#### Résonance presents Mozart's Requiem

**Thursday, October 6, 7:30 PM**

Résonance, Omaha's premier vocal ensemble directed by Dr. A Barron Breland, begins its highly anticipated tenth anniversary season with Mozart's Requiem. The unforgettable masterpiece will be performed with the Résonance Consort of professional instrumentalists, in collaboration with the Omaha Conservatory of Music. This project will launch the inaugural Résonance Festival Choir, an auditioned choir of both professional and volunteer singers who perform major choral works with orchestra.

#### Halloween Organ Concert Sunday, October 30, 4 PM

Join us for our annual Halloween pipe organ concert! The pipe organ is known for its use in churches, but also has a spooky and terrifying alter ego that predates its use in the church. From accompanying gladiator battles in ancient Rome, to its frequent use in film scoring, to the predilection for villains to play it (think Phantom of the Opera and The Pink Panther), be sure to join us for a frightening experience for the whole family, featuring everything from the famous Toccata in D minor by Bach, to music from Nightmare Before Christmas, and much more!

*Community Engagement Coordinator*  
[dianes@countriesideucc.org](mailto:dianes@countriesideucc.org)

Want to learn more about what Countryside has to offer? Are you interested in pursuing your own individual spiritual journey? Please join us for these fun, spiritual, and informational classes on Sundays September 25 and October 9 after the service in Marys' Hall. Lunch will be provided.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We have two staff openings at Countryside, Pastoral Care & Visitation Pastor and a Nursery Care Provider. The Pastoral Care and Visitation Pastor is a part-time position to provide ongoing pastoral care to the congregation. The part-time Nursery Care Provider will provide safe care space for children during regular worship times, Wednesday night activities, and special events. For details and to apply for one of these positions, go to the church website, [countriesideucc.org/](http://countriesideucc.org/) under Open Positions at Countryside.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you like to answer phones, greet visitors to the church and help with mailings or other office related duties? If so, please consider volunteering in Countryside's front office. We are looking for volunteers Monday through Friday for morning (8:30 a.m. to noon) and afternoon (noon to 3:30 p.m.) shifts. You could be the face of Countryside! Thank you for considering this opportunity.

### ASIAN RURAL INSTITUTE SUSTAINABLE HOUSE UPDATE

The Asian Rural Institute's Sustainable House Project, located in Japan, is progressing after talks with the architects on design. Countryside Community Church is a major benefactor. The ARI's project manager, Takashi Yamashita, recently posted a video update and thank-you on YouTube, <https://youtu.be/1mTTwnsaTiw>. The plan is to have the off-grid house completed by the end of March, 2023. You can read more about the Asian Rural Institute at <https://ari-edu.org/en/home/>.

# YOUTH AND FAMILY



## **Sr. High Youth Group—meets 6-8 p.m. Sundays in the Youth Room: 6 p.m. BYOD, 6:30-programming/fellowship**

October 2: What does it mean to be an ally?

October 9: Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 16: Screening of Crip Camp is required for 2023 service trip (Movie is available on Netflix for caregivers/parents to preview)

October 23: Spielbound! Meet offsite 6:30-8:30 p.m. \*TIME CHANGE\*

October 30: Halloween Party! Come in costume!

## **D&D group—meets Fridays from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room**

We're trying something new! Our D&D Fridays will alternate between the Sr. High group and a Jr. High group during both October and November. This is a trial run to test interest vs. intention.

October 7: Sr. High

October 14: Jr. High

October 21: Sr. High

October 28: Jr. High

## **Jr. High Youth Group—meets 5-6 p.m. Sundays in the Youth Room**

All Jr. High-aged students (grades 7 & 8) are invited to attend for games and fun.

## **Confirmation**

Our schedule applies to both Sunday and Thursday classes:

October 2/6—Prayer Practices: Seated Meditation, Contemplative Prayer Sit, Examen

October 9/13—Affirmation 2 & Prayer Practices: Music, Art

October 16/20—Prayer Practices: Walking meditation, photo meditation

October 23/27—Affirmation 5, Part 1

October 30/Nov. 3—Affirmation 5, part 2

## **Children's Ministries**

Sunday Schedule:

October 2: Community Worship

October 9: Children's Church

October 16: Community Worship

October 23: Children's Church

October 30: Community Worship

## **Wednesday Wonderers—meets from 6-7:30 PM. Wednesdays in the Blue Room, the Green Room, and Tamar on the Lower Level**

October 5: Miriam: The Big Sister

October 12: Miriam: Singing to God

October 19: Miriam: The Prophet

October 26: Samuel

## **Core 56—meets from 6-7:30 PM Wednesdays in the Youth Room**

Same schedule as Wednesday Wonderers



## **SR. HIGH SCARY MOVIE NIGHT**

In honor of Halloween, we're hosting a movie night on October 29 for our Youth Group.

Popcorn and drinks provided. Bring your own dinner (if you want) and snacks! Movie selection will be sent in advance to caregivers/parents.



## **TRUNK OR TREAT!**

You're all invited to the annual Trunk or Treat Halloween outing! The Board of Christian Education is holding this annual event on Sunday, October 30, from 1:30-3:30 PM. Stick around after and enjoy Countryside's annual spooky Halloween Organ Concert at 4 PM.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**8 AM TO 4 PM**  
**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**

**WORSHIP**  
**SUNDAYS AT**  
**10 AM**

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Countryside Community Church  
Presents

**★**

**RESONANCE**  
Performing

**MOZART'S**  
*Requiem*

Thursday, October 6  
7:30 P.M.

13130 Faith Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68144  
402-391-0350  
countrysideucc.org

**FREE  
CONCERT**



**HALLOWEEN**  
**ORGAN  
CONCERT**

Sunday  
October 30  
4 p.m.

**COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH COVID-19 POLICY**

Countryside is following the CDC Community Levels for Douglas County regarding masking. If the current Douglas County risk level is low (green), masks are optional. If it's medium (yellow), masks are recommended/requested. If it's high (orange), masks are required. For more detailed information on Countryside's new policy, please go to the Countryside website <https://countrysideucc.org/covid19>.