



COUNTRYSIDE CURRENTS

The monthly newsletter of Countryside Community Church



Living an Easter Faith in a Good Friday World

by Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Good Friday and Easter Sunday are woven together, inextricable from one another, and we're often surprised to come to terms with that inseparable relationship. One cannot be fully understood without the other. Both are impossible to know fully without the other.

A friend I've known through college and seminary and on to our lives in ministry is now teaching at Boston University in the arena of public faith exploring the realms of power where government and faith communities can hold real dialogue with one another in exploring the common good.

Not now preaching regularly, he wrote me this week and summarized the complexities of the day.[1] He raised key issues: "These events don't make sense, individually or collectively. Hatred, terrorism. Psychiatric problems. Guns, knives, bombs. On top of this, internationally there is Putin in Ukraine, al-Assad in Syria, and the Central African Republic."

Where does one stop? What do we think about Easter when this kind of violence is occurring in our midst?

Continued on page 5

April

Inside this issue

- Welcome to Countryside - 2*
- Seasons - 3*
- Common Grounds*
- Opening Tuesdays - 4*
- Small Groups - 7*
- Holy Week Services and Events - 8 & 9*
- PSC Update - 10*
- Youth & Family - 11-13*
- Tri-Faith News - 15*

Church Office

13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha NE 68144
www.countrysideucc.org
 P: 402-391-0350
 E: Office@countrysideucc.org
 FB: www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron, Interim Minister
keithh@countrysideucc.org

Dan Loven-Crum, Director of Administration & Communications
danl@countrysideucc.org

Christine Kasel, Director of Communications & Support Services
christinek@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder, Financial Secretary
sharig@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Sarah Retzel Jones, Pastoral Care Manager
sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez, Administrative Assistant
steveg@countrysideucc.org

Robyn Hubbard, Exec. Administrative Assistant
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Chris Ciriaco, Building & Property Coordinator
chrisc@countrysideucc.org

Kris Nivens, Special Projects Coordinator
krisn@countrysideucc.org

Diane Scott, Engagement Coordinator
dianes@countrysideucc.org

Rebecca Morello, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

Emma Boyd, Youth Programming Coordinator
emmab@countrysideucc.org

Alex Ritter, Director of Arts Ministries
alexr@countrysideucc.org

Tyler Gruttemeyer, Youth Music Director
tylerg@countrysideucc.org

Adam Witte, Choir Director
adamw@countrysideucc.org

Welcome to Countryside!

Let us offer you a warm Countryside welcome. As a community, we place 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're an inclusive, open, and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance. We're 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 promote peace, equality, and justice in our conflicted world.,

New Visitor to Countryside? If you're a first-time visitor to Countryside, please let us know! We'd like to present you with a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us. Please stop by the Welcome Center in the Church foyer!

A brief look at Countryside

- Sunday Service – 10 a.m. in person or streaming online.
- Nursery – Child care is available at Sunday service and Wednesday Recharge evening programs. The Nursery is located on the main level along the south hallway.
- Common Grounds Coffeehouse – Join us before or after Sunday service in the Commons for coffee and fellowship.
- Amplified Hearing Devices & Hearing Loop are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.
- Community Worship & Children's Church offered.
- Countryside Email list – If you'd like to receive Countryside's weekly e-newsletter, contact the [church office](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org) at office@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

Seasons: Exploring the Journey of Life

New Series a Unique Opportunity to Understand Life's Arc



Seasons is a new educational series designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the human experience from birth to death. Drawing upon the realms of

knowledge and experience from theology, education, and the social sciences, participants will explore the human saga from birth to death.

Each week will focus on one stage of life, including childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and older adulthood. Through a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates theological and educational resources, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of each stage.

Participants will explore how Scripture and faith describe the particular stage of life being considered, examining the ways in which God meets us wherever we are on the arc of life. This exploration will serve as a starting point for discussion themes that will be addressed during a large group discussion following the worship event.

In addition to the worship and discussion components, each week will also feature one or more age-specific workshops on Wednesday evening. All ages are encouraged to attend Wednesdays starting April 26. These workshops will provide an experiential opportunity to delve deeper into the particular stage of life being

considered that week, allowing for a more thorough understanding of the topic.

The series kicks off on April 23 with an opening worship event that explores how Scripture and faith describe the first stage of life: childhood. Following worship, there will be a large group discussion and age-specific workshops on Wednesday evenings that allow for deeper exploration of the stage being considered that week.

Throughout the series, the life of David in Hebrew Scripture will be examined as a case study for understanding the various stages of life. David's story covers all stages of life from childhood to older adulthood, providing a rich source of insight and reflection for participants.

Seasons provide an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the human experience and how God meets us throughout our journey. By drawing upon insights from various fields of study, this series aims to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to the topic, fostering a rich and meaningful conversation among participants.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the journey of life and how God and individuals connect and grow throughout its various stages.

No registration is required. Participants are welcome to attend sessions as desired. For more information, email Pastor Keith at keithh@countrysideucc.org.

Small Group's Landscape Project Moving Forward

The Countryside Landscape small group held its first meeting on March 12 and discussed the best landscaping ideas for key areas around the church. These include the area between the turnaround and the church and the area flanking the auxiliary entrance to the Chapel.

One theme of the discussion was the importance of renovating the existing sites rather than replacing them. The group also discussed design styles and plant materials that would best suit the areas.

One idea was a Nebraska version of an English Cottage Design, which would have a less formal look and be more in keeping with the surrounding Tri-Faith campus. The design could include native grasses, flowering perennials and columnar-style trees.

This group's project is an excellent opportunity for anyone with a passion for gardening or landscaping to get involved and help shape the look of the church. If you're interested in getting involved, email Dan Loven-Crum at danl@countrysideucc.org.



Common Grounds Running Trial Open Hours



The Tuesdays trial run may open the coffee house for more, set open hours.

Some exciting things are happening at Common Grounds. In 2023, for the first time, the coffee house will not be accepting any financial support from the church budget but will be completely self-funding. The "suggested donation" amounts on the signs will now reflect our actual cost to replace that product.

On Tuesdays, April 4 through May 9, the coffee house will be open and providing full service from 8-10 a.m. Kindernook parents are already gathering there and the Kiwanis groups have been requesting coffee service. We hope those of you meeting for coffee and conversation on Tuesdays may choose Common Grounds as your destination. Attendance during this trial period will determine possible new hours moving forward.

Common Grounds is a community-building ministry and we're looking for individuals interested in volunteering there during the week. There are so many opportunities for Common Grounds to help bring people together. If you have any interest, please contact Diane Scott at: dianes@countrysideucc.org or text 402-707-1556.

Living an Easter Faith in a Good Friday World

by Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Continued from page 1

Archbishop Rowan Williams wrote, “You only get anywhere near the truth when all the easy things to say about God are dismantled, so your image of God is no longer just a big projection of your own self-centered wish-fulfillment fantasies.”

My good friend Pastor Marcus reminded me of a Good Friday sermon preached years ago by peace activist William Sloane Coffin. It was a sermon preached in the face of just these kinds of questions. In that good word, he claimed our

challenge is to live an Easter faith in a Good Friday world. Good Friday needs no explanation because this is the nature of complexity and confusion. Good Friday needs no proving. It is self-evident and shockingly true. Acts of violence and use of coercive force are never in short supply to illustrate what Good Friday is about.

Just a few hours after worship had come to an end on Palm Sunday, violent hate took the lives of three innocents in a place called Shalom.

Recycling Project in Time For Earth Day

Faith and the Environment (FATE) is holding another recycling event, April 16-30, the weeks before and after Earth Day for Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) packing Styrofoam. EPS is the hard white packaging foam used to transport goods like TVs, appliances, glass items, temperature-sensitive medications and perishables. We can give it another life by sending it to Plastilite rather than the landfill. Plastilite will recycle it into new products, so save your Styrofoam to bring to the church in April! Watch upcoming C-10s for collection information. The collection site will be located on the lower

level of Countryside near the south double doors. Drop-off times are 8-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drive up and access the recycling container by ringing the buzzer at the outdoor entrance. You can also walk in through the main upper-level doors. REMEMBER! If it BENDS, it's not our friend! Please don't drop off flexible items like tape, labels, flexible foam, food containers, packing peanuts or foam sheets. Please be environmentally friendly by recycling your EPS! For more info, email Ann Duey, ddueyster@gmail.com.

Racial Justice Book Group

The Sunday morning Racial Justice Book Group will read and discuss *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin. All are welcome! Join us each Sunday morning, 8-9 a.m. via Zoom (available on the church calendar). The book group **will not meet** on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Contact Sharon Royers at sroyers@centurylink.net with any questions.



Barista On Board!

Start your Tuesday mornings with friends and a cup of coffee in Countryside's Common Grounds coffee shop.

April 4 - May 9
8-10 a.m.

Coffee Shop.

Countryside Community Church

Get Connected!

Countryside offers many opportunities to connect with one another and the community. Read the weekly C-10 for current and expanded information on these and other groups, events, and programs.

Social groups meet for the sheer joy of connecting with friends old and new. Some gather at the same location week to week, like Fellowship Arts and Music Etc. This group meets each Friday in the Rehab for – you guessed it – activities that revolve around arts and music. Others, like the Lunch Bunch, meet once a month at various venues. A devoted small group of young Dungeons and Dragons aficionados meet each Friday evening for gameplay. On Sundays, a small group of junior high school students meets just for the joy of fun and games!

Journey Groups meet weekly to discuss and discover what our Still-speaking God calls us to do in our lives, community and the world. In the process, we form deep relationships offering support to one another through life's journey. Journey groups meet in person, although some groups offer a hybrid Zoom option. Journey Groups are always being formed. If you're interested in joining a Journey Group, contact the church office.

Study & Interest groups meet to expand their horizons on specific or narrow topics of interest. Some move beyond deepening their understanding and awareness to become involved in the greater community. Some of the existing purpose-driven groups that meet in person include the Sunday Morning Racial Justice Book Group, Banned Book Lovers Group (third Monday of each month), and Banned Books Small Group (Tuesdays at 6:30). Race in America, a weekly Wednesday night group, meets on Zoom only. Phoenix

Affirmations groups delve into the 12 principles that guide Progressive Christianity. There's even a new poetry-focused group!

Bible Study groups focus on developing and deepening our understanding of what it means to be a Christian in today's world. Some meet on a regular schedule, others for a specific period of time. Rev. Don Sartor's extremely popular Bible Study group's current series is *Understanding Our Roots*, a 10-week study focusing on Luke's work organizing the many oral and written accounts of Jesus.

Educational small groups, like Adult Forum, meet to hear about and discuss various topics of interest. This group meets each Sunday after church service. Its most recent series focused on the history of world economics. Some small group opportunities are less structured. For example, the Impact Speaker program brings in outside experts on trending and important topics, like the impact of immigration on Nebraska's economy. Impact Speakers are presented on Recharge Wednesdays.

Volunteer Opportunities

Countryside has so many events and programs that offer volunteer opportunities, including office staffing, the Garden of Hope, Countryside Pantry, and special events such as the Ice Cream Festival, United We Walk, and Pride Parade. Contact the [office](#) at 402-391-0350, or check the weekly C-10 for the latest opportunities to get connected and make a difference!



Small Groups

Sunday Morning Racial Justice Book Group, 8 – 9

a.m. The Zoom link is on the church [calendar](#) at countrysideucc.org/calendar. Email [Sharon Royers](mailto:sharonroyers@centurylink.net), [sroyers@centurylink.net](mailto:sharonroyers@centurylink.net) for more information.

Sermons for Life with Rabbi Aryeh Azriel meets on **Mondays, from 10–11:30 a.m.** in the Chapel, or Zoom in with the link found on the [church calendar](#), countrysideucc.org/calendar.

Men's Breakfast, Tuesdays, 8 a.m. at First Watch, 72nd and Pacific streets. Everyone is welcome!

Dungeons & Dragons, Fridays, 5:30–8:30 p.m. Sr. High-age students, in the Youth Room. Jr. High-age students, Tamar.

Common Grounds Opportunity

Are you passionate about building community and enjoy a good cup of coffee? If so, we have a wonderful opportunity waiting for you! Common Grounds is a community-building ministry, and we're looking for someone to help bring people together over coffee.

The ministry is looking for someone to open Common Grounds on Tuesday mornings to welcome existing groups that meet in the church and invite others to gather there as well. There are also many other opportunities for Common Grounds to be open and bring people together.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, contact Diane Scott at dianes@countrysideucc.org or text 402-707-1556. This is a great chance to make a difference in the Countryside community while doing something you love! Any necessary training provided!



Jr. High Youth Group, Sundays, 5–6 p.m. Open to ALL Jr. High-age students, grades 7 & 8.

The Banned Book Lovers Group, third Monday each month, 6:30 p.m. in Anna.

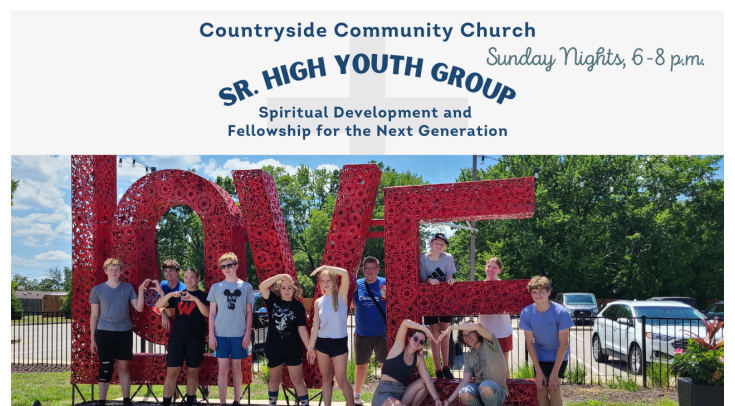
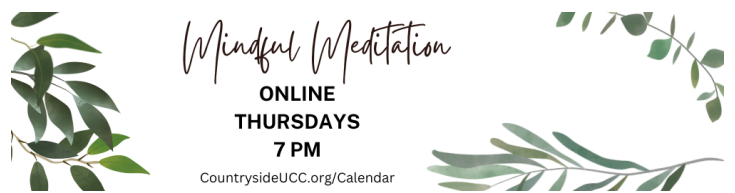
The Banned Book Study Group, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. in Common Grounds or Zoom. The link and passcode are available on the church [calendar](#).

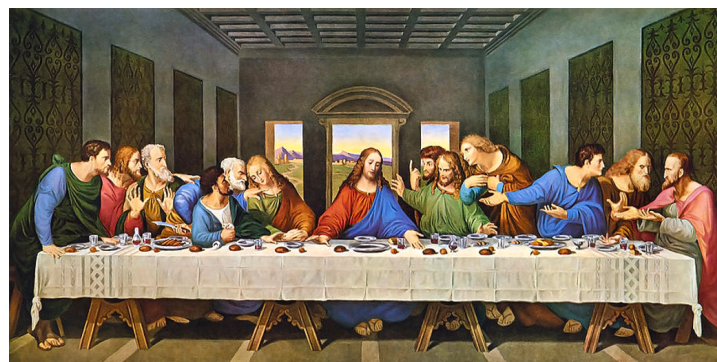
Fellowship Arts and Music Etc. (FAME), Fridays, 10 a.m. in Rahab. No reservations are required!

Mindful Meditation, Thursdays, 7 p.m. Zoom only, link is available on the church calendar.

Adult Forum, Sundays, 11:10 a.m. in the Deborah Room for an educational exploration of various topics and books. A Zoom link is also available on the church calendar at countrysideucc.org/calendar.

Books, Bible and Beyond, Wednesdays noon to 1 p.m. in Ruth. Exploring contemporary literature that challenges and inspires. For more info, email Nancy Behringer, at nnbehringer@icloud.com, or Nancy Ethington, nethington522@gmail.com.





Maundy Thursday

The Living Last Supper

Countryside is proud to present *The Living Last Supper* on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m. This powerful performance will re-enact the moment of the Passover Meal when Jesus announces: "one of you will betray me." The production explores how each of the disciples reacts to this startling statement - do they question each other? Do they question themselves?

Through the background portrayals in this dramatic presentation, the audience learns about each of the disciples; how they met Jesus, and what happened to them after Jesus was crucified. They gain a deeper understanding of the historical and spiritual significance of the Last Supper.

The entire cast of *The Living Last Supper* are members of the Countryside congregation and have been working hard to bring this production to life. Through their dedication and hard work, they hope to create a powerful and thought-provoking experience for all those in attendance.

As we approach Easter and reflect on the events leading up to the crucifixion, *The Living Last Supper* provides a unique and compelling way to engage with this important story. So come join us on Maundy Thursday, April 6th, at 7 p.m. for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of theatre and spiritual reflection.

Palm Sunday Breakfast to Dish up Fellowship – and Food!

The Board of Life Ministries will host a special breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 2, before the 10 a.m. service. This breakfast is a wonderful opportunity for members to come together and enjoy a delicious meal before coming together in worship.

The free-will breakfast will take place in Marys' Hall from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and will include breakfast egg casseroles, pancakes with toppings, fruit and beverages. Something for everyone, whether they prefer a savory or sweet breakfast!

Attending the breakfast is a great way to start off Palm Sunday and connect with friends, family and new members. too. Plus, a delicious breakfast is always a great way to start the day.

Palm Sunday breakfast, April 2, will be a wonderful way to kick off a meaningful Holy Week at Countryside. Don't miss out on this chance to start off the day on a high note!

Good Friday Service

A Blues Backdrop for Tenor Justin Payne

American Blues and Gospel provide a powerful backdrop to tell the story of the Passion for this year's Good Friday service.



These musical genres embody the raw emotions of struggle, pain and redemption central to the story, and will help bring the story to life and connect the the audience with the emotional and spiritual aspects of the narrative. These musical styles also have roots in the African American spiritual tradition, which has a long history of expressing the struggle, pain and redemption associated with the Passion narrative.

Justin Payne, a talented classically-trained tenor, composer, and playwright from Omaha, returns to Countryside as the featured Good Friday vocalist.

An accomplished music director and composer, Payne holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Nebraska—Omaha, and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Nebraska—Omaha, and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Michigan State University. He has performed on stages across the globe, including Germany, Austria, Italy, and China.

Justin sang at Countryside's August 2021 Spirituals, Psalms, and Songs for Social Change. Readers can listen to that performance on Countryside's YouTube channel, <https://youtu.be/eSSYMJwXH4k>.

Join us on Good Friday to experience Justin's incredible vocal talent as we explore the blues and reflect on the power of redemption. We look forward to seeing you!

You're Invited! Easter Sunday Services

Please join us for Easter service this year!

Easter is an opportunity for you to step back from your daily routine and take a breath. To reflect on the significance of Easter and the love of God that knows no bounds. It is a time to rejoice in the hope and renewal that the resurrection brings to our lives.

We're an inclusive community and welcome ALL to an open and affirming family of faith. We celebrate and rejoice in a God who loves us all beyond our wildest imaginations!

Countryside's Easter service is a great opportunity to connect with a welcoming community of faith. So come join us this Easter and celebrate the love and joy this holiday brings.

Palm Sunday Service, April 2, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.

The Living Last Supper

Good Friday Service, April 7, 7 p.m.

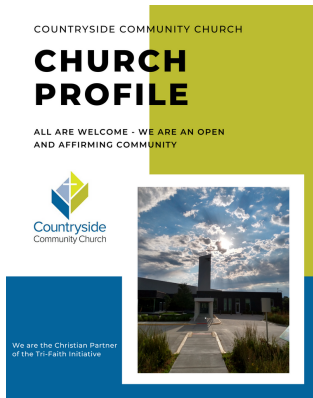
Easter Sunday Services, April 9

Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.

Additional Services, 9 & 11 a.m.



Pastoral Search Committee Update



During worship service on March 5, Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) Vice-Chair Mark Draper shared an update from the PSC. Here are a few highlights from that update:

The pastor profiles submitted by each

candidate provide us with in-depth insight into each of the candidates: we were also able to observe their online sermons. Those selected for initial interviews were asked the following five core questions, created in response to our congregation's input.

- 1)What is your leadership style in the work environment?
- 2)What are your thoughts on engaging family and youth?
- 3)What is your interest in social, racial, gender and environmental justice?
- 4)What does Progressive Christianity mean to you?
- 5)What is your understanding of the Tri-Faith Initiative?

Our Church Bylaws and the Pastoral Search and Call guide (provided by the UCC) provided a framework for the PSC to follow, charging us with the responsibility and criteria "to get this right." We are now entering the HR phase of our search, making confidentiality a priority. The PSC meets weekly in order to expedite this process. Individual committee members are also charged with other duties related to screening candidates between our meeting dates.

We are as eager as you are to determine the candidate who will appreciate and recognize the great history and traditions of Countryside

Community Church but also move us forward as a congregation. We look forward to presenting to the congregation for a vote that one candidate who has been fully vetted by the UCC Conference and the PSC.

We will continue to provide updates on the first Sunday of each month and share current information in the Countryside Currents newsletter. Thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding.

Please contact us through our email at pastorsearchcommittee@countrysideucc.org with any questions or comments.

New Member Classes April 11 & 18

Welcome to Countryside Church! If you are considering becoming a member of our community, we invite you to attend our new member orientation classes, on April 11 & 18, from 6-8 p.m. They'll provide you with information about our church, staff, and programs. They also give you the opportunity to ask questions and get to know us better.

During the orientation classes, you'll meet church staff and learn about the various programs, involvements, volunteer opportunities, and activities that are available for you. You'll also learn about our values, beliefs, and mission as a church, and how we strive to live out our faith in our daily lives.

If you are interested in attending the new member orientation classes, contact Robyn Hubbard at 402-391-0350 ext. 224 or robynh@countrysideucc.org. We hope to see you there and welcome you into the Countryside Church family!

Youth & Family Ministries

[Rebecca Morello](#), Director of Youth & Family Ministries, rebeccam@countrysideucc.org, 402-884-8036

[Emma Boyd](#), Youth & Family Ministries Program Coordinator, emmab@countrysideucc.org, 402-884-8035

Sr. High Youth Group

Sundays, 6-8 p.m., Youth Room
6 p.m. BYOD
6:30-8 p.m. programming & fellowship

Apr. 2: Holy Week themes..

Apr. 9: No Youth Group.

Apr. 14: D&D, 5:30-8:30

Apr. 16: Required A2A Education Meeting*

Apr. 21: D&D, 5:30-8:30

Apr. 23: Downtown – Dinner and Gene Leahy Park

Apr. 30: Campus Clean Up

*This is required for any students planning to attend the Summer 2023 Service Trip. If your student hasn't attended programming before, please reach out to Rebecca for options to join us on the trip.

D&D group

Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room and Tamar.

Students grades 7-12 are invited to join a Dungeons and Dragons campaign on Friday nights every week.

Apr. 7: No D&D

Jr. High Youth Group

Sundays 5-6 p.m. Youth Room.
All Jr. High-aged (grades 7 & 8) students are invited to attend for games and fun!

Apr. 2: Dying Easter Eggs / Easter Egg Hunt

Apr. 9: No Jr.High Fellowship

Apr. 16: Chalk Messages on Sidewalks

Apr. 23: No Jr.High Fellowship

Apr. 30: Confirmands Celebration.

Confirmation

The schedule applies to both Sunday and Thursday classes:

Apr. 2: 8th Grade Faith Stories

Apr. 9: No Meeting

Apr. 16: 8th Grade Faith Stories

Apr. 23: 8th Grade Interviews

Apr. 30: Confirmation and Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Core 56

5th and 6th Grades
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Youth Room. Same schedule as Wednesday Wonderers.

Wednesday Wonderers

Pre-K – 4th grade. 6-7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays. Blue Room, Green Room, and Tamar (Lower Level).

Apr. 5: No WW

Apr. 12: Road to Emmaus

Apr. 19: Thomas and Mary Magdalene – Last Week of Wednesday Wonderers.

Children's Ministries

Pre-K – 6th grade, Sundays.

Apr. 2: Children's Church

Apr. 9: Community Worship

April 16: Children's Church

Apr. 23: Community Worship

Apr. 30: Children's Church



Left: Fun day in the Tri-Faith Gardens!
Right: Greetings from the church lizard!



Youth & Family Ministries

Summer Camps 2023

There are great opportunities for our kids this summer at Countryside and through the UCC Nebraska Youth and Outdoor Ministries!

Here at Countryside

Core 56 meets all summer from 6 pm until 8 pm every Wednesday (with the exception of a Wednesday here and there). We watch movies, play games outside, do art, and a bunch of other stuff! Summer hours are extended to 8 pm to accommodate movies and other activities.

Communion Camp: June 5–9, 5:30–7:30 p.m. each evening. We'll explore stories, practices, and meanings of Communion and what this ritual means to our Countryside faith family. We're even gonna bake bread! Families are welcome to attend together. [Register](#) everyone who will attend.

Youth Mulch Project: Tri-Faith Gardens



UCC Neb. Youth & Outdoor Ministries

Kamp Kaleo offers several camps this summer. There are camps for grade school students, junior high and high school students. There are also camps for young adult campers with developmental disabilities. Scholarships are available. For more information, visit the main [Kamp Kaleo](http://kampkaleo.com) website at kampkaleo.com. Visit the UCC Nebraska Youth and Outdoor Ministries Facebook [here!](#)

Youth Mulch Project: Tri-Faith Gardens



Youth Mulch Project: Tri-Faith Gardens



The Box for April

Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy

The Board of Christian Outreach has chosen Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA) as the recipient of donations to The Box during April. HETRA's mission is to improve the quality of life both physically and emotionally of adults and children of all ability levels through equine-assisted activities. They also provide services for veterans and first responders. HETRA's needs include many basic items necessary to their work. Their supply wish list includes:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Black or Blue Pens
- AA or AAA Batteries
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer



Bring in your purchases and deposit them in The Box located in the foyer. Please support HETRA in their extraordinary and specialized therapy with disabled children and adults, and their services with our veterans and first responders. Their Wish List is available at countrysideucc.org/donate.

Accesible to All (A2A) Committee *Educating
Advocating
Assisting*

Did you know? Countryside has:

- Large print service bulletins
- Hearing amplification devices
- Mobility items like wheelchairs, walkers, bath stools, canes & crutches

How else can we support you? Please stop by the Welcome Table in the foyer and let us know!

Open and Affirming

COUNTRYSIDE CHOIRS

All are welcome!!

Join us!

New member orientation classes start soon!

April 11, 6-8 p.m.
April 18, 6-8 p.m.

Contact Robyn Hubbard, 402-391-0350 ext. 224 or robynh@countrysideucc.org

Join us for

Seasons: Exploring the Journey of Life

A Collaborative Reflection on the Saga of Life from Beginning to End
April 23 - May 21, 2023



Temple Israel Welcomes Artist-in-Residence

Temple Israel is excited to announce their upcoming Artist-in-Residence Maestro Francesco Lotoro and music series, *A Concert of Lights*.

Maestro Lotoro, from the Foundation Institute of Concentrationary Musical Literature, is a pianist, composer and conductor. He's also served as a piano professor at the "Niccolò Piccinni" Music Conservatory of Bari, Italy.

For the past 30 years, Lotoro has worked to recover, study, revise, archive, record and promote thousands of works of concentrationary music. He has recovered more than 8,000 scores – often produced in a condition of deprivation of the most elementary human rights, in concentration, extermination, and civil and military imprisonment camps all over the world between 1933 to 1953.

There will be two opportunities to see Maestro Lotoro and *A Concert of Lights*. Both nights honor composers who created art even when finding any beauty in the world seemed impossible.

Wednesday, May 3 – 7 p.m., Temple Israel. Free Attendance. This evening features a Youth Education Concert. We encourage students to come with their parents for this meaningful and powerful musical experience. There will also be a discussion of these pieces and their legacy.

While all ages are welcome, we know the subject matter can be heavy and recommend this show to those in grade 7 or older and their adults.

Thursday, May 4 – 7 p.m., Temple Israel. Free Attendance. Maestro Lotoro partners with the Omaha Symphony to conduct pieces of Concentrationary music. The symphony will include more than 35 musicians to bring 20 of pieces of restored music to life. This 90-minute concert is sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

While both concerts are free to attend, seating is limited. We ask that you reserve your seats by April 24. All information and ticketing can be found on our website, templeisraelomaha.com/artistresidence

Tri-Faith Hosting 2nd Annual Race, Religion, and Social Justice Conference, June 7 & 8



Tri-Faith Initiative, along with UNO's Religious Studies department, and the UNO Strategic Investment Initiative

race, religion, and social justice across different sectors of society. We invite multi-sector approaches – nonprofit and civic leaders, diversity, equity, access, and inclusion (DEAI) practitioners, community members, educators, physical and mental health practitioners, artists, religious communities, and scholars.

invite you to the second annual Race, Religion, and Social Justice Conference, June 7 & 8, at the Tri-Faith Commons. This year's theme is "Building Bridges of Hope." The conference will address intersections between

There will be a range of education, conversation, and workshop sessions, as well as visual and performing arts pieces. Attendees will also be able to enjoy food trucks and other vendors.

Countryside Fellowship Gallery ~ March

Fellowship after services at Countryside Community Church UCC is important in building community, deepening relationships, and fostering a sense of belonging among members and visitors. It's a vital aspect of the church's mission and values, and a tangible expression of our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Members and visitors gather together in the Sanctuary, Foyer and Common Grounds for coffee and conversation. It allows informal interactions and connections to be made and provides an opportunity for members to get to know each other on a more personal level.

Fellowship is not just a social activity. It reflects a commitment to building a welcoming and inclusive community. It is a tangible expression of our belief in the power of connection and relationship-building, and a testament to the transformative potential of shared experiences and shared values.

