



CURRENTS

From the Desk of Rev. Eric Elnes Ph.D. | Senior Minister

C.S. Lewis once wrote,

If ours is an examined faith, we should be unafraid to doubt. If doubt is eventually justified, we were believing what clearly was not worth believing. But if doubt is answered, our faith has grown stronger. It knows God more certainly and it can enjoy God more deeply.

I believe these words resonate with most Countrysiders. As a congregation, we tend to be quite interested in growing as people of faith. However, we aren't particularly interested in having the kind of faith that Mark Twain envisioned when he claimed, "Faith is believing in stuff you know ain't true."

Faith is not the same as belief. Rather, faith – which is trust in God – is like a three-stranded rope whose strands are:

Belief Doubt Experience

Because this God in whom we are supposed to place our trust is so much greater than we can imagine, our specific **beliefs** about this God are *supposed to* be changing. Constantly changing, in light of fresh revelation and deeper relationship. What causes our outmoded beliefs to change is **doubt** – doubt born of an **experience**, which throws our beliefs into question and causes us to reconfigure them into a higher form.

It's not very complicated. It works like it did with that kid, Mikey, from the Life cereal commercials. You know, the kid who believed that he didn't like Life? What changed Mikey's **belief** was the **experience** of actually trying a bowl of Life, which caused him to question and reformulate his old belief. One would guess that the experience also produced greater faith (trust) in his mother, who had insisted the whole time that he'd like it.

If you desire to grow in faith, you must grow in doubt. Not doubt born of mere cynicism, but the kind of doubt that opens one to experiencing a higher form of faith.

Would you like to give doubt – and faith – a run for their money? Here's a challenge: I challenge you to **envision yourself doing one of two basic things** that you may not already be inclined to do. I'm going to tell you what these two things are in what follows, but will you agree to take up this challenge before knowing what they are? I mean, why not? I'm not asking you to actually **do** either of them, unless you become personally persuaded that you **want to** do them, or at least give one of them a try. So are you in? [Yes - No] Choose one:

Option 1: The first thing I invite you to envision is joining a journey group that is studying Luke during our upcoming series, The Way of

Jesus, which begins Oct 18th. This means a weekly commitment (accounting for holidays and times you simply can't make it) from mid-October until Easter. In this group setting, you can envision experiencing Jesus through the eyes of one of the most fascinating authors of the entire Bible. Luke is especially fascinating because he is the Bible's only Gentile author, which means he has a keen understanding of why Jesus is so important to people like us, who are not Jewish. In this setting, you can also envision getting to know 8-12 people better than you ever have before. They'll let you into their lives and, as you feel comfortable, you'll let them into yours. If you choose this option, you can envision laughing a lot in your group. You can also envision shedding a tear or two. And by Easter, you can envision feeling a lot more connected to God, to Jesus, and to your life's path than you do now.

Will you take the time to prayerfully reflect on joining a Luke group? Remember that I'm only asking you to *envision* doing this. While I hope you will go beyond the challenge and, in fact, join a Luke group, this is not my purpose.

My purpose is to get you to embrace your doubts about joining a Luke group, and by doing so, to **allow God to respond to your doubts**. Tell God:

"God, I *doubt* I have enough time to participate."

"God, I *doubt* that my participation will change my life for the better."

"God, I *doubt* I need to know anything more about you that the Gospel of Luke could supply."

Just keep on naming your doubts. Let God meet you right in the heart of them. Then trust whatever experience you have. Whether your experience leads you toward or away from participation, you will be a stronger person of faith for having expressed your doubts honestly to God. Frankly, not everyone **should** participate in a Luke group. But everyone should at least consider it prayerfully. As C.S. Lewis asserts: "*If doubt is eventually justified, we were believing what clearly was not worth believing. But if doubt is answered, our faith has grown stronger.*"

Option #2: The second option I invite you to prayerfully envision is tithing – giving ten percent of your net income to God. Again remember: I'm only asking you to *envision* it, then do whatever your feel led to do. (Incidentally, in the last several years enough Countrysiders have moved from *envisioning* tithing to *doing* it that perception of a person's wealth is not an accurate indicator of who is among Countryside's top fifty givers.)

If you will take an honest look at your net income and come up with what a true ten-percent tithe would be, and vividly envision giving it to God, this will certainly produce doubt – doubt which I strongly encourage you to express to your Creator:

“God, if I were to do this, I *doubt* that you would keep me from going broke!”

“God, if I were to do this, I *doubt* that you would make me a happier person than I am now.”

“God, I *doubt* that you ever asked for a tithe in the first place no matter what the Bible claims. After all, the Bible claims a lot of things that I don’t believe.”

Admit your doubts. Embrace your doubts! Then, **let God respond to your doubts** in whatever way God will.

As you experience doubt, by the way, you may also experience something else. That “something else” is what has led people of faith for thousands of years to tithe, including my family. Just do the work of honestly envisioning tithing and see what happens.

Whatever your experience leads you to conclude with respect to tithing, you will be a stronger person of faith for having participated in this challenge because you will have honestly posed the question and sincerely sought God’s response. And there’s a bonus: whatever level of giving you and God arrive at, you will experience **zero** guilt over not giving more because you are giving as you feel directed to give.

Okay, those are the two options. Which will you choose to envision? Option #1? Option #2? And yes, it’s perfectly okay to envision both if you really want to. You have nothing to lose and much to gain.

Grace and Peace,
Eric

CONVERGING PATHS MINISTRY

For more information about Converging Paths Ministries or to register for a Journey Group, contact Terri Vincent at terriv@countysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 121.

Are you still pondering Dr. Eric’s challenge to envision joining a Journey Group? Are you trying to figure out what it means to envision something like this? Are you unsure if you are the envisioning type? Would you like to talk this through with someone? Guess what – these are the types of questions and conversations people are discussing in Journey Groups!

Journey Groups are where we can gather to talk with one another and figure out what part of what was said in Sunday morning’s sermon applies to our life. We help one another figure out what it looks like to live out our faith in our everyday lives. We begin to live wholeheartedly – breaking down the barriers that have been created between our spiritual and secular lives.

But as Eric suggested, you don’t have to make a huge commitment to joining a Journey Group all at once. You don’t have to wait until the puppy is housebroken, the kids have left for college and you have become fluent in Spanish. Being a part of a Journey Group offers the support you need to lighten your load on life’s journey. It should be a refreshing time out with friends rather than another obligation in an over-busy schedule. Give me a call and share your doubts with me. I’m not a high-pressure saleswoman – I promise! I welcome you to visit a Journey Group and try it out. As Eric said, “You have nothing to lose and much to gain.”

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Fall is upon us and cold weather could arrive anytime soon. In October, the **BOX will collect cold weather gear** for distribution to those in need in our community. **New (or clean, very gently used) items such as blankets, coats, winter hats, mittens/gloves and scarves would be greatly appreciated in all sizes for children through adults.** We all know the value of being prepared for inclement weather and thank you for your support of the BOX as we look to help those who may not have what they need to protect them from winter weather.

*In August we collected kitchen and bath towels and small kitchen storage items to support the efforts of Youth Emergency Services (YES) as they work with youths in crisis in our community. Thanks to your donations, we collected nearly 125 storage containers, 40 bath towels, 29 hand towels, 47 kitchen towels, 34 dishcloths, 25 washcloths and a handful of pot holders. In addition, we received other items needed to transition to new home, including a blender, utensils, bakeware and trash bags, and numerous gently-used home linens. A very big **Thank You** to all who contributed items to the BOX in August!*

LIFE MINISTRIES

For more information about Life Ministries or to register for an activity, contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 112, or sign up on Sundays at the Information Station in the Foyer.

ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

WNA's Halloween Costume Parade and Spooky Potluck... Celebrate Halloween with your church family on Wednesday, October 28, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall (and other scary places!) Our supper will be a chili supper and you are asked to bring your most frighteningly delicious desserts or scary good side dishes. Please have them to Memorial Hall by 4:00 p.m. Supper will run from 5-6:15 p.m., costume parade begins at 6:15 p.m. followed by crafts and other activities. Holy Moly & Core 56 kiddos are invited!!! This event is brought to you by Family Activities Committee, Children's Ed and Youth Ministry.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE!

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE and SPOOKY POTLUCK

AN EVENT SO FUN YOU WON'T WANT TO HIDE, JOIN US FOR A GREAT NIGHT AT COUNTRYSIDE

Wednesday
OCTOBER 28
5:00 - 7:00 PM
MEMORIAL HALL

BRING YOUR MOST FRIGHTENINGLY DELICIOUS DESSERT or SCARY GOOD SIDE DISH ON WEDNESDAY TO MEMORIAL HALL BY 4:00 PM

Where do your Faith and environment intersect? Are you concerned about climate change and just don't know what to do about it? **FATE** is a dedicated group of Countryside members who are motivated by the love of God's creation to advocate, educate and commit small acts to mitigate the effects of global warming in our church and homes. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m. in the COYO Youth Room.

Why didn't the two worms get on Noah's ark in an apple? You could only get on the ark in pairs! This joke may be silly, but composting is not. We know that food scraps and yard waste makes up 20% to 30% of our garbage, filling up landfills, creating methane gas and wasting valuable nutrients. Composting is not only the solution for these problems, it also provides cheap, nutrient-rich fertilizer for your garden. Compost can include paper and cardboard, as well as food scraps, yard waste, and yes, even worms. **FATE invites you to a presentation on composting** in Memorial Hall on October 25, following the 11:00 a.m. service and the architects' event. We will be serving a lite vegetarian lunch prior to the presentation.

Halloween Costume swap! Worried about a costume for your kiddo this year? Ever thought of recycling costumes instead of fighting the crowds at local stores? Stop by Memorial Hall on Wednesday, October 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m. for a children's Halloween costume

swap! This event is brought to you by Faith and the Environment (F.A.T.E.). Feel free to bring your costumes to the church anytime leading up to the event. We ask that all costumes be laundered and ready to share with others.

T'ai Chi Chih® is a series of gentle movements that may be done by anyone. Classes are held on Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for drop in or \$50.00 for six weeks. For information, contact Rita at RMOTIS@outlook.com.

InterPlay will be held on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Hall.

Chair Yoga Would you like to feel more limber, more energetic, more whole? Would you like to feel younger than your years? Then Chair Yoga could be the answer for you. No getting down on the floor. Just a lot of easy, rejuvenating stretches that will vitalize your system, limber up your muscles and joints and help you feel better – all over! Classes will begin on Tuesday, October 6, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Foyer, and will run for 6 weeks. Tuition is \$50 for 6 weeks, \$10 for drop ins. Register now at the kiosk in the Foyer or at the first class. Taught by Donna Miesbach, Certified Chopra Center Meditation and Yoga Instructor, who has a special understanding of the needs of people who don't feel as young as they would like to. Designed for anyone at any age, these seated and standing poses and stretches will lift your spirit and leave you smiling.

LGBT 101 will meet in Memorial Hall on Thursday, October 8, at 6:00 p.m. For additional information on this educational small group, contact Joni at jws@spsattorneys.com.

Nominating Committee will continue meeting on Monday evenings, 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Leading this year's Nominating Committee are Sandy Sueper and France Blanchard. If you have any questions concerning the nominating process, contact either Sandy at jasuep@aol.com or France Blanchard at fblanchardh@gmail.com.

EDUCATIONAL GROUPS:

Brighten Up® Educational Workshop...Join us for a one-of-a-kind educational workshop that educates women and men on the basics of breast and ovarian health, provides concrete strategies for living a proactive lifestyle, and other tools to assess your personal risk for breast and ovarian cancer. Our own Denise Ibsen Cole will be facilitating this class on Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. Sign ups are available at the Information Station.

Smart Money Smart Kids is a series of six practical, video-based lessons in which Dave Ramsey and daughter Rachel give parents a step-by-step approach to being intentional when they teach their kids about giving, spending, saving, debt, and contentment. You will learn how to help your kids make wise money choices and build character qualities. If this speaks to you, stop by the Information Station to sign up.

Parenting with Love and Logic classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel, September 30-November 4. Mary Johnston, a trained Love and Logic facilitator, will be leading the

classes again this year. Cost is \$50/person or \$75/couple for the 6-week course and covers the cost of all materials. Sign up at the Information Station or contact Mary Beth.

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Mom's Morning Out group...We are checking to see how many of you Moms would be interested in coming together for a Mom's Morning Out group once a month. Stop by the Information Station, chat with Mary Beth and register to let her know of your interest.

Mahjong anyone? Mahjong is a game of Chinese origin using 144 small tiles bearing various designs, played by four people around a square table. The winning player is the first one who completes a particular pattern using 13 tiles. If you are interested in learning how to play or putting a group together, stop by the Information Station to let us know of your interest.

Family Activities Committee members will meet in the Family Life Office on Sunday, October 18, 10:00 a.m. RSVP regrets only.

The Welcome Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons. RSVP regrets only to Mary Beth.

ETC members will meet on Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 p.m. at Spirit World.

Men's Breakfast Group meets on Tuesday mornings, 7:00 a.m. at the Garden Café in Rockbrook Shopping Center (108th and Center). This is open to all men of the church.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet Monday, October 12, at noon for a Pot Luck Lunch in the Moderator's Room. Lunch will be followed by guest speaker Tracy Wells. Tracy will speak on "Partnership 4 Kids of Caring Support in our Community." Our October hostesses are Donna Miesbach and Virginia Bigelow. Call Gloria Ried 402-333-3115 for more information.

Women's Lunch Group will meet on Monday, October 5, noon at First Watch, 1222 S 71st St. Come for lunch, a cup of coffee or just good fellowship. This group is open to all women. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Knit-n-Wit meets on Wednesday evenings at Whole Foods. If you would like more information regarding the group, contact Jeannie Cunningham at jkcunningham@cox.net.

Friend to Friend will meet on Thursday, October 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Moderator's Room kitchen. If you have questions, contact Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net.

Young at Heart... This exceptional group of seniors gathers on the second Thursday of the month for lunch at noon. This month's Italian luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 8, lovingly prepared by Friend to Friend circle and served in the Moderator's Room. We look forward to seeing our regular attendees and welcome anyone else who would like to join us. The cost for the homemade meal is \$5.00. A sign up sheet may be found at the Information Station, or you can make a reservation by calling Mary Beth Link 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or Pam Kregg 402-896-3866.

Reel Faith resumes on Friday, October 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

The Tree of Life directed by Terrence Malick, the acclaimed director of such classic films as *Badlands*, *Days of Heaven*, and *The Thin Red Line*, is the impressionistic story of a Midwestern family in the 1950s. The film follows the life journey of the eldest son, Jack, through the innocence of childhood to his disillusioned adult years as he tries to reconcile a complicated relationship with his father (Brad Pitt). Jack

(played as an adult by Sean Penn) finds himself a lost soul in the modern world, seeking answers to the origins and meaning of life while questioning the existence of faith. Through Malick's signature imagery, we see how both brute nature and spiritual grace shape not only our lives as individuals and families, but all life.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Together was a great success. Thanks to all of our hole sponsors, golfers and silent auction participants, we raised over \$10,000 for Together. Because of your generous hearts and spirits, many homeless will be helped in the Omaha area!

Plant One More says THANK YOU! This year, through your generous donations, we donated 266 pounds of produce to Youth Emergency Services and received \$70 in cash donations which we will use to buy seedlings to hand out at the church in May 2016. We received zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, eggplant, carrots, squash, rhubarb, jalapenos, onions, spinach and basil. We collected more zucchini, cucumbers and tomatoes than anything else. Our program ended on September 6 this year. Our goal is to collect twice as much produce next year.

Thank you to everyone who helped by donating and spreading the word! This program was more successful than we could have hoped for, and it was so fun chatting with everyone who donated.

Looking for 3-4 dedicated volunteers who would take responsibility for Countryside's kitchens on a weekly basis. This would involve putting dishes away, wiping counters, emptying dishwasher and keeping an inventory of necessary supplies. If this speaks to you, stop by the Information Station this morning.

Conscientious Dishwashers Seeking Same. Volunteers are needed to help with dishwashing mugs after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. It is easy and many hands make light work -- but we really need the hands! Please contact Mary Beth to be added to the list.

On-going Gardeners are needed! If you can identify weeds vs. flowers, we are looking for your expertise! We are looking for folks to help maintain our gardens. You can pick your own "plot!" Stop by the Information Station and talk to Mary Beth.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry is signing up volunteers for the **October 3 pantry**. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. Contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or Andi Lawlor at lalalallawlor@cox.net for additional information.

Volunteer receptionists needed for the office. Do you enjoy meeting and greeting people and welcoming them to Countryside? We are looking for volunteers to help answer phones, monitor doors and greet visitors during the day. Help needed Monday-Friday with flexible hours. Contact Dan Loven at 402-391-0350 ext. 102 or danl@countrysideucc.org.

Thanks to the Board of Trustees for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of October. Be sure to chat with one of the members to learn about the activities and/or events they provide for our church families.

COYO (COuntryside YOutH)

For more information about Youth Ministries, contact Will Howell at willh@countysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 111.
Get Connected! <http://countysideucc.org/coyo>

Sr High October Event

Lock-In & Haunted House

October 17-18 * 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

FREE



Meet at church for a 12-Hour great time in your favorite building! There will also be a haunted house and fire pit in the night! At church, there will be lots of food, games, and friends. Sleeping bags are optional. Get picked up at 8:00am...PLEASE!

Sign up at: <http://countysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh>

COYO Jr High October Event

Skinny Bones Corn Maze

October 24 * 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Cost is \$10



Meet at church at 8pm to go to Skinny Bones corn maze in Blair. There's lots of great Halloween stuff to do there that's included in the cost. Bring extra money if you want food. Hot chocolate will be provided. Back by 11:00. Feel free to bring a friend too.

Sign up at <http://countysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh>



It's Not Too Late to Join Faith Singers

Faith Singers just started and you can be a part of the Sr High youth choir. Faith Singers meets Sundays at 4:45pm and sings on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am.

Faith Singers will also be on tour in early June 2015.

For more info or to sign up email Tyler Gruttemeyer.

tyler.gruttemeyer@gmail.com



Anyone out there have artistic skills? Let me know if you want to do a mural, or update the welcome message. You have about 18 feet to work with.

willh@countysideucc.org

COYO Sundays:

4:30 COYO Jr High, 4:45 Faith Singers, 6:00 Dinner for everyone. 6:30-8:00 COYO Sr High

COYO Jr High Weekdays:

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm: Confirmation,
Thursdays 3:45-4:45pm Confirmation (choose 1)

MUSIC MINISTRIES

For more information or if you have questions about Music Ministries, contact Bruce Blanchard, Interim Music Coordinator, at bblanchardh@gmail.com or 402-609-0943.

Countryside's Personnel Committee has appointed a Music Ministry Search Committee: Pam Kregg (Chair), David Worth, Zach Bjornsen, Tom Campbell, Brenda Stursma, Senior Pastor, Eric Elnes, Ph.D. and Bruce Blanchard, Vice-Moderator-elect (ex-officio). This committee will be responsible for looking at the music program and developing a job description to move the music ministry forward at Countryside. The committee will consult the choirs, music staff and area professionals in writing the job description. The search committee may be reached at musicsearch@countrysideucc.org.

Quick!!!! Join a choir now! We have interim directors so you can sneak in now and they won't even notice.

Save the Date!

Shawn Thomas, a contemporary Christian singer/songwriter and worship leader whose ministry includes an outreach to the GLBT community, will perform at Countryside on **Sunday, November 1, at 6:30 p.m.** He shares the message of God's love and grace through music in order to build unity, understanding, and acceptance while still encouraging personal responsibility, self-reliance, and the development of conviction and values. Please plan to attend!

THE MINISTRY OF AARON'S RAINBOW PROJECT PRESENTS:

"Heartfelt messages of love and unity..."
Times Daily

"Spiritual music in a pop style..."
Chicago Sun Times

"His music is intense [and] empowering."
Stonewall Society

Singer/Songwriter
Worship Leader and Author

SHAWN THOMAS
WWW.GAYCHRISTIANSINGER.COM

The Young Americans at Countryside and Westside Middle School! October 29-31, 2015

The Young Americans believe in the power of music and the impact it has on children throughout the world. They use music as a tool to help students believe in themselves. This powerful mission is being accomplished through their International Music Outreach Tours.

Our students have the opportunity to perform with the international cast of the Young Americans on **Oct. 29-31**. This music, dance, and performance workshop and final performances are for **students in grades three through twelve**.

This 3-day workshop brings an incredible combination of high-energy, team-building, confidence-boosting **FUN!** Using music as the tool, the cast of specially-trained, college-age performers/teachers provides a safe and fun atmosphere for students to learn, explore, create, and **GROW!** All participants are encouraged to be themselves and will learn an hour-long variety show to perform for their family and friends. The final experience on stage alongside The Young Americans will last a lifetime.

Countryside is partnering with Westside Middle School to host this fantastic event. Our friends in the **Tri-Faith** have also been invited to participate! For more information contact Vicky Palmisano at 402-689-0900 or vickyp@countrysideucc.org.



PASTORAL CARE

For more information about Pastoral Care, contact Margie Bolte at the church office or margieb@countrysideucc.org

In Loving Memory:

Ann Slight – Ann passed away on September 1 here in Omaha. A funeral service was held on September 4 at Westlawn Hillcrest Funeral Home, officiated by Rev. Chris Alexander. Ann's husband is Harold.

Virginia Lee Pratt – Virginia Lee passed away on September 4 here in Omaha. A memorial service will be held at Countryside Community Church on October 10.

Living Well Past 50 ...

Body, Mind and Soul

October 17, 2015 | 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Countryside Community Church Chapel

People are living longer than ever with the help of modern medicine, but are they living well? The Pastoral Care department at Countryside will be hosting a workshop addressing the whole-person approach to optimal aging. Jeannie Hannan, Ph.D., HFD, and Wellness Manager with the Engage Wellness program at UNMC, will be presenting information on the six dimensions of wellness (social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, emotional and vocational). We hope you'll plan on joining us to gather information and resources for your personal wellness journey.

If you would like to attend, contact Margie Bolte at
(402) 391-0350 ext. 117

or margieb@countrysideucc.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

There is no charge to attend.

RELOCATION UPDATE

If you have questions or comments, please see one of the committee members (Rick MacInnes, Tim Kerrigan, Cyndi Kugler, Paul Nelson, Pam Gregg and Nancy Behringer) or email crc@countrysideucc.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Update 9/25/15

On **Sunday, October 25**, after both services there will be a **BUILDING DESIGN OPEN HOUSE** sponsored by the Countryside Relocation Committee (CRC). Come to the Commons area after the services and visit with Building Committee volunteers who will be at each of six information kiosks, one for each of the areas of our new building.

We want to refine the information we received from our church-wide Visioning Process. The six spaces are: Worship and Music, Education, Youth and Children, Fellowship and Outreach, Property and Grounds, and Art and Interiors. Follow your interest to the kiosk of your choice and let the conversation continue about our mission and the building we need to fulfill it!

The CRC Building Committee and its Sub-Committee Chairs, under the leadership of Paul Nelson, will attend an intensive two-day Workshop in October with our architects. The Countryside Relocation Advisory Committee will also participate. Our design architects, Alley Poyner Macchietto and HGA, will lead us into the next phase of our building process.

To stay informed with what is happening with the relocation efforts, please look for the Relocation icon in Countryside's communications: display area outside the church office, the Sunday bulletins, weekly C10 emails, monthly Currents newsletter, and the Countryside website www.countrysideucc.org.



COUNTRYSIDE
— RELOCATION —

THANK YOU, PATTI TU!

Often, the first name you learn at Countryside is Patti Tu. She does everything! As the “Assistant to the Ministers,” Patti’s job description lists many tasks and then ends with “and other duties as assigned!” She plans and hosts all of the new member classes, baptisms, and weddings. She is the copy editor for the entire office, sometimes going over the same material two or three times, since all of us forget to make the changes before we turn in a second draft! She keeps track of Eric’s calendar (a full time job in itself), sets the agendas for staff meetings, waters the plants, and plans the staff retreats and receptions. Often she is the contagious sense of humor around the office that keeps all the rest of us laughing.

Most importantly for staff, Patti provides the candy bowl. Everyone stops and talks to Patti while they snack from the always abundant and overflowing candy bowl. If you want to know Background about anyone who has ever walked through the doors at Countryside, Patti is the one to ask because she is the one who keeps track of visitors and members, and has been doing this for 16 years. Patti rules as Countryside’s “institutional memory.”

Now after 16 years of ministry at Countryside, Patti Tu has made the decision to retire from her staff position in the church office. Thankfully, she will continue to be an active member of our congregation, so she will still be around to share her wit and wisdom with us, as well as help us out with special projects as they arise. Patti has been an integral member of the staff, and an active participant as a member of the congregation, and her daily presence among us will be greatly missed.

We would like to publically thank Patti for her years of ministry among us and to congratulate her on her retirement by hosting a **reception in her honor between services on Sunday, November 1**. We hope you will plan to be with us for this celebration, and maybe stop in, or send a note, and let Patti know how much she is appreciated at Countryside.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, PATTI! HAPPY RETIREMENT!



CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES/ ADULT EDUCATION

For more information about Center for Faith Studies and Adult Education, contact Kelly Keller at kellyk@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 119



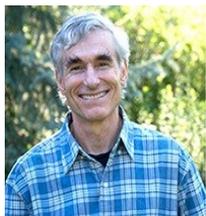
Attention journey groups! Any journey groups who attend a Center for Faith Studies event as a Journey group can contact Terri Vincent for discounted tickets.

Upcoming Center for Faith Studies Speakers



Oct 4 at 2:30 PM— *Tea with Sister Lucy Kurien*

Sister Lucy very nearly abandoned social work in Bombay in 1991 after one of her clients was burned to death by an angry husband in front of her. Instead, she resolved to do more and has since served thousands of destitute women, children and men in desperate situations in India. The Maher model empowers the most marginalized within a dynamic interfaith setting which celebrates 82 religious observances. Cosponsored by 9 organizations, including TriFaith, College of St Mary, UNO Women's Studies, Servants of Mary, Servite Center, Sustainability Leadership Institute and Creighton Collaborative Ministry Office.



Oct 22 at 7:00 p.m.—*Heroes, Merlin and the Meaningful Life*—Internationally best-selling children's author T.A. Barron

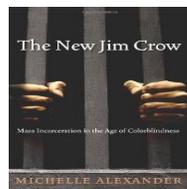
T. A. Barron is the author of more than 30 highly-acclaimed books, many of which are international bestsellers. He studied history at Princeton University, where he is a Trustee, attended Oxford University on a Rhodes scholarship, and has business and law degrees from Harvard University. The majority of his books reimagine the myth of Merlin as a young child who finds himself in a mythical land. Disney film studios is currently working on turning his *The Lost of Years of Merlin* series into a movie. His most recent book *The Wisdom of Merlin: 7 Magical Words for a Meaningful Life* invites us all to wonder, awe, sacredness and abundant life.

Adult Education Offerings This Fall

The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World—two groups are currently studying this course of the Great Courses by The Learning Company. *The Other Side of History* gets beyond the abstract dates and figures, kings and queens, and battles and wars that make up so many historical accounts.

- ***Mondays O'Dell Brown Bag Lunch*** meets at 12:15 p.m. on Mondays in the Chapel.
- ***Sunday Adult Forum***—meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Moderator's room.

Wednesdays Books Bible and Beyond—Running every Wednesday, this group takes various books of interest and discusses them. The book to start the year is Barbara Brown Taylor's newest, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Contact Nancy Ethington at nethington522@gmail.com.



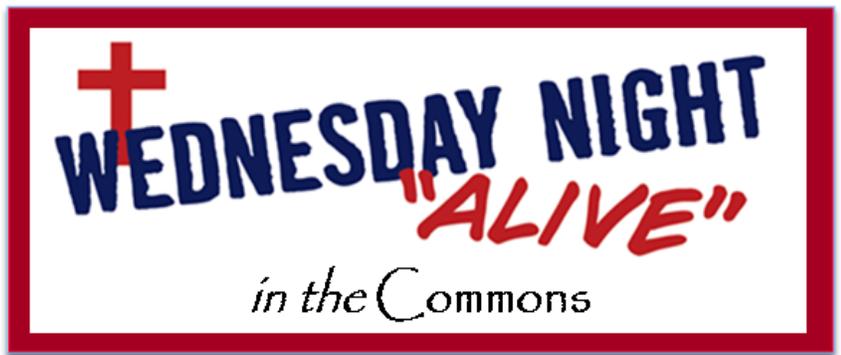
The New Jim Crow. A new study group will focus on readings and videos around the topic of race and racism in American life. The group will start with Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. First meeting will be Monday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commons. Contact Mary Jo Weiss at mjbarbeiss@gmail.com or Kelly at 402-391-0350.



Wednesday Night Alive in the Commons

6:30-7:15 p.m. program, 7:15-8:00 p.m. optional fellowship, dialogue and refreshments

“In the Commons” has a double meaning – describing the place and the programming itself. A “commons-based” worldview emphasizes the concept that there IS such a thing as the common good, and that bringing people together in dialogue is essential to the sustainability of the human community. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an invited guest presenting for about 15 minutes, and then continue with casual but surely engaging dialogue with the speaker and each other. You can come for the speaker only—but most like to stay for the dialogue!



October 7th— Joni Stacy “LGBTQ 101”.

Joni is an Omaha attorney in private practice for nearly 20 years. She is a Board Member and Central Regional Director of PFLAG National. PFLAG is the oldest national organization of straight allies working with LGBTQ people to move equality forward. Joni has

presented across the country to educate about sexual orientation and gender identity issues and providing safe spaces to ask all the questions we are afraid to ask!



October 14th—Daniel Lawse, Design for Life: Lessons from God's Creation

What would our world look like if we rediscovered the lessons of nature? What if the places we live and work engaged our senses in a healthy way and celebrated culture with nature, encouraging human delight? How can a leaf inspire a solar cell? Or organizations

learn from a tree or a coral reef? Biomimicry is an innovation method that seeks new ways of living sustainably—from new products and processes to policies—by emulating nature’s time-tested patterns and strategies. Daniel is co-

owner and Chief Century Thinker at Verdis Group, a sustainability consulting firm in Omaha.



October 21st —TA Barron. Inspiring the Hero in Every Child.

Barron is the Center for Faith Studies speaker on Thursday the 22nd on the topic of “Heroes, Merlin and a Meaningful Life.” For Wednesday, he will focus on how parents, grandparents, and adult mentors can help shape the heroic in

every child through literature, creativity and love of nature. At 7:30 p.m. he will lead confirmation class—inspiring our youth.



October 28th—Barry Thomas, Lessons from The New Jim Crow.

Thomas is the Supervisor of Secondary Social Studies for Omaha Public Schools. A product of OPS, Thomas received two Masters Degrees in Education and is passionate about equipping teachers and helping youth from disadvantaged backgrounds develop their capacity through education and community.

Blessing of the Animals

Countryside’s Welcome is an ever-widening circle which includes our pets, who are important parts of our lives! It is in that spirit that our Covenant Choir will be hosting a Blessing of the Animals—in conjunction with the feast of St. Francis—on Wednesday, October 7, at 6:00p.m. Critters of all shapes, sizes and kinds are welcome to join us in the parking lot for a short service and special blessing. For safety reasons, all dogs MUST be on leash and small creatures in crates or carriers. Humans are free to venture out on their own. Humans are also encouraged to invite friends and neighbors to join us for this unique time of celebration! We are also posting pictures of people and their pets, so email your favorite picture to vickyp@countrysideucc.org





SIN

Yep...there it is.
 A word used in our secular society by fundamentalist and progressive Christians alike.
 No matter how we try to shield our children from the visceral reaction typically induced by the word sin, they are going to hear it, going to read it, and some

may have even already heard it used at them.
 Ultimately, we need to reclaim it and define it in a manner that can be directly applied to our children's lives now and into the future.
 I'm not sure how you define it, but I have learned that sin is a separation from God. It refers to my specific relationship with God and what has come between God and me. It may be a consequence of or involve the things I do or do not do, but it is not an assessment of my worth to God or anyone else.
 I don't think of my sin as a laundry list of everything I've done wrong, failed to do, or all the ways I don't measure up I leave that assessment to the world. God's love for me (and for you) is immeasurable. I must only remember it and strive to follow the Spirit, with my mind, heart, strength, and soul. And I must reclaim the word.

Rebecca Morello
 Director of Children's Education

Questions about Children's Education Department?



Contact Rebecca at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

Mark Your Calendar:

- Oct. 4**— Family Worship
- Oct. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**— WNA
- Oct. 11**—Sunday School
- Oct.14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**— WNA
- Oct. 18**— Children's Church
- Oct. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**— WNA
- Oct. 25**— Sunday School
- Oct. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**—

Family Activities Presents: Halloween!
 The [Children's Education Calendar](#) is also available on the CCC website!

October Nursery Schedule	
Thursday, Oct. 1, (CFS Event): 7:00-9:00 p.m.— Breann	Thursday, Oct. 8 (PFLAG): 7:00 p.m.— Joe & Reagan
Sunday, Oct. 4: 8:30– 10:30 a.m.—Tim K & Breann 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.— Jessica & Johann	Sunday, Oct. 11: 8:30-10:30 a.m.— Breann 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Lisa G., Sammi
Wednesday, Oct. 7: 6:30-8:30 p.m.— Breann & Eric	Wednesday, Oct. 14: 6:30-8:30 p.m.—Breann & Eric
	Sunday, Oct.18: 8:30-10:30 a.m.—Breann, Sammi 10:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.— Breann, Sammi, & Isaac
	Wednesday, Oct. 21: 6:30-8:30 p.m.— Breann & Eric
	Thursday, Oct. 22 (CFS Event): 7:00-9:00 p.m.— Breann
	Sunday, Oct. 25: 8:30– 10:30 a.m.— Breann & Eric 10:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.— Marc & Karen
	Wednesday, Oct. 28: 6:30-8:30 p.m.— Breann & Eric





Countryside
Community Church

United Church of Christ | 8787 Pacific Street | Omaha, NE 68114

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Return Service Requested

402-391-0350 | countrysideucc.org

New worship series starting October 18.

The Way of Jesus

A Journey Through Luke

Coming in October!

STEWARDSHIP 2016



ALL COUNTRYSIDERS TOGETHER

Office Hours -

Church office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Only the main office door will be open during that time. For night activities, access to the church after 4:00 p.m. will be through the northwest door (upstairs by the gym) only.



Countryside
Community Church

Connect with us on Countryside's Facebook at - www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha