

APRIL

Relocation Campaign Kickoff

Sunday, April 10 | Unveiling of Countryside's Future Campus

One Service 10:00 AM

Breaking New Ground Spiritually (Sanctuary)

10:00-10:40 | Worship Service

Brass Quartet, Chancel Choir, Spirit of Grace, Faith Singers
Children's Church

Breaking New Ground Physically (Sanctuary)

10:45-11:15 | Presentation by Relocation Committee

Learn about the design benefits and efficiencies
Learn about our financial goals

Breaking Bread Together (Memorial Hall)

11:30 | Brunch

Video Reveal of architectural renderings
Information packets distributed to each household

RSVP

Sign up at church, or email crc@countrysideucc.org
or call 402.391.0350 or go to Countrysideucc.org

Please RSVP and note your preference:

- Bacon, Egg, Cheese Classic
 - Artichoke, Spinach, Gruyere Indulgence
 - Kid option of Yogurt instead of Egg Casserole
- (All accompanied by fruit, pastry and coffee)



COUNTRYSIDE
RELOCATION CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

Over the past decades, Countryside Community Church has had much work to do and many celebrations to enjoy. Babies are born in our church family, with baptisms to follow, our youth are confirmed and families rejoice, weddings take place and festivities abound. At the end of life, families and friends gather to give honor to their loved ones. It is traditional for these milestones to be celebrated in the embrace of Countryside's membership.

Now we are marking another milestone in the shared life of Countryside Community Church. On Sunday, April 10, we will gather to kick off the Relocation Campaign, Breaking New Ground: Spiritually and Physically, and get our first glimpse of the design and plans for our new church home at 13130 Faith

Plaza! Short presentations will help everyone understand The Story, The Plans and The Dollars! Immediately following, we will gather for...yes!...another celebration in the life of the church family...a lovely brunch in Memorial Hall, prepared and served by over 40 volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this memorable. A "video reveal" of architectural renderings will be offered and information packets handed out. Please see the invitation above for details on how to RSVP and make your meal selection. We look forward to seeing you on April 10!

Cyndi Kugler and Don Otis –
Relocation Campaign Chairs

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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countrysideucc.org
Website - www.countrysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/

Program Staff

Contact information for program staff can be found on individual ministry pages.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.
Senior Minister, ext. 113
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 130
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Assistant To The Ministers

Gayle Noble
Interim Ministers' Assistant, ext. 103
gaylen@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven
Dir. of Admin & Communication, ext. 102
danl@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder,
Financial Secretary, ext. 123
sharig@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez
Administrative Assistant, ext. 101
steveg@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100
office@countrysideucc.org

Jerry Gray,
Church Clerk
jerryg@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Nicholas O'Bradovich,
AV Tech Leader
nicholaso@countrysideucc.org

Ben Semisch,
Videographer
bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129
rmotis@outlook.com

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm Countryside welcome. We are a community that places 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 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 and justice in our conflicted world.

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

Sunday Services - 9 AM Classical Service and 11 AM Jazz Service

Nursery - childcare (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services and for Wednesday evening programs. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway towards the church's northwest entrance.

Common Grounds Coffeehouse - Between services from 10 AM to 11 AM we invite you to the Commons directly off the Foyer for coffee, donuts and fellowship.

Information Station is located in the Foyer. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for any church activities, please stop by the Information Station.

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.

Sunday School/Children's Church - see Children's Ministries, page 7.

Free Gift - If you are a first time visitor at Countryside, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of the pastors in the foyer after the services so we might offer you a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us.

Box, Basket and List - The Box, Basket and List, are three ways that Countryside shares our gifts with one another and our community: The Box is a way to share our material possessions with one another and is located in the Foyer; the Basket is Countryside's way of sharing financial offerings with our community for the support of our ongoing program ministries. The baskets are located at the back of the Sanctuary. And the List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another and is printed in the Order of Worship.

Rest Rooms - Rest rooms are available on the main level by the offices and on the lower level by the elevator and by the gym.

Countryside Email list - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at office@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Vihstadt joined Countryside in February as our new Administrative Assistant working in the front office. She is married to James with an 11-year old son, Christian and a 10-year old daughter, Jessica. She grew up in Omaha and graduated from UNO. She has a background in graphic design and marketing. She is in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays and until noon on Wednesdays.



Steve Gomez started working as an Administrative Assistant in July of 2012. He is married to Dinah and has a 19-year old daughter, Margeaux. Steve also plays bass on Sundays at the 11 AM Jazz service as well as teaching bass lessons at the Guitar Center. In his free time, Steve likes to cook and garden. He is in the office from noon to 4 PM on Wednesday as well as Thursdays and Fridays.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Countryside would like to welcome Jan Brown as the Pastoral Care Coordinator

I grew up near Thedford, Nebraska, on a cattle ranch along the Middle Loup River. In a tiny UCC church where many generations worshiped, I learned from quiet, faithful family and friends. I met my husband Mike, a Ralston boy, at the University of Nebraska, and this year we celebrate our 35th anniversary. Mike is an administrator at Children's Hospital. Our adult children include our son Tyler, who works at Hiro 88 in Omaha, as well as our daughter Kara and her husband Alex, who are urban educators in Dallas, Texas.



As for me, I'm a retired teacher, counselor and nonprofit worker. In each stage of the journey, our family has been active in faith communities; we joined Countryside in 2010 where I'm in a small group on Tuesday mornings. In addition, I've led a Phoenix Affirmations group and have served on BOCE and CFS. At our former church in Gretna, I co-led the Stephen Ministry Team. My passion includes building trusting relationship through listening, partnering, praying and co-developing plans of growth.

What to do with this one glorious life? It's the question we all ask ourselves. As your new Pastoral Care Coordinator, I'm both humbled and excited to explore that with you through Countryside's caring ministries. I look forward to deepening our friendship and supporting one another through God's magnificent love.

So thank you, Margie Bolte, the Stephen Ministry Team, the Pastoral Care Board, those who serve through Agape, the professional staff and the members of Countryside. Your love is generous and your mercy is reflective of the Spirit. - Jan Brown

IN LOVING MEMORY

Geoff Anderson - Geoff passed away on March 11 here in Omaha. A memorial service was held on March 18, officiated by Dr. Eric Elnes and Rev. Chris Alexander

Harriet Otis - Harriet passed away on March 19 here in Omaha. A private memorial service will be planned for a later date. Harriet was mother to Jim and Marie Otis and grandmother to Nick and Grace

Countryside is a caring congregation that offers support to its members in numerous ways. Along with our pastors, who are always willing to provide you with compassionate direction, care and advice when called upon to do so, we have a wonderful support system with our Care Team and Stephen Ministers.

Care Team

The Care Team consists of thoughtful, generous members of the congregation who provide various types of comfort or assistance to those in our church family experiencing times of hardship.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support and hope to those who are facing difficulties in their lives.

AGAPE

The AGAPE group has been a ministry of love and support for many decades, providing a warm and loving fellowship opportunity following memorial or funeral services.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Chris Alexander.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 130

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT "ALIVE"

During the midweek gathering time known as Wednesday Night Alive, we serve a community meal followed by choir rehearsals and educational groups for children and adults as well as a variety of small group gatherings that range from knitting and parenting to financial planning. This is a perfect way to reconnect with church friends, create new friendships or to take time just to breathe!

**LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE
APRIL 27**

WNA SUPPERS

Meals are \$5/person or you can purchase a month's ticket for \$20/person not to exceed \$80/family. Place reservations at the Information Station. Meals are served from 5:00 to 6:20 PM.

April 6 - Pizza, salad and dessert

April 13 - Taco bar, fruit, dessert

April 20 - Salads, salads and more salads! (Salad bar, pasta salad, potatoe salad, etc.)

April 27 - LAST WNA SUPPER - Picnic supper

GRADE/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Choirs

Cherub Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114

Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117

Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

Programs

Holy Moly (gr K-2): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 112

Holy Moly (gr 3-4): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 114B

Core 56 (gr 5-6): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 110

Confirmation (gr 7-8): 7:00 - 8:00 PM - rm 119

ADULTS/HIGH SCHOOL

In The Commons

For more details about these upcoming speakers go to "Center for Faith Studies" section on Page 4.

April 6, 6:30 PM: Muhammed Javaid - Lessons from Pakistan: Vaccinations & Public Health

April 13, 6:30 PM: Dr. Wendy Wright - Sacred Dwelling: Every Day Family Spirituality

April 20, 6:30 PM: Larry Krell - Communion: Walk the Talk

April 27, 6:30 PM: Cameron Logsdon - Poetic Identity

Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 6:25 - 7:55 PM

Spirit of Grace : 8:05 - 9:05 PM



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8, 6:30 PM, *Out of Frame: Unseen Poverty in the Heartland*

REEL Frame and CFS Present *Out of Frame: Unseen Poverty in the Heartland*. If you haven't had a chance to see this widely acclaimed, important documentary – now is your chance! The film shines a light on the invisible poor in the Omaha area, and how low-wage work is eroding the middle class, putting more and more people into the ranks of the poor and extreme poor. Mike Hornacek of Together Inc and Jason Fisk, who directed the documentary, will be on hand for questions and discussion.

Monday April 4 - Monday, May 2 - *Racial Justice Classes*

All are welcome to attend a series of classes presented by popular speakers and authors on race (listed in order): Spirituality and Racial Justice with Bishop Michael Curry, Whiteness and Racial Justice with Kelly Brown Douglas, Reparation and Racial Justice with Jennifer Harvey, Theology and Racial Justice with J. Kameron Carter, Racism and Racial Justice with Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. Attend one or all sessions. 45 minutes of viewing the webcast class followed by discussion.



Bishop Michael Curry

Kelly Brown Douglas

IN THE COMMONS - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:30-7:15 PM: Program

7:15-8:00 PM: *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 begin at 6:30 PM, with baristas/snacks and 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!

April 6 - *Muhammed Javaid- Lessons from Pakistan: Vaccinations & Public Health.*

Why does the Taliban's brutal suppression of vaccinations matter to America?



April 13 - *Dr. Wendy Wright Sacred Dwelling: Every Day Family Spirituality*

Explore the dynamics of your own family spirituality through an interactive presentation by a beloved Creighton professor and author of *Seasons of a Family's Life: Cultivating the Contemplative Spirit at Home*.

April 20 - *Larry Krell— Communio: Walk the Talk*

Inspired by Jean Vanier's L'Arche communities, Communio is a community centered around members with intellectual disabilities that prays, eats, works and gardens together to model intentional and sustainable living.



April 27 - *Cameron Logsdon: Poetic Identity*

Cameron is a forensics coach and professor of Communications and Forensics at UNO. He has been a TED speaker and gives powerful voice to the experiences of the marginalized in American society.

The Center for Faith Studies provides learning opportunities for the faithfully inquisitive Countryside Community. We encourage lifelong learning, growth and deepening understanding utilizing current scholarship through the CFS community lecture series, Wednesday Night Alive events, adult education classes and community partnerships.

Racial Justice Book Group

Mondays at 7:15 PM in the Commons. Readings and videos on the concept of race in America. See class information at right.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring your lunch and learn. Drop in any time! Current series: *The Old Testament*. Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. (Great Courses)

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Reading *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* by Victor Rios. Join at any time.

Adult Ed Forum

Sundays at 10:10 AM in the Moderator's Room. Come whenever you can! Current series: *The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World*. Professor Robert Garland. (Great Courses)

Omaha Earth Vigil

Monthly meditation over shared grief, faith and hope for the planet. We meet on first Thursdays 6:30 to 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Sponsored by Community of Mindful Living.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Kelly Keller**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 119

Email: kellyk@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Faith-Studies-120882397136>

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What is Converging Paths?

The Converging Paths Ministry strives to strengthen the church community - both Countryside and the larger Church - by supporting faith formation and leadership formation through small groups (Journey Groups). The Converging Paths Ministry is developing small group resources based on the solid theological foundation of *The Phoenix Affirmations*. Members of Journey Groups have said that they believe they make better, more Christ-led decisions in their lives. Ask me, Terri, about Converging Paths. I'd love to tell you more!

Sacred Journeys Group Looking for Countryside Members!

Would you like to form relationships with Christians from other denominations and congregations? There is an inter-denominational Journey Group that meets here at Countryside. They have members from several local churches and are hoping that a few people from Countryside will join them. This Sacred Journeys group meets at 5 PM in the Moderator's Room on the second Sunday of each month. Let me know if you are interested and I'll put you in contact with them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Place To Call Home - An Eight-Part Sermon Series

Easter Sunday marks the end of our journey through the Book of Luke. Join us as we begin a new sermon series - A Place to Call Home. It has been said that "we are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spirit beings having a human experience." (Teilhard de Chardin) In this series, we will explore what it means to be truly at home in this world by exploring the interplay between physical and spiritual spaces in the Bible.

Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our Still-speaking God is calling 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.

A Place to Call Home

Several Journey Groups are following the sermon series, *A Place To Call Home*, discovering what it means to be truly at home in this world by exploring the interplay between physical and spiritual spaces in the Bible.

Darkwood Brew

New Journey Groups are forming that watch and discuss *Darkwood Brew* videos. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships.

Gifts of the Dark Wood

This Journey Group explores Dr. Elnes' latest book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. Learn more about how we meet God in the depth of our struggles.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact **Terri Vincent**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 121

Email: terriv@countrysideucc.org

Spring Clean

Countryside All Church Clean-Up

Saturday, April 9
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Please join us for jobs, inside and out. Work for as much or as little time as you can. Jobs will range from cleaning to repair work. Sign up at the information Station or contact the office: 402.391.0350 or office@countrysideucc.org

EARTH DAY

April 16 11 AM - 6 PM

Join volunteers from the FATE committee at this year's Earth Day Celebration in Elmwood Park. There will be music, activities and demonstrations for all ages.

Contact Ann Naylor if you would like to volunteer annnaylor@cox.net

TOGETHER PRESENTS...

Out of Frame
Unseen poverty in the Heartland.

A 'SURREAL MEDIA LAB' FILM

Friday April 8 6:30 PM
Countryside Chapel

Screening Followed by Discussion with Jason Fisk, the film's Director & Mike Hornacek, the Director of Together Inc.

Worship Design Studio with Dr. Marcia McFee
Coming to Countryside!

April 2 - May 3, 2016

5-Week Course:
Meaningful and Memorable Worship
Saturday Workshop and 5 Tuesday Evenings
Workshops on:
Meaningful Worship; Visual Arts;
Verbal Arts; Music Arts; Media Arts;
and Dramatic Arts.





YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tri-Faith Student Leadership is Under Way

Students will meet once a month until school is out, then more often. The first event will be a potluck of traditional holiday foods, so be thinking about what Christmas dish you will bring in May. If you want to be part of this group, let Will know.

606 - Check it out Wednesdays at 6:06 PM

Exploration of the Christian Faith from the ground up. Everyone in high school is welcome to attend. Come once or come every week. Meet in the COYO Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Document Shredding - April 17 * 8:30AM - 12:00PM*

Free for COYO Stock Sale Shareholders. Bring your documents to the COYO Room where there will be locked and secured bins that students will put your documents in. Shredding is sponsored by Datashield. \$5 for non-shareholders.

*Mystery Bus Tour - Friday-Saturday * April 22-23 * 8 PM - 8 AM*

Drive around the city doing various activities all night. Activities may include bowling, mini-golf, service project, broom ball, pool, scavenger hunt, hike in the woods, truck stop breakfast, laser tag, roller skating, ice skating, or other things. Sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh/MBT>.

*Garage Sale Drop-off at Millard Lumber - April 16 * 9:00AM - 12:00PM*

Bring donations to Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) and pull into the indoor lumber yard. Drive past the lumber into the next room where COYO will have a semi waiting for you. Furniture is accepted. No T-Shirts, Sleepwear, or Underwear. No infant/toddler clothes, furniture, or toys. No exercise equipment or CRT TV's.



Tri-Faith Student Leadership



Fun at Papio Park

COYO JR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation End of Year

The last confirmation class is on April 6. 8th graders will be required to be in Memorial Hall on April 13 to finalize statements of faith. April 19 is the Deacon dinner at 6:30 in Memorial Hall which all confirmands must attend. April 20 and 27, COYO Jr High students are welcome to come for dinner (5:00PM) and go together to WNA (6:45PM).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Sunday - April 24 at the 11:00AM service

Students need to be in the youth room by 10:00AM to get robes and donuts. Parents will want to be at the service early to get a good seat.

Hiking in Colorado - July 10-15

Four days of backpacking all around the spectacular rock formations in the Lost Creek Wilderness of Colorado. Take in the creative work of God and listen for what God has to "say" to you without your cell phone. Cost is \$150. For more info and to sign up, go to <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/wilderness>.



Countryside Youth (CoYo) serves students in grades 7-12. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities that develop community, encourage spiritual growth, and serve the wider community in Omaha. Monthly events and summer trips are offered to enhance youth experiences.

Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 7 PM and Thursdays at 3:45 PM during the school year. It is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders to explore the Phoenix Affirmations, the Bible, and the church.

Mission Trips

Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

COYO Sr High

COYO Sr High meets Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

COYO Sr High 606

Exploration of the Christian Faith from the ground up. Everyone in high school is welcome to attend. Come once or come every week. Meets Wednesdays at 6:06 PM in the COYO Room.

COYO Jr High

COYO Jr High meets Sunday afternoons from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 111

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

April 3 - Children's Church

Students begin in the sanctuary and process to the Chapel. Parents can collect their students in the Commons.

April 10- Family Worship

One worship service: Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

April 17 - Sunday School

Lesson: : Light on the Road to Damascus (See below for classroom information.)

April 24 - Sunday School

Family Worship/ Children's Musical

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

9:00 Service

Room 114B - Grades K-6

11:00 Service

Room 117 - Grades 2-3

Room 114B - Grade 4

Room 112 - Grades 5-6

Upper Level

(same as the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery)

9:00 Service

Room 215 - Pre-Kindergarten

11:00 Service

Room 214 - Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This month's Children's Ministries unday schedule is a bit mixed up to accommodate the Capital Campaign Kick-Off and the Children's Musical! Please be sure to check the calendar on the Children's Ministries page at countrysideucc.org and contact Rebecca if you have any questions!

Vacation Bible School 2016 will be held July 11-15th! During VBS, our students spend time exploring scripture through storytelling and then participate in crafts and science experiments that expand the scripture and apply it to everyday life! Our leaders invite our students to ask questions and seek answers from leaders, other students, and experiences. We incorporate music, physical activity, snacks, crafts, and experiments to create a community-building environment for kids to share and develop their faith and relationship with God! Save the dates; registration will open late May!



VBS 2015



Nursery Ministry is looking for dedicated church members to keep this important ministry going! While children are ALWAYS WELCOME in our community Worship, our volunteers help to provide care in a safe environment as an alternative.

Children's Education offers programs designed to inspire, explore, and develop a solid faith foundation. Through story, discussion, and experiential activities, our students embark on a Christian path encouraged by enthusiastic study, adventurous approach to Scripture, and cultivation of a strong faith community.

Nursery

Childcare is available during Sunday worship services for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery volunteers are trained and have passed background checks.

Acolytes

Our Fireflies bring the light of Worship into the Sanctuary each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in your child becoming an acolyte, contact Rebecca.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a short summer camp designed to immerse our students in a community experience of scripture stories and activities. In 2016, it will take place July 11-15.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

On Wednesday nights, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum that teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts and activities, and storytelling.

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

During the school year, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus' ministry and work. We also fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

Sunday School

Our students and teachers engage with scripture and activities with our in-house curriculum through Countryside's theology and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-k through 6th grade.

Family Worship

Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers opportunity to share scripture, message, and communion as a family! Children's Bibles, books, and age-appropriate activity bags are available.

Children's Church

This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like Communion, prayer, and stewardship! It's open to children 5 year-old through 6th grade.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Children's Education contact **Rebecca Morello**.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Music Ministries Search Committee

The committee is interviewing candidates for our Director of Music Ministries. We have received resumes from across the country (even overseas) and have some very qualified candidates. We will soon begin second round interviews with a few of them. Our mission continues to be to find the most qualified person to meet not only our immediate needs but to chart the course for the future growth of music and arts at Countryside Community Church. Our church has a proud history of talented directors and we are confident our next director will continue the tradition of quality, meaningful, spirit-driven music.

Adult Choirs

The Adult Choirs will be preparing for several joint performances beginning in April. The Chancel Choir, Spirit of Grace, and Faith Singers will all join for our very special Relocation Kick Off Sunday on April 10. They will continue working together for this year's Major Works event, Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria, to be sung as part of the 9:00 Worship service on May 9. The choir year will conclude with the choirs singing for both services on Sunday May 15 and Sunday May 22. Additional singers are always welcome.

Special Music Classical Series

Sunday, April 10 – 9 AM Classical Service

- We will have a brass quartet and combined choirs.

Sunday, April 17 – 9 AM Classical Service

- Our guest will be Heather Baxter, an Oboe player with the Omaha Symphony. She will be playing the music of Hindemith, Poulenc, and Saint-Saens.

Bobby Jo Valentine

Countryside is proud to present Award-winning faith-based folk singer/songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine on at 6:30 PM on May 1 in the Commons. San Francisco based singer-songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine has received numerous recognitions for his work, including Songwriter of the Year by the West Coast Songwriter's Association. Although his albums have garnered overwhelmingly positive reviews, more noteworthy are the responses to his honest, raw, resonating live performances. Dubbed "the nicest guy ever to pick up an acoustic guitar" by LA Weekly, he writes hopeful, soulful, honest songs about love and life and all things in between. Bobby Jo seeks to share his music with communities, like Countryside's, that are open and affirming of LGBTQ+ people. Please come enjoy Bobby Jo's tremendous musical talent and his love for God that shines through his music. There is no cost, but a free will offering will be taken.



Children's Musical

Please join us on Sunday, April 24 for a look back at one of the "scariest" books of the Bible! On this day, the Pilgrim and Cherub Choirs will present Rescue in the Night by Alan Pote and Tom S. Long. It is the memorable story of Daniel in the Lions' Den. Please bring your friends and neighbors of all ages to enjoy this light-hearted rendition of a story of courage and obedience. This scary tale will be presented at both the 9 and 11 am services. See you there!

Countryside church has one of the celebrated music ministries in Omaha. We have many excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through music. Our music rooms are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as our singers prepare for worship services. Each group participates at least monthly in worship services.

Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir is for children in Kindergarten thru second grade. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. This group sings monthly in worship.

Pilgrim Choir

Pilgrim Choir is for children in the third through sixth grades. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. This group sings monthly in worship.

Covenant Choir

Covenant Choir is for middle school youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation in the Junior Choir Room. This group sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers is a choir for grades 9-12 and regularly rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. This choir sings most weeks during the school year for one of our worship services.

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir is a "traditional" church choir for post-high school youth and adults. This choir sings each week for one of the worship services. Regular rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:25-7:55 PM.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace is a group of adults of all ages that explore contemporary church music. This group rehearses on Wednesdays from 8:05-9:05 p.m. Spirit of Grace generally sings once or twice each month, alternating between the first and second services.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music Ministries contact Bruce Blanchard or Vicky Palmisano

Bruce Blanchard

Email: bblanchardh@gmail.com

Vicky Palmisano

Email: vickyp@countrysideucc.org

Alex Ritter - Organist

Tyler Gruttemeyer - Interim Faith Singer Director

Dawn Donner - Substitute Cherub Choir Director



THE BOX FOR APRIL

In April, we are collecting items for babies; sized newborn to 9 or 12 months, for both genders. Socks, pacifiers, Onseys, diapers and outfits sized newborn to as big as 9-12 months. There is also a need for car seat covers and car seat head supports. They will be distributed to mothers through One World Baby Boutique, an organization that helps promote good prenatal care for good baby outcomes.

SHOW US YOUR SSG!

You can read more in the right margin, but it's short for SMALL SERVICE GRANT. These were created to help fund small service projects where the people and ideas are present, but the project or event needs a donation of a few hundred dollars to help get the materials and supplies together to actually make it happen. Each application is voted on by the board (and not all requests are granted), but SSGs are one way our church makes small donations towards big differences.

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

The recipient of the 2016 Special Easter Offering was Inclusive Communities. The funds raised go towards IncluCity, a four-day leadership and skill building camp bringing together a diverse group of 75 high school student delegates from around the region where they learn new skills for dealing with things like prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination; then take those skills and perspectives back to their daily interactions with others.

QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information regarding Countryside Christian Outreach, email christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org. To find out about how you can volunteer at the food pantry, contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Christian Outreach embraces opportunities that reflect appreciation, respect, and love where there was otherwise much neglect - providing funding and service opportunities that nurture lasting change in our congregation, our community, and our world.

The Box

...is where specific items are collected each month to address various needs. "The Suitcase" is where we continuously collect hotel-size toiletries. Both are in the Foyer near the front doors.

Community Cupboard

A large mobile food pantry takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!

Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

Each year the Board of Christian Outreach directs two special mission offerings—the Christmas and Easter offerings. These offerings are given to organizations both locally and internationally.

Small Service Grants (SSG)

Countryside members who volunteer with local groups/ events may apply for small grants (<\$500) to cover materials and supplies. Contact us or find the SSG request forms on the church website.

RELOCATION UPDATE

APRIL UPDATE

The architects (APM/ HGA) are halfway through the Schematic Design (SD) phase of our new church home! Preliminary views of various areas will be unveiled at the Relocation Launch on April 10. You don't want to miss that event! Mark your calendars now and be sure to RSVP to the church office or at the kiosk in the narthex.

An AV/IT committee has been formed to begin formulating our needs in those areas for our new church. You may have noticed an acoustician in church on March 20. He was performing a study of our current church acoustics and will be making recommendations to our architects and CRC. The APM/HGA team, with input from our CRC committees, is dedicated to designing a church that will meet our needs now and into the future. We are not just building a new church, we are planning a new home.



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

QUESTIONS?

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



LIFE MINISTRIES



Life Ministry supports and improves the quality and "wellness" of family life. Life Ministry strives to engage people in a wide variety of social and educational activities for individuals and families. It is designed to strengthen family bonds and provide outreach in support of family members. Life Ministry also brings strength and continuity to Countryside's volunteer base by advising staff and by serving as a conduit between congregation and Countryside's Life Ministry and Volunteer programs.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 112

Email: marybethl@countysideucc.org

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Chair Yoga Returns! Donna Miesbach will facilitate another 6 week session on Tuesday afternoons, 2 - 3 PM in the Foyer starting March 29. A suggested donation of \$50/6 week session or \$10/drop in to a class is appreciated. Registration at the Information Station.

UPCOMING IN APRIL

All Church Clean Up - April 9

ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP will be held on Saturday, April 9, 9:00-Noon. Please join us for as much time as you can as we spruce up both the inside and outside of our church home. Jobs range from cleaning to repair work. You are asked to bring your own LABELED step ladders, buckets, rakes, dust cloths, etc. Cleaning supplies will be provided by the church. Many hands will make lite work! Snacks will be served throughout the morning with a picnic style lunch being served at Noon. Sign up today at the Information Station if you'd like to help or contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org for further information.

Reel Faith- April 8

Reel Faith will present "Out of Frame," a 1 hour and 15 minute documentary film which touches on the perception of poverty that is in America today. Most people often still believe that poverty means being only homeless in large inner cities or small poverty stricken areas. This film is based in the Midwest in Omaha, NE and shows that the stereotypes of poverty from years ago are no longer valid. Now the look of poverty is often hard to spot or intentionally unseen...the non-existent or low-wage work erodes the middle class, exploding the number of people living in or near poverty. We look to show how to recognize a range of common issues that many families are currently facing and how to recognize the issues we look past; ways for us to make an impact or make real and permanent change.

Wednesday Night Suppers

Wednesday Night Suppers will conclude on April 27. Be watching the C10 and bulletin for your weekly menus! Thanks to all who helped provide meals this year, organized, shopped, cooked and served! You all did an outstanding job of providing us with not only great meals but warm fellowship and a chance to come together as family. Thanks again for all you've done!

Poetry/Writing Group

"Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful." - Rita Dove. A new small group is forming at Countryside - one of poets; those who write. Those who read and those who speak poetry are invited to sign up at the Information Station showing your interest in such a small group. Should you have questions, contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

THE LIST

The List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another. Each week we lift up an opportunity to volunteer within a specific ministry at Countryside. Check the Order of Worship each Sunday or the weekly email to learn what is the List for each week.

Earth Day Celebration Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist the FATE committee as they represent Countryside Community Church at this year's Earth Day Celebration in Elmwood Park on Saturday, April 16. Stop by the kiosk on Sunday mornings to sign up for a time to help FATE share their message of the earth and Countryside. Contact Ann Naylor for additional information at annnaylor@cox.net.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed for the Pantry on April 2. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. If interested contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org. or Andi Lawlor at communitycupboard@countysideucc.org

Weekly Kitchen Help

Looking for 2-3 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 interested then stop by the Information Station on Sunday morning.

Mobile Meals

This caring, monthly ritual takes only 2 hours, but truly feeds not only those receiving the meals, but also the people who are delivering them. We are currently looking for 2-3 more volunteers who would be willing to give of their time so that others may be fed. The schedule thru May of 2016 is now being created. If interested stop by the Information Station.

Conscientious Dishwashers Seeking Same

Volunteers are needed to help with washing mugs after the 11AM worship service. It is easy and many hands make light work, but we really need the hands! If interested contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more." -H. Jackson Brown Jr.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support of all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Enhancing True Commitment (ETC)

This group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project and teach others to knit/crochet. Open to knitters of all skill-levels. Meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM at Whole Foods. Contact Jeanne Cunningham at jkcunningham@cox.net.

WNA Supper Group

This group consists of volunteers in our congregation. If there is a meal you and your family really love, then share it with the church on Wednesday evenings. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month at First Watch, 1222 S 71 St. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Nine-to-Dine

Consisting of 9 individuals, this group meets on a monthly basis at various restaurants in omaha or sometimes someone's home for a nice home-cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net.

FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

This group dabbles with watercolor paints and adult coloring books. We listen to music, laugh a lot, share stories and a pot of coffee (or two!), and enjoy being together. Contact Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

Men's Breakfast Group

This group of Countryside men (all ages) share their breakfast at 7 AM every Tuesday morning, at Rockbrook's Garden Café. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This new group is open anyone (all ages) interested in bicycling. They meet periodically when the weather is calling them to ride! Contact Mark Stursma at mstursma@yahoo.com.

EDUCATION GROUPS

Faith and the Environment (FATE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 1st Monday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Ann Naylor at annnaylor@cox.net.

LGBTQ 101

LGBTQ 101 is a monthly class held on the 2nd Thursday of each month and is facilitated by PFLAG members. The class covers LGBTQ issues and increases awareness of gender identity and expression. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideuucc.org.

Adult Education

See full listing under Center for Faith Studies on page 4.

Journey Groups

See full listing under Journey Groups on page 5.

HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Monday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Church Council

Between congregational meetings, the Church Council acts upon all issues facing the Church. They establish the overall policy of the Church and work with the staff on the general direction of the activities of the Church. Meets the 3rd Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Jennifer Hamann, Moderator, at moderater@countysideuucc.org.

Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and selects organizations to receive special offering grants. Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Sarah Miller at swaetzig14@hotmail.com

Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

This board brings strength and stability to Countryside's educational efforts by advising staff and providing both adults and children with educational programs. Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Contact board chair Jan Brown at janbrown@youthfrontiers.org

Board of Art & Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Brenda Stursma at brenda.stursma@gmail.com

Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Contact board chair Mary Johnston at zjeesgram@aol.com

Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair Mike Murphy at mike@nelsonmurphyinvest.com

Board of Trustees

This board oversees the financial and property concerns for Countryside, including stewardship, budgeting process and regular review of the financial position of the church. This board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Tim Kerrigan, at tgerrigan@investorsomaha.com

Board of Pastoral Care

This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair, Joyce Davis, at joyce.davis809@gmail.com.

Board of Deacons

This board is responsible for any church tasks that are related to worship and fellowship as well as communicating with new members and visitors. Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair, Bonnie Buckland at bonniebuckland@outlook.com

Nominating Committee

This committee is composed of 9 - 12 church members including past chairs of the boards and moderator. They meet weekly from September through November. The mission of the Nominating Committee is to recruit church members to serve on the eight leadership boards at Countryside Church, the vice moderator-elect, and the church delegates who attend Nebraska's Annual Conference of the United Church of Christ. Contact board co-chairs France Blanchard at fblanchardh@gmail.com, or Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net





Countryside

Community Church

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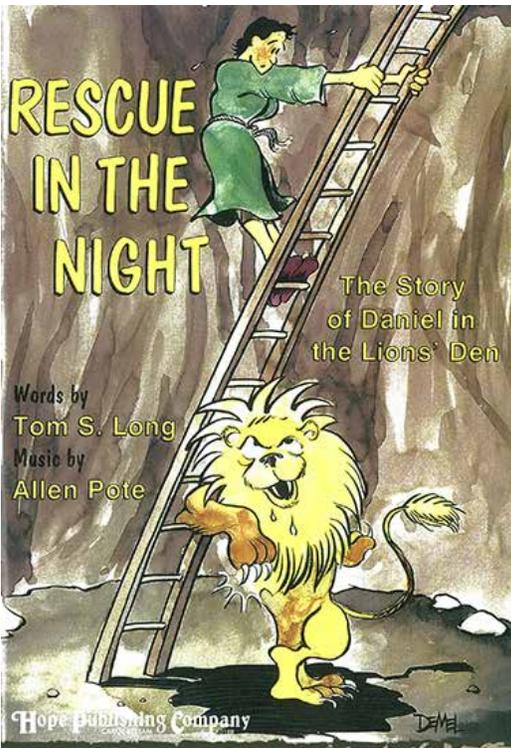
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2523 S. 140 Ave.
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5-6:30 PM
Full menu available

More Than A Joke:

A Jew, A Christian, and a Muslim Walk Into A Pub

What happens when a Jewish rabbi, a Christian minister, and a Muslim leader walk into a pub? While humor is sure to ensue, what happens is more than a joke! Join Tri-Faith Initiative leaders Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes, and Dr. Syed Mohiuddin as they explore the common ground the three Abrahamic faiths share - and their differences - in matters of faith, culture, spirituality, and justice. And bring your own questions and comments!

402-391-0350 | COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG



Words by
Tom S. Long
Music by
Allen Pote

Hope Publishing Company

Mark Your Calendar!

Children's Musical: Rescue in the Night
The Story of Daniel in the Lion's Den

Sunday, April 24

9 AM and 11 AM Services

COYO SR HIGH

Mystery Bus Tour

Friday - Saturday
April 22 - 23
8 PM - 8 AM

Drive around Omaha doing fun activities all night.

see page 6 for details

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May 1 6:30PM
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see page 8 for details