

MAY



Eric's 10-year anniversary



Raising of the bell



Easter Sunday,

APRIL HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE



April 8 worship



Abraham's Tent



April 8 worship

WHY OUR TREASURES MATTER

In Countryside's move to its new location, much thought and care has gone into the task of taking our most treasured possessions with us. Each piece has a story to tell and history to share. With the construction of Countryside at 87th and Pacific in 1965-66, four treasures were put in place in the church: the chancel cross, pipe organ, sanctuary windows and steeple bell. This is the story of the cross. The history of the pipe organ and windows will appear in the next newsletter. The bell's story was shared in previous publications.

The cross was designed and built to be installed in the sanctuary upon completion of the church in 1966. The lumber was sourced from Millard Lumber. After weathering outside for a time, church member Dwayne Holstein assembled the pieces. Rev. Bob Alward, Countryside's senior minister at the time, was not satisfied with the unblemished surfaces of the piece. He enlisted members John and Lea Marshall to help give the cross the look and character that we see today. There were sessions with the three of them whacking and distressing the piece with hammer, chain and other tools to achieve a rough and "rugged cross." Rev.

Alward felt such a look was appropriate to the Christian symbol that bore witness to the cruelty of the crucifixion that marked the beginnings of our faith.

In 2000, the cross was shortened to accommodate the redesign of the sanctuary. It will again be resized to fit in its own lighted niche in the new chapel. Countryside's treasures are woven into our history. They symbolize the love that past members offer to our church family: past, present and future. Our treasures help carry us from endings to new beginnings. Countryside's cross will begin its journey on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. See page 9 for more details of the move.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome - Page 2

Pastoral Care - Page 3

Center For Faith Studies - Page 4

Engaging in Worship - Page 5

Youth Ministries - Page 6

Children's Education - Page 7

Music Ministries - Page 8

Christian Outreach - Page 9

Relocation Update - Page 9

Life Ministries - Page 10

Get Connected/Tri-Faith - Page 11

WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countysideucc.org
Website - www.countysideucc.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@countysideucc.org

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103
robynh@countysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 102
danl@countysideucc.org

Shari Garder
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Steve Gomez
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Kris Hill
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krish@countysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
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debbiev@countysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countysideucc.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 - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway toward 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, donut holes 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.

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

HISTORIAN'S CORNER - GLORIA RIED

I am looking back to 1960, the year Glenn and I joined Countryside Community Church. Rev. George Hangen leaves for a new church and Rev. Eugene Van Kranenburgh and Assistant Minister, Rev. Don Yungclas were called to lead us.

There were 956 active members with 537 children and youth enrolled in our church school with an average attendance of 350. There were seven women's fellowship circles. The theme for the year was Unity, Witness and Service. Church officers were Henry Kleinkauf, Mrs Elgin Hicks, J.D. Durham and Ben Harrison. The Annual Report listed, "The Report of the Softball Teams," giving the name, games played, hits, runs and batting averages! "1960 was a rewarding, although busy year!" - submitted by G. Prentiss McArde



Rev. George Hangen



Rev. Don Yungclas



Rev. Eugene Van Kranenburgh

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES BEGINNING SOON!

Are you interested in the possibility of joining Countryside Church or learning what Countryside may have to offer for you? Then consider joining us for membership classes from 12:30 to 2:30PM in the Chapel on Sundays June 3 and 10. These classes will help you learn more about the church, the church staff, and the many church programs. New Member Sunday is June 24 at 11 AM. Indicate your interest by signing up at the Information Station on Sunday morning or contact Robyn Hubbard at 402-391-0350 ext. 103 or robynh@countysideucc.org. We'd love to have you join the Countryside family!



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATES AND GRATITUDE

May 1 – 5:30 PM, Leadership Team in Jan's office; 6-8PM, Peer Support in the Chapel

May 20 – Commissioning Sunday for our new Stephen Ministers; the June newsletter will list all 17 who are currently completing their training at Countryside.

June 4 - Welcome Social at Linda Bannister's house for all current and new Stephen Ministers. Please mark your calendars; more details will be emailed.

BIRTHS

Dottie Rose Olynyk, daughter of Julia and Joe Olynyk and sister of Leo, was born on April 16, 2018, in Omaha.

IN MEMORIAM

Lois Birch passed away at a care facility on March 19, and the funeral was held at Countryside on March 30 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Brian Speer, son-in-law of Pat Holt and nephew-in-law of Jim Gilbert, died in Breckenridge, CO, on March 19; the funeral was held at Heafey with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Joseph Fehr, former Countrysider and active COYO member, son of Doug and Debby Fehr and grandson of Charlotte and Ronald Fehr and Donald and Bebe Miller, died March 29 in Springfield, MO; his service was held at All Saints Episcopal Church in Omaha on April 4.

Stevie Weimer, sister-in-law of Barbara (Bill) O'Dell, passed away in Florida recently. The family celebrated her life with an Irish wake.

Braydee Carlson, daughter of Julie and Keith Carlson, died at home on April 3; Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiated on April 9 at Countryside.

Erin Kelley, who was Shelley Boyd's aunt, passed away at her sister's home on April 10; Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander helped officiate at her Sacred Heart funeral on April 21.

Marsha Oakson, sister of Mary Windle, passed away last November; her funeral will be held at Countryside on Sat., May 19, at 10:30 AM, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating.

WORDS OF WISDOM WRITTEN WITH LOVE FROM COUNTRYSIDE MEMBERS

The Pastoral Care Board is pleased to announce that two Countryside members have recently published books which relate to each woman's personal journey. You may find wisdom, important life experiences, love and hope within the pages, and we'd like to mention them as fuel for your own journey. Congratulations to Rev. Donna Knutson and to Sharon Royers. We all experience difficult times in our lives; how do they transform us?

While writing *Finding God on Mayberry Street*, Rev. Donna Knutson recalled faces of Countryside friends who supported her call into ministry. The spirit and depth of the Holy Spirit sought to find form and expression through her words about people, nature, and ordinary days. This book of poems, prayers and reflections shares moments of awareness regarding what tenders our hearts toward others and their needs when we listen. Rev. Donna has dedicated her book to Countryside Community Church.

In Sharon Royers's book, *Out of the Rabbit Hole: How a Concussion Changed My Life: A Story of Hope*, she chronicles her three-and-a-half-year healing journey from a head injury. When someone suffers from a chronic health issue, it is easy to become discouraged. Sharon, a former elementary school principal, wrote this book to offer hope to others, especially females, who have suffered from traumatic brain injuries. Surprisingly, Sharon's experience also spiritually transformed her. The Bookworm is hosting a book signing on Sunday, April 29, at 2 PM.

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 Jan Brown.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org

DOOR POLICY REMINDER

Starting in May, Countryside will be moving towards one primary entrance, the Main Office Entry door, throughout the week except Sundays.

- Weekday business hours (8-4 PM) - Access into the church will be granted at the main office entry doors, the upper northwest gym doors and lower southwest gym doors by using a door buzzer to request entrance.
- Weekday evenings and Saturdays - Access to church will be through the main office doors which will be open only 15 minutes

before and after the start of meetings and events. The lower southwest gym doors will only have access to the gym.

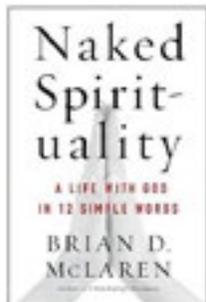
- Sunday Worship Services - Access will be through the Sanctuary Doors, the upper northwest gym doors and lower southwest gym doors.
- The East lower courtyard doors will only be used on Sunday nights for COYO and Arts Affirmation.
- Special events and rentals will be handled on an individual basis.



ADULT EDUCATION

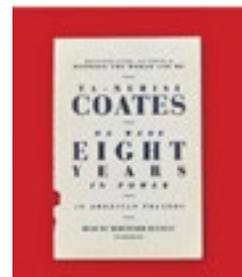
Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at Noon in the Chapel will conclude Naked Spirituality- A Life with God in 12 Simple Words, by Brian D McLaren on May 2. The group will break over the summer and will resume September 5.



Racial Justice Book Group

Mondays at 7pm in the Commons
Currently reading *We Were Eight Years in Power* by Ta Nehisi Coates.



Sunday Adult Forum

Sundays 10:10 in the Pilgrim Room
Currently studying *The Holy Land Revealed*, an archeological exploration of the rich history of the Holy land from Jesus's time.

Adult Ed Brown Bag

Mondays at 12:15 in the Chapel
New topic beginning soon.

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, adult education classes and community partnerships.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Last meeting May 2, will resume September 5.

Sunday Adult Forum

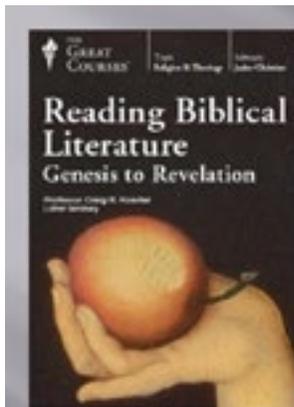
Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying 'The Holy Land Revealed'.

Convergence University

If your group is interested in Convergence University curriculum and would like access to additional resources provided from *This We Affirm Website*, please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org for login information.

Darkwood Brew Membership

As a member of Countryside you have free access to the entire Darkwood Brew video library. You can watch any of the 28 series with topics ranging from forgiveness to the environment at www.darkwoodbrew.org.
Username:CCCUCC Password: tryside8787



Interested in a Summer Bible Study?

Join us for a book-by-book analysis of the Bible from a literary perspective and explore the rich dialogue and narrative within it.

Contact Chris Alexander chrisa@countrysideucc.org or visit the Information Station for more information

Journey Groups

Worship Series: "Courage and Resilience" April 8-May 20
Contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org for more information on how to connect to Journey Groups.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Chris Alexander**

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

or **Courtney Holiday**, CFS Admin. Assistant

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

Email: courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Series: Holy, Horrid, and Hilarious Meals of the Bible - May 27 - July 22

Summer Fun Dinner Groups Forming

This summer, we're making a church-wide appeal to form as many dinner groups as humanly possible. Two reasons why: (1) Summer is a great time to kick back, turn on the grill (or go to a Grill), make new friends, and deepen old friendships; (2) Our next worship series is all about ... "Holy, Horrid, and Hilarious Meals of the Bible"! For nine weeks starting May 27 through July 22, our members will be experiencing the Bible's most famous (and infamous) meals in worship, then gathering in dinner groups that either:

- Dine at a restaurant.
- Create a potluck meal featuring foods related to the scriptures! Recipes for meals based on our series, and many more biblical means, may be found here: <https://goo.gl/rkF1wb>.
- Or a "Neighbor to Neighbor" group that includes members of our Tri-Faith partners.

Groups may discuss the biblical story as part of their experience or be purely social. Get more information and sign up at the Information Station or by emailing the office at office@countrysideucc.org.

"Holy, Horrid, and Hilarious Meals of the Bible" Schedule (form a group to dine at least 9 times):

May 27: The Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20-39)

June 3: Entertaining Angels (Genesis 18:1-15)

June 10: Birthright Full of Beans (Genesis 25:24-34)

June 17: By the Numbers (Numbers 11:1; 4-9; 31-32)

June 24: Elisha Saves the Day (2 Kings 4:38-44)

July 1: Lovers In the Garden (Song of Solomon 4:12-15; 5:1; 7:1-13)

July 8: Jesus Spoils the Meal (Luke 11:37-54)

July 15: Jesus, the Life of the Party (John 2:1-10)

July 22: The Last Breakfast (John 21:1-14)

WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays in the Conference Room

For more information about Worship contact Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 113

Email: erice@countrysideucc.org





YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Variety Show hosted by Faith Singers - May 6, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Come have snacks and enjoy the show. Your donations will help Faith Singers with tour expenses. If you want to donate an act in the show, email Tyler at tyler.gruttemeyer@gmail.com Every COYO Sr. High Student needs to help with this one.

Garage Sale Drop Off - Saturday, May 5, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Cinco De Mayo Garage Sale Drop Offs and Pickups at Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) The mas the merrier! Muy Bien!

Baccalaureate Sunday - Sunday, May 13

Graduating Seniors will be honored at the 11:00 AM service. COYO Sr High at 6:30 PM will also have a special night for the Seniors. Contact Will if you would like to participate in both / either of these events. This is also the last night for COYO Sr High for the year.

Lock In - Thursday, May 31 - Friday, June 1 8:00 PM-8:00 AM

Celebrate the end of school by staying up all night in your favorite church. Meet at church at 8 PM and bring a snack to share. Friends are very welcome.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last COYO of the Year- Sunday, May 13

Sunday, May 13 is the last COYO Jr High of the year. Come for fun, friends, and dinner. Look for more events over the summer on a monthly basis (tubing, hiking in July, disc golf, nerf gun war, possibly a lock in.)



COYO Sr. High Nerf Gun war in April



COYO Sr. High Find the Emmas



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.

COYO Jr High

COYO Jr High meets during the school year on Sunday afternoons from 4:45 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.

Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 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.

COYO Sr High

COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships and serve the community.

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.

Choirs

Faith Singers (high school) meets 4:45- 6:00 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer.

Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:30 PM and sings once a month in church.

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

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

May 6 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the worship service! Books and worship bags are available to borrow from a cart in the Foyer.

May 13 - Sunday School

We are the Hands and Feet and Eyes of Christ. We come close to God through prayer, through study of our Bible, and through examining life as Jesus lives. We also learn from the lives of others who follow God. Today we learn from a prayer written by St. Teresa of Avila.

May 20 - Children's Church

Children will proceed together to the Chapel for child-centered worship.

May 27 - Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation

Peter and Cornelius paid attention to their dreams, and were able to discern God's message of inclusive love. Their new perspective allowed non-Jews to be welcomed to this new community of Jesus' followers. No longer would dietary laws or circumcision be required, but all would be welcome in God's circle of love.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 9 - 13

Countryside's Vacation Bible School will be held July 9 through 13 and our theme this year is Peace Lab! Our VBS students will explore scripture stories and activities to cultivate and practice peacemaking techniques and skills. VBS is offered for our students in Pre-k through 4th grade (based on the grade just finished this past 2017-2018 school year) and will run from 9 AM-Noon each day, with a little extra time on Friday so that we can share what we've done with family and friends!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Core 56 -Our Core 56 group will continue to meet in the summer on Wednesday nights beginning June 6. Our incoming 5th graders (those who have just completed the 4th grade) are welcome to join us during our summer sessions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to study scripture stories with our Countryside children! During the 9 AM service, our students will meet together into two classrooms: pre-K and one large group for Kindergarten through 6th grade. During the 11 AM service, our students are divided between four classrooms: Pre-K, K-1st, 2nd-4th, and 5th & 6th grades.

We leave together as a group after the Children's Moment and head to classrooms. Students remain in their classrooms until collected by a parent or guardian. This month, our students will continue working in their gratitude journals as well as studying and discovering the practices of Holy Week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

9:00 Service

Room 114A - 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)

11:00 Service

Room 214 -Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

Nursery

Our nursery staff is available on Sundays from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM and on Wednesday evenings through April 18th from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. In the interest of keeping everyone in the nursery safe, we want to remind everyone that the Nursery is reserved for infants and children up to age 2. We can usually accommodate a 3 year old pretty easily, but if you have older children that require care during normal nursery hours, please contact Rebecca at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org to make other arrangements. Thank you!

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 for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery staff is trained and have passed background checks.

Family Worship

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

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.

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 five years old through 6th grade.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

During the school year, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts, activities, and storytelling.

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

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

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. Dates for 2018 VBS are July 9-13.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Seeks Members

The Board of Arts and Music at Countryside Community Church promotes and provides creative experiences that are sincere, artful and spiritual. The board explores, expands, and supports the congregation's participation in imaginative and inventive arts activities; confident our Creator God encourages expressive forms of worship and fellowship.

The Board of Arts and Music is seeking two members to fill one-year terms to replace members who have not been able to complete their tenure. You absolutely do not have to be an active musician or artist to self-nominate! The only requirements are that you feel called to serve the mission of the board, by sharing your ideas and insights, as well as your hands and feet. Please contact Trish Hoffman-Ahrens, board chair, to inquire: thoffman425@gmail.com.

Visual Arts Team

The stories of the people of God are made stronger when the Visual Arts Team enhance and enliven our worship spaces. Symbols make lofty concepts more concrete. Flowing fabric helps connect disparate elements. Unexpected images help us consider the alternative view. If you are intrigued by the visual installations that have graced the sanctuary this year, or if you just love making spaces beautiful, please consider joining the Visual Arts Team. The group meets as needed; no regular meetings required! Let Tom Campbell know that you'd like to lend a hand: tfcampbell1951@gmail.com.



The Visual Arts team used fabrics and symbols to enhance the worship space for our current worship series, Living With Courage and Resilience

Countryside has one of the most celebrated music and arts ministries in Omaha. We have excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through the creative arts. Our halls are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as everyone brings their unique creative talents to worship services.

Arts Affirmation

Children in Pre-K through 6th grade will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. All projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations. Sunday afternoons 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 PM.

Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 5:30-6:40 PM.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact Amy Luckenbill.

Amy Luckenbill
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115
Email: amyl@countrysideucc.org
www.countrysideucc.org



2/3 Reading their Beatitudes



2/3 showing their rhythm flashcards



P/K/1 learning how to strum ukuleles



THE BOX FOR MAY

BOCO is pleased to announce that Countryside will be collecting gift cards to stores that sell bedding, and/or blankets, and/or sheets for single beds for children on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Many children have never slept on a bed with a mattress of their own. Most sleep on the floor. Bring these items for the Countryside Box in May to help these kiddos get an extra fantastic night's sleep!

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING UPDATE

Countryside donated **\$12,613.52** to help provide meals for those in need in the Omaha area.

Do YOU have ideas for organizations which would benefit from a Countryside Easter Offering? Send and email to christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org. Hurry as the applications are due June 15!

BOCO UPCOMING EVENTS

Pride Festival is Saturday, June 30. Interested in helping with a booth? Contact Diane Scott

Brush-Up-Nebraska-Paint-A-Thon is August 11 and August 18. Bring your kids, friends, neighbors to help a family in need! Contact Tom Korth at tkorth2@gmail.com to volunteer. See page 10 for more information about Paint-A-Thon.

SHOW US YOUR SMALL SERVICE GRANT (SSG) 2018!

We are looking for projects that need a relatively small amount of money, to help make a relatively powerful impact. These are small service group grants that were created to help pay for materials and supplies. If you have an idea for an SSG, please send an email to christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org, or find the SSG form at countrysideucc.org/serving-together.

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 9:00-11:30AM. 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 Grant (SSG)

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

RELOCATION UPDATE

OUR CROSS ON THE MOVE - A BEGINNING

Countryside's cross will begin its journey on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. That Sunday the cross will be resting in the Foyer ready to receive your prayers and well wishes. You are asked to visit the cross and offer your prayer for the future; the future of our world, our community, and/or our church. These prayers will be placed inside the cross as a kind of "time capsule." The cross will then be moved and will be waiting for us at our new location, holding close our prayers and wishes for the new beginning.

Starting Sunday, April 29, there will be cards for you to pick up and take with you. Search your heart for your authentic prayer. Leading up to Pentecost Sunday you may put those prayer cards in the boxes found on the Information Station or, on Pentecost Sunday you may drop your prayers into the baskets found near the cross.

You will be hearing more about our moving cross over the next weeks. It's exciting!

Our Cross on the Move - A New Beginning for us all!



PLEDGE NOW

www.countrysideucc.org/pledge

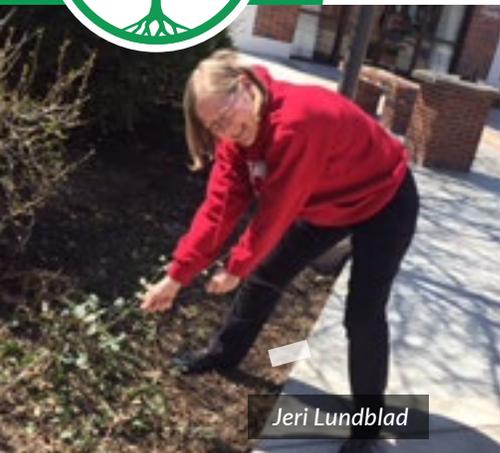


QUESTIONS?

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



Jeri Lundblad

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Pentecost Brunch - Join in the fun as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on Sunday, May 20! Countryside's Family Activities Committee will be hosting brunch in the Courtyard (weather permitting) between services. Come and enjoy time with friends and family; the special food will be outstanding, and hopefully the weather will be glorious. No sign up needed.

Photo Directory Update... YOUR PHOTOS ARE NEEDED!! Countryside's Board of Life Ministry is collecting photographs for a new on-line photo directory throughout the months of May and June. So far we have received approximately 90 photographs out of an approximate total of 950! We ask that you find a photo, scan and email it to the church OR bring it into Countryside's Main Office (preferably a copy of the original, just in case we would misplace it), and attach a listing of names of all in the photo. Now...should you not have a photo at home, we will have two photographers available to take your photo on Sundays, June 3, 10, 17 and 24. They will set up in the COMMONS BETWEEN SERVICES ONLY! Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

Paint-A-Thon (August 11 and August 18) is like an old fashioned "Barn Raising", it is people helping people in the best spirit of giving to others. The phrase "many hands make light work" applies to this project. BRUSH UP NEBRASKA Paint-A-Thon was started in 1989 by Countryside's own Tom & Sheila Pettigrew. To this day, they continue as executive directors of BRUSH UP NEBRASKA Paint-a-thon. In the year 2017, the Omaha Project had reached a new milestone in homes by painting a total of 2,834 homes of elderly and disabled homeowners in the Omaha Metro Area.

Your Board of Christian Outreach is proud to continue our 30 year relationship with Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-thon! Tom Korth has stepped up to organize and lead this year's group in August - Saturdays, August 14 (prepping the house) and 21 (painting the house). If you would like to register to help or would like additional information on this outstanding, heartwarming and necessary ministry, please contact either Tom Korth at tkorth2@gmail.com or Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, May 14, for a guided tour of the SAC Museum. They will meet in the Church Parking Lot and carpool to the museum for coffee and rolls followed by the tour. Cost is \$10.00 unless you are a member of the museum. If you would like to join them, contact Gloria Ried 402-333 -3115 or at g-g.ried@cox.net .

F.A.T.E. - Before the Flood, screening on Thursday, May 24, 7:00 PM, in the Chapel. Presented by Countryside's F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) group. Sign ups are available at the Information Station or by contacting Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org.

ETC will meet on Wednesday, May 16, to continue planning/organizing upcoming summer and fall events. RSVP to Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org.

Tai Chi Chih classes will NOT be held on May 10, 17 or 24.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Jeri Lundblad! Jeri is always sharing her gifts with the church in one way or another. Jeri is doing a great deal of work in the gardens around Countryside Church; cleaning flower beds, trimming trees, and getting this ready for Spring's late arrival. Jeri found that we are in need of some hostas. If you find yourself with extras or would like to help with planting, please contact Jeri at jeri62lynn@gmail.com or at 402.305.1190.

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@counttrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, May 5. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@counttrysideucc.org.

Handyman's Group

We are putting together a group of men/women who are capable of fixing, repairing, painting and other general "handyman" type of tasks. Dan Loven-Crum is the contact person for this group. Stop at the Information Station to learn more about this task oriented fellowship group or give Dan a call at 402-391-0350.

Paint-a-thon needs your help

We are looking for a truck that can be borrowed on two consecutive Saturdays in August. The truck will be used to transport ladders, paint and tarps needed at the job site. Please contact Tom Korth for additional information regarding this specific need. ALSO, volunteers are needed to paint the home of our chosen family. These families are elderly, disabled and live east of 72nd Street in Omaha. Be watching for additional information or contact Tom Korth or Mary Beth Link for more specifics.

Kitchen helpers are needed!

Countryside's four kitchens need a group of folks who are willing to come in weekly to clean countertops, empty dishwashers, wipe down appliances and general light cleaning so our kitchens are a healthy and more inviting place to work. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@counttrysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

Family Activities Committee (FAC) and E.T.C. Social Group

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new, adventuresome folks! If you are a good organizer, enjoy working with a wide variety of folks, enjoy a good party or just like being around a delightful group of folks then one of these groups is for you. Stop by the Information Station to learn more about both of them by talking with Mary Beth.

Thanks to the **Board of Youth** for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of May. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what Countryside's Board of Youth is responsible for and how you might help.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support 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 Life Ministries Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@counttrysideucc.org.

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This multigenerational 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 marybeth@counttrysideucc.org.

Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project or 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.

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 marybeth@counttrysideucc.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 marybeth@counttrysideucc.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 or 402.333.3115.

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes, facilitated by Cheryl Richards, are held on Monday afternoons, 5:45 PM in the Junior Choir Room. Suggested donation for the class is \$10/class. For additional information or should you have questions, please contact Cheryl at yoga.energy.oils@gmail.com.

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 marybeth@counttrysideucc.org.

Mahjong

This multi-generational group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Commons. They teach and play Mahjong with anyone who would like to learn. Jeri Lundblad is the coordinator of this group and you may contact her at jeri62lynn@gmail.com for additional information.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

See counttrysideucc.org/about-us

HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Thursday 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 - 11:30 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.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 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

Adult Education

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

Journey Groups

See page 5.



trifaith.org
americanmusliminstitute.org
templeisraelomaha.com

TRI FAITH MEMBERSHIPS

. On Sunday, April 22, the Tri-Faith Initiative hosted over 700 guests at the CenturyLink Center for Dinner in Abraham's Tent. The program opened and closed with beautiful performances by an interfaith choir made up of representatives from all three faith partners, and the program included pieces with Tri-Faith clergy, board members, and Executive Director Bud Heckman. Tri-Faith also took a special opportunity during the event to honor its founders: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and Bob Freeman of Temple Israel, Dr. Syed Mohiuddin of the American Muslim Institute, and Rev. Tim Anderson of the Episcopal diocese of Nebraska. A performance by comedy duo Standup for Peace: Scott Blakeman and Dean Obeidallah filled the room with laughter, making for a fun addition to the inspirational evening.

Membership Information

Tri-Faith Initiative also launched a brand new membership program, to encourage community members to show their support and receive special benefits. All members of Countryside Community Church are invited to opt in for a FREE 2018 membership to the Tri-Faith Initiative. You can join by visiting www.trifaith.org/join-us, selecting "Believer" level, and using discount code COUNTRYSIDE18.



Tri-Faith Board



Tri-Faith Choir



Faith Leaders



facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/
facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/
facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/

HOLIDAYS

Jewish

Shavuot May 19 - 20

Shavuot is the Hebrew word for "weeks" and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, which occurs seven weeks after Passover. Shavuot, like many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival that marked the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. In ancient times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Muslim

Ramadan May 16 to June 15

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is spent by Muslims fasting from dawn to sunset, and with extra prayers. While fasting Muslims refrain from consuming food, drinking liquids, smoking, and engaging in sexual relations. As the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, Ramadan begins when the first crescent of a new moon is sighted. The religious feast is celebrated during the entire month. During Ramadan the Quran was sent to the lowest heaven. The Islamic prophet Muhammad told his followers that the gates of Heaven would be open during Ramadan and the gates of Hell (Jahannam) would be closed. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and the first day after Ramadan is celebrated as the Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Breaking Fast).

LIVING WITH COURAGE AND RESILIENCE

APRIL 8 - MAY 20



THE FAMILY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

PENTECOST BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 20
BETWEEN SERVICES

IN THE COURTYARD
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

COME ENJOY DELICIOUS
FOOD WITH FRIENDS AND
COUNTRYSIDE FAMILY!
NO SIGN UP NEEDED.

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 10



THURSDAY
June 7
6 PM - 8 PM
*Preview night for
Countryside members*

FRIDAY
June 8
8 AM - 4 PM

SATURDAY
June 9
8 AM - 2 PM

See page 6 for details



Sunday, May 6
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Common Grounds
Barista on duty and snacks provided.

Donations encouraged to
support the Faith Singers summer
tour to Salt Lake City, Utah
and National Parks.

details page 6