

MAY 2019



Faith Singers on April 7



Ribbon cutting on April 7



Familiar Hugs on April 21



Pancake Breakfast, April 14



Pancake Breakfast, April 14



Sunrise Service, April 21

OUR NEW HOME

COUNTRYSIDE DEDICATION, APRIL 7

What a joyful celebration it was on April 7 when we dedicated our new church facility! One of the more frequently heard comments was some version of, "This building is everything I hoped it would be – and then some." What strikes me about this comment is that it mirrors so closely a comment heard frequently in new members classes: "This congregation is everything I hoped it would be – and then some!"

When I ask people to describe what attracts them to Countryside, they frequently site three things: (1) our involvement with the Tri-Faith Initiative; (2) our warm and inclusive welcome of the whole human family, not just parts of it; and (3) the number of ways Countryside makes faith relevant in their everyday lives.

All these attributes were on full display at our dedication – and many more. The morning was a showcase of what makes Countryside special – from the children who created the beautiful ribbon we cut, to the youth and adult

choirs and musicians who performed, to the many parents, elders, small groups, and Boards who volunteered countless hours of their time to pack and move our church and to make our dedication a truly special day.

If the present is any predictor of the future, I suspect that our future will be everything we hope it will be – and then some. Why not invite your friends to be part of it?



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

13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha NE 68144
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. 231
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 230
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Will Howell
Minister of Youth & Families, ext. 232
willh@countrysideucc.org

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 234
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 226
danl@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder
Financial Secretary, ext. 223
sharig@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez
Administrative Assistant, ext. 222
steveg@countrysideucc.org

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 221
krish@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 225
debbiev@countrysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction
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 on the south side, next to the office.

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.

Connection 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 Connection Station.

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Connection 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@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

FAMILY ARTS & MUSIC CELEBRATION

Come celebrate our move to the Tri-Faith Campus on July 20, 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the backyard of Countryside. Live music, art experiences, food trucks, late evening beer garden, and more. The event is for the whole family, featuring the music of Rev. Yolanda Mapes, drag queen gospel singer who will perform 6:00-7:30 PM and then participate in worship the next morning.

From 4:00 to 6:00 PM, the activities will be more child-focused with a giant coloring page, instrument petting zoo, collage making, face painting, drama theater, big garden, and dance party. Food trucks will arrive at 6:00 PM featuring Churro food truck, pizza, and shaved ice that you can purchase directly from them. Live music by Blues Ed's band Five Minute Drive and Aaron Shoemaker kids singer. From 6:30 to 8:30 PM, the activities will be more adult focused with music by Rev. Yolanda Mapes and Jules & Joe from Countryside, with a beer and wine garden. All activities are free. Bring money for the food trucks and beer and wine garden. There will also be free refreshments available all day. All are welcome!



Rev. Yolanda Mapes will perform on July 20 at our Family Arts & Music Extravaganza



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Tuesday, May 7: The Leadership Team will meet at 5:30 PM, and Peer Support will meet from 6-8:00 PM, both meetings will be in the Ruth meeting room.

PASTORAL CARE BOARD

Tuesday, May 14: We'll have our quarterly board meeting in the Ruth meeting room from 6:30-8 PM. If you're a committee chair, please come prepared to share your report plus any additional developments from any April committee meetings.

BIRTHS

Ashley and Jon Bender are the proud parents of **Margaret (Maggie) Jayne**, born April 12, 2019.

BAPTISMS

Five baptisms occurred at Countryside on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019:

Harlow Arlene Gray, daughter of **Julianne and Shawn Gray**

Daniel Henry Kuhr, son of **Amy and Derek Kuhr**

Lauren Patricia Martin, daughter of **Katie and Joel Martin**

Wyatt Jay Sopher, son of **Mary and Dylan Sopher**

Kristin Noelle Williams was also baptized and welcomed into our faith community.

IN MEMORIUM

Linda Eaton's mother, age 90, passed away on March 15. The memorial service will be in June in Idaho.

Dr. Charles Look, 89, passed away on April 7, 2019. His memorial service was April 22 at Countryside with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

ODE TO JOY

To add to Countryside's historic Year of Celebration festivities, the Pastoral Care Board will be featuring someone special each month by focusing on how they experience joy.

This month, as we get settled in and begin the exciting exploration and discovery of our new building, we'd love to share Tim Kerrigan's thoughts on what brings him joy. From the very beginning all the way through to the ribbon cutting, Tim has been an important part of the move to this beautiful and inspiring space. And as Tim shared with us, whenever you bring joy to others, it comes back to you: "Countryside fills my heart with joy, although I think it is fairer to describe my feeling as a deep sense of gratitude. I am joyful to be surrounded by so many people who are trying to make the world a better place -- people who genuinely love their neighbor and whose actions speak louder than their words."

Tim also finds joy through his interactions with others. "My friends at Countryside expose me to perspectives which I may not come across in other facets of my life, and this serves to stretch my thinking. It is true joy to see something in a new light and have it resonate in my being. When I make time for conscious contact with God, my thoughts invariably float toward thoughts of Countryside, and I frequently find myself overcome with feelings of warmth, fulfillment and release. A feeling that I am truly one with the world is how I think my Creator designed me to feel." Tim is constantly amazed by the never-ending contributions and efforts of the Countryside community that make Countryside the wonderful place it is. "If I ever need to have my faith in humankind renewed, I just contemplate the lengths to which Countryside go for our church, the congregation and our collective mission. My cup overflows with joy, and I thank all my friends at Countryside for sharing the ride with me."

Tim, we are also amazed and grateful for all YOUR never-ending contributions!

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. 234

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org



Tim Kerrigan at the ribbon cutting.



CFS UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Deborah Room. Currently studying "The Era of the Crusades."

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15PM in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Returns from hiatus May 6, new topic and location TBD. Contact Bill O'Dell or Bruce Blanchard for more information.

Racial Justice

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com) for meeting information.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon. Currently on summer hiatus.

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:CCUCC Password: tryside8787

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 230

Email: chrisa@countysideuucc.org

or Courtney Holiday, CFS Admin. Assistant

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 219

Email: courtneyh@countysideuucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES



SAVE the DATE

Wm. Paul Young
September 24, 2019
Lecture
"How do we do faith if God is not religious?"



Margaret Wheatley
November 16, 2019
Workshop
"Warriors for the Human Spirit"



New York Times bestselling author of *The Shack*, *Eve* and *Lies We Believe About God*.



Best-selling author of nine books, from the classic *Leadership and the New Science* in 1992 to her newest book *Who Do We Choose To Be?*
Tickets will be available on eventbrite.com.

ADULT EDUCATION

Earth University Returns

May 2 - June 6, Thursday evenings, 7 - 8:30 PM

Countryside's F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) group is pleased to offer another six- week series through Earth University beginning May 2 and running for 6 consecutive Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 PM. This Spring, the six week classes will be dedicated to the SOIL. Go to the Countryside website <http://countysideuucc.org/calendar-item/earth-university-returns/> for the class information. For additional information on Earth University, contact Ann Naylor at annnaylor32@gmail.com or Christy Palmer at Christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

Inner Matrix

Saturday Mornings, 9:30 - 11 AM, in Ruth

Join others to explore the simple practices and core concepts of *The Inner Matrix* by Joey Klein, and create the life you choose. Combining the ancient traditions of East and West with the latest science in genetics, psychology, and brain function, Joey shares how to transform your life by shifting deep mental, emotional and physical patterns that create stress and limit success. Jim Steele, a new Countryside member, will host a new Inner Matrix Group on Saturday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM beginning April 27 and continuing through June 1. For more information, call Jim Steele at 402-306-7511 or Mary Dircks at 402-391-0113.

Phoenix Affirmation Discussion Group

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 PM,

We are beginning a new Phoenix Affirmations small group which will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM. Because the Phoenix Affirmations are so fundamental to many of our ministries at Countryside, we strongly encourage our community to participate in this six-week discussion opportunity to learn more about these affirmations and how they help describe for us some of the joys we have within our Christian tradition. All are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideuucc.org or leave your contact information at the Connection Station and we will reach out to answer your questions.

New Journey Groups Forming for our next Worship Series

Contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideuucc.org for more information on how to connect to Journey Groups forming for the worship series: *Misfits, Leaders, Disciples, and Prophets: 12 Amazing Women of the Bible*.

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meditation Opportunities Abound at Countryside

Due to the growing interest in prayer and meditation at Countryside we're offering two powerful opportunities in May and June:

Online "Mysitical Misfits" Meditations May 13 - June 13

Join Dr. Elnes for another round of "Mystical Misfits" 20-minute meditations online Mondays and Fridays at 7 AM starting May 13. In order to be gathered together in one place, the sessions will be streamed **ONLY** on Countryside's Darkwood Brew Facebook page instead of 3 separate pages. Just "like" the Darkwood Brew page and you'll be sent a notification each time Dr. Elnes is streaming. Or, just show up at 7!

Online "Spirit Lab" on Wednesday nights! May 15 - June 12

Would you like to add a learning and fellowship opportunity to your meditations? Starting May 15, join Dr. Elnes others on the free, Zoom web conferencing platform (www.zoom.com) on Wednesdays at 9PM. "Spirit Lab" starts with 25 minutes of teaching on various topics, followed by 25 minutes of group meditation. The advantage of meeting on Zoom is that you can engage in group conversation, either in audio-only mode or both audio and video. In other words, you can see and converse with those gathered with you, and either be seen yourself or be invisible to others. Topics for conversation will be engaging and wide-ranging, and different styles of meditation will be explored. These sessions will be quite helpful to those at all levels of meditation experience, including those who have not done it before. To access the Zoom sessions, simply go to www.zoom.com and type in the meeting code 402-391-0350 (Easy to remember because the code is the same as Countryside's office telephone number.)

Countryside Launches Weekly "Day One" Worship Starting May 19.

Thanks to a grant from the Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation, "Day One" is now an official 3rd Weekly Sunday service, Sundays at 8 PM. Integrating both ancient and modern worship modes, "Day One" is meant to **START** your week, not end it. Come experience the simplicity of a meditative style of worship lit by 99 candles and music played on our new Fazioli 308 piano by Alex Ritter. The service is punctuated by crystal singing bowls and a liturgy that is chanted by some of Omaha's best voices. Come early for a class led by Dr. Elnes in Common Grounds Coffeehouse at 6:45 PM. (*More info below.*)

Invite Your Friends to "The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World" starting June 2.

Now that we're on the Tri-Faith Commons, Countryside has created three different ways to experience, and also invite your friends to, "The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World." This series will be the focus of Sunday morning worship, several small groups, and a Sunday evening coffeehouse class taught by Dr. Elnes. Together, we'll explore the relationship between Christianity and other faiths - particularly how a Christian can claim fully the path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths God may create for humanity. In other words, it's the perfect series to hold in our Tri-Faith setting and invite friends to on Sunday evenings.

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. 231

Email: erice@countrysideucc.org

May 26

Teacher Appreciation Day

Show your Sunday School Teacher a little LOVE!

details page 5

Day One

Sundays at 8 p.m. starting May 19

Start your week with this simple, meditative worship service.

SUNDAY MAY 5

GRADUATION

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

SUNDAY

11 AM

INNER MATRIX RETURNS

InnerMatrix

Saturday Mornings

April 27 - June 1

9:30 - 11:00 AM, Ruth

see page 4 for details



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garage Sale Drop Off / Pick Up Saturdays, May 4 and 18, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet at Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) to receive donations and go pick up donations. Free lunch for all volunteers. Sign up for drop off shifts set-up shifts and Garage Sale shifts at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>

Baccalaureate Sunday, May 19 at the 11:00 service

We honor our graduating seniors at the 11:00 service and have a special Senior Sunday at COYO Sr High at 6:00 PM. The seniors are Isaac Bonner, Caden Johnson, Claire Kuyper, Kaylee Parmentier, Will Rischling, Katrina Stanek, and Luke Stursma.

No COYO Sr. High on May 12 and COYO ends for the season on May 19.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last two COYO Jr. High meetings

COYO Jr High will meet on May 5 and May 19 4:30-6:00 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM. The season ends on May 19.

No COYO Jr. High on May 12 and COYO ends for the season on May 19.



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 Sunday afternoon from 4:30 -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?

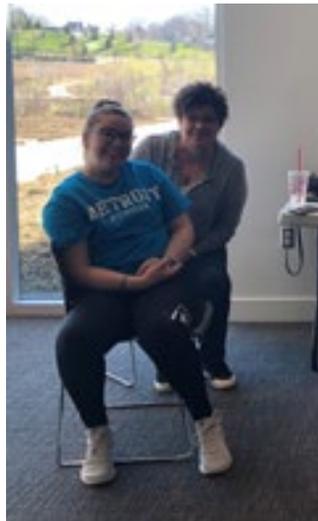
For more information about Youth Ministries contact Rev. Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 232

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



Top two photos: Faith Singers at ribbon cutting and rehearsing. Bottom three photos: COYO Sr. High in and around new church.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MAY SERVICES

May 5 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the worship service.

May 12- Sunday School

Dear Friends- Paul wrote letters to small groups of worshippers (Jews and non-Jews) across his world, nurturing these communities so that they could share the Good News with more people. (Paul's letters became central to our New Testament).

May 19- Sunday School

Paul's letter to the Corinthians—Paul's letter to the troubled church in Corinth (in 1 Corinthians 13) declares that all gifts within the community are important and then describes how love should permeate all actions and be extended throughout and beyond the community. "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but have not love..."

May 26 - Sunday School/Teacher Appreciation

Ambassadors for Christ—Early Christians worshipped in secrecy, using hidden symbols to connect with one another during dangerous and confusing times. After Christianity became accepted, some followers began to develop spiritual practices to strengthen their connection to God.

May 26 is our final Sunday School of this school year.

NEW BUILDING INFORMATION

Our classrooms for Sunday school are located on the lower level of the new building. There will be signage to guide you to your students.

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 and Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM (Aug. - Apr.) for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds.

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 mission and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

Sunday School classes are located on the lower level in the new building. Please follow signage.

Children's Church

Lower Level in new building- This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like communion, prayer, and storytelling. It's open to children five years old through 6th grade.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

Lower Level - During the school year (Aug.- Apr.) on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30, 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

Lower Level - On Wednesday nights (Aug.- Apr.) from 6:00-7:30, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus's ministry and work. We also enjoy fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.



New signage at church



Close up of ribbon children made.



Stick figure meditation



Ribbon cutting ceremony



Walking the labyrinth



Twinning with shoes!

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you!

The Board of Arts and Music would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after the move. We would also like to say thank you to all of the choirs for their beautiful and inspiring performance on our first Sunday in our new home.



Faith Singers Variety Show - May 5, 12:30 PM

Variety Show (noun): a theatrical entertainment of successive separate performances (as of songs, dances, skits, and acrobatic feats)

The Faith Singers' variety show will be held May 5th, at 12:30. It will be an afternoon of entertainment that showcases the talents, music, humor and fun of our wonderful high school youth.



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.

Confirmation Singers

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

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 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:

Alex Ritter
Acting Artistic Director
Email: alexr@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR MAY

The BOX for May is dedicated to Grief's Journey (formerly Ted E. Bear Hollow). Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach is asking for your help in supporting Grief's Journey with donations of powdered drinks; tea, coffee, Crystal Lite, Lemonade, Kool Aide, etc. These donations will be used during class times, for family meals and other gatherings. Please drop off your donations at the BOX located in the Foyer by the Connection Station. We thank you in advance for your help with this collection.

Since 2001, Grief's Journey has been a welcoming, safe place where grieving children, teens, and adults find hope. Research indicates that unresolved grief correlates to issues such as poor school performance and emotional and behavioral concerns, whereas healthy coping leads to long-term success for the child, the family, and the community. As the region's cornerstone for bereavement support, Grief's Journey provides free peer support programs as well as training, education, and consultation throughout Nebraska and Iowa. Grief's Journey relies on charitable contributions, special event income, and volunteerism to support its free programs.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Community Cupboard Focus Group can't thank you enough for your tremendous help as we moved our pantry to the new church. We had trucks, Uhauls, multiple volunteers, and friends all working together to make light work of all that had to be accomplished.

In the next few months, due to our move, we have an increased need for volunteers. These positions are all in addition to the 50 volunteers who work every month! To sign up, please stop by the Connection Station to talk to Mary Beth or send an email to communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org. We are asking for folks to:

- Hold signs and direct traffic at a variety of locations between our former location (8787 Pacific) and our new location (at the new church - 13130 Faith Plaza).
- We also need a couple of people to be at the 8787 Pacific Street location on May 4, June 1 and June 29 to hand out maps and share directions.

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped us! It is much appreciated!

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 Connection Station.

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

LOOKING BACK: WHAT A DAY IT WAS!

Our Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony followed by a wonderful Dedication Service on April 7 was a memorable high point in Countryside's history. The Sanctuary was filled to bursting as the multitude entered and took their seats. The sound of hundreds and hundreds of voices raised in singing the first hymn was glorious!

Thanks to countless volunteers and to our tireless staff who made this day happen. Talk about a "multitude of saints," we have an embarrassment of riches, an abundance of saints in our church!

Looking Forward:

Planning is underway for the neighborhood and community Open House to be held on Sunday, May 19. The Grand Opening will get underway at 12:30 PM with touring of our building to follow.

We are working in conjunction with the Tri-Faith to pair our Open House with the dedication of Abraham's Bridge and the Tri-Faith Orchard and Garden. Stay tuned for more information on this big event.

The CRC is busy identifying a "punch list" of finishing touches to be accomplished by our contractor. Vrana Construction is eager to finally hand us a project that meets their and our high standards of quality. You will find workers busy in our building for some weeks as they work through the punch list.

Landscape work is moving into high gear now that winter has grudgingly departed from Omaha. More furnishings and fixtures are delivered daily. Watch for changes inside and out!



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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Rita Otis will be bringing three outstanding experiential retreats to Countryside beginning in June. Contemplative Photography Retreats will offer you three opportunities to explore photography and prayer; two full-day retreats (June 22 and August 30, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) and one half-day retreat (September 14, 9:00 AM – Noon). The full day retreats are limited to 12 participants and a laptop computer to upload photos is required. The half-day retreat is limited to 30 people and will be smart phone friendly with no laptop required. Each retreat will have a different theme and participants may attend any or all with no prerequisite. With participant's permission, select photos and writing will be compiled as a visual prayer book available for purchase. Be watching for additional information in upcoming newsletters and bulletins. Sign up today at the Connection Station.

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Tuesday, May 14, 6:00-7:00 PM and Saturday, May 18, 10:00-Noon. Be watching for additional information or feel free to contact the presenters at info@EqualityAdvancement.com.

FLOOD ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Many of you have been asking how Countryside is assisting with those affected by the flooding. They have put together some contact points for your convenience. The following list is associated with Habitat for Humanity - habitatomaha.org/flood-relief-efforts/.

Team Rubicon – efforts include cleaning and mucking out houses, **Sarpy Country Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC)** – serve as an ambassador, help escort flood victims through available resources, **Heartland Hope Mission** – help hand out food and pantry items to those in need, **Omaha Rapid Response** – assist with disaster clean-up efforts

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, May 6, at First Watch (1222 N. 71) at noon. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal and warm conversation with women from Countryside Church, Temple Israel and AMI. See you there!

Family Activities Committee members will gather on Sunday, May 26, to continue planning spring and summer events for our church families. RSVP to marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet at Noon on Monday, May 13, at the Twisted Cork, 107th and Pacific. It is located on the north side of Pacific by Ethan Allen. Shirley Clemens is our hostess for the event. Please call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you have questions about this welcoming and fun-loving group. They would love to have you join them.

ETC will gather on Thursday, May 9, 6:30 PM at Charred in Sterling Ridge. RSVP to marybethl@countrysideucc.org. Family Activities Committee members will gather on Sunday, April 28, to begin planning spring and summer events for our church families. RSVP to marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

Tai Chi Chih classes are back in session every Thursday morning, 9:30 AM in Countryside's Chapel. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com should you have questions and for further details.

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. 235

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, May 4. We need 60 volunteers every month but we have an increased need for 15-20 additional volunteers over the next few months. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Deacons 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 Deacons responsibilities are and how you might help.

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new people! If you 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 Connection Station and talk to Mary Beth to learn more.

Thank you!

YOU ARE AMAZING!!! Thank you so much for all your time, dedication, energy and fun that everyone put into UNpacking after moving Countryside to our new home! We averaged 9 volunteers/day in two hour shifts. Many of you stayed for a full 4 hours. We truly cannot thank you enough and we definitely would not have been able to do this move without you!

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@countysideucc.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 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countysideucc.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@countysideucc.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@countysideucc.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.

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. Meets Fridays at 10:00 AM. 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@countysideucc.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 countysideucc.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 9:30 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.



trifaith.org

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

DIGGING IN WITH TRI-FAITH: GARDEN AND ORCHARD

May 5, 2 - 6 PM

Temple Israel, 1311 Sterling Ridge Dr.

Come grow with us on Tri-Faith Garden & Orchard Day!

Join Tri-Faith in setting up and planting our Tri-Faith Garden and Orchard. We will need volunteers to help move soil, set-up raised beds and plant trees. The big day will be May 5th at 2 PM. Please sign up for any tasks you are able to do on the Countryside Facebook page under events, or on the Countryside website under the events tab.

This is a labor intensive project that involves physical elements, including, lifting, bending, carrying 10+ lbs, and digging. We will provide water and seats for resting. Our community partner, Big Garden, will provide the tools to get the job done! Be ready to get your hands dirty as we dig, set up raised garden beds, and plant the orchard with trees.

TEMPLE ISRAEL WINS ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Have you been inside Temple Israel? Come see the award winning architecture for yourself! Congratulations to Project Advocates and Finegold Alexander Architects. Temple Israel was awarded the New Facilities Award for the 2018 International Awards Program for Religious Art and Architecture.



Temple Israel

WHY ARE THERE HUGE PILES OF DIRT OUTSIDE OUR WINDOWS?

This is the future home of the Tri-Faith Center! It has an anticipated opening of early 2020. The center will serve as a hub of collaboration for social events, educational activities and conference facilities. It will welcome people of all faiths and will become a model for peaceful coexistence that builds on America's promise of religious freedom and our desire for understanding. We hope for it to become a place where people from throughout the country come to study and interact.

HOLIDAYS

Muslim - Ramadan - May 5 - June 4

Ramadan is the month in which Allah contacted the prophet, Mohammed, to give him the verses of the holy book, or Qu'ran. As such, praying during Ramadan is especially important. Muslims say nightly prayers whether it is Ramadan or not, but the taraweeh, or Ramadan nightly prayer, carries additional weight. According to scripture, "Whoever observes night prayer in Ramadan as an expression of his faith and to seek reward from Allah, his previous sins will be blotted out." Thus, the Ramadan nightly prayer, after a day of fasting, serves the purpose of eradicating the sins that have been previously committed. In this way, the nightly prayer is an important element of the rituals of Ramadan. At the end of Ramadan and before the breaking of the fast, Muslims say takbeer. The takbeer is a statement indicating there is nothing in the world that is bigger or greater than Allah. Takbeer is always said when a Muslim completes an important task, as in the completion of the fast of Ramadan.

You can support our Muslim friends by being considerate of times. Before sunset, no food or drink is allowed, after sunset if you are meeting, have food and drink available. Offering comments about fasting can be unkind, fasting is part of their spiritual practice. Feel free to wish them Happy Ramadan when you see them!

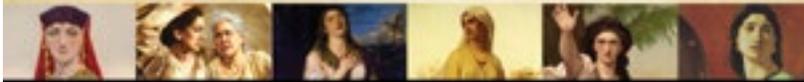


facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/
facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/
facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/

WORSHIP SERIES



12 Amazing Women of the Bible
Misfits, Leaders, Disciples,
and Prophets:



April 28 - May 19

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebraska
Permit No. 106

Please join us

COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH GRAND OPENING

Sunday, May 19

Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza

12:30 p.m.

Countryside Grand Opening Ceremony
& Tri-Faith Initiative Abraham's
Bridge, Garden and Orchard Dedication

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tour Countryside Community Church

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tour Temple Israel &
American Muslim Institute

GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY

June 6

6 PM - 8 PM

*Preview night for
Countryside members*

FRIDAY

June 7

8 AM - 6 PM

SATURDAY

June 8

8 AM - 2 PM

See Connection Station for details

Contemplative Photography Retreats

Explore photography and prayer
led by Spiritual Director, Rita Otis.

Two full-day retreats (limit 15)

June 22 and August 30

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

One half-day retreat (limit 30)

September 14, 9:00 AM - Noon

Sign up at Connection Station

details page 10