

# JANUARY



## CHILI/CHOCOLATE

A new year begins filled with hopes, challenges, dreams, struggles and expectations. A new year of growing together in community, of reaching out to others; sharing each other's stories; building stronger bonds with our neighbors, our earth and our God. Our possibilities are remarkable, and as we share them together as a faith community we become stronger, more unified and begin to truly understand who we, Countryside Community Church, truly are.

One way to accomplish these goals is through fellowship! There is a myriad of fellowship/social activities held at the church throughout the year. The Chili/Chocolate Contest is one that is delicious, competitive, boisterous and filling! E.T.C., the multi-generational social committee at Countryside, is sponsoring this year's contest in Memorial Hall on Sunday, January 24 directly following the second worship service. This event is not just for fellowship, but also for sharing a little piece of yourself or your family with others through the simplicity of sampling favorite chili and/or chocolate dessert recipes.

ETC's "hope" is that you register at the Information Station before January 21, letting us know if you will

be bringing a chili, chocolate dessert or both. Their "challenge" is to involve more folks in this event than we have in previous years. That means we need more than 28 different chillies to taste and more than 26 different chocolate desserts! Are we up for this challenge? Their "dream" is to fill Memorial Hall with laughter, warm conversation, new and old friends gathering to share their families stories and recipes! Their "struggle" is to make sure that all of you bring your entrants to Memorial Hall by 10:30 AM on Sunday, January 24, and then be ready to serve small tastes of them at 12:15 PM. Their "expectation" is to raise money for the Community Cupboard through the voting process dropping coins (or bills) into the designated jar of your favorite chili and/or dessert.

Then on Sunday, February 7 at the Annual Meeting, everyone will be able to enjoy the winning recipes from both categories in this event. Countryside's Board of Deacons will be preparing the Annual Meeting meal and will use these winning recipes along with other delicious soups for us to enjoy.

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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

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Email - [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org)  
Website - [www.countysideucc.org](http://www.countysideucc.org)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/](http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/)

## **Program Staff**

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

## **Ministers**

**Dr. Eric Elnes**  
Senior Minister, ext. 113  
[erice@countysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countysideucc.org)

**Rev. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
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## **Assistant To The Ministers**

**Gayle Noble**  
Minister's Assistant, ext. 103  
[Gaylen@countysideucc.org](mailto:Gaylen@countysideucc.org)

## **Business Office**

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**Drew King**  
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Building/Property Coordinator  
[brianp@countysideucc.org](mailto:brianp@countysideucc.org)

## **Audio/Visual**

**Nicholas O'Bradovich,**  
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[nick0@countysideucc.org](mailto:nick0@countysideucc.org)

**Ben Semisch,**  
Videographer  
[bens@countysideucc.org](mailto:bens@countysideucc.org)

## **Minister of Spiritual Direction**

**Rita Otis**  
SD Minister, ext. 129  
[rmotis@outlook.com](mailto: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.

## **NEW NEWSLETTER FORMAT**

In an effort to improve communication and to be good stewards of our resources, the weekly "Here's what's Happening" bulletin insert and the monthly Currents newsletter are being combined into a single monthly newsletter. The redesigned newsletter highlights the ongoing activities of the church and spotlights the special activities for each month. In addition, we will go to a single Order of Worship for both services. These changes will allow communications that were previously only used at one service to be reused for additional services. It will reduce the amount of unused bulletins we print each week. Stay tuned over the next couple months as redesigns in the weekly emails (C10) and the website are rolled out.

## **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 Desk 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 Desk.

**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 and 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@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org) or call 402-391-0350.

## **NOT A MEMBER?**

Interested in joining Countryside Church or exploring Countryside more deeply? Well then consider joining us for membership classes from 7:00-8:15 PM on Tuesdays, January 19, January 26, February 2 & February 9. These classes will enable you to get to know more about the church, the church staff, and programs. You will get to know yourself and God better, too. The service to welcome new members will be on February 28. Indicate your interest by signing up at the Information Station on Sunday mornings or contact Gayle Noble at 402-391-0350 ext. 103 or [gaylen@countysideucc.org](mailto:gaylen@countysideucc.org). We'd love to have you join the Countryside family!



## COMING SOON!

### Stephen Ministry Training Starts Soon!

Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support to those who are currently facing difficult times in their lives. Stephen Ministers receive special training to become good listeners and to provide caring support to others as they work through a difficult transition. At certain times, we all need comfort: family crisis, death, divorce, illness, loss of job, or simply an unexpected lifestyle change. When we open our hearts to the compassion of another, we feel less alone.

A new Stephen Ministry training class will begin in January. If you are interested in being part of this wonderful ministry, or would simply like more information, contact Margie Bolte, Pastoral Care Coordinator, at (402) 391-0350 ext. 117.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Elmo "Mac" McClendon passed away on December 9 in Omaha. A memorial service was held at Countryside on December 16, officiated by Rev. Chris Alexander.

Patty Waller passed away on December 14 in Omaha. A memorial service was held at Countryside on December 23, officiated by Dr. Eric Elnes.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Jim Hanson received his Doctorate of Education and Administration from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

*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 Margie Bolte.

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

Email: [margieb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:margieb@countrysideucc.org)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT "ALIVE"

During the midweek gathering time known as Wednesday Night Alive, we serve a community meal (free-will offering) followed by choirs 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!

### 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.

January 6 - Gumbo and Chicken Soup

January 13 - Chicken and Broccoli Surprise

January 20 - TBD

January 27 - TBD

### Grade/Middle School Choirs

Cherub Choir (grades K-1) : 5:15 – 6:00 PM

Carol Choir (grades 2-3) : 5:15 – 6:00 PM

Pilgrim Choir (grades 4-6) : 5:15 – 6:00 PM

Covenant Choir (grades 7-8) : 6:15 to 7:00 PM

### Programs

Holy Moly (grades K-4) : 6:30-7:30 PM

Core 56 (grades 5-6) : 6:30-7:30 PM

Confirmation (grades 7-8) : 7:00 – 8:00 PM

### Adults/High School

#### In The Commons

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

January 6, 6:30 PM:

Derek Miller -Inclusice Mobility

January 13, 6:30 PM:

Stuart Chittenden - A Couple of 830 Mile Long Conversations

January 20, 6:30 PM:

Sarah Littky -Making Aliyah

January 27, 6:30 PM:

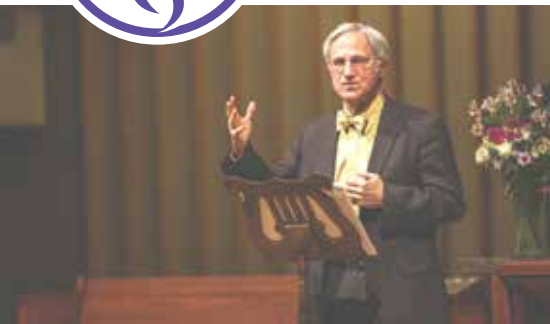
Ari Kohen - Can the Death Penalty be Fixed?

#### Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 6:25 – 7:55 PM

Spirit of Grace : 8:05 – 9:05 PM





## UPCOMING CFS PARTNERSHIPS

### **Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice**

Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice is a safe place to seek to understand the racial issues of our time. This conference is organized by Trinity Wall Street and webcast live to Countryside.

Thursday, January 21, 5 PM - 8:30 PM features Mass with Bishop Michael Curry, Netsayi; Keynote: Michele Norris

Friday, January 22, 8 AM - 4 PM. & Saturday January 23, 8 AM - 2 PM features above speakers, panelists, local Omaha panel, facilitated conversations and networking

\$10/session or \$20 for all 3 days. Includes meals & materials. You can attend one session or all three. See a detailed schedule at [www.centerforfaithstudies.org](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org).

REGISTER at [www.eventbrite.com/e/sacred-conversations-for-racial-justice-tickets-19364515788](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sacred-conversations-for-racial-justice-tickets-19364515788)

See detailed schedule at [www.centerforfaithstudies.org](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org)

### **Heartland Interfaith Dialogue**

Tuesday, January 12 6:00-7:30 PM Rev. Chris Alexander will be a panelist with representatives from Temple Israel and Omaha Atheists, among others to explore how the faith, religion, and beliefs of the people living in Omaha drive and bridge our community. University of Nebraska at The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center. Free parking. Registration is required: [www.inclusive-communities.org](http://www.inclusive-communities.org).

## IN THE COMMONS

### **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 will 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!

### **January 6 - Derek Miller, Inclusive Mobility**

Derek Miller is the Transportation Planning Manager for the City of Omaha Planning Department and the current President of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association. Communities face many challenges and opportunities including mobility, Derek will be discussing "Inclusive Mobility" and what it means for the future of our communities and the people who live within them.

### **January 20 - Sarah Littky, Making Aliyah**

Born and raised in America, Sarah will talk about the Aliya process and why she decided to leave her life in America to become Israeli. Sarah will also describe her Lone Soldier status, immigrants without family in the country who serve voluntarily in the Israeli Defense Force, which is a requirement for citizens. Sarah is in the states to visit her family, members of our TriFaith partner, Temple Israel.

### **January 13 - Stuart Chittenden, A Couple of 830 Mile Long Conversations**

Chittenden recently set off across Nebraska in an RV in search of cultures, conversations and community. In towns along the way he talked with residents about their lives, landscapes and stories, exploring narratives of community and our conversational spirit. Featured on NPR in the morning, Stuart will share what he discovered about our state, its communities, its people and himself.

### **January 27 - Ari Kohen, Can the Death Penalty be Fixed?**

Kohen is Schlesinger Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Forsythe Family Program on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His new book, *Untangling Heroism: Classical Philosophy and the Concept of the Hero* was published by Routledge in 2014. A member of Temple Israel, Ari is a frequent presenter within Temple's Adult Education programming.

Emilie Townes



Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School

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. They are currently reading James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*.

### **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. Current book is *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. 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 and First United Methodist Church.

## QUESTIONS?

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

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

**Email:** [kellyk@countrysideucc.org](mailto:kellyk@countrysideucc.org)

**Website:** [www.centerforfaithstudies.org](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org)

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

# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journey Groups will soon be a part of Brew U (Darkwood Brew University). Brew U will offer a new series every few months over the course of the next year. These series will bring the Phoenix Affirmations to life. We will delve deep into each of the twelve Phoenix Affirmations, digging into the meaning of it and finding ways to bring it to life in our lives and ministries. Join a Journey Group now so you will be ready to be a part of this great new opportunity.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Embarking on a New Adventure in 2016

Watch for details as the new lay ministry program is revealed. We will be introducing discipleship in a brand new way. There will be opportunities to get introduced to progressive Christian theology. For those who want to dig deeper, watch for your passport – we will be traveling through a journey of spiritual discernment, vocatio, and more. There will also be opportunities for those interested in lay leadership training and development. This journey will deepen relationships and transform lives – that's what discipleship is all about. Get on board!

### Prayer Retreat 101 - March 4 - 6

Have you been promising yourself, "One of these days I will go on one of those prayer retreats" that have stirred so much attention from prior participants? Now is your chance to act on that promise! Our own Dr. Eric Elnes will be leading a special Introductory Prayer retreat. This all-inclusive retreat will be held in the beautiful surroundings of Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa. It will begin with dinner and conversation Friday evening and end Sunday afternoon. While those with prayer experience are welcome to attend, no prior experience is expected. Cost is \$150 per person. A limited number of single and double occupancies are available. This includes all meals, accommodations, materials, and as much awe and wonder as you can take in. A \$75 registration fee up front will hold your spot. Space is limited so sign up today.

*Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our Stillspeaking 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 Journey through Luke

Several of our Journey Groups are following the sermon series, *The Way of Jesus: A Journey through Luke*. It's not too late to join a group. This series runs through Easter, March 27.

### Darkwood Brew

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

### Book and Bible Study

There are also groups that scripture together exploring different books of the Bible as well groups studying books like *Gifts of the Darkwood*.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Terri Vincent.

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

Email: [terriv@countysideucc.org](mailto:terriv@countysideucc.org)

**Prayer 101 Retreat**  
with Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.

**March 4 – 6**  
(Friday evening to Sunday afternoon)

Creighton University  
Retreat Center  
in Griswold, Iowa

See page 5 for more details

**Chili VS Chocolate**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24**  
12:15 PM

MEMORIAL HALL  
SEE PAGE 1 FOR MORE DETAILS

**LISTEN TO CHANGE**  
Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice | January 21-23, 2016 | T12016

Nicholas Kristof	Anna Deavere Smith	Emilie Townes
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New York Times columnist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner	Actor, playwright, professor, and 1996 MacArthur Fellow	Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School
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**ALSO FEATURING: EDUARDO BONILLA-SILVA, MICHAEL CURRY, GARY DORRIEN, KELLY BROWN DOUGLAS, MICHELE NORRIS, AND VICTOR RIOS**

This conference is webcast live at Countryside.

Thursday January 21, 5:30 PM

Friday, January 22, All Day

Saturday January 23, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

\$10/session or \$20 for all 3 days.

See page 4 for more details.





# YOUTH MINISTRIES



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 to grow in faith.

### 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 to 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

## COYO SR. HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Are You a Student Leader?

Want to be a COYO Sr High student leader? Meet in the COYO Room every third Sunday at 9 AM. Student leadership will help decide on programming and how to best include COYO Sr High students.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### COYO Sr High & Faith Singers Winter Retreat January 2 - 3

Come refresh, renew and have some fun too. The cost to attend this event is \$40. Register for the event in advance by visiting <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/srhigh/retreat>.

#### COYO Sr High 606 Wednesday, January 6, 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.

## COYO JR. HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Urban Plunge

COYO Jr High Outreach in March will be in Lincoln, NE from the 18 thru the 20. For more information on this event and to register visit <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh/plunge>



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Mahoney Sledding & Skating January 31, 12 PM - 6 PM

Meet after church for lunch then head to Mahoney State Park to sled and skate (and maybe play in the indoor playground). Get picked up at church at 6:30 PM after COYO dinner. The cost is \$10 and feel free to bring a friend. Bring a sled and wear warm clothes. Sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh>

#### COYO Jr High Outreach January 9, 8 AM

Come help the Community Cupboard distribute food to those who need some. This will count as Confirmation Outreach! You can sign up at <http://countrysideucc.org/coyo/jrhigh>



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

- Jan. 3 – Family Worship; children remain in the sanctuary with their families.
- Jan. 10 – Sunday School, in various classrooms (see below). Lesson: Jesus calming the storm.
- Jan. 17 – Children's Church, in the chapel (same level of the church as the sanctuary/nursery).
- Jan. 24 – Sunday School, in various classrooms (see below). Lesson: Transfiguration.
- Jan. 31 – Children's Church, in the chapel (same level of the church as the sanctuary/nursery).

## 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)

#### 9:00 Service

Room 215 – Pre-Kindergarten

#### 11:00 Service

Room 214 – Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 – Grades K-1

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We are looking for dedicated people to keep our Nursery Ministry going!** Volunteers engage in different levels of commitment and times so contact Nursery Coordinator, Breann, at [blundbl34@gmail.com](mailto:blundbl34@gmail.com) for information.

**Core 56** will continue its discussion of Jesus and his ministry. Please be sure to send your student with their Connect bible.

**Holy Moly!** will transition to New Testament stories this month and study the stories of John the Baptist, Jesus calling disciples, Jesus teaches to pray, and Jesus stills the storm.



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

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.

### 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

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](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideucc.org)





# MUSIC MINISTRIES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **When Is The Best Time to Join Choir?**

People often ask “When is the best time to join choir?” OK I’m lying, nobody EVER asks me that. But regardless, the answer is always “right now”. In January we begin new music and would welcome additional singers. Our Chancel Choir sings for the 9:00 service and sings both historic and newer music in the classical tradition. The Spirit of Grace sings once a month for each service. The Faith Singers are our high school singers and usually sing at the 11:00 service. You can gain a greater knowledge of music, form new friendships, deepen your sense of faith and service, and have a good time. If you are not asking “When is the best time to join choir” then the question is “Why aren’t you?”

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 services.

### **Cherub Choir**

The Cherub Choir is for Kindergarten and second grade aged children and 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 and 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 prior to 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.



**Children’s Choir singing at the Durham Museum on December 5.**



**Countryside Christmas Jazz on December 5.**

## QUESTIONS?

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

Bruce Blanchard  
Interim Music Coordinator  
Interim Chancel Choir Director  
bb Blanchard@gmail.com

Vicky Palmisano  
Children’s Choir Coordinator  
Interim Spirit of Grace Director  
Pilgrim and Covenant Choir Director  
vickyp@countrysideucc.org

Tyler Gruttemeyer  
Interim Faith Singer  
Director

Alex Ritter  
Organist

Aly Amstutz  
Cherub Choir Director



# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



## THE BOX FOR JANUARY

Did you know that there are approximately 2,000 people homeless in Omaha every night? In January, the BOX will seek to help those in our community going without to stay warm in the cold winter months by serving as a collection point for socks (of all sizes, both genders) and new or gently used blankets. These items are the foundation to keeping warm and will be donated to the Open Door Mission.

During this season of giving, please consider donating your gently used, handmade or purchased blankets, as well as (new) socks of any size to help someone in the community sleep more comfortably. You will feel warmer inside, too! On behalf of the Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO), thank you!

A follow up on our BOX for November: Thank you to everyone who played the role of Santa for the children and youth of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Between your generous donations, as well as SSG funding from BOCO, a \$300 donation and COYO funding, we provided 230 toys. We appreciate your support to help make the holidays a little brighter for these children and youth! Thank you, too, to our COYO “elves” for making additional purchases and packing the “sleigh” for delivery!

## QUESTIONS?

For more information email Christian Outreach at [christianoutreach@countysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countysideucc.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**

*“The Box” is a dedicated drop off area where items addressing specific needs are collected each month. It can be found in the Foyer, just south of the main doors.*

### **Community Cupboard**

*The largest mobile food pantry in Nebraska takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month. On average, the Community Cupboard provides food for over 275 families in our community each month.*

### **Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)**

*Each year the 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 and events may be awarded small grants (up to \$500) to cover the costs of materials and supplies. SSG request forms are available on the church website.*

# RELOCATION UPDATE



## JANUARY UPDATE

The Countryside Relocation Committee (CRC) would like to thank all the members of the congregation who participated in our on-line survey. Your comments have been forwarded to the architectural firms and consultants where they will be instrumental in the planning of our new church. Your input is most appreciated.

As the New Year begins, the CRC, its subcommittees, and our architects are hard at work designing a church that will meet our needs not only now but into the future. Regular updates on the progress being made will be in this newsletter, the C-10 and bulletins.

2016 will be a time of growth as we write a new chapter in the continuing story of Countryside Community Church. Stay tuned.

The Countryside Relocation Committee

*To stay informed of what is happening with the relocation efforts, look for the Relocation icon in Countryside's communications: display area outside the church office, weekly C10 emails, monthly newsletter, and the Countryside website [www.countrysideucc.org](http://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@countysideucc.org](mailto:crc@countysideucc.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

Reel Faith we will be showing the movie Gods and Monsters on January 8 at 6:30 PM. This British-American drama recounts the last days of the life of troubled film director James Whale, who experienced war during World War One. The film won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, and was nominated for Best Actor, Ian McKellen, and Best Supporting Actress, Lynn Redgrave.

## GROUPS STARTING IN JANUARY

### Mom's Group - Starting January 5

This social/educational group welcomes all mothers of children ages birth through age 12. Their goal is to provide spiritual, social, educational and emotional support for each other. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9 to 11:30 AM. If interested contact Julie Kregg at julieseeman@yahoo.com or Karen Fitzgerald at karen@msftz.com.

### Habits of Health - Starting January 13

This class is designed to motivate individuals to focus on their well being through the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This group meets for 8 consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. If interested contact Karen Fitzgerald at Karen@msftz.com or Tina Kucera at tina@natureshelperinc.com.

### Great Decisions 2016 - Starting January 26

For over 30 years this group has been meeting and serving as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. They will meet for 8 consecutive Tuesdays at 7 PM. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

## GROUPS STARTING IN FEBRUARY

### Financial Peace University

This six week course deals with money management. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU will help show how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! This class will be facilitated by certified Financial Peace University counselor, Mike Potter, Feb 4 through Apr 21 at 6:30 PM. To register contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, January 11, 12 noon at the Marriott Hotel on 102nd and Regency Circle for Lunch. Jean Stewart is our Hostess this month.

### Mahjong - Starting January 12

This class will be held at Countryside on Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM in the Commons. Jeri Lundblad will be leading the class in learning the art of Mahjong. Mahjong is a Chinese game of skill, strategy, and calculation. Playing the game is beneficial for individuals suffering from dementia, cognitive and memory difficulties. If your are interested contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### Heart's Journey - Starting January 21

This class will help you to hear how to no longer live from the "outside-in" but to receive the beauty of living from the "inside-out." This class will be facilitated by Donna Knutson and will meet for 8 consecutive Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11 AM.

### Smart Money Smart Kids

This is a series of six practical, video-based lessons led by Dave and Rachel Ramsey that give parents a step-by-step approach to being intentional in teaching their kids about giving, spending, saving, debt, and contentment. You will learn how to help your kids make wise money choices and build character qualities. This class will be offered in February. If interested contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

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.

### Family Activities Committee

Looking for 6 additional volunteers to assist young children make Christmas ornaments at this year's Advent Workshop. The crafts are simple, but our participants hands are small! There is a flyer with the workshop information in this newsletter. If interested contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed for the Pantry on January 9th. 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 at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or Andi Lawlor at lalalawlor@cox.net.

### Mobile Meals

This caring, monthly ritual takes only 2 hours, but truly feeds not only 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 for January thru May of 2016 is now being created. If interested stop by the Information Station.

### Weekly Kitchen Help

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

### 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..



## SOCIAL GROUPS

### **Friend to Friend**

This group specializes in outreach projects and programs in addition to preparing and serving the monthly meals for the Young at Heart seniors group. Meets on the 2nd Thursday each month, September through May at 11 AM in the Moderator's kitchen. Contact Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net.

### **Family Activities Committee**

This group offers educational and social opportunities designed to strengthen family bonds and support of all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. Meets on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.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 Link at marybethl@countysideucc.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 your family loves then share it with the church on Wednesday evenings. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### **Women's Lunch Group**

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

### **Nine-to-Dine**

This group consists of 9 individuals, who all meet on a monthly basis at various restaurants or at someone's home for a home cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@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.

### **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.

### **Young at Heart**

This social group is specifically designed for the seniors at Countryside Church who meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Noon. This group enjoys a wonderful home-baked meal generally followed by either a movie or a short program. Contact Pam Kregg at pamgg@cox.net.

### **Reel Faith**

This group meets in the Chapel for a great movie, snacks and discussions! Meets on the second Friday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Molly Anderson at moanderson@cox.net.

### **Men's Breakfast Group**

This is a 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@countysideucc.org.

## EDUCATION GROUPS

### **Faith and the Environment**

(FATE) is 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 helps increase awareness about gender identity and expression. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.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 Mondays at 10 AM in the 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 Foyer at Countryside. 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 Rick MacInnes, Moderator, at moderator@countysideucc.org.

### **Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)**

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and to select organizations to receive special offering grants. Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair, Don Otis, at donotis@me.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, Anji Stanek, at anjigtanek1@gmail.

### **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, Shannon Avard, at Stamper2k@cox.net.

### **Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)**

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

### **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, Shari Fisher, at doglover21@cox.net.

### **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 PM. Contact board chair, Butch Ethington, at ethomaha@gmail.com.

### **Board of Pastoral Care (PCB)**

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 and 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.



Countryside

Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST | 8787 PACIFIC STREET | OMAHA, NE 68114

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### JOB OPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE

#### Executive Administrative Assistant:

Full Time (30-40 hrs)

Executive Administrative Assistant serves as the assistant to the ministers of Countryside Community Church and also as front office manager. She/he provides high-level support to the Senior Pastor in a wide range of activities in the performance of administrative and ministerial responsibilities, while interacting with staff, congregational members and the community. She/he also provides support to associate minister and manages the operations of the church's front office.

#### Office Administrative Assistant

Part Time (20-25 Hours ,Monday and Tuesday 8-4, Wednesday 8-12:30)

Office Administrative Assistant provides administrative services to the staff, preschool, members, volunteers and others present in the church, utilizing interpersonal communication, technical and administrative skills. This position shares the responsibilities of Countryside Community Church front office operations with a person on the backend of the week.

Looking for individuals with a cheerful, pleasant and caring spirit. A good sense of humor and the ability to effectively work with a wide spectrum of people will be assets. Job descriptions are available on the church website at [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org). To apply for either position, please contact Dan Loven, Director of Administration and Communications, at [dan@countrysideucc.org](mailto:dan@countrysideucc.org).

402-391-0350 | [COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG](http://COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG)

Countryside  
Community Church



2016  
*Annual*  
**MEETING**

**Sunday, February 7**  
**12 Noon**

**\*Annual Meeting with lite lunch  
to follow the 10 AM  
Youth Sunday Service**



Membership classes  
starting in January


Tuesdays  
7:00-8:15 PM

January 19 | January 26  
February 2 | February 9

See page 2 for more details.

**Youth Sunday**

**February 7**  
**10 AM**



Please note only one 10 AM service on February 7.

Single service to be followed by a lite lunch and the annual meeting.