

NOVEMBER



ADVENT SEASON IS COMING

The definition of “Advent” in Dictionary.com is the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. Some suggested synonyms are: arrival, appearance, emergence, materialization, occurrence, dawn, birth, rise, and development, all of which point to something new happening. During Advent, God is doing something new and we get to be a part of it! We wait, we watch, we listen, we pray, and we study together, learning how Jesus describes what new thing God is doing. The sermon series that begins on November 27 deals with the “I Am” (Ego Eimi) statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. From each of these statements, we will gain a new perspective on the new things God is up to by sending Jesus into the world yet again.

We also invite you to take some time to pray and reflect with the UCC Advent Devotional “Wolves and Lambs” to gain some perspective on how we

may live out God’s mission for us in this world. This devotional provides daily opportunity during Advent for intentional reflection and prayer on Isaiah 11:6-9. The devotional will be available in Foyer for \$4 and is also on Kindle.

These verses challenge us to imagine a world where lambs and wolves can lie down together, not because there is no tension in their being together, but rather to help us identify the blessings that might emerge from that tension. An Advent Card will be coming out in November with all the dates and activities at Countryside during Advent. Also visit countrysideucc.org/advent for more details.



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

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Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@counttrysideucc.org
Website - www.counttrysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/

Program Staff

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

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erice@counttrysideucc.org

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

Executive Admin. Assistant

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Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
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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 and for Wednesday evening programs. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway toward the church's northwest entrance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Restrooms - Restrooms 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@counttrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

STEWARDSHIP - GIVING MADE SIMPLE

We have exciting news about stewardship! The way you're used to thinking about stewardship is changing. The new vision is based on using Giving Made Simple (GMS). GMS is the automated payment of your stewardship support, in whatever interval you want. You can let Countryside pull your funds, use a credit card, push your funds, use donor directed gifting, write an annual check or give stocks to consummate-fulfill your financial commitment to Countryside.

What will it do for you? Primarily, it will make your life simpler and it will give you total control to increase or decrease your support. GMS gifts will be considered on-going monthly support rather than annual pledges. Nobody stops their stewardship just because the calendar says December 31. We need everyone to participate in GMS.

But about half of us are not using GMS and we need your help to convert everyone. How can you help? Sign it up and talk it up! If you are using GMS, please share with your friends that it works. Please sign up for GMS or get with someone to help you sign up if you want assistance. (Dan Loven-Crum, danl@counttrysideucc.org or Shari Garder, sharig@counttrysideucc.org in the church office, 402-391-0350, are available if you have any questions).



STEPHEN MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Stephen Ministers are working with many care receivers as well as planning some special events. They hosted the annual Cake Walk at oCCCToberfest on October 16 and the desserts flew off the table as the music stopped. Thank you to all the bakers and participants!

Stephen Ministry Support

The next Peer Support meeting will be November 1 in the Chapel at 6 PM. All current and past Stephen Ministers are encouraged to attend.

Day of the Dead 2017

Are you interested in helping plan Countryside's November 2017 Day of the Dead? Come with us to El Museo Latino (25th and L Street) on November 9 at 1 PM. We'll be touring the exhibits and learning more in preparation for our own plans next year. Contact Jan Brown if you're interested or have ideas to contribute.

Stephen Ministry in Action through the Years

For Wednesday Night Alive on November 16, Stephen Ministries will be hosting a panel discussion called "Stephen Ministry in Action through the Years," as this is our 30th anniversary at Countryside. All are welcome to attend WNA at 6:30 PM.

JOYS

Val Bolte and Brian Newton were married on Friday, September 30, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating.

IN MEMORY

Harry Freeman passed away on September 27, and his funeral was held at Countryside on October 3 with Rev. Chris Alexander officiating.

John Liakos died September 27, and his family received friends at Heafey on October 4.

Norma Noe passed away on October 1, and her funeral was held at Countryside on October 5 with Rev. Chris Alexander officiating.

Three of our Countryside members have recently lost parents: John Kugler's mother Louise Blohm died September 23; Pam Kregg's father Norma "Col" Patberg died October 7; and Rich Barmettler's father Joseph Barmettler died October 12.

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

Care Team

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

Stephen Ministry

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

AGAPE

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

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

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

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org

WNA

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy a community meal, choir rehearsals and educational opportunities. This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or 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. Reservations are greatly appreciated.

See page 10 for the menu.

GRADE/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Choirs

Joyful Noise (Pre-K): 5:15-5:30 PM
Carol Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114
Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117
Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

Programs

Holy Moly (gr K-2): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 112
Holy Moly (gr 3-4): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 114B
Core 56 (gr 5-6): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 110
Confirmation (gr 7-8): 7:00 - 8:00 PM - rm 119

Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 7:30 - 8:45 PM
Spirit of Grace : 6:20 - 7:20 PM

ADULTS/HIGH SCHOOL In The Commons

Come hear live music, enjoy barista drinks, and connect with good friends. Occasional programming events, too!

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

- November 2 - Music by Dave Goldner
- November 9 - Music by Matthew Farho
- November 16 - Pastoral Care on Stephen Ministry
- November 23 - NO WNA
- November 30 - December 14- Rabbi Azreal on Jewish traditions, symbols, and culture.

**NO WNA
NOVEMBER 23
THANKSGIVING EVE**



FALL FAITH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

**Center for Faith Studies Fall 2016 Lectures:
Who Do You Say That I Am? Conversations With the Soul**

Thursday, November 10 at 7 PM - Gary Ferguson, *The Carry Home: Lessons from America's Wilderness*



Gary Ferguson

Gary is the author of 22 books on science and nature, including his instrumental role in documenting the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone. His newest book, *The Carry Home* is a moving celebration of the outdoor life shared between Ferguson and his wife Jane, who died tragically in a canoeing accident in northern Ontario in 2005, and a chronicle of the mending, uplifting power of nature. Confronting his unthinkable loss, Ferguson set out to fulfill Jane's final wish: the scattering of her ashes in five remote, wild locations they loved and shared. The act of the carry home allows Ferguson the opportunity to ruminate on their life together as well as to explore deeply the impactful presence of nature in all of our

lives. Theirs was a love borne of wild places, and *The Carry Home* offers a powerful glimpse into how the natural world can be a critical prompt for moving through cycles of immeasurable grief, how bereavement can turn to wonder, and how one man rediscovered himself in the process of saying goodbye.

The L.A. Times Review: "The real take-away passages involve Ferguson revisiting earlier research into storytelling and specifically native American myth to find that the stories we need to make sense of life usually have three elements: beauty, mystery and community. The beauty is here on every page; his language is gorgeous, giving us an "American West, a region where everything kneels at the river" and "the kind of sadness that lies along the far edges of every love."

Tickets are \$10 and are available at EventBrite.com (search Center for Faith Studies), at the door, or between Sunday services.

SPRING CFS EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars for the Spring CFS Collaborative Events!

Links for tickets are on the Center for Faith Studies website www.centerforfaithstudies.org

- Sami Yusuf US Campus Tour- Performance and Q&A February 26, 2017 at 3 PM
- Lisa Sharon Harper, Sojourners March 25-26, 2017
- IHE Holocaust Survivor Speaker March 29, 2017 (free event)
- Sacred Prism: Tri-Faith Prayer Retreat March 31 & April 1, 2017

WNA SERIES

A Taste of Judaism- November 30, December 7 and 14

Wednesday Night Alive in the Commons will feature our scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Azriel. Starting at 6:45, come to the Commons and learn a little about Jewish traditions, symbols, and culture. No sign ups necessary - free and open to all.

IRELAND 2017

Great food, inspiring art and beautiful journeys on foot will form the heart of this soulfully unique and transformative experience. This is an eight day pilgrimage that will create memories to last a lifetime. Participants will stay in a 400-year-old thatched cottage in Mourne country and a lovely country house by the sea outside Belfast. You will be travelling with Eric Elnes and Gareth Higgins, a northern Irish writer, storyteller and peace activist who now lives in the U.S. For more information, contact Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countrysideucc.org. Space is limited to just 23 participants, by application only. The sooner you apply, the greater your chance of participating.



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.

Racial Justice Book Group

Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Readings and videos on racialized America. Sign up through CFS office. Current book: *Blood Done Sign my Name* by Timothy B. Tyson.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, Bring your lunch. Resumes in January.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Current book: *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* by John Shelby Spong

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Moderator's Room. Currently studying *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds* with Dr. Robert Garland.

Religion & Sustainability Classes

Sundays, October 2-November 20. 4 PM-5PM. Memorial Hall. Taught by David Holtzclaw. Explores the science we know and the perspectives of the three Abrahamic faiths.

Tales of the Midrash

Meets Mondays October 3-November 20 at 10 AM in Memorial Hall.

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: kellyk@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

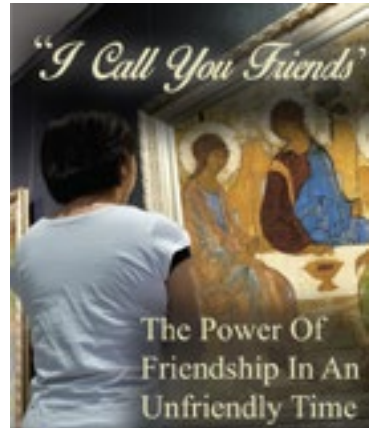
Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Current Worship Series-I Call You Friends



We invite you to follow along with the second series of Gifts of the Indigo Tent. This series, "I Call You Friends," will last from October 23 to November 20.

In this series we will shift gears to a theme of friendship. We will explore a "theology of friendship for wilderness wanderers" that moves us forward as a community of the faithful in a time of intense challenge. We will re-envision Christian faith and practice from the ground up, based on a foundation of friendship with our God/Savior, Neighbor, Enemy, Earth, and Self.

We will also be highlighting some of our small groups and journey groups during this series and give them a chance to tell us what gives them joy in participating with others in small groups, including journey groups, advocacy groups and service groups.

If you do not presently participate in any of these types of groups but would like to learn more about them, please contact Reverend Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org. She will get you some information and let you know how you might join a group that is already meeting, or how you might start your own group.

We provide each group with resources for discussion each week including group discussion questions, a link to the video of the week's sermon and an attachment with Pastor Eric's weekly commentary on the week's message or a transcript of the sermon. You are never on this journey alone.

Let us know how we can get you started on your journey!

Journey Groups

Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our still speaking God is calling us to do in our lives, community and the world. In the process, we form deep relationships offering support to one another through life's journey.

New Journey Groups are regularly forming that meet to discuss the current sermon series, watch and discuss Darkwood Brew videos or engage in special small group studies. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships. Contact Rev. Chris Alexander to get plugged into a Journey Group.

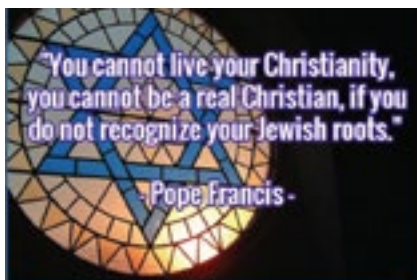
Free Darkwood Brew Membership

Did you know that 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. Use the username: CCCUCC and the password: tryside8787.

JOURNEY GROUPS FORMING

We will explore a "theology of friendship for wilderness wanderers" that moves us forward as a community of the faithful in a time of intense challenge.

SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION STATION.



Mondays at 10 a.m.
in the Chapel
Oct 31, Nov 7, 14 & 21
With Scholar in Residence,
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Sign Up at the Information Station

*Tales of the Midrash:
Creation, Revelation and Redemption*

Center for Faith Studies Fall 2016 Lectures



November 10, 2016

Gary Ferguson

The Carry Home: Lessons from America's Wilderness

see page 4 for details

Ireland 2017

STORYTELLING, MUSIC, ART AND PEACE
AUGUST 16TH - 24TH, KILKEEL and CULTRA, NORTHERN IRELAND

Tour Ireland with Dr. Eric Elnes and Gareth Higgins



STEPHEN MINISTRY 1986-2016



**Celebrating 30 years of
Deep Friendships through
Countryside Stephen Ministries**



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer to coordinate a COYO dinner

We are looking for volunteers to coordinate, set-up, serve, and clean up COYO Sunday dinners this year. They are served every week at 6:00PM in Memorial Hall. You can get a team together or do it by yourself. COYO meals serve 50 people. There are many open spots. Use the sign up genius at www.countrysideucc.org/coyo.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Pie - Wednesday, November 23 7:00PM - 9:00PM

COYO Sr High is hosting COYO Alumni for Pie, barista drinks, and a good time hanging out and catching up in the Commons. Let Will Howell know if you can bring a pie too.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Sunday, November 20 at 5:00PM

Come to a very cool Thanksgiving service at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, just across the street from UNO.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Sunday, November 20 at 5:00PM

Come to a very cool Thanksgiving service at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, just across the street from UNO.

Confirmation Outreach - Sunday, November 13 at 4:30PM

COYO Jr High will be making lunches for the people who stand in intersections with signs about needing help. Back in time for COYO dinner.



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 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 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.

COYO Jr High

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



Sunday School



oCCtoberFEST



Cake Walk



Pumpkin Patch

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

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

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

November 6- Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

November 13 - Sunday School

Jacob and the Wrestling Match! God is always with us and ready to help us build a more loving community.

November 20 - Children's Church

Children begin in the Sanctuary until the procession to the Chapel.

November 27- Sunday School

Joseph and the Angel Messenger.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling All Toilet Paper Rolls

We are in need of toilet paper rolls for our Sunday School classes! Save them up for us and bring them with you to church on Sundays! Feel free to leave them either in the front office—Attn: Rebecca or in Rebecca's office.

Wednesday Night Activities

Neither Holy Moly nor Core 56 will meet on Wednesday, November 23.

Advent Wreath Lighting

We are looking for church members who are willing to light an advent wreath candle and say a short reflection (provided for you) each Sunday of Advent! We will need two families per Sunday as well as two families for Christmas Eve! If you are interested please contact Rebecca.

Tri-Faith Kids Giving Thanks - a Potluck Feast:

Tuesday, November 22, 6:30-7:30 PM at Countryside. Enjoy a meal with friends and plan our March service project together. Turkey will be provided. Families are asked to bring a side or dessert to share.

Tri-Faith Kids meets the 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30. Our faith communities take turns hosting this family gathering. If you are not on the Tri-Faith Kids email list, contact Anji at anjistanek1@gmail.com to sign up for the dinner. RSVP by November 14th to Anji.

VOLUNTEERS

Nursery Ministry

Our Nursery Ministry is a volunteer-based ministry that is sorely in need of reliable Countryside members to meet this need. This is probably one of the least glamorous volunteer opportunities at Countryside nevertheless—it needs to be done to help create a loving space for not only those members in the nursery but also those members in the Sanctuary, a Center for Faith Studies Talk, and various activities on Wednesday nights.

Parents—please remember that if you need nursery care for your little ones during Center for Faith Studies events, we need to know at least 2 weeks in advance of the event to coordinate volunteers. We can always try at the last moment to find a caregiver but it is not always possible with short notice. Thanks!

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

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

Nursery

Childcare is available during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery 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.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

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

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

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

Sunday School

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

Family Worship

Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers the 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 five years old through 6th grade.

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

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.

Kids Music

Joyful Noise (Pre-K), Carol Choir (K-3) and Pilgrim Choir (4-6) are designed to allow younger musicians to develop their new music skills for worship. Rehearsals for the Carol and Pilgrim Choirs are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. Joyful Noise rehearses from 5:15-5:30 PM. Each group sings monthly in worship.

Covenant Choir

Covenant Choir is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation Class in the Junior Choir Room. 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 most weeks during the school year.

Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir, also for adults, explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings once or twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:20-7:20 PM.

Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 PM.

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Letter from our Director of Music & Arts Ministries

Dear Friends,

You've seen these pages before, right? Great big sheets of parchment with lines of huge, hand-written chant text and neumes, pronounced "nyooms". You see these pages framed in music studios and on walls in peoples' homes. Some are very simple, written in only black and red ink. Others feature ornate calligraphy and beautifully illustrated incipits (first letters) like the one here.

No matter the level of artistry, I've always been fascinated by these pages and where they came from. You see, before Guttenberg and his printing press, music was hand copied into huge tomes that sometimes required multiple people to carry (especially little choir boys!) and many people would gather around a single volume and sing together. There was no personal space among monks!

This image of singers crowded elbow to elbow came back to me repeatedly as I reflected on our current sermon series, "I Call You Friends". The Worship Planning team has worked hard to enhance the message of friendship. We selected Rublev's painting "The Trinity" to guide our Visual Arts, media, and communications. We placed comfortable, inviting seating in the chancel to reflect Rublev's invitation to the table in real life. We invited people into that space to discuss the hard topics that friends tackle every day.

Our music for the series is meant to do the same - to throw back to the good ole days of sitting around a single choir book, blending voices with no personal space! As you listen to our choral blessings at the nine o'clock service, sing along with "Benediction" at eleven, and enjoy the many small group music offerings. I hope you will look for ways to add music to your own small group activities. Maybe host a few guitar playing friends around your fire-pit some evening or sing a song around the Thanksgiving table? Music lends an extra dose of warmth and we are blessed when we add it to the friendship mix.

Wishing you warm friendship blessings, - Amy

Advent & Christmas Music

We welcome choir alums (and folks who've been too busy to join us this fall) to lend their voices to the choirs this holiday season. Online recordings, music, electronic documents (pdf), and separate rehearsals will be available to get you on board. Look for details in the December newsletter!



Spirit of Grace



Joyful Noise



Pilgrim Choir

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



THE BOX FOR NOVEMBER

The November BOX will be dedicated to the “Toys for Pine Ridge” project. BOCO is partnering with Countryside Youth (COYO) to help provide gifts for children/youth on the Pine Ridge Reservation. We are collecting unwrapped toys/games for children 0 to 19 years of age (as gender neutral as possible). COYO will see to the delivery of the gifts in time for Christmas. Thank you for sharing in this endeavor to help make Christmas a happy time for Pine Ridge children/youth.

LOOK AT THIS SSG!

Vicky and Eva Houston requested a Small Service Grant (SSG) to buy seedlings they could give away on Sunday morning at Countryside last spring. Some of the fruit from those plants was returned to their Plant One More table at Countryside during recent months. Our congregation supplied only a portion of their entire harvest, but altogether Plant One More collected a total of 323 pounds of produce this year. That food was given to Youth Emergency Services and Together to feed hungry and homeless people in the Omaha community. Many thanks to those who helped grow the food. The Board of Christian Outreach thanks Vicky and Eva for requesting an SSG that helped enable more Countrysiders to contribute to the success of such a thoughtful and heartwarming mission.

SHOW US YOUR SSG!

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

QUESTIONS?

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

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

The Box

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

Community Cupboard

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

Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

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

Small Service 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



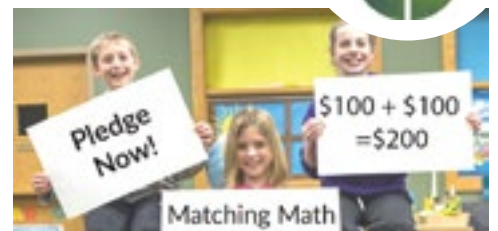
RELOCATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

IN CASE YOU ARE WONDERING...

Q: If before November 30 our family pledges to give \$100/month for the next 3 years (\$3600), does the whole \$3600 get matched or just the \$100 we give before the deadline?

A: The full amount of \$3600 will be matched if you make your pledge before November 30. Only one month is left in our Relocation Campaign Challenge Grant offer!

We want to use every dollar of this generous matching grant. If we can raise \$979,708 more dollars this month, we will receive a like amount to double our money and Reach Our Goal! Watch the banner in the Foyer and the C10 for where we are to this goal.



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

QUESTIONS?

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

EXCITING NEWS!
CHALLENGE GRANT
ALL PLEDGES AND DONATIONS
MADE TO THE RELOCATION
CAMPAIGN UNTIL NOVEMBER 30
ARE NOW **DOUBLED!**



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

Wednesday Night Alive Suppers for November

Dinners run from 5:00-6:20 PM in Memorial Hall. Pre-registration is GREATLY appreciated!

Here is the list of dinners for November:

- November 2: Tortilla Espanol, salad and dessert - Jenna Gallagher
- November 9: Baked potato bar with all the trimmings, salad, dessert - Joan Allen
- November 16: Walking taco - Stacy Ashely & Mike Murphy
- November 30: Egg & cheese strata, fruit salad - FATE Committee

The suggested donation for Wednesday Night Alive Suppers is \$5/person or you may purchase by the month not to exceed \$80/family. THANKS to Christy Palmer for her organization and coordination of this family-based ministry!

Lunch Bunch Circle

This group will meet on November 14 at Noon in the Moderator's Room. We really do have delicious lunches for all you women chow hounds out there! Come and find out! Also, it is a good time to have a chat with old friends as well as new ones. This month Virginia Bigelow will be our hostess, and our own group member and author, Donna Miesbach, will present a program to us. Donna has written a book called "From Grief to Joy, A Journey Back to Life and Living." It is always a gift to hear her message.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Holiday Traditions at Countryside...Two for one!

Advent Workshop is a time-honored, traditional, family-centered event at Countryside where our children create hand-made Christmas ornaments. The Family Activities Committee is pleased to invite you to this year's Ghosts of Christmas Past, a workshop centered around Advent Workshop ornaments from years gone by! The workshop will be held on Sunday, December 4 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Coupled with the workshop, members of E.T.C. committee will be hosting an all-church brunch also being held in Memorial Hall beginning at Noon. The brunch coupled with the workshop offers ALL church members to come together in community, enjoy lunch with friends and family and watching the children as they create treasured ornaments. Who knows....there might even be a surprise visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus themselves! Signups for both events will be available at the Information Station. What a beautiful way to begin your Christmas season!

Lights! Camera! Action!

Join us for some "Reel" fun the second Friday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Chapel beginning in January. "Classics and Conversation" will begin on January 13, 2017, so be watching for upcoming movie titles, reviews and more. Mark your calendars now for an evening of great films, friends and food!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

THE LIST

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

Social Media Help

A person versed in Facebook and social media who would like to post pictures after events, post upcoming events, post to community calendars and develop a list of media. If interested contact Dan at danl@countysideucc.org.

Kitchen Help

Kitchen helpers are needed on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:30 PM and Sunday mornings. Contact Mary Beth.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks to help set up and distribute food at the November and December pantries on Saturday, November 5 and Saturday, December 3. Hours are 8:00-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countysideucc.org.

THANK YOU!

Our special thanks goes out to the members of the group of folks who generously volunteered to set up, serve, and tear down Countryside's first oCCCtoberFEST! These types of special all church events would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our Countryside volunteers! Many heartfelt thanks to all who set up and took down the tables and chairs (huge effort), the folks who decorated the tables, served the food and worked with the children. Also, thank you to those who created a safe and exciting space to meet and share time with new and old friends, our musicians/singers, cake-walkers, and many more whom I'm sure I'm forgetting. You all are examples of what makes Countryside Community Church a unique and remarkable warm and welcoming place to be.

Thanks to the Board of Pastoral Care for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the month of November. Be sure to chat with one of the board members to learn all the areas that this board represents.

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 Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

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

WNA Supper Group

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

Women's Lunch Group

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

FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

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

Men's Breakfast Group

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

Countryside's Angels Bicycling

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

EDUCATION GROUPS

Faith and the Environment (FatE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

LGBTQ 101

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

Adult Education

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

Journey Groups

See 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 Thursday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

Chair Yoga

Tuesday afternoons, September 13 - November 15 from 2-3:00 PM. Suggested donation for attending the class is \$10 per class. Contact Donna Miesbach at 402.330.2747 or at dmiesbach@cox.net

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Church Council

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

Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

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

Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

This board brings strength and stability to Countryside's educational efforts by advising staff and providing both adults and children with educational programs. Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Contact board chair Bill Sellgren at sellgren3@cox.net

Board of Arts and Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM. Contact board chair Brenda Stursma at brennda.stursma@gmail.com

Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

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

Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM. Contact board chair Mike Murphy at mike@nelsonmurphyinvest.com

Board of Trustees

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

Board of Pastoral Care

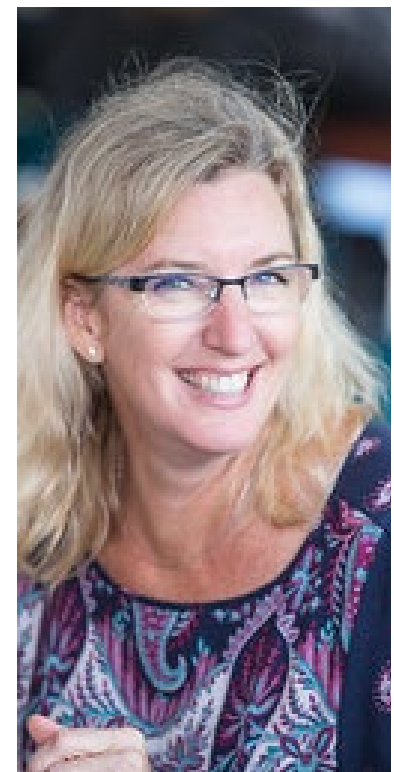
This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support, contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair, Tom Scates at omahascats@cox.net.

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.

Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation (CCCF)

The Foundation is an independent organization created by the Church to support and supplement the programs and facilities at Countryside. This board is composed of 7 church members. They meet quarterly. Contact Foundation chair, Mike Jones at mjones@ellickjones.com.





"I Call You Friends"
 The Power Of Friendship In An Unfriendly Time

Worship Series
 October 23 – November 20

I AM EGO EIMI

Advent Worship Series

Nov. 27 - Dec. 25

Interfaith THANKSGIVING
 Jewish • Muslim • Christian

Sunday
November 20
5:00 p.m.

Hosted by:
 St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
 6116 Dodge St.

Coffee and Sweets Reception
 Following Service

Join us for
Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 26
 9 AM - NOON

Help decorate the church for the holiday season and enjoy lunch together!

Sign up at the Information Station

g m s

Giving

Made

Simple

STEWARDSHIP
 SEE PAGE 2

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
 COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG/GMS