

SEPTEMBER



Tri-Faith Picnic 2016



CIRCLE OF PEACE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Fifteen years ago, following an act of hatred directed at the Muslim mosque in Omaha as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11th, members of Temple Israel surrounded the mosque in an act of friendship and a show of support. Later, these two groups began a conversation about their shared values and commitment to interfaith work, expressing their mutual desire to foster hope for their children and for future generations. Countryside Community Church joined Temple Israel and the American Muslim Institute to create a unique collaboration of faith, the Tri-Faith Initiative.

As a result of this collaboration, Jews, Christians and Muslims are invited to join together to honor those whose lives were lost fifteen years ago and pledge to build bridges of friendship and

extend peace into the world. There will be a service at the amphitheater at Temple Israel located at 132nd and Pacific (southeast corner) from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. It will be a service of prayer and song as all three faith communities come together to create a circle of peace. This is an opportunity to show how past events can be defused into a hopeful future.

Help represent Countryside as circle of people joined by red, white and blue ribbon is created to send messages of interfaith collaboration.

When: Sunday, September 11

Where: Temple Israel amphitheater

What: Service of prayer and the creation of a human circle of peace.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome - Page 2

Pastoral Care - Page 3

Center For Faith Studies - Page 4

Journey Groups- Page 5

Youth Ministries - Page 6

Children's Education - Page 7

Music Ministries - Page 8

Christian Outreach - Page 9

Relocation Update - Page 9

Life Ministries - Page 10

Get Connected - Page 11

WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

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

Program Staff

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

Ministers

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

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

Executive Admin. Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Admin. Asst., ext. 103
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

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

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

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

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

Jerry Gray
Church Clerk
jerryg@countrysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countrysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

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

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

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

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm Countryside welcome. We are a community that places great value on welcoming ALL to an open and affirming community where we celebrate and rest in a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations. We invite you to journey with us as we work together with the guidance of the Spirit, seeking those places where we are called to participate with God toward the fullest expression of who we are created to be. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ we believe the greatest expression of the Body of Christ is found in the local congregation, and each person in our community has a unique conversation with God that serves the whole. Countryside is a place where God is still speaking to us and to our community. Each of us is called to discern that voice and act on that discovery. We welcome you and invite you to participate with us in this calling.

OUR MISSION

We are an inclusive, open and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance. We are diverse, yet united by Christ's example. We care for one another, support one another and challenge one another to become all that God creates us to be. We work together to nurture our community and to promote peace and justice in our conflicted world.

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

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

Nursery - 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, donuts and fellowship.

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

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

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

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

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

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@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS STARTING

Are you interested in the possibility of joining Countryside Church or learning what Countryside may have to offer for you? Then consider joining us for membership classes from 7:00-8:15 PM on Tuesdays, October 11, 18, 25 and November 1. These classes will help you learn more about the church, the church staff, and the many church programs. At the end of the classes, whether you decide to join or not, is totally up to you.

Indicate your interest by signing up at the Information Station on Sunday morning or contact Robyn Hubbard at 402-391-0350 ext. 103 or robynh@countrysideucc.org.

We'd love to have you join the Countryside family!

USHERS AND GREETERS NEEDED

Countryside's greeters and ushers bring the words "All are welcome here" to life as visitors and members alike enter our doors for Sunday morning services. We have openings for additional greeters and ushers and we invite you to learn more about these opportunities. Plan to attend an informational meeting for greeters in Memorial Hall at 10:15 AM on Sunday, Sept 18, and/or an informational meeting for ushers in the Chapel at 10:15 AM on Sunday, Sept 25.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Aging at Home” Workshop: Saturday, September 24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, in the Chapel

A panel of experts will present us with available options so that we may remain in our own homes as we age.

Renee Siems, who works in this field, said, “Aging at home, whether that be your residence or in an assisted living facility, is quite possible these days with the appropriate resources and providers in place. It is still almost everyone’s dream to live out our remaining years where we have a shared history, where we have created our memories and feel a sense of belonging.” Plan now to attend. You will receive a great deal of valuable, practical information. Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Board.

STEPHEN MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Stephen Ministry Leadership Team will meet in Jan’s office at 5:30 PM on Tues., Sept. 13.
- Immediately after from, 6-7:45 PM, our Stephen Ministry Peer Support will resume its monthly meetings. Please plan to attend!

IN MEMORY

Don Holt passed away August 5, and his funeral was at Countryside on August 11 with Rev. Chris Alexander officiating. A meal followed in Memorial Hall. Don’s wife, Pat, and Pat’s brother, Jim Gilbert, are Countryside members.

Countryside member Rita Murphy died August 4, and her funeral was August 7 with Rev. Chris Alexander officiating. A meal followed in the Commons. Countryside members who are Rita’s survivors are her son Mike and his wife Stacy, as well as their children Charlotte and Jay.

Sharon Kellstrom passed away August 21, 2016, and is survived by husband Bill Kellstrom; mother, Marion Foster; sister, Rae Lyons; children, Eric Kellstrom (Cara) and Danielle Pedderson (Jim); grandchildren: Clair, Louisa, and Greta Kellstrom, and Annabelle and Charlie Pedderson. The funeral was Thursday, August 25, at Countryside, officiated by Rev. Chris Alexander. Lord, we thank you for Shari’s life – her vibrant spirit, her warrior heart, and her loving family and friends. Abide with all who grieve Shari’s death and help us to know that you welcome her home.

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
Cherub Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114
Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117
Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

Programs

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

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!

BOCO SERVICE QUEST 2017

Come hear various community outreach partners talk about their ministries.

- September 7 – Heartland Family Service
- September 14 – Ronald McDonald House and Partnership for Kids
- September 21 – Youth Emergency Services
- September 28 – InCommon
- October 5 – Asian Rural Institute
- October 12 – Gravity, a Center for Contemplative Activism



FALL FAITH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

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

Thursday, September 15 at 7PM- Precious Davis, Performance Artist and Diversity Educator, Who Do You Say That I Am?



Precious Davis

A graduate of Omaha Burke High School, Precious Davis is an award winning diversity professional, social justice facilitator, and performance artist. Davis finds deep meaning in engaging individuals in conversations surrounding bias, bigotry, and prejudice in their communities on the basis and belief that humans can coexist with one another positively through the embracing of each other's differences and the celebrating of human diversity. Precious recently was awarded the prestigious "30 under 30" award from The Windy City Times and was

invited to "Black LGBTQ Emerging Leader Day" at The White House. She is the first transgender bride to be featured on Say Yes to the Dress.

Precious is known for her dynamic story and remarkable presence... a young woman whose journey to unite her body and soul came through pivotal moments of pain, beauty, and transition.

Thursday, October 6 at 7 PM- Phyllis & Orlando Rodriguez, In Our Son's Name: 15 Years After 9/11

Phyllis and Orlando Rodríguez lost their son, Greg, in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Their journey afterward is featured in a documentary airing on PBS in September as America marks the 15 year anniversary. Faced with grief, anger and questions of where God was, the bereaved parents choose reconciliation and nonviolence over vengeance on a transformative journey that both confirms and challenges their convictions. Eventually the path led them to publicly oppose the death penalty of avowed 9/11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and also to befriend his mother. The film also features Talat Hamdani, whose heroic son, Mohammad Salman, perished rescuing others yet he was wrongly deemed a suspect due to his Muslim faith. The couple speaks out against anti-Muslim actions and have found peace in working with prison inmates. Along the way, they have found better understanding of each other and their son.



Orlando and Phyllis Rodriguez

All events are \$10. Tickets are available at EventBrite.com (search Center for Faith Studies) at the door, or between Sunday services on September 4 and September 11.

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: *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, Bring your lunch. Currently studying Amy Jill-Levin's *Great Courses on The Old Testament*.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Resumes on September 7. 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

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.

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

CFS VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Volunteers are helpful in a variety of areas this coming Fall season.

- Be a part of the CFS planning committee.
- CFS event support: 1-2 refreshment volunteers to set up the cookies, coffee and water on CFS nights.
- 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 contacts.
- A volunteer to deliver and post flyers to area libraries, coffee houses, bookstores, etc.

Should any of these positions intrigue you, please contact either Kelly Keller at kellyk@countrysideucc.org or Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org. Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Sermon Series

"EAARTH"

Coming to a Galaxy near you!
September 11-October 16

In this series, we will explore the main stages of grief over the death of a loved one – in our case, the death of Eaarth. Those stages are Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance. The story of Eaarth will highlight each of these stages.

New Group Forming on The Phoenix Affirmations

All are welcome (especially visitors and new members) to a Small Group Conversation on The Phoenix Affirmations.

Tuesdays, from August 23 - October 4, 6:30 PM in the Commons. David Leslie will be facilitating. Please contact Chris Alexander with any questions: chrisa@countysideucc.org.

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: Countryside8787.

Religion and Sustainability Class

October 2-November 20

Participants in the Religion and Sustainability class will gain a general, high school level, scientific understanding of the three global ecosystems: land, water, and atmosphere. We will also explore how our human-made resources – energy, materials, transportation, and waste – are acquired, produced, used and deposited as well as their effect on the three global ecosystems. We will also study passages from the main texts of all three Abrahamic faiths and learn how each faith views sustainability and the environment while pondering faith's call to sustainability and how well we as individuals and as a faith community are answering that call.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Rev. Chris Alexander.

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

Email: chrisa@countysideucc.org




Parenting with Love and Logic

Wednesday evenings
Sept. 14 - Oct. 26
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Register at the Information Station or contact Mary Beth marybethl@countysideucc.org

see page 10 for details



EXPLORATION DANCE GROUP
(adults only...for now)

Starts Aug. 31

Wednesday nights
8:00 PM in the gym
Jessica Johnson will be teaching.

for more information contact Amy Luckenbill: amyf@countysideucc.org

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Conversations with the Soul.



September 15, 2016

Precious Davis

Performance Artist and Diversity Educator

Who Do You Say That I Am?



October 6, 2016

Phyllis & Orlando Rodriguez

In Our Son's Name: 15 Years After 9/11

All Events are \$10. Tickets can be purchased at EventBrite.com (search for Center for Faith Studies)

Center for Faith Studies Fall 2016 Lectures

see page 4 for 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 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.

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

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COYO Sr High Starts on Sunday, September 4

Come have dinner at 6:00PM, then meet for youth group throughout the school year. COYO Sr. High then starts at 6:30 PM. All high schoolers are welcome. Friendship, faith, service and fun. Get and stay connected this year.

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. Sign up on a at www.countrysideucc.org/coyo.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for Confirmation

Confirmation starts on August 31. The first meeting is for students and parents on Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall. Every 7th & 8th grader is welcome to attend confirmation. It is a study of the Phoenix Affirmations and the life of the church. Sign up on our website www.countrysideucc.org/confirmation.

COYO Jr High starts on Sunday, September 4

Come meet for youth group throughout the school year. All 7th & 8th graders are welcome. Friendship, faith, service and fun. We start at 4:30 PM and you are encouraged to stay for COYO dinner at 6:00PM. Get connected this year.

THANK YOU!



Setting up for the garage sale

A BIG COYO thank you to everyone who helped donate, organize, price, sell, move, set-up, break-down and everything in between for our annual garage sale! We raised almost \$12,000 and could not have done it without everyone's help!

Remember! Next year the garage sale moves to the first weekend in June!



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

September 4 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

September 11 - Sunday School

Noah's Ark/The Great Flood: A story about listening for God amidst chaos.

September 18 - Children's Church

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

September 25- Children's Church

Abraham and Sarah: Following God's call when surrounded by doubt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Countryside Children's Ministries need volunteers for a range of different activities. Now I know, I know...it's not your "sweet spot" and "you've done your time" but as a member of this congregation, your time is never "done" as long as we meet as a faith family. Our students need to hear your experiences and your interpretations of our faith stories. They need many voices, many opinions, and many perspectives. They can use your wisdom, your search for greater meaning—even when you don't have the answers. Especially then! Come, join us in creating a space of spiritual connectedness, seeking love and understanding. Please see Rebecca for more information.

August 31 marked the beginning of our WNA Children's Groups! Our Holy Moly groups meet on the lower level in classrooms. All Kindergarten through 4th grade students are welcome to attend!

Core 56, our 5th and 6th grade group, meets in the Moderator's Room on the lower level. All students in 5th and 6th grade are welcome to attend and will receive a Connect bible that we will use all year for our scripture stories and discussions. Please be sure to remind your students to bring their Connect bible each week!

Our Nursery Ministry is a volunteer-based ministry that is sorely in need of reliable Countryside members to help. 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. Our nursery shifts run from 8:30 AM until 10:30 AM and 10:30 AM until 12:15 PM. Our Center for Faith Studies shifts are typically 6:45 PM until 8:30 PM.

The Wednesday night shift runs from 6:20 PM until 8:00 PM. Yes, there are dirty diapers. Yes, there are children having a good time playing with toys and asking you a million questions. And yes, these small, curious, sometimes stinky Countryside members require attention, patience and understanding. (Psst...so do the adults in our congregation.) But each moment you spend with these little ones is an investment in the future of this church and the world. Plus, some of these little ones will change your diapers in 20 years! If you are willing to participate in this super important ministry, please contact Rebecca. She will hook you up with the proper forms (yes, you need to complete a background check) and get you all set up with some training and reassurance to get you on your way.



QUESTIONS?

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109
Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

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' 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 5 years-old through 6th grade.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board of Arts and Music Mission Statement

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

In August, we made a LIST call for all members of our faith community to lend their creative skills to the BAM and the Worship Planning team, for the purpose of supporting dynamic worship and community activities at the church. In that same service, Dan Loven-Crum led us in meditation, focusing our thoughts and energies on a piece of chocolate. Dan demonstrated how we can expand our concept of worship through our unique creative talents! How can you support the congregation's participation in imaginative and inventive worship activities?

Worship Planning Team

A new worship planning process is being implemented at Countryside this fall, following Marcia McFee's visit last spring. Using her text, Think Like a Filmmaker, five creative groups have formed to build worship experiences that enhance the BAM Mission Statement listed above. There are a number of ways that you can contribute to the Worship Planning Team groups: Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, Verbal Arts, Music Arts, and Media Arts. You do not need to be an expert in order to have a contributing voice; you only need to have a spirit to lend a hand. Contact Robyn Hubbard for more information about the production schedule and meeting times.

Faith Singers Leadership

Tyler Gruttemeyer will be staying on staff as the Co-Director of Faith Singers, with Amy Luckenbill, this fall. They are both very excited to work with the amazing youth of Countryside. Welcome back, Tyler!



Chancel Choir, May 2016



Pilgrim Choir, March 2016

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.

Note: Choir rehearsals resume this month with adjusted meeting times listed below.

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 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.

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.

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.

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



THE BOX FOR SEPTEMBER

Warm winter gear for the Lutheran Family Services refugees. Please bring in new or gently used winter socks, gloves/mittens, hats, and coats.

BOCO SERVICE QUEST 2017

Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) invites you to attend 'Service Quest 2017' *In the Commons* on Wednesday evenings beginning Wednesday, September 7, 6:30-7:45 PM. Sarah Miller, Chair of BOCO and her committee members have put together the following schedule of various organizations in the Omaha area that speak specifically to the "mission heart" of Countryside. Representatives from these agencies will be facilitating open discussion regarding their mission, volunteer opportunities and activities in our community. We look forward to seeing you! If you have questions, contact Sarah at swaetzigmiller14@hotmail.com or Mary Beth Link.

- September 7 – Heartland Family Service
- September 14 – Ronald McDonald House and Partnership for Kids
- September 21 – Youth Emergency Services
- September 28 – InCommon
- October 5 – Asian Rural Institute
- October 12 – Gravity, a Center for Contemplative Activism

QUESTIONS?

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

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

The Box

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

Community Cupboard

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

Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

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

Small Service Grants (SSG)

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

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Countryside Relocation Committee Update

The following is a tentative timeline for the continuing design and construction of our new church and the timeline for the Relocation Campaign. We will continue to update this schedule as circumstances require. .

Countryside Relocation Timeline :

- as of 8/23/16 -

SEPTEMBER

Ramp up to the Design Development Phase with architects and Building Committee Chairs

Building Sub-Committees meet to balance priorities for the new church building

Establish Security Committee

"Close the Gap" Relocation Campaign continues

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Design Development Phase with architects and Building Committee chairs

Relocation Campaign to be completed by November 30

DECEMBER

Design Development Phase concludes

Begin "Soft-Bid" interview process with General Contractors

JANUARY

Construction Documents Phase begin

FEBRUARY

Construction Documents continue with input from the CRC and Committees

MARCH/APRIL

Construction Documents continue with input from the CRC and Committees

Drawing and Specifications become available for final bids

APRIL/MAY

Break Ground

Permitting and site preparation

JUNE

Construction begins



PLEDGE NOW

www.countrysideucc.org/pledge

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

QUESTIONS?

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



LIFE MINISTRIES



Mary Beth Link
Director of 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 September

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

Here is the list of dinners that will begin on Wednesday, August 31, 5:00 PM in Memorial Hall:

- August 31: Burgers, corn on the cob, watermelon, and salad (FATE committee)
- September 7: Taco Night (Ryan and Christy Palmer)
- September 14: Matzo Ball Soup and Charoset: a traditional Jewish spread made from apples, walnuts & honey (Jessica and Johann Johnson)
- September 21: Lasagna, garlic bread and salad (Darren Muhammad)
- September 28: Alphabet soup, lentil soup, cheesy toast and salad (Bonnie & Mark Welsch)

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!

Chair Yoga

Classes this fall are on Tuesday afternoons, September 13-November 15 in the Foyer from 2-3:00 PM. Cost for the classes is \$10/class. For additional information contact Donna Miesbach at 402-330-2747 or at dmiesbach@cox.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Parenting with Love and Logic will meet Wednesday evenings September 14-October 26, 6:00-7:30 PM. This class provides practical tools and techniques to help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. It will be taught by Mary Johnston, a trained and certified Love and Logic facilitator. Registrations are available at the Information Station or by contacting Mary Beth. A suggested donation of \$60/person or \$80/couple will cover the cost of supplies needed for the class.

Plant One More is ready to receive your fresh produce! Eva Houston and mom, Vicki, were THRILLED with the amount of produce that you all brought to share with YES and Together! You all did an amazing job by "planting just one more" plant in your gardens this year! For more information, go to www.PlantOneMore.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle resumes on Monday, September 12 at Noon in Memorial Hall for lunch. Sheila Hargreaves, Countryside's librarian, will present a program directly following lunch. RSVP to Marilyn Vincent.

Nominating Committee members will begin meeting on Monday, September 19, 6:00 PM in the Conference Room. For additional information, contact France Blanchard (fblanchardh@gmail.com) or Pam Kregg (pamgg@cox.net).

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.

THANK YOU!

Kudos to the very committed and organized band of volunteers, the Tri-Faith Picnic Committee, who helped to create an outstanding Tri-Faith Picnic this year! This event takes a minimum of 70 volunteers, with a wide variety of skills and talents to accomplish the seamless event that we all enjoyed. I want to personally thank the committee for their 15 hours of "prep work" prior to the picnic and then to all those volunteers (and committee members) who gave an additional 8-9 hours the day of the event. You all represented Countryside's hospitality and inclusivity at its best! Thank you! -Mary Beth

Thanks to the Board of Arts and Music for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the month of September. Be sure to chat with one of the board members to learn all the exciting things that the Board of Arts and Music represent.

Dish Disciples

Wednesday Night suppers are back again and that means dirty dishes! We are seeking volunteers to help with Wednesday supper clean up from 5:30-6:30 PM. If interested contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org

Countryside's Nominating Committee

We will be filling the openings on the eight leadership boards within the church structure. If you would like information on any of our leadership boards, responsibilities of board membership and/or the process by which these boards are filled, contact either France Blanchard or Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350.

Volunteer Receptionists

We are currently seeking five individuals who would help out in the front office receptionist's desk during the week. You can pick your time frame; hours are 8:30-11:30 PM or 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Monday through Friday. Duties would include answering the phones and other light office work. Feel free to bring a book or surf the web during that time, should it get a little slow. For more information, contact either Dan Loven-Crum or Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350.

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed for the Pantry on Sept. 3. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. If interested contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countysideucc.org or Andi Lawlor at communitycupboard@countysideucc.org

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 beginning in August. 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 1st Monday 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. **Change in program: September will be held the 3rd Saturday.** Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Church Council

Between congregational meetings, the Church Council acts upon all issues facing the Church. They establish the overall policy of the Church and work with the staff on the general direction of the activities of the Church: Meets the 3rd Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Jennifer Hamann, Moderator, at 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 swaetz14@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 brenda.stursma@gmail.com

Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

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

Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first 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.

Nominating Committee

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





See page 5 for details


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

The
Phoenix
Affirmations

Phoenix Affirmation Classes
August 23 - October 4
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
in the Commons

Sign up at the
Information Station
between services.

Questions?
chrisa@countrysideucc.org



*Religion &
Sustainability*

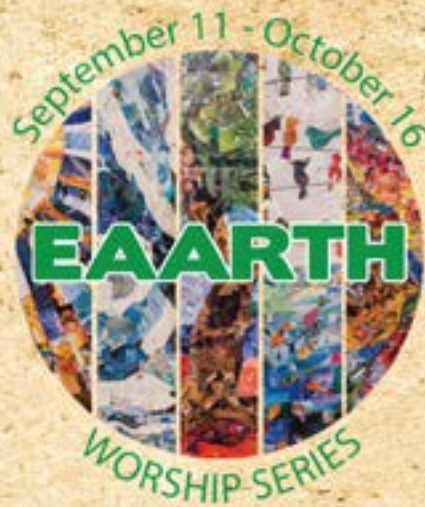
Learn how each of the three
Abrahamic faiths view
sustainability and the environment.
We will ponder faith's call to
sustainability and how we, as
individuals, and as a faith
community are answering that call.

October 2 - November 20
Sundays, 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Moderator's Room

see page 5 for details

**JOURNEY GROUPS
FORMING**

September 11 - October 16



EAARTH
WORSHIP SERIES

Through the story of Earth,
we will explore the main stages
of grief over the death of a loved one.
In our case, the death of Earth.

**Sign up at the
Information station.**

see page 5 for details