

FEBRUARY



COUNTRYSIDE'S FUTURE



RESTORE THE SHORE

This summer, COYO Sr High will be travelling to the Jersey Shore to do repair and rebuild on homes that were damaged during Hurricane Sandy four years ago. Students will work alongside AmeriCorps members and learn about building a house. Students will be working with the St. Bernard Project which has existed since Hurricane Katrina and has helped thousands of families rebuild. Federal assistance has run out in New Jersey and there are still many families displaced. Your help is needed to Restore the Shore.

This year, you can donate to pay for household items and building materials. This replaces the COYO stock sale this year. You can write a check to Countryside Community Church, donate on gofundme (<https://www.gofundme.com/ccrestoretheshore>), or use Countryside's online giving platform (<http://countrysideucc.org/gms>).



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@countysideucc.org
Website - www.countysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/

Program Staff

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

Ministers

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

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

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

Business Office

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

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

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

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100
krish@countysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 125
debbiev@countysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countysideucc.org

Brian Palmer
Building/Property Coordinator
brianp@countysideucc.org

Audio/Visual

Ben Semisch
Videographer
bens@countysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

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

WELCOME

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

OUR MISSION

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

I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE

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

Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services 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 Journey - The Box, Basket and Journey 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 Journey is the way we share lives together through Journey Groups.

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@countysideucc.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, February 21, 28, March 7 and 14. 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. New member Sunday is March 26 at 11 AM.

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

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Ministers: February 7 at 5:30 PM in Jan's office is Leadership Team; Feb. 7 at 6pm is Peer Support in the Chapel.

Pastoral Care Board: February 21 at 5:30 is our quarterly meeting in Jan's office.

JOYS

We celebrate that Peter Allan Steiner was born on Dec. 17 to Jake and Sarah Steiner.

We're grateful that the UNO Swim Team and Coach Todd Samland were able to return home safely after the Ft. Lauderdale Airport shooting.

CONCERNS

We continue in prayer for Mary Mitchell, Isaac Barchus, Scott Carroll and Jeanne Peters Huelskamp's husband Ray.

IN MEMORY

Dan Tweeton, brother of Nancy May and Jan Silverberg, died at the end of December.

Marylenn (Andy) Smith's brother, Howard, passed away in California. The funeral will be held there in early February.

Greg Kucinsky's Countryside funeral was held at Heafey Mortuary on 121st and Center on January 7, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating. A lunch was held afterwards.

Adrian (Julie) Hernandez's father, Tony, died on January 16, and his funeral was held in North Platte, NE.

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!

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

February 1: Tyler Manquist on Divestment

February 8: Music by Ingrid and Connor

February 15: Music by Dave Goldner

February 22: Nebraska Applesseed with Rachel Gehringer-Wiar



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

Racial Justice Book Group – Meets Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Come anytime, but let us know so we can inform you of cancellations due to weather or other conflicts. In February the group will be watching videos exploring racial justice in America.

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. Currently studying *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds*.

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 Pilgrim Room. Currently studying *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds*. Will not meet on February 5th due to the Annual Meeting. In March, the group will start a new study, *Native Peoples of North America*.

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

SPRING CFS EVENTS

March 24-25 - Lisa Sharon Harper, author & Sojourners staffer

Friday, March 24 at 7 PM The Very Good Gospel Lecture and Book Signing Saturday, March 25 8:30-3 PM Workshops led by Ms Harper

The Very Good Gospel lays the foundations for the biblical concept of shalom in Genesis 1 to 3 and unpacks its implications on the good news of the gospel.

Sojourners' Faith in Action mobilizing training draws from deep wells of wisdom offered by biblical and historic heroes of the faith. Participants will gain the basic tools and insights needed to analyze their community, strategize, build collaborative networks, and take action, all in a way that draws from the roots of biblical faith.

Institute for Holocaust Education's Week of Understanding

Tuesday, March 29 at 7 PM - Survivor Speaker: Marion Lazan Blumenthal. Subject of Marion's Triumph, and Four Perfect Pebbles as featured on PBS.

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



Lisa Sharon Harper



Marion Lazan Blumenthal

Sacred Prism: Tri-Faith Prayer Retreat- March 31 and April 1

Deepening your own sense of the sacred while discovering beauty in the spiritual practices of all three Abrahamic Traditions. Imam Bashar Arafat, Rabbi Shefa Gould, and Father Masud Syedullah will lead us through a weekend interfaith prayer retreat exploring the sacred texts, music, chants, and prayers in all three traditions that mark the beauty, mystery, and transforming power of God. \$35 ticket includes lunch on Saturday.

Circles Class with Scott Littky, Program Director of Temple Israel

Circles Class with Scott Littky, Program Director of Temple Israel- Sundays March 5, 12 and 19 at 5 PM in the Moderator's Room.

Resistance by Jews during the years of 1933 to 1945 during the Nazi persecution is very complicated. Using material prepared by Yad Vashem, Israel's premier Holocaust education center and museum. We will spend three weeks studying the role of Jewish religious celebration and practice mainly in the Ghettos and how it served as a form of Spiritual Resistance.

Free to attend. RSVP to kellyk@countrysideucc.org or sign up at Information Station

SAVE THE DATES - Rabbi Aryeh Azriel - Judaic Tradition

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will be teaching another class on the Judaic Tradition during lent. It will be in Memorial Hall on Monday mornings from 10:00-11:30. The schedule is as follows:

March 6: Prayer and Religious Intimacy

March 13: Theology and the Human Condition

March 20: Chosenness – Between Otherness and Exceptionalism

March 27: What is an American Jew?

April 3: Forms of Jewish Identity: Biology, Covenant, Memory

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series-Reclaiming Eden

We invite our Journey Groups to follow along with our new master worship series, Reclaiming Eden. The first worship segment within this series is Imago Dei and it begins January 8 and takes us through February 19.

You can't understand much about Jesus or the Church that bears his name unless you understand Genesis and Exodus – the foundational books of the Jewish and early Christian communities. In this series, we'll explore key stories in Genesis, then move to key stories from Exodus which have affected Christianity strongly since the beginning and still do today. We begin by turning to Genesis 3 and the story of "the fall of Adam and Eve," which is the basis for the Christian doctrine of Original Sin (a doctrine not shared by Jews or Muslims, by the way, even though they consider the same story to be foundational). Join us as we study each of the seven deadly sins and the seven lively virtues that balance them.

If you do not presently participate in a journey group and would like to learn more about them, please contact Rev. 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.

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

2017
BOARD TRAINING

Saturday, February 11
9AM to Noon
Memorial Hall

register at the Information Station or
email marybethl@countrysideucc.org

light snacks will be served

Taste of Tri-Faith

Members of our three faith communities are invited to share an afternoon of brunch, desserts and stories. Please bring a brunch item or dessert that strikes an important chord in your family's celebration of important holidays. The foods don't need a religious connotation, just an association with family tradition and a few words about the significance of that tradition. Our goal is conversation and new friendships forged over food at the tables! (No pork, shellfish or gelatin products please.)

Children welcome!

Please RSVP at Information Station or marybethl@countrysideucc.org

When: Sunday, February 19 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Where: Memorial Hall Countryside Church 8787 Pacific Street



 **Countryside**
Community Church

Annual MEETING

Sunday, February 5 | 12 Noon

Annual Meeting with chili lunch to follow the
10 AM Youth Sunday Service

HELLO

New Members Class

Are you new to Countryside and want to learn more about the church, staff and programs? Join us in our New Members Class!

Tuesdays: February 21, 28, March 7 and 14

7 - 8:15 p.m.

Contact Robyn Hubbard at: robynh@countrysideucc.org to register or sign up at the Information Station.

see page 2 for details



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jersey Shore Mission Trip 2017, June 10 - 18, 2017

Work with St Bernard Project (sbpusa.org) to rebuild homes on the Jersey Shore that were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. You will be painting, hanging drywall, cleaning, roofing, siding, and other jobs alongside AmeriCorps members. You will stay at Camp Evans in Township, NJ, and work in nearby communities. Cost will be \$500 before fund-raising. Sign up by February 5 with a \$100 deposit.

Faith Singers Tour 2017 - July 8 - 18, 2017

The tour will head South this year to Lawrence, KS, then on to Galveston, TX, where you will board the Carnival Cruise on Valor sailing to Progreso and Cozumel for four days. Returning, you will stop in Dallas, TX, Oklahoma City, OK, and Kansas City, OK. Cost is \$1200 before fund-raising. It's a big trip year that is done every four years. Please sign up by February 5 with a \$100 deposit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Sunday, Sunday, February 5 at 10:00AM

There are plenty of roles that you can fill. Let Will or Amy know what you want to do in the service. Roles include readers, prayers, greeters, ushers, videos, work on props, announcements, examen, box basket list, and blessing. This is also the kickoff day of the fund-raiser for rebuilding the Jersey Shore. You can help spread the word around church to help rebuild a house. Mission Trip sign up and Faith Singers Tour \$100 deposits due.

13th the Movie - Sunday, February 12 at 5:00PM

Rides will be available at Countryside at 4:45 to First United Methodist Church. Free catered dinner and open to the public. Viewing of the eye-opening documentary of the darker legacy of the 13th amendment - how did emancipation become slavery by another name? Faith Singers will also be singing a song with the youth choir from FUMC.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Jr High Papio Fun Park-Friday, February 17, 7:00-9:00PM

Unlimited fun at Papio Fun Park. Laser Runner, Spaceball, Jumpshot, Air Hockey, Pool, video games are all free for the event. Cost for you is free, but bring money if you want to buy drinks or food.

Urban Plunge Omaha-March 3-5, 5:00PM - 12:00PM

Meet at church at 5:00PM on Friday to do various service projects around the city. Ends at 12:00PM on Sunday. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow and work clothes and work gloves. Cost is \$20, basically for food during the weekend. This counts as a full year of outreach for Confirmation.



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 White Elephant



Carnival Cruise Ship Valor



COYO Gift Exchange



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

February 5- Family Worship/YOUTH Sunday 10 AM Only

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

February 12 Sunday School

Beatitudes: Jesus connected to the people around him and understood their hardships and pain. In his Sermon on the Mount, he both assured them of God's presence and invited them to live more fully their relationship to God.

February 19- Children's Church

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

February 26- Sunday School

Touching the Hem: A woman who had been ill for twelve long and isolated years risked breaking social convention to touch Jesus; upon touching the hem of his cloak, she was healed. Jesus declares, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Activities

Our **Holy Moly** classes will continue studying New Testament stories.

The **Core 56** group will begin discussing Lent through scripture readings and a visit from Associate Pastor Chris Alexander. She will lead a discussion about Communion.

Tri-Faith Kids

Tri-Faith Kids is a family centered group that invites community members to gather once a month engaging in storytelling, current conversations and community service as we share rituals, practices and traditions of the three Abrahamic faiths on the 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30-7:30 PM primarily at Countryside Church. Our goal is to bring peace to the world (starting with our own community) through knowledge and friendship. Contact Anji Stanek for information at anjistanek1@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars! 2017 Vacation Bible School will be held July 10-14. More details to come.

NURSERY

OPEN POSITION - Nursery Worker

Countryside is looking for a part-time Nursery Worker to provide childcare for children ages infant to 2 years old during Sunday Worship schedule as well as Wednesday Night Activities (Sundays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 6-8 p.m.). If interested in applying, please contact Rebecca Morello at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 109.

Nursery Update

Parents—we will no longer offer diaper changing while your little one is in the Nursery. Please be sure to leave your cell number when you sign in so that we can contact you for diaper duty! 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

Countryside's Faith Singers enjoys a long tradition of touring around the United States on a performance mission trips. Strengthening our relationships with each other while travelling, building memories to last a lifetime, and sharing the love of God to those we meet along the way have always been, and will continue to be, the focus of our trips. This year, we are adding a great big ship and a whole lot of water to that amazing mix. We are headed south to the gulf! See our preliminary itinerary below and keep your eyes and ears open in the coming weeks to learn how you can support these awesome kids!

Faith Singers Tour - Preliminary Itinerary

- July 8 Omaha, NE to Kansas City Metro
Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, Kansas City, KS
(www.dialoguekc.org)
- July 9 Sunday Services at Plymouth Congregational Church - UCC,
Lawrence, KS (www.plymouthlawrence.org)
Lawrence, KS to Galveston, TX
- July 10 Carnival Cruise on Cruise Ship Valor
- July 11 Day at Sea (rehearsals)
- July 12 Progreso, Mexico (Port Concert)
- July 13 Cozumel, Mexico (Port Concert)
- July 14 Day at Sea (Worship Service onboard)
- July 15 Galveston, TX to Katy, TX
- July 16 Sunday Services at New Hope Presbyterian Church
(www.newhopepckaty.org)
Katy, TX to Oklahoma City, OK
- July 17 American Choral Directors Association (www.acda.org)
Oklahoma City, OK to Kansas City Metro
Micah Ministries - First Christian Church, Blue Springs, MO
(www.fccbsmo.org/micah.html)
Overland Park Christian Church - Overland Park, KS
- July 18 Kansas City, MO to Omaha, NE
Homecoming Concert - Countryside Community Church!



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 FEBRUARY

We are collecting toilet paper and diapers of all sizes! When you are stocking up for yourself sometime this month, please consider buying extra to help Countryside accumulate these items during February. We will deliver them to Heartland Family Service, an organization that strengthens individuals and families in our community through education, counseling, and support services: heartlandfamilyservice.org. Please send questions or ideas for the 2017 BOX to christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING: TOGETHER

Countryside members and guests collected a total of \$14,080.52 for Together, Inc. in our 2016 Special Christmas offering. These funds specifically help prevent Veteran homelessness in Omaha. Please visit togetheromaha.org to learn about this homeless prevention organization, and Countryside's role in its origin story. Thank you so much to all of the people who have kept that mission going for over 40 years. Special, heartfelt gratitude goes out to all who were able to contribute financially to make this holiday blessing so generous!

SYRIAN FAMILY UPDATE-AL GHATES FAMILY

The family and care team of Khalied al Ghates and Kholud Kadah are proud to report their son made the honor role at his middle school for the first semester. This honor is symbolic of all of the successes the four school age children have achieved since enrolling in Omaha Public Schools. They are acclimating well and loving their involvement in school. The two high school students are in an extraordinary ELL program where they have access to two Arabic speaking teachers. Their elementary aged son is enjoying school and is receiving significant support from a caring classroom staff.

The care team reports their experience with the al Ghates family has been very positive, with challenges in providing transportation and medical care among the greatest concerns. Khalied is still seeking employment and would like to work as a driver. He attends ESL classes faithfully. Kholud is an excellent cook and all of us have enjoyed meals with the family. She is at home with the two little girls.

See page 10 for an update on the Al Shanior family.

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 UPDATE



RELOCATION CAMPAIGN FEBRUARY UPDATE

The Countryside Relocation Committee (CRC) as well as its various sub-committees have been very busy making decisions regarding our new church building.

PETERSON COVER has been chosen as the preferred building enclosure product (exterior) to complement the metal panels at the sanctuary and wood accents at the canopy. This "cover" material is made from fired clay similar to brick or terra cotta but is "hung" on the building in an overlapping shingle-like installation versus staking using mortar and ties as is the case with traditional bricks. This method provides unique architectural impact and a near maintenance free building enclosure.

AIRFLOOR is an innovative alternative HVAC system installation that eliminates ductwork and drop ceilings. It provides radiant and forced-air heating/cooling through a network of steel forms and registers embedded in the concrete floor. It has been decided to

install the AIRFLOOR system in the sanctuary space to improve comfort, reduce air noise, and improve energy efficiency. Worshippers will benefit from the evenly conditioned environment, also enjoying warm floors in winter and cool ones in the summer. This system was installed at Temple Israel with good results.

The HGA/APM Design team will continue with the design development documents which will vet out the various details including ceiling/floor/wall finishes, cabinet detailing, mechanical and electrical system design, and other unique building features. It is anticipated that this phase of design will be completed in February and costs will be reviewed and validated again at that time.

More decisions will be made in the upcoming months and, as always, we will keep the congregation updated through the C-10 and monthly newsletters.

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



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@countrysideucc.org

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Wednesday Night Alive Suppers for February

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

Here is the list of dinners for January.

- Feb. 1: Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Tossed Salad - Ann Naylor
- Feb. 8: Baked Potato Bar & Lithuanian Torte - Christy Palmer
- Feb. 15: Chicken Alfredo & Pasta with Marinara - Mangia Italiano
- Feb. 22: Macaroni & Cheese with Green Beans & Fruit - 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 will meet on Monday, February 12, Noon at JACK AND MARY'S Restaurant, Miracle Hills Square, 655 N 114th St. At the January meeting, they drew names for a "secret" Valentine card exchange. If you were not present and need to draw a name, please call Marilyn Vincent at 402- 397-0679. For questions contact Marilyn at darrellvincent@cox.net.

The Cinema Group returns! If you enjoy viewing the current films, doing so with old friends as well as new and going out for coffee and discussion after, then this group is for you. Contact Molly Anderson at mollyandersonret@gmail.com for additional information.

Classics and Conversation will be starting on Friday, February 10, at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. We will begin with a classic tribute to the meaning of community; Billy Wilder's It's a Wonderful Life starring Jimmy Stewart. We will be viewing other classical movies with significant themes that can be part of our discussion of how God calls us to be in the world today. If you have suggestions, requests or questions contact Ed Huddell at 4012-401-8401 or leave a message at the church office.

SYRIAN FAMILY UPDATE-AL SHANOIR FAMILY

The Al Shanior family has been in Omaha for six months. The family includes parents Shaher and Sahar and four daughters. Learning the English language has been their most amazing accomplishment. Several members of the CCC team can communicate with the family with English very well and conversations with the family are very common these days. The family is in pretty good health but all are undergoing extensive dental work.

The two older girls are enjoying school. Omaha Public Schools has the tools and skills necessary to accommodate the many refugees in the OPS system.

The family just experienced a setback as Shaher lost his job. The language barrier might have been a bigger challenge than we originally thought, so he will go to ESL classes with Sahar until he finds another job. The CCC team along with the Employment First agency (part of Lutheran Family Services) is prioritizing finding him a new full-time job that provides benefits. He was a mechanic in Syria.

Each visit with the family is met with their sincere gratitude for our sponsorship and a forceful dose of their generous and genuine hospitality.

See page 9 for an update on Al Ghates family.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

Help needed to set up and distribute food at the February 4 food pantry. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

Thank You

Thanks to the Board of Life Ministry for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings during the month of February. Be sure to chat with one of the board members to learn all the areas that this board represents.

Volunteer Spotlight

In February, we are shining the spotlight on the Wednesday Night Alive Supper Teams! Under the strong leadership of Christy Palmer, our Wednesday Night Alive suppers have provided not only nourishing and delicious food, but an outlet for strong, heart-felt and warm multi-generational fellowship. Supporting members of the team, without whom things wouldn't run as smoothly are Betsy Lay who greets and checks folks in each week, and the AMAZING dish washing team made up of Amy Kampfe, Ann Naylor, Jim Gilbert and many others. Share your thanks and appreciation to these folks for making possible a ministry based on feeding our souls and our tummies!

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 msturmsma@yahoo.com.

Mahjong

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

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.

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 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 Tuesday of the month at 7:00 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 tkerrigan@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.





Countryside

Community Church

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

402-391-0350 | COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG

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



IMAGO DEI

January 8 - February 19

More Than A Joke



Sean O'Casey's Pub
2523 S. 140 Ave.

Sunday evenings | Jan. 8 - Feb. 26
5-6:30 PM *will not meet Feb. 5*

What happens when a Jewish rabbi, a Christian minister, and a Muslim leader walk into a pub? While humor is sure to ensue, what happens is more than a joke!

This series will explore the same theme as our morning worship series, only from a casual, Tri-Faith perspective.

Sunday
Feb. 12

Sweet Sunday

Pick up some delicious, home-baked sweets which will help support our Countryside Youth mission trip.

February 12
after both services



Ash
Wednesday
March 1
7:00 PM.