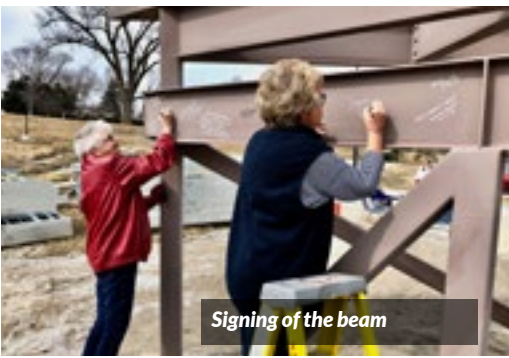
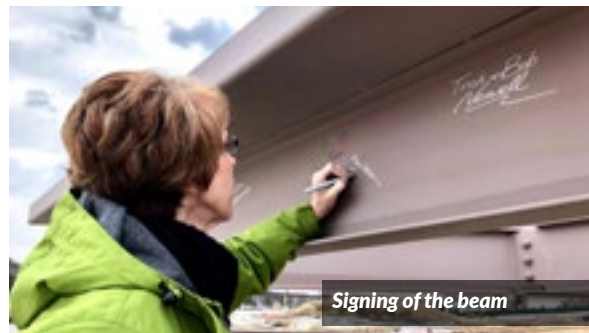


# APRIL



Signing of the beam



Signing of the beam



March 4 worship



Bell on new property



March 4 worship



March 4 worship

## MARCH HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE

## DINNER IN ABRAHAM'S TENT

The best way to start a conversation is with laughter. Join Countryside Community Church, along with our Tri-Faith partners, for an evening of laughter, fun and inspiration as the Tri-Faith Initiative hosts Dinner in Abraham's Tent! Featuring nationally-known "Standup for Peace," the disarmingly funny comedy show that breaks new ground by finding common ground. Jewish-American comedian Scott Blakeman and Muslim-American comedian Dean Obeidallah seek to build bridges, promote acceptance and encourage understanding between people of all backgrounds and religions. They may even poke a bit of fun at our own Pastors!

Dinner in Abraham's Tent will be a chance to learn about where we are on our dream of coming together as intentional neighbors, as well as where we are heading now that our own church and the Tri-Faith Commons area are almost complete. Learn how the greater community of Omaha, our national followers, and the international community can now join Countryside in our interfaith conversations and become individual members of the Tri-Faith Community.

Tickets are available at [trifaith.org/events](http://trifaith.org/events). You have the option to purchase a single ticket, provide a ticket for someone else who might like to come, and/or purchase a table for eight and invite all of your friends!

Check out your ticket options and plan to join Countryside for a wonderful chance for fellowship with all of our Tri-Faith friends and neighbors. If we can laugh together, we can live together.



Sunday, April 22, 2018  
6:00 PM  
CenturyLink Center Omaha  
For tickets: [trifaith.org/events](http://trifaith.org/events)



March 4 worship

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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## Church Office

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114  
Phone - 402-391-0350  
Email - [office@countrysideucc.org](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org)  
Website - [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CountrySideOmaha/](http://www.facebook.com/CountrySideOmaha/)

## Program Staff

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

## Ministers

**Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.**  
Senior Minister, ext. 113  
[erice@countrysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countrysideucc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
[chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org)

## Executive Administrative Assistant

**Robyn Hubbard**  
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103  
[robynh@countrysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countrysideucc.org)

## Business Office

**Dan Loven-Crum**  
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 102  
[danl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:danl@countrysideucc.org)

**Shari Garder**  
Financial Secretary, ext. 123  
[sharig@countrysideucc.org](mailto:sharig@countrysideucc.org)

**Steve Gomez**  
Administrative Assistant, ext. 101  
[steveg@countrysideucc.org](mailto:steveg@countrysideucc.org)

**Kris Hill**  
Administrative Assistant, ext. 100  
[krish@countrysideucc.org](mailto:krish@countrysideucc.org)

**Debbie Vihstadt**  
Communication Assistant, ext. 125  
[debbiev@countrysideucc.org](mailto:debbiev@countrysideucc.org)

**Bonnie Buckland**  
Church Clerk  
[bonnieb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:bonnieb@countrysideucc.org)

**Brian Palmer**  
Building/Property Coordinator  
[brianp@countrysideucc.org](mailto:brianp@countrysideucc.org)

## Audio/Visual

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

## Minister of Spiritual Direction

**Rita Otis**  
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129  
[rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com)

## WELCOME

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

## OUR MISSION

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

## 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.

**Countryside Email list** - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at [office@countrysideucc.org](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org) or call 402-391-0350.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

He's baaaack! Some of you may have noticed that Reverend Charles Yoak's picture was missing from the gallery of Countryside ministers pictures that surround the west stairway. His picture fell off the wall and the glass and frame were broken. His picture has been repaired and is now back in its place. If you have never looked at these pictures, you may enjoy taking a few minutes to see the faces of the dedicated ministers who have shaped Countryside over the years. It's fun to put a face with names from the past!



Left to Right: Rev. Harold Youngblood, Dr. William F. Allinder, Rev. Robert S. Alward, Rev. Kenneth H. Colman and Rev. Charles Yoak



Left to Right: Rev. Lea Marshall, Rev. Roger E. Manners, Dr. Richard Linde, Rev. Don R. Yungclas and John D. Miller Jr.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATES AND GRATITUDE

**April 3** – 5:30-6:00 PM, Stephen Ministry Leadership Team in Jan's office

**April 3** – 6:00-8:00 PM, Peer Support in the Chapel

Please continue to pray for the wonderful Stephen Ministry class comprised of people from Countryside, First United Methodist, St. Paul United Methodist and Temple Israel; they're faithfully meeting every Monday night until mid-May.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Norma Johnson** passed away on February 27, and Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiated at her funeral which was held at Crosbie Funeral Home.

**Edna Heumann**, 100, died on March 1., and her funeral was officiated by Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at Heafey on March 7.

Lori (Tom) Korth's mother, **Fay Sherlock**, passed away on March 6, and her funeral was held at a church in Wayne, Nebraska, on March 10

## PRAYER CHAIN: LIFTING THE BASKET

**A visual you may find helpful as you pray:**

Imagine that right beside you is a large, oval, sturdy basket with handles. Silently or quietly, you express your worries and burdens. Imagine gently placing each one inside this strong basket, without fussing over how untidy it all looks. Then, lift. Is it heavy? It might be so very heavy that you can only lift it a couple of inches. Imagine your arms straining under the burdensome basket of worry and cares; you realize how tired you are. At that moment you release the handles, trusting God to take the basket off your hands and finish lifting. You can't know what will be done with your burdens, yet you do know that they were just too much for you - but not too much for Creator Lord. You may rest knowing that you've done all that one can do, and you offer prayers of thanksgiving that you have such a Partner as this. The next day, the basket is returned to you. You notice that it's been emptied, and is lying at your feet, waiting to be filled.

As you may know, Countryside has a very active prayer chain; Jan Brown sends out the requests once or twice a week via an email to about 110 people who faithfully hold each request in loving prayer. You may join in this effort by asking Jan to include your email address; in addition, you may request prayers by directly contacting the pastors or Jan, or via our church's website [countrysideucc.org](http://countrysideucc.org) under "Caring Together: Pastoral Care."

*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](mailto:janb@countrysideucc.org)

## DOOR POLICY

Countryside created a Safety and Security Committee last year to provide a safe environment for all to worship and to conduct church business at Countryside's current location and at the Tri-Faith Commons. The committee has been drafting policies and procedures and is moving towards implementation after consultation and input from security experts

Two actions are being shared this month with implementation in May: (1) Rollout of a new door access policy and (2) the formation of a Sunday morning security team.

Door Access Policy - Over the years, Countryside has had many renovations and additions. With these changes, the church finds itself with many exterior doors with multiple access points into the church. The new door access policy intends to be sensitive to the needs of our people but also to discourage intruders who do not have a valid reason to be in our building. With this rollout, Countryside will be moving towards one primary entrance, the Main Office Entry door, throughout the week except Sundays.

- Weekday business hours (8-4 PM) - All doors will be locked with access to the church granted at the main office entry doors. The upper NW gym doors and lower SW Gym will use a door buzzer to request entrance.
- Weekday evenings and Saturdays - Access to church will be through the main office doors which will be open only 20 minutes before and after the start of meetings and events. The lower SW gym doors will only have access to the gym.
- Sunday Worship Services - Access will be through the Sanctuary Doors, the upper NW gym doors and lower SW Gym doors.
- The East lower courtyard doors will only be used on Sunday nights for COYO and Arts Affirmation.

These changes will be effective Monday April 30. To read the full door access policy please visit [countrysideucc.org/doors](http://countrysideucc.org/doors).

Sunday morning Security/Welcome Team - A security team is now being formed with organization and trainings starting in May. If you are interested in joining the team or have any questions, please contact Dan Loven-Crum at [danl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:danl@countrysideucc.org)

If you would like more information about the Safety and Security Committees efforts, please contact committee members directly. Bob Buckland (Chair), Pam Kregg, Kris Hess, Mary Balluff, Mark Ward, Stacey Warner, Rick MacInnes, Nancy Behringer



## CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS

### Adult Education and Journey Group Open Forum

**Sunday, April 29, 1:00 - 3:00 PM in the Conference Room**

We invite you to a round table discussion on Countryside's Adult Education and Journey Group programming. What do you feel is working? What isn't? What could we do differently? Come together as a learning community to share ideas as we discuss the future of our Adult Education and Journey Group programs. Please RSVP to Courtney Holiday at [courtneyh@countysideucc.org](mailto:courtneyh@countysideucc.org).



## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!



It's been another wonderful year of exploration and conversation through our Center for Faith Studies Lecture Series. We want to give a special shout out to all of the volunteers who helped make each of our events possible!

Our 2018-2019 series is in the final stages of confirmation for speakers and dates, and each event is an exceptional opportunity for our conversation on diversity and acceptance.

## ADULT EDUCATION



### Books Bible and Beyond

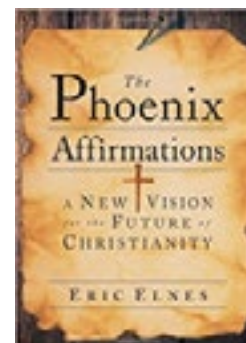
**Wednesday at Noon in the Chapel**

Take time out of your busy schedule to join this group as they study the book, *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words* by Brian D. McLaren. Rated 4.5 stars on Amazon, this book invites you to learn practices that can fill your life with insight and wisdom, not to mention the relationships you can build with fellow Countrysiders. All are welcome!

### Phoenix Affirmation Discussion Group

**Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM from April 4 to May 2 in the Chapel**

This group is open to all who would like a chance to become more familiar with the Phoenix Affirmations through open discussion about how God is calling each of us to live most fully. These Affirmations are based on the three great loves of God, neighbor, and self as we find in Jesus's conversation with the Pharisees in Matthew 22:34-40. Come and join us in discussing our Christian tradition through positive statements about our faith.



### New Journey Groups Forming-

**Worship Series: "Courage and Resilience" April 8-May 20**

Contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org) for more information on how to connect to Journey Groups.

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.

### Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. World's Greatest Churches is the curriculum being discussed.

### Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Currently discussing "Naked Spirituality - A Life with God in 12 Simple Words," by Brian D. McLaren

### Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying 'The Holy Land Revealed'.

### Convergence University

If your group is interested in Convergence University curriculum and would like access to additional resources provided from This We Affirm Website, please contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org) for login information.

### Darkwood Brew Membership

As a member of Countryside you have free access to the entire Darkwood Brew video library. You can watch any of the 28 series with topics ranging from forgiveness to the environment at [www.darkwoodbrew.org](http://www.darkwoodbrew.org).  
Username: CCCUCC Password: tryside8787

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Chris Alexander**

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

**Email:** [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org)

or **Courtney Holiday**, CFS Admin. Assistant

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

**Email:** [courtneyh@countysideucc.org](mailto:courtneyh@countysideucc.org)

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

**Face book:** Center-for-Faith-Studies

# ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



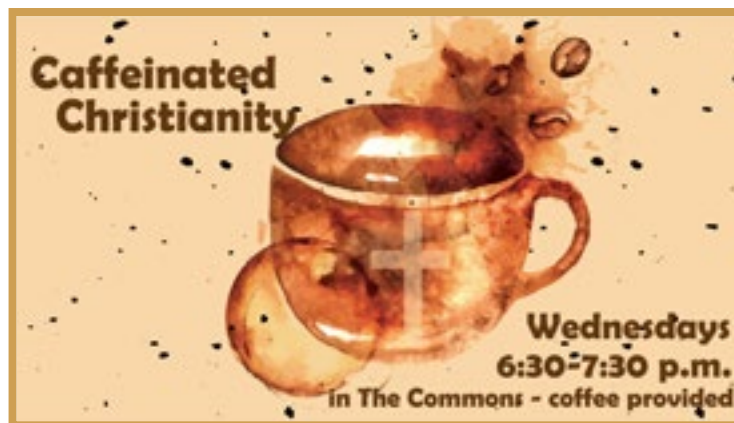
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Living With Courage and Resilience - April 8 - May 20**

Living in uncertain times can call forth the worst or the best in us. When fear motivates our actions, we tend to make mistakes. Faith leads us to act with courage and resilience. Starting the first Sunday after Easter (April 8), our focus in worship will be on seven biblical stories of faith that reveal key principles of resilience and courage. Concurrently, we'll be offering an unprecedented number of fun opportunities to engage more deeply with the series in casual settings with Dr. Elnes and others, making it a great series both to attend regularly and invite your friends to. In addition to participating in one of Countryside's Journey Groups (see Rev. Dr. Alexander for details), you and your friends are invited to the following three opportunities depending on the beverage and day/time you prefer:

- Countryside "Hoppy Hour": Sundays, 12:30-1:45 PM at The Casual Pint in Countryside Village (beer, non-alcoholic beverages, and brunch food available)
- Caffeinated Christianity: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM in The Commons (coffee provided) - *Converging Paths* podcasts will resume at a later date.
- TheoloTea: Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:15 AM in The Commons (tea provided)

Each of the above three opportunities will start with a discussion of Sunday's story of courage and resilience, followed by an open discussion of any question you want to raise about faith, the Bible, theology, etc.!




**We need volunteers for Countryside's booth!**



**Saturday, April 21**  
**Elmwood Park**  
**11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Sign up at the Information Station



**TheoloTea**  
Thursday Mornings  
9:00-10:15 AM in The Commons  
Tea will be provided.



**Confirmation**  
**SUNDAY**  
Sunday, April 29

**2018 COYO GARAGE SALE**  
**SATURDAY DROP OFF DATE**  
**April 21**

drop off  
Millard Lumber  
12900 I Street  
9 a.m. - Noon

**GARAGE SALE**  
June 8 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.  
June 9 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Go to [countrysideucc.org/garagesale](http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale) to schedule a pick up.



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Variety Show hosted by Faith Singers - April 15, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Come have dinner and enjoy the show. Your donations will help Faith Singers with tour expenses. If you want to donate an act in the show, email Tyler at [tyler.gruttemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.gruttemeyer@gmail.com). Every Faith Singer needs to help with this one.

**Earth Day at Elmwood Park - April 21, Noon- 6 PM**

COYO Jr High and COYO Sr High are invited to help out at the Countryside booth. There's also live music, food, and drinks. Stay as long as you can.

**Garage Sale Drop Off - April 21, 9 AM - Noon**

Garage Sale Drop Off at Millard Lumber (12900 I St, Omaha, NE 68137) Bring your donations to Millard Lumber or schedule a pick up at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale> Sign up to volunteer at the drop off at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>

## COYO JR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Earth Day at Elmwood Park - April 21, Noon- 6 PM**

COYO Jr High and COYO Sr High are invited to help out at the Countryside booth. There's also live music, food, and drinks. Stay as long as you can.

**Confirmation Deacon Dinner in Memorial Hall - April 24, 6:30-8:00 PM**

All 8th grade confirmands need to be at this dinner. Bring 1 or 2 parents or guardians

**Confirmation Sunday - April 29, 10 AM, 11 AM Service**

- 10:00AM All 8th grade confirmands meet in the Youth Room to robe up, take a picture, and eat a donut.
- 11:00AM Confirmation service



Countryside Youth (CoYo) serves students in grades 7-12. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities that develop community, encourage spiritual growth, and serve the wider community in Omaha. Monthly events and summer trips are offered to enhance youth experiences.

#### COYO Jr High

COYO Jr High meets during the school year on Sunday afternoons from 4:45 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.

#### Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30 PM during the school year. It is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders to explore the Phoenix Affirmations, the Bible, and the church.

#### COYO Sr High

COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships and serve the community.

#### Mission Trips

Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

#### Choirs

Faith Singers (high school) meets 4:45- 6:00 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer.

Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Sundays 6:30 - 8:00 PM and sings once a month in church.

### 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](mailto:willh@countrysideucc.org)

[www.countrysideucc.org/coyo](http://www.countrysideucc.org/coyo)



Sushi with Chef Morgan



Sushi with Chef Morgan

**SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER FUN!**

**VBS**  
Countryside Community Church  
July 9 - 13, 2018



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

### April 1 - Easter Sunday, Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Books and worship bags are available to borrow from a cart in the Foyer.

### April 8 - Sunday School

Jesus Meets Us Where We Are: Easter Stories of Thomas and Mary Magdalene. Because Jesus knew the hearts of his disciples he was able to inspire them to carry on his mission in the most effective way. Understanding how deeply Jesus knew them and loved them enabled them to take his message of love out into the world.

### April 15 - Children's Church

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

### April 22 - Sunday School

Communion Traditions. On the last Thursday of Jesus's life, he gathered his friends around a Passover table and instructed them with the words "take and eat" and "do this in remembrance of me." We honor that meal today in all its many forms.

### April 29 - Children's Church

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

## CORE 56 AND HOLY MOLY

**Core 56** groups welcome all students in 5th and 6th grades to meet to discuss scripture stories that center primarily around the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus. Each week, we will discuss scripture stories, consider historical and cultural context, and contemplate how we can use what we have learned from them in our lives today. Please ask your Core 56 student to bring their bible—if you don't have one, just ask Rebecca! At the beginning of each class, we will spend some time in a meditative prayer sit for 10 minutes, inviting the Spirit into our time together and centering our minds and bodies. This month, our group will be discussing stories about the disciples after Jesus had died and how they developed community around their beliefs.

**Holy Moly** students meet in two classrooms on the lower level in groups of K-2nd graders and 3rd and 4th graders. Each week this spring, we will explore an Old Testament tale with storytelling, a short video, and an activity. In April, we will study the stories of the Road to Emmaus, Pentecost, and Saul becoming Paul.

**Our final meeting for Holy Moly and Core 56 is wednesday, april 18.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to study scripture stories with our Countryside children! During the 9 AM service, our students will meet together into two classrooms: pre-K and one large group for Kindergarten through 6th grade. During the 11 AM service, our students are divided between four classrooms: Pre-K, K-1st, 2nd-4th, and 5th & 6th grades.

We leave together as a group after the Children's Moment and head to classrooms. Students remain in their classrooms until collected by a parent or guardian. This month, our students will continue working in their gratitude journals as well as studying and discovering the practices of Holy Week.

## 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)

#### 11:00 Service

Room 214 – Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 – Grades K-1

## Nursery

Our nursery staff is available on Sundays from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM and on Wednesday evenings through April 18th from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. In the interest of keeping everyone in the nursery safe, we want to remind everyone that the Nursery is reserved for infants and children up to age 2. We can usually accommodate a 3 year old pretty easily, but if you have older children that require care during normal nursery hours, please contact Rebecca at [rebeccam@countrysideuucc.org](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideuucc.org) to make other arrangements. Thank you!

*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 staff is trained and have passed background checks.*

### Family Worship

*Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers the opportunity to share scripture, message, and communion as a family! Children's Bibles, books, and age-appropriate activity bags are available.*

### Sunday School

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

### 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.*

### 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.*

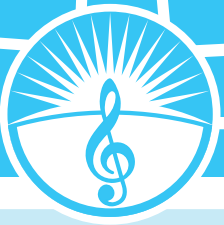
### Vacation Bible School

*Vacation Bible School is a short summer camp designed to immerse our students in a community experience of scripture stories and activities. Dates for 2018 VBS are July 9-13.*

## QUESTIONS?

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

Email: [rebeccam@countrysideuucc.org](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideuucc.org)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Faith Singers Variety Show

The Faith Singers will share songs and laughs on Sunday, May 6 in Common Grounds. Please come support our young artists as they prepare for their summer tour to Salt Lake City, Utah and National Parks. Barista on duty and snacks provided. Donations encouraged!

### Thank You Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation!

The Board of Arts and Music requested funds for 2018 to support the Arts Affirmation program in buying the necessary supplies to help our kiddos explore the arts more deeply each week. The first fruits of that gift arrived in March. A dozen nest-able Tubano drums, with removable heads and a collection of Orff xylophones and metallophones are already in use during class. We will be bringing them to the sanctuary for service soon!



Tubano Drums in three sizes



4/5/6 Exploring the Orff Instruments

### Arts Affirmation: Where We Affirm Young Artists!

Our first year of Arts Affirmation is going strong. Twenty-five to thirty kiddos join us every Sunday afternoon to explore concepts in art, music, drama, and movement. It is never too late to join us in deepening our faith and building community through the arts. Here are some pictures of our year so far!



P/K/1 Getting ready to perform



2/3 Reading their Beatitudes.



All classes warming up for the Christmas Eve shadow play.



4/5/6 rehearsing with Pastor Eric for the Christmas Eve shadow play.

*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.*

### Arts Affirmation

*Children in Pre-K through 6th grade will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. All projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations. Sunday afternoons 4:30 - 6:00 PM.*

### Confirmation Singers

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

### Faith Singers

*Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year.*

### Spirit of Grace

*Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 PM.*

### Chancel Choir

*The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 5:30-6:40 PM.*

## QUESTIONS?

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

Amy Luckenbill  
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115  
Email: [amyl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:amyl@countrysideucc.org)  
[www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org)





## THE BOX FOR APRIL

The Box for April is gardening supplies/equipment for volunteers at Together's Community Gardens. Together is requesting the following items:

- Seeds – vegetable, herb and companion plants like marigolds and nasturtiums
- Knee pads
- Gardening hand tools
- Gardening gloves

They are also needing to repair/rebuild some of their beds. That will be happening in late March into April. As always, if you'd like to put a group together to work one of the beds throughout the summer, they are willing to help you make that happen. Their gardens are located at the Together location, 812 S. 24th Street. For additional information, please contact Mary Jo Weiss at [mjbarbeiss@gmail.com](mailto:mjbarbeiss@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for helping with these outstanding gardens.

## SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING - TABLE GRACE MINISTRIES

Table Grace Café affordably offers healthier meals than many quick-dine cafés, making it the feel-good lunch destination in Omaha. The menu for the Café fluctuates based on food donations from Whole Foods, farmer's markets, and others but primarily serves soup, salad, and pizza that best utilizes the food donations and serves as a simple lunch café downtown.

Table Grace Café offers a 10-Day Job Training program that teaches people "to fish." The Café utilizes its environment as basic job readiness programming. This model is based on the job programming Chef Matt Weber experienced at the Natural Gourmet Cooking School and is similar to technical colleges, but modified for people who have difficulty maintaining entry level employment or who have dropped out of the workforce for so long that they need a stepping stone into entry level jobs. The focus is on attendance, appropriate appearance, skills, workplace communication, and customer service skills.

*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 9:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!*

### Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

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

### Small Service Grant (SSG)

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

# RELOCATION UPDATE

## COUNTRYSIDE'S GENERATIONS CAME TO MARK THE HISTORICAL MOMENT

The placement of the last construction steel of the new church building gave members an opportunity to be a part of history. The beams will support Countryside's 800 pound bell, cast in 1965 in Astén, Netherlands, high atop the church on the Tri-Faith Commons.

Many members, the very youngest in the arms of their parents, to the most senior members, arrived at the construction site on a blustery weekend in March to sign the steel bell tower beams and to add their blessings and good wishes for the future of our congregation and our fellow faiths in our new neighborhood.

The hundreds of signatures and messages will only be visible until the final envelope of the tower is in place. They will always be there and in the hearts and minds of those who left their mark to celebrate this new journey for Countryside and the Tri-Faith Initiative.

Among the written comments is a line from a favorite English hymn, "For All the Saints, Who From Their Labours Rest." It is a tribute to those

worthy souls who preceded us at Countryside and who, in their turn, gave our church gifts of leadership, prayers and treasure. We will always remember the giants upon whose shoulders we now stand.



PLEDGE NOW

[www.countrysideucc.org/pledge](http://www.countrysideucc.org/pledge)

## 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](mailto: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@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Game Night at Casual Pint RETURNS!** The Family Activities Committee members invite one and all to the Game Night, Friday, April 13, 7:00 PM at Casual Pint in Countryside Village. This is the second gathering for this event. You can either bring your favorite game to share or play games that are furnished. The last gathering was so much fun, folks are really looking forward to this upcoming event. No need to sign up, just show up and be ready to enjoy an evening of fun, great games and rousing fellowship!

**Friday Family Film Night** will be held in the Chapel at Countryside on Friday, April 6, 6:00 PM. Come ready to enjoy family appropriate movies, pizza, popcorn and more! Sign-ups are requested for this event to ensure the right amount of food. See you there! This event is hosted by Family Activities Committee members.

**Earth Day Celebration** is on Saturday, April 21, at Elmwood Park. Visit the members of F.A.T.E., Countryside's Faith and the Environment group, at their booth that Saturday. There will also be free tree climbing opportunities, valet bike parking and a food court with local vendors. Bring the family and celebrate Earth Day with Countryside! See volunteer opportunities in the volunteer section at the bottom of this page.

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

**Ladies Lunch Group** will meet on Monday, April 9 at First Watch at noon. Countryside Community Church is closed on Monday, April 2, thus the date switch to April 9. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal, warm conversation and lots of laughter!

**Lunch Bunch Circle** will meet at Charleston's Restaurant, 7540 Dodge Street at noon on Monday, April 9. Betty Salistean will be the hostess for the event. Should you have any questions, please contact Gloria Ried at [g-g.ried@cox.net](mailto:g-g.ried@cox.net).

**Family Activities Committee** members will meet on Sunday, April 29, at 10:00 AM in the Family Life Office. We will be finalizing the plans for the upcoming Pentecost Sunday event.

**Yoga classes**, facilitated by Cheryl Richards, are held on Monday afternoons, 5:45 PM in the Junior Choir Room on the lower level and Thursday mornings, starting April 5, from 10 - 11:00 AM in the Junior Choir Room. Suggested donation for the class is \$10/class. For additional information or should you have questions, please contact Cheryl at [yoga.energy.oils@gmail.com](mailto:yoga.energy.oils@gmail.com).

**Interplay** will meet on Saturday, April 14, in the Foyer at Countryside Community Church. For additional information or questions, please contact Rita Otis at [rnotis@outlook.com](mailto:rnotis@outlook.com).

**ETC** members will meet at Kona Grill on Wednesday, April 18, at 6:00 PM. RSVP to [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org) if you are UNABLE to attend.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### **The Community Cupboard Food Pantry**

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, April 7. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact [communitycupboard@countysideucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countysideucc.org).

### **Handyman's Group**

We are looking at putting together a group of men/women who are very capable of fixing, repairing, painting and other general "handyman" kind of tasks. Dan Loven-Crum is the contact person for this group. Stop at the Information Station to learn more about this task oriented fellowship group or give Dan a call at 402-391-0350.

### **Earth Day Celebration**

Saturday, April 21, at Elmwood Park. Join the members of F.A.T.E., Countryside's Faith and the Environment group, at their booth that Saturday. They will have activities, information and lots to share with one and all. If you'd like to help them staff the booth, contact Christy Palmer at [christysuepalmer@gmail.com](mailto:christysuepalmer@gmail.com).

### **Kitchen helpers are needed!**

Countryside's four kitchens need a group of folks who are willing to come in weekly to clean countertops, empty dishwashers, wipe down appliances and general light cleaning so our kitchens are a healthy and more inviting place to work. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org) or at 402-391-0350 ext. 112

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new, adventuresome folks! If you are a good organizer, enjoy working with a wide variety of folks, enjoy a good party or just like being around a delightful group of folks then one of these groups is for you. Stop by the Information Station to learn more about both of them by talking with Mary Beth.

## SOCIAL GROUPS

### Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Life Ministries Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countrysideucc.org.

### Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

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

### Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project or teach others to knit/crochet. Open to knitters of all skill-levels. Meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM at Whole Foods. Contact Jeanne Cunningham at jkcunningham@cox.net.

### Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month at First Watch, 1222 S 71 St. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countrysideucc.org.

### Nine-to-Dine

Consisting of 9 individuals, this group meets on a monthly basis at various restaurants in Omaha or sometimes someone's home for a nice home-cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@countrysideucc.org.

### Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net or 402.333.3115.

### FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

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

### Men's Breakfast Group

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

### Mahjong

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

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES

See [countrysideucc.org/about-us](http://countrysideucc.org/about-us)

## HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

### T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Thursday at 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.

## EDUCATION GROUPS

### Faith and the Environment (FaTE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

### Adult Education

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

### Journey Groups

See page 5.



[trifaith.org](http://trifaith.org)  
[americanmusliminstitute.org](http://americanmusliminstitute.org)  
[templeisraelomaha.com](http://templeisraelomaha.com)

## TRI FAITH KIDS

### 2018 Nebraska Lymphoma Walk Saturday, April 21, 9 AM - Mahoney Park

Every year we pick a charity to donate our monies and time in order to teach our children and our world that everyone can make an impact and do something to help another person. This year we have chosen to do a 5K walk as a team - a walk to help bring awareness and funding for Lymphoma blood-based cancer research. We encourage the children to earn the money - not by asking friends and family (although that is fine with parent permission and supervision) - BUT by doing extra chores around the house, helping a neighbor with their leaves/snow removal or anything that interests them.

#### HOW:

1. Visit <http://bit.ly/2CxyM9> to find the Tri-Faith Kids Team page
2. Click the red "Join Team" button
3. Select to participate physically or virtually! Contact Natasha Kraft ([kraftyer@yahoo.com](mailto:kraftyer@yahoo.com)), Anji Stanek ([anjistanek1@gmail.com](mailto:anjistanek1@gmail.com)), or Olfa Khayati ([olfakhayati@yahoo.com](mailto:olfakhayati@yahoo.com)) for more information.

## TEMPLE ISRAEL

### Holocaust Survivor Bea Karp, April 18 6:30 PM at Temple Israel

Bea Karp, a local Holocaust Survivor, was eight when the Nazis took her and her family to a concentration camp. She is now in her eighties and she has been telling her story since 1963 when she was a young housewife in O'Neill, Nebraska. She will tell her story as Temple Israel's honored guest. This special speaking event is free and open to all. Her story is remarkable and you don't want to miss it.

## HOLIDAYS

### Muslim

#### Isra and Mi'raj April 13

Isra and Mi'raj, The Night Journey and Ascension to Heaven) marks the night when the Prophet Mohammad traveled from Mecca to Jerusalem, ascended to heaven and returned. It has been described as both a physical and spiritual journey. The holiday is observed with prayer services or prayer at home.

## HOLIDAYS

### Jewish

#### Passover March 30 - April 6

Pesach, known as Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. Today, the holiday is a celebration of freedom and family.

#### Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 11-12

Yom HaShoah occurs on the 27th of Nisan. Shoah, which means catastrophe or utter destruction in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. This is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah.

#### Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) April 17-19

The Israeli Knesset established the day before Yom HaAtzmaut as Yom HaZikaron, a Memorial Day for soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the War of Independence and in other subsequent battles. Yom HaAtzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, marks the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948. It is observed on or near the 5th of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in April.



[facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/](https://facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/)  
[facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/](https://facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/)  
[facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/](https://facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/)



# LIVING WITH COURAGE AND RESILIENCE

APRIL 8 - MAY 20



TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE  
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE



Sunday, April 22, 2018  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
CenturyLink Center Omaha

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

**HOLLAND**  
Foundation

To make reservations, please visit  
<https://trifaiith.org/events>

see page 1 for details

adult

g a m e

n i g h t

returns

Friday, April 13  
7:00 PM

Casual Pint  
Countryside Village

Enjoy an evening of  
games, snacks and drinks.

hosted by:

Family Activities Committee

RSVP to the church office at  
[office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org)  
or at 402-391-0350.

details on page 10



Sunday, May 6  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Common Grounds

Barista on duty and snacks provided.

Donations encouraged to  
support the Faith Singers summer  
tour to Salt Lake City, Utah  
and National Parks.

details page 6