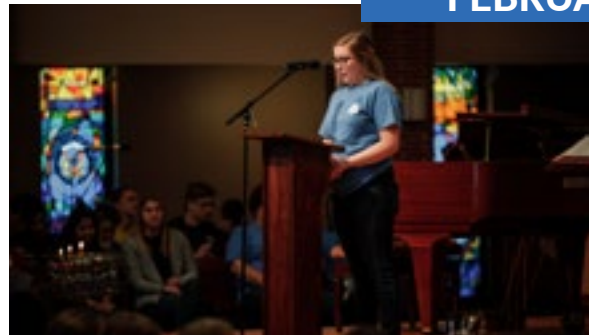


MARCH



FEBRUARY 4 YOUTH SERVICE



HOLY WEEK

If you find the week before Easter a little jarring you're not alone. But there is an explanation and lucky for us, it's simple. As holidays go, Easter is hard. It's much harder than Christmas. At Christmas we get to look forward to a newborn. On Easter, we need to deal with death first. The reason that it's such a startling jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is because there is a lot that happens in between! Jesus does enter joyfully into Jerusalem but quickly disappoints his followers when they begin to understand He is not an earthly king. Then Jesus is betrayed on Maundy Thursday, killed on Good Friday, raised from the dead and then, on Easter, the empty tomb is revealed.

Holy Week services challenge our expectations of what we should see and hear at church. This year's Maundy Thursday service will highlight monologues from biblical characters who share a healing balm. On Good Friday, the altar and the music will be different with a Black and Blues service. A blues band will beat out its soulful melody in the Countryside sanctuary. It is these different experiences, of

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, that will remind us our savior is fully God and fully human, who shares in our struggles and that we will share in the victory. This is the point of Holy Week. It's also the great joy of Easter.

If you ever had a moment where you felt like a part of the story was missing, you are encouraged to investigate it and attend an extra Holy Week service this year. Because when we see Holy Week for all that it is, shouting "Alleluia!" on Easter seems like exactly the right thing to do whether it is a 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise service outside a Jewish synagogue or a 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. service in Countryside's Sanctuary. Please join us in the struggles and the celebration.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7 PM

Good Friday, March 30, 7 PM

Easter Sunday, April 1
7 AM Sunrise at Tri-Faith Commons
9 AM and 11 AM at Countryside



February 4 Youth Service



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

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103
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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.

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.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Kindernook director Stacy Carnazzo shared the following information, which came from a June 18, 1965, letter written by Rev. Robert Alward, at our February 4 Annual Meeting.

Kindernook was founded in 1953 as a small group of children with several adult leaders, from the church, as an expression of the desire to have a nursery school operation in our area which conformed to the standards for Nursery Schools, as suggested by the University of Nebraska School of Education.

The program grew from 14 children to an enrollment of 100, with nine paid teachers. Children were (and still are) accepted from the community as a whole without regard to their religious affiliation. The cost per semester in 1965 was \$60/semester.





STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATES AND GRATITUDE

March 13 – 5:30-6 PM Stephen Ministry Leadership Team in Jan's Office

March 13 – 6-8 PM Peer Support in the Youth Room (note location change)

On Monday evenings in the Chapel until May 14, Knolan Hudson and Linda Bannister, as well as a few others, are training 17 people to become Stephen Ministers. Most are from Countryside, but seven are from three other faith communities. Thank you, Countryside, for your faithful support and prayers for this meaningful endeavor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYS OF OUR LIVES – The Voices of Countryside – “TAKE TWO!” When we sit with each other and share stories, laughter and heartache, God is among us. We've been doing this for decades at Countryside! Let's record some of those moments which we've cherished and which we literally want to take with us to our new location next year. So, we want to hear from you! Please come to Dr. Amy Luckenbill's office during the pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 25, from 12:00-1:30 PM. There will be questions to prompt you, if you need/want them. We've discovered, most of you don't need prompting. See Jan Brown, Margie Bolte, or Karen Follon for more information or for the list of prompts.

IN MEMORIAM

De Schmierer's mother **Clarabelle** passed away February 7 while receiving hospice care in Manhattan, Kansas.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OTHERS? IT'S A GOOD THING TO DO.

The Pastoral Care Board would love to invite you to help others through one of our outreach efforts. For example, we have various teams to support those who have temporary needs, and we also have a “Messengers” visitation team. Here's a little about these opportunities to serve others; see Jan Brown if you're interested!

- **Food Team** – We offer several days' worth of meals for those who are experiencing loss, illness or sudden stress.
- **Call Team** – Anyone can do this “work from home” task. This team regularly calls a few people who are homebound, frail or elderly – but who are usually still living in their own home. The Call Team then lets Jan, Eric or Chris know of any pastoral needs.
- **Card Team** – For various holidays and occasions, the Pastoral Care Board sends cards to quite a long list of people, and we're always looking for assistants.
- **“Messengers” Visitation Team** – Did you know that nearly 50 Countryside members live in various care facilities in the metro area? The “Messengers” are caring members who faithfully visit one or two of these facilities on a regular basis (once or twice a month), thus delivering a part of our church's love and connection to those who find they are unable to attend worship. Jan offers a brief training if you're interested.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. ERIC ELNES

Dear Countryside friends,

As you know, I co-lead a spiritual retreat in Ireland last year with Gareth Higgins, former executive director of the Wild Goose Festival who now organizes the Movies and Meaning festival and The Porch magazine. The experience was so profoundly impactful on me personally, as well as the rest of the participants, that when an opportunity arose to co-lead another retreat in 2018, I jumped on the opportunity. The retreat offers a truly unique opportunity to listen for the Spirit's call to your life through bringing together thoughtful reflection, provocative encounters with poets, musicians, and activists, spectacular scenery (and walks therein!), and the wild Celtic spirit that has remained untamed throughout the centuries.

This year's retreat will be held July 26 – August 3rd. We'll be staying in an enclave of 400-yr-old thatched cottages in the Mourne Mountains region as well as a lovely country house by the sea outside Belfast. More information can be found at <http://www.irelandretreats.com/> or by talking with me! Space is limited to 23 participants, so apply soon.

9:00 AM CLASSICAL SERVICE

You may have noticed some experimental tweaks to our 9 AM Classical Service. These tweaks during Lent are meant to add depth and meaning through energetic engagement with classical music, prayer, and ritual. Based on our experiences, some of these elements may continue beyond Lent while others may be adjusted or eliminated. Our vision is to create a service by the end of the year that current attenders love more than ever while drawing in those from the wider Omaha community who long for a service that reaches beyond both mind (intellect) and heart (emotion) to stir the soul.

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.

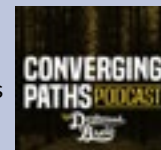
Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org

THE CONVERGING PATHS PODCAST

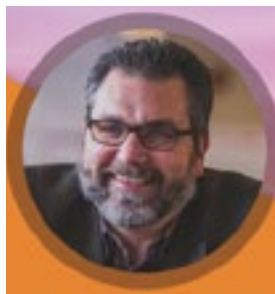
Wednesday Nights - Common Grounds
In-house Podcast : 6:30 –7:00 PM
Guided Meditation : 7:00 – 7:30 PM

The Converging Paths Podcast is a weekly audio podcast with Dr. Eric Elnes where “God experiences” converge with everyday life, turning each day into a potential encounter with the Holy.





CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS



Prayer 101; Prayer Retreat with Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D. March 16-18 - Amidst so much personal and collective chaos, few people ever discover the reality of Jesus's central message, "Heaven is already here! Change your whole way of thinking and believe the good news." The cost for the prayer retreat is \$220 per person. This includes two nights of lodging in the Swanson Center at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland, Nebraska. Scholarships will be available. We hope you can join us. Contact robynh@countysideucc.org.

Institute for Holocaust Education, Tuesday, March 20 at 7 PM

Dr. Mark Wygoda is the son of Hermann Wygoda who is also known as "Comandante Enrico," to the 2,500 partisan troops he commanded as a Division Commander in the Italian Liberation Army from 1944-45. His family's sole survivor, Hermann was a German-born Polish Jew who lived a covert life both in Poland, where he had been a smuggler to the Warsaw ghetto, and in Germany, where he had been a foreman, translator, and armed courier for a German business. As a Partisan commander, he planned war actions, negotiated prisoner exchanges with the local German commander, and ultimately helped liberate the city of Savona, Italy.

Dr. Mark Wygoda, a biology professor at McNeese State University, will share his father's amazing story and its lessons with our community, as we honor and remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

ADULT EDUCATION

Great Decisions 2018

Jim Bachman will once again facilitate a discussion of the topics chosen for the Great Decisions curriculum.

Classes are Wednesdays at 7 PM, January 24 through March 21, in the Conference Room. To register please contact Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org.

REFUGEE UPDATE

It has been quite some time since we have updated you all on our amazing Syrian families. They continue to adjust well to their new lives, the children are in school and parents are employed. To give you a more concise report, below you will find an update email from Larry Weiss. Larry, along with an amazing team of Countryside Community Church folks, have worked diligently with the Al Shanior family since their arrival in 2016. (Shahar Al Shanior is the father and Sahar Al Shanior is the mother.) I invite you to read this email:

I went for a visit with the family this past Monday night. I had a stack of mail waiting for me to go through with them...

- Everyone, except Raghad, received their 'green cards' ...officially Permanent Resident of the United States picture ID cards. If Raghad's green card does not show up in a couple of weeks, I will follow up with a call to Homeland Security to see what may have happened to her application. Although Raghad was a bit disappointed, Shaher and Sahar were pretty proud.

- All family members received their new Medicaid cards, their others had just expired.

- Naghman and Rau both love going to school and do not like staying home on the weekends and snow days

- a friend of the family gave Sahar a good used car, 2008 Hyundai Elantra. Both Jennifer and I were asked by Shaher to go to the license office with him to help him get the title transferred, pay taxes on the car, get plates and insurance. We both told him no and he could do it all by himself...well to my surprise, he did it and was very proud of himself.

- Sahar was discouraged about driving...she has tried twice to get her permit but has failed the test both times. I told her to take the test every day and she would pass it soon. I asked Shahar to help her study for the test and he nodded he would. He was quick to repeat what I have told him multiple times in the past months, that it is important for women in the USA to learn how to drive and have a job if the family needs more money.

Larry'

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 Monday evenings in the Commons at 7 PM. Current book being discussed is 'We Were Eight Years in Power' by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

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. We will begin discussing "Grounded, Finding God in the World" by Diana Butler Bass.

Sunday Adult Forum

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

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countysideucc.org

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

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

Email: courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

JOURNEY GROUPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Journey Groups Forming for Lent Worship Series: Journey to Jerusalem

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." This saying, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, creates a backdrop for our Lenten worship series, "The Journey to Jerusalem." In this series, painting, poetry, music, drama, and other art forms will be used at both Sunday services to cast new light on ancient stories of Jesus' life, teachings, and acts of compassion. Where necessary, words will be used – but primarily for the function of pointing to meanings that are too deep for words to convey.

Please join us in an extended conversation of this worship series by joining one of our Journey Groups, or beginning your own. There are groups who meet at a variety of times and locations throughout the week, so let us know your schedule and we'll help you get connected, or let us know how we might help you start your own Journey Group. Contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander chrisa@countysideucc.org for more information.

Conversations with Others - Tuesdays March 6, 13 & 27, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

As we join together with Jews and Muslims in our move to the Tri-Faith campus, we find ourselves in conversations with people of other traditions. How we see ourselves as Christians will undoubtedly affect how we communicate with each other.

How do you see yourself Spiritually? Are you a traditionalist or more eclectic? More of a believer, or a humanist?

How do you see your Christianity's relationship with other faith traditions? Do you see Christianity as the definitive faith, one of many equals, or somewhere in between?

Explore these questions and more in a small group discussion. Tuesdays, March 6, 13 and 27 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact David Leslie for more information at dleslie@cox.net.



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.

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.

Convergence University

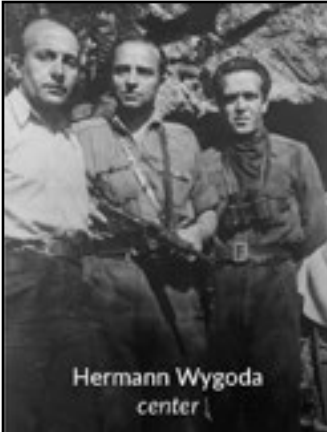
If your group is interested in joining Convergence University, or if your group is already following Convergence curriculum and would like access to the additional resources provided from This We Affirm Website, please contact chrisa@countysideucc.org for login information.

QUESTIONS?

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

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

Email: chrisa@countysideucc.org



CFS Holocaust Speaker Series presents:
Dr. Mark Wygoda
 Tuesday, March 20
 7:00 pm
 Countryside Community Church
free and open to the public
 details page 4

Hermann Wygoda center


CENTER FOR Faith Studies

IHE Institute for Holocaust Education

SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER FUN!



VBS
 Countryside Community Church
 July 9 - 13, 2018



Voices of Countryside
 "Days of our Lives" Take 2!
 March 25, Palm Sunday
 during the Pancake Breakfast
 12:15-1:30 PM
 Dr. Amy Luckenbill's office
 Come share your stories!
see page 3 for more information

2018 COYO GARAGE SALE
 SATURDAY DROP OFF DATE
MARCH 17

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 countysideucc.org/garagesale to schedule a pick up.



YOUTH MINISTRIES



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

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

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Cares - March 4, March 11 and March 18 during COYO Sr High 6:30-8:00

COYO Cares is a three-week workshop on how to care for your friends in a deeper and more effective way. This will include ideas about how to take conversations to a deeper level, how to listen better, and feedback on your conversations with your friend. Jan Brown, the Coordinator of Pastoral Care, will be helping you, too.

Garage Sale Drop Offs are coming up this month.

Garage Sale Drop Offs are coming up this month. We can use all the help we can get and you get \$10/hr off of your summer trip expenses. Family members or friends can also get \$10/hr toward your trip. Sign-up to work shifts at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale> On March 17, those who volunteer will get free lunch after the Drop Off.

Garage Sale Drop Off - March 17 9:00 AM - Noon

Bring your donations to Millard Lumber at 12900 I St 68137

If you want to schedule a pickup during the drop off hours go to <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>. We no longer accept underwear, sleepwear, t shirts, tube tv's, pianos, or trash. Your donations help to fund the COYO Sr High Mission Trip and the Faith Singers Tour.

Sundays in March

4:45 PM Faith Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (9th - 12th Grade Choir)

6:00 PM Dinner for all COYO Sr High, Faith Singers, and COYO Jr High

6:30 PM COYO Sr High in Youth Room (Friends, Faith, and Service)

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Urban Plunge - March 23-24

Come do a variety of service projects for a weekend, including the Community Cupboard and a service at Temple Israel. This counts as a year's worth of service for your Confirmation requirements. Meet at church at 7 PM on Friday. Event ends at 10 PM on Saturday. FREE

Sundays in March

4:45 PM COYO Jr High (Friends, Faith, and Service)

6:00 PM Dinner for all COYO Jr High, COYO Sr High, and Faith Singers

6:30 PM Confirmation Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (7th & 8th Grade Choir)

**COYO JR. HIGH
URBAN PLUNGE
MARCH 23-24**

Work on a variety of service projects for the weekend.
7 PM Friday - 10 PM Saturday
Cost is FREE!

see page 6 for details



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

March 4 - 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.

March 11- Sunday School

The Parable of the Last Judgment: The care we give to God's earth and to God's people connects us to God's Spirit, embracing us as we care for one another. Each time we extend love to others, we show our love to God.

March 18 - Children's Church

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

March 25 - Sunday School

Holy Week Traditions: Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter) invites us to experience the sacred rhythm of these eight days in the Christian calendar.

Core 56

Our Core 56 groups welcome all students in 5th and 6th grade to meet to discuss scripture stories that center primarily around the New testament and the teachings of Jesus. 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, as we build up to 10 minutes by the end of the semester. This month, our group will be considering what it means to live our faith in community as we study the stories of Jesus.

Holy Moly

Our 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 a New Testament tale with storytelling, a short video, and an activity. In March, we will study the stories of Jesus feeding the 5,000, the Road to Emmaus, Pentecost, and Saul becoming Paul. While it is not required, we ask that you register for Holy Moly and Core 56 by completing the corresponding Google forms on the Countryside website. It is helpful in our planning.

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 Moments and head to classrooms. As there will be no Children's Moment during the 9 AM worship services during Lent, the students will be excused by the pastors. 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 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 easily, but if you have older children that require care during normal nursery hours, please contact Rebecca at rebeccam@countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visual Arts: A Collaborative Process

Visual arts projects are a collaborative process at Countryside. For each series, a group of people who enjoy creating unique, artful, and meaningful spaces for worship review the basic outline of the sermon series teachings and decide together on an approach to dressing the space that enhances the anticipated sermons. They then gather folks with the necessary skills to implement the vision, source materials, and build the installation on a schedule to meet the timeline of the sermon series. This series, "The Journey to Jerusalem," is no exception.

Tom Campbell, Mary Jo Barbusch-Weiss, and Amy Luckenbill lead the project. They decided on a sandy desert theme as an imagined physical journey to the holy city; the color scheme, materials selection, and foliage offerings are all meant to reflect the dusty walk to holy week, the triumphal entry, and the resurrection of Jesus. Look for additional elements as the series progresses.



How Did They Do That?



One of ways we can bring the feel of our space up to date is to use popular décor elements in our design. Hand-lettering is a trend that is very popular and lends itself well to our visual space. The soffit above the choir acts as a marquee, reminding us of the series title, while grounding the visual elements of the space. Due to the scale of the space, we find it better to use a template based on the graphic images font to paint the words, rather than painting free hand.

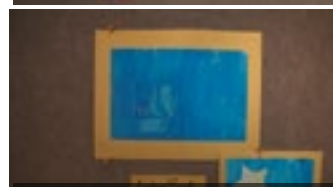
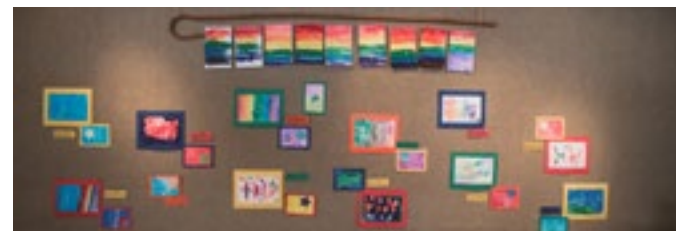
The Candle Basins

A new feature, used in the Classical Service, is the pair of candle basins. Congregants are offered an opportunity to take communion, then light a candle as they reflect on the journey concept of the day's sermon. The metal basins were designed and fabricated by Don Scott, a member of Countryside who works for Hempel Sheet Metal. The wooden bases were designed and constructed by Bob Newell, our go-to guy for all things creative! They are a beautiful addition to the chancel and to the candle lighting ritual.

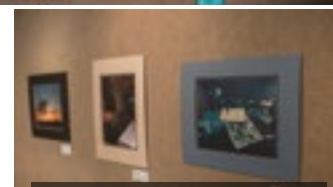


Calling All Artists

No matter what your interest or media, we can help you explore your faith through the arts. Contact Amy Luckenbill to talk about how you can share your artistic gifts with us. amyl@countrysideucc.org



P/K/1 Watercolor Exploration



4/5/6 Photography Focus

Arts Affirmation/Art Show



2/3 Sculpture 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
www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR MARCH

This month we are collecting jars of peanut butter that will be donated through our Community Cupboard food pantry. The pantry takes place in the gymnasium the first Saturday of the month from 9 AM - 11:30 AM. Please check your pantry for jars of peanut butter you do not need or pick up a few at the store and bring them to the BOX.

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach is pleased to announce the 2018 Easter offering recipient is Table Grace Ministries. Matt and Simone Weber created Table Grace Ministries in 2008 through the hybrid of Matt's culinary education and expertise and Simone's mission and music outreach vision (located at 1611 Farnam St.). They began as a personal chef service, serving single parent families with healthy and ready to heat and eat meals, which allowed time for the family to focus on meal time together.

By 2011, Table Grace Café was in business having been modeled after a similar café in Denver, Colorado called So All May Eat. The mission of Table Grace Café is to nourish hungry bodies and souls through food and music ministry. With assistance from the Lutheran Churches and continued fundraising by Simone's music and Matt's catering, they now find themselves in 2018 receiving requests for their catering and additional cafes in other areas of the Omaha metro. Thus, the addition of a food truck would allow for mobility to serve both North and South Omaha and would enhance their successful catering operation.

Your Board of Christian Outreach request that you visit Table Grace Ministries website to learn more about this amazing outreach ministry and how Countryside Community Church can help them reach their dreams both financially and through volunteer programming.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING UPDATE

The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you for your financial support of the Asian Rural Institute, our Christmas offering. We raised \$14,324.26.

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

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

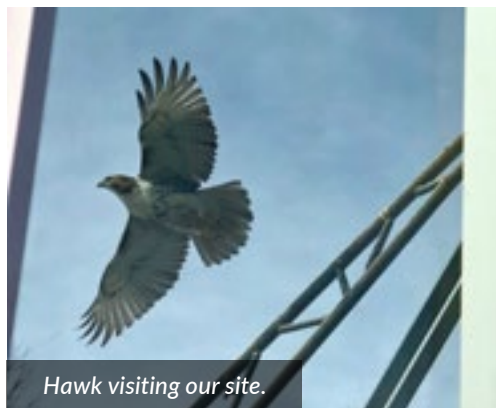
The first day of spring is not until March 20, but things are springing up all over the site of our new church home at 13130 Faith Plaza. The steel framework is rising above the site, plans are progressing on liturgical furnishings, the GMP (The guaranteed maximum price for construction) has been set, a mock-up wall has been created to enable hands-on work with the exterior terra cotta tiles, final decisions are being made on the sanctuary pews, and plans are being finalized for AV, low voltage, interior mechanical and electrical needs. The new pictures below and by the church offices show the progress. We also have a hawk who regularly visits the site and monitors the progress for us from the air. Finally, our church is a finalist for a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust which would give us assistance with the implementation of our sustainable landscape plan which emphasizes water conservation, storm water management, native plants and improved habitat and soil health.

PLEDGE NOW

www.countrysideucc.org/pledge



Mock-up wall on site.



Hawk visiting our site.

SIGNING OF THE BELL TOWER BEAM

On Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to noon and again Sunday, March 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Countrysiders will have the opportunity to sign the beam that will be part of the top structure of the bell tower in our new church. Members of the CRC will be on site to assist with the signing. Parking for the signing will be in the parking lot of AMI and a path will be provided to the beam. We hope many members will take time either Saturday or Sunday to sign the beam and participate in this historic moment.

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@countysideucc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Palm Sunday Pancake Feed will be held in Memorial Hall on Sunday, March 25, after BOTH services. Chris Cakes will be serving up warm, delicious pancakes for us again this year. The members of Family Activities Committee ask that you pre-register for this event, ensuring there is enough food for one and all! There is no designated fee for this event, only your free will donation which will be given to Table Grace, the recipient of the 2018 Easter Offering. Table Grace fosters a healthy community by serving great food prepared and served in a graceful manner to anyone who walks through the door regardless of their economic status. They believe that everyone deserves the chance to eat wonderful food while being treated with respect and dignity. Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Station. The members of Family Activities Committee thank you in advance for supporting the Table Grace ministry. This event is generously underwritten by the Countryside Foundation.

All Church Clean Up will be held on Saturday, March 24, 9:00-Noon. We are asking for volunteers from the congregation to join together with our various board members as we spruce our church up for Holy Week and beyond. As always, we will gather for a light lunch following our morning activities; offering us time for sociability, food and fun! Sign-up sheets will be available at the Information Station. If you have questions, contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org.

Writing as a Spiritual Practice – with a Zen Twist, facilitated by Rev. Donna Knutson will be held on Tuesday mornings, March 6-27, in the Conference Room, 9:30-11:00 AM. Donna is a prolific writer and author of "Finding God on Mayberry Street" as well as an Interfaith Minister serving individuals and families who seek spiritual growth and guidance in all areas of their lives. Stop by the Information Station to register for this enlightening class

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

Ladies Lunch Group will meet on Monday, March 5, at First Watch at Noon. 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 on Monday, March 12, 12:00 PM at La Peeps on 120th and Blondo Street. Marilyn Vincent is the hostess for this event. A fun fact...Mary Mitchell's daughter manages this La Peeps and she will be bringing a picture of Mary to share with the group. Circle participants will be making a card to send to Mary as well. Please contact Marilyn at 402-397-0679 or at darrellvincent@cox.net for additional information.

Family Activities Committee members will meet on Sunday, March 25, 10:00 AM in Memorial Hall. This will be a brainstorming session and joint meeting of E.T.C. members and FAC members. Please RSVP to Mary Beth either way.

Yoga classes, facilitated by Cheryl Richards, are held on Monday afternoons, 5:45 p.m. in the Junior Choir Room on the lower level. 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.

Interplay will meet on Saturday, March 10, in the Foyer at Countryside Community Church. For additional information or questions, please contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Hors d'oeuvres contest: Jim and Karen Follon, Tim Kerrigan, Eric Elnes and Kris Cohen!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, March 3. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact 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.

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 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@countysideucc.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@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.

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@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 marybeth@countysideucc.org.

Lunch Bunch Circle

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

NEW TRI-FAITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Rev. Bud Heckman has been selected to serve as Executive Director for the Tri-Faith Initiative. Heckman recently served as Executive Director of Religions for Peace USA, presently as convener of the Interfaith Funders



Rev. Bud Heckman

and voluntarily remains president of the Board of Governors of the Religion Communicators Council. He brings two decades of experience in interfaith relations work - nationally and internationally, in nonprofits, academia, and philanthropy - to the emerging collaborative work of the Tri-Faith Initiative. Tri-Faith board president Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM, said, "We welcome Bud's leadership to the Tri-Faith Initiative, as he brings passion, well respected expertise, a track record of developing nonprofits, and unique insights into the future of interfaith relations." Heckman comes to the Tri-Faith Initiative from New York City. He will be giving shape to its work and carrying forward plans for construction of the

Tri-Faith Center on the shared campus of the congregations, known as Tri-Faith Commons. An ordained United Methodist clergyperson, Heckman has been leading faith-based and academic nonprofits for more than two decades and brings experiences with three different foundations that advance interfaith cooperation, as well as a funders affinity group. Principally, he has advanced the vision of interfaith cooperation as a movement, through concerted efforts in higher education, national and international interfaith organizations, and philanthropy.

"Few things are more misunderstood and yet, at the same time, more important to our lives and world today than religion," said Heckman. "It is a true privilege to become a part of this ambitious initiative."

Heckman will formally start his new role on March 1, 2018. Members of the Tri-Faith Initiative's three faith groups as well as members of the greater community will have an opportunity to meet him at the 2018 Dinner in Abraham's Tent, Tri-Faith's fundraising event scheduled for April 22 at 6:00 PM at CenturyLink Center Omaha.



facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/
facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/
facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/

HOLIDAYS

Jewish

Passover March 30 - April 6

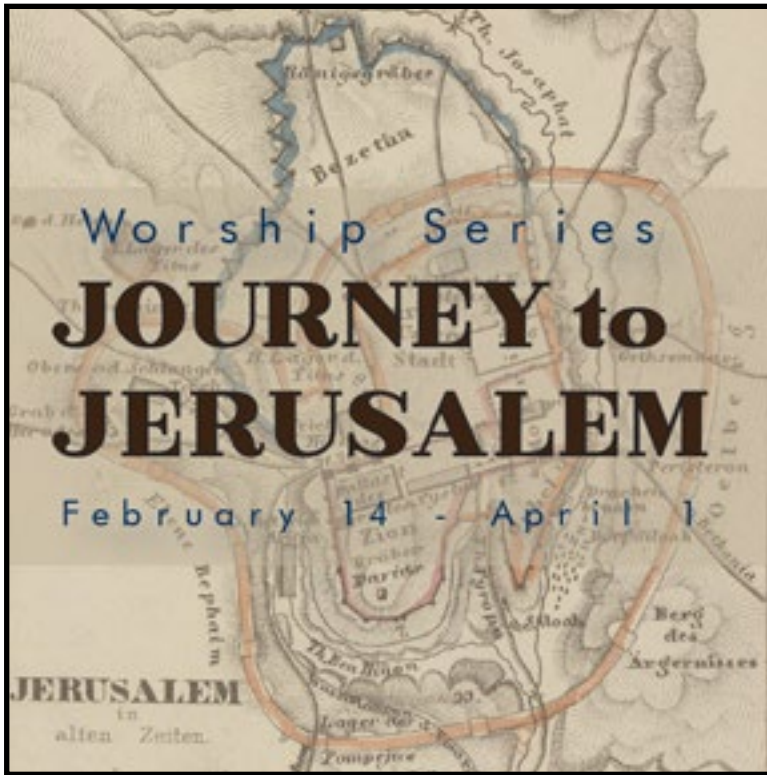
Pesach, known as Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home service called the seder (meaning "order") and a festive meal; the prohibition of chametz (leaven); and the eating of matzah (an unleavened bread). On the fifteenth day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, Jews gather with family and friends in the evening to read from a book called the haggadah, meaning "telling," which contains the order of prayers, rituals, readings, and songs for the Passover seder. Today, the holiday is a celebration of freedom and family.

SAVE THE DATE - ABRAHAM'S TENT


Sunday, April 22, 6:00 PM, CenturyLink

A fundraising dinner for Tri-Faith. More information to come! Questions about the event? Contact info@trifaith.org or call 402.934.2955.



Worship Series
JOURNEY to JERUSALEM
 February 14 - April 1



EASTER SUNDAY
 4.1 | 7:00 a.m.*
 9:00 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.

* Sunrise Service at Tri-Faith Commons
 Parking at Temple Israel 13111 Sterling Ridge Dr.

HELLO

New Members Class

Sundays: March 11 and 25
12:30 - 2:30 PM

Are you new to Countryside and want to learn more about the church, staff and programs?

Join us in our New Members Class!

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

We would love for you to learn more about our Countryside family!



Free will donation for Table Grace

Palm Sunday Pancake Feed
 Sunday, March 25
 After both services
 beginning at 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pancakes by Chris Cakes

Hosted by: Family Activities Committee
 see page 10 for details

ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP

Saturday, March 24
 9:00 AM - Noon

Light lunch following morning activities!

Questions?
marybethl@countrysideucc.org

Sign up at the Information Station
 details page 10