

JUNE/JULY 2019



Eric addresses the crowd



Crowd braves cool temps



Ground breaking for Tri-Faith

GRAND OPENING, TRI-FAITH DEDICATION, MAY 19



Abraham's Bridge



Checking out the new grounds



Mayor Jean Stothert

HELL CREEK REVIVAL A RADICAL WELCOME HOME

Continue the celebration of our move to the Tri-Faith Campus on Saturday, July 20, from 4 to 9 PM in the backyard of Countryside. Live music, art experiences, food trucks, a late-evening beer garden and more. The event is for the whole family, featuring the music of Rev. Yolanda Mapes, drag queen and gospel singer, who will perform from 6 to 7:30 PM and participate in worship the next morning.

From 4 to 6 PM, the activities will be more child-focused with a giant coloring page, instrument petting zoo, collage making, face painting, drama theater, Big Garden and a dance party. Food trucks will arrive at 6 PM featuring Churro food truck, pizza and shaved ice. Live music by Blues Ed's band Five Minute Drive and children's singer Aaron Shoemaker. From 6:30 to 8:30 PM, the activities will be more adult-focused with music by Rev. Yolanda Mapes and Jules & Joe from Countryside, with a beer and wine garden. All activities are free. Food and beverages for purchase. All are welcome!



Countryside's own Jules and Joe will perform!



Rev. Yolanda Mapes will perform on July 20 at our Hell Creek Revival.



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha NE 68144
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countrysideucc.org
Website - www.countrysideucc.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/CountrySideOmaha/

Program Staff

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

Ministers

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Senior Minister, ext. 231
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

Associate Minister, ext. 230
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Will Howell

Minister of Youth & Families, ext. 232
willh@countrysideucc.org

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Rita Otis

Minister of Spiritual Direction
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, 11 AM Jazz Service and 8 PM Day One

Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services. The Nursery is located on the upper level on the south side, next to the office.

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.

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

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Foyer.

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

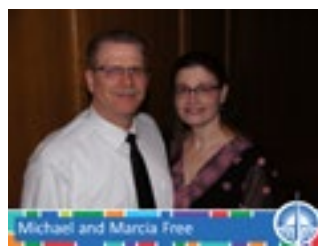
Free Gift - If you are a first time visitor at Countryside, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of the pastors in the Foyer, after the services, so we might offer you a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us.

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

NEW MEMBERS - MARCH 2019 CLASS



Teri and Mark Dagostino



Michael and Marcia Free



Danielle and Vince Galvin



Sonja and Mark Gudgeon, Titus, Zoony



Amy and Derek Kuhn, Daniel, Alexander



Jenna Hansen and Kris Hansen



Rokanne Wiles and Kristin Williams



Deide and John Marshall, Hank, Leo



Katie and Joel Martin and Lauren

Not pictured: Jim Steele



STEPHEN MINISTRY

June 4, Tuesday, 5:30 is Leadership Team, and 6-8 PM is Peer Support. Both will be in the Ruth Meeting Room.

July and August: There is no Leadership Team or Peer Support during July or August, but please contact Jan with any concerns regarding your care receivers.

August 24, Saturday, 9 AM-12:30 PM: Our annual Stephen Ministry Retreat will be in the Alward Chapel. There will be a speaker for an hour, and the remainder of our time will be for fellowship and sharing. Lunch will be provided; please let Jan know if you can come.

SPECIAL REQUEST

All Countryside Stephen Ministers, Forever and Ever Since 1986: Please notify Jan by August 1 if you were trained at some point during the past 33 years, as our data base isn't complete regarding this information. We'd love to have better records to honor this essential, caring community over the years. You helped create a caring culture at Countryside, and that's worth celebrating. Thank you! janb@countrysideucc.org or call the main office.

BIRTHS

Val and Brian Newton are the proud parents of twin boys! **Gavin William** (2lbs. 2oz.) and **Liam Michael** (4lbs. 5oz) were born April 23rd. **Bill and Margie Bolte** are the maternal grandparents, and **Marj Sambasile** is the happy great grandmother.

Jerry and Cary Sharkey's second grandchild, **Jack**, was born on May 1 to **Jerry and Shannon Sharkey** in the Los Angeles area.

MARRIAGES

Chase and Kristen Kratochvil were married May 18 at Countryside; Rev. Will Howell was the officiant.

Deb Hickman's son, **Andrew**, married **Kelly Roberts** on May 18.

IN MEMORIAM

Sybil (Norm) Pavey's mother and **Sarah O'Leary's** grandmother Luverna Brown, age 102, passed away April 30, 2019. Her funeral was held in Wells, MN, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, on May 18.

Brownie Gass died Jan. 23, 2019, and her celebration of life will be at Lauritzen Gardens on June 22, beginning at noon.

BE A "MESSENGER" -- AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Our faith community includes 46 members who live in 24 different care facilities in the Metro Omaha area. Although there is a "Messengers" Team which visits most of these older people, we're needing more volunteers to help. Jan offers a brief training for anyone who's a new Messenger; also, as a team, we gather together once a year to enjoy fellowship with one another. This is a vital ministry for people who are unable to attend worship any longer, so this is our way of "taking church to them." Please contact Jan if you're interested in visiting someone once or twice a month; it's meaningful and a much appreciated gesture of intentionally circling one another in our community. We don't want to forget anyone!

ODE TO JOY

To add to Countryside's historic Year of Celebration festivities, the Pastoral Care Board will be featuring someone special each month by focusing on how they experience joy.

This month we are featuring Bruce Blanchard. Bruce has brought so much joy to Countryside during his interim music director experiences and as church moderator, so we wanted to discover what brings him joy. Bruce finds great joy within his family - his wife, children, and (exponentially so) in his grandchildren, "I find that one of the compensations of growing older is that it keeps getting easier to find joy. For example, now that I no longer have the responsibility for student discipline in a school, I can find joy in watching kids just being goofy." As can be expected, making music offers him joy, whether it be singing via a solo, duet, group or with the congregation, playing an instrument, or directing a group.

Bruce feels better when he sees evil and inequality confronted rather than accepted. "Although this may sound odd since it means recognizing the various troubles of the world, engaging in restorative justice is something that gives me joy. When kids won't merely accept thoughts and prayers, but instead, march for action, I feel hope for our world. When our church takes a stand and risks offending people, I rejoice that we are trying, not just talking. I love the UCC because it has a bias for action. I am happy when we all feel good, but joyful when we are challenged."

Thank you, Bruce, for sharing with all of us and reminding us that joy can be found in standing up for others. Until next month, continue to find joy in justice!

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. 234

Email: janb@countrysideucc.org



Bruce Blanchard with his grandson, Benjamin.



CFS UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Deborah Room. Currently studying "The Era of the Crusades."

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15PM in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Studying The Islamic Golden Age

Racial Justice

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com) for meeting information.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon. Currently on summer hiatus.

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.
Username:CCUCC Password: tryside8787

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 230

Email: chrisa@countysideucc.org

or Courtney Holiday, CFS Admin. Assistant

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 219

Email: courtneyh@countysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES



SAVE the DATE

Wm. Paul Young
September 24, 2019
Lecture
"How do we do faith if God is not religious?"



Margaret Wheatley
November 16, 2019
Workshop
"Warriors for the Human Spirit"



New York Times bestselling author of *The Shack*, *Eve* and *Lies We Believe About God*.



Best-selling author of nine books, from the classic *Leadership and the New Science* in 1992 to her newest book *Who Do We Choose To Be?*
Tickets will be available on eventbrite.com.

ADULT EDUCATION

Earth University

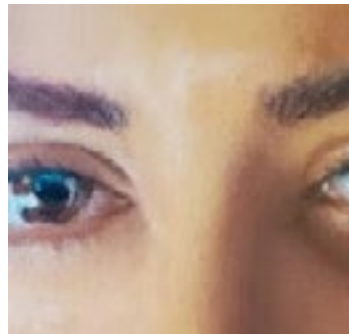
The final class for Earth University will be held on Thursday, June 6, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Chapel at Countryside Community Church. Going Native/Composting 101 will deal with the efficacy of planting native grasses and plants. Get down and dirty with City Sprouts and learn how to compost your food scraps and enrich your garden. This series has been brought to you by Countryside's F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) group.

An Evening with Mirabai Starr - Sunday, July 21, 6:30-8:00 PM



Co-hosted by Center For Faith Studies and First United Methodist Church Mirabai Starr, known nationally and internationally for her teachings of the mystics and contemplative practice and the transformational power of grief and loss. Her commentaries on the interconnected wisdom of all traditions are lyrical and evocative. (First United Methodist Church - 7020 Cass Street, Omaha.)

A Portrait Exhibition by Monica Maxwell - August 10-31, First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street



Monica Maxwell, is a contemporary realist visual artist and photographer working in Omaha. In this collaborative series, Monica features oil portraits of Omaha women, sharing their stories, and expressing their lived experiences in a way that creates a compelling visual advocacy. Monica's visual storytelling highlights compassionate, engaged citizens that stand in the face of adversity while seeking to bridge the disparities and divisions among us. Opening night is August 10, 5:00 PM. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander at chrisa@countysideucc.org or Rev. Dr. Cynthia Lindenmeyer at Cynthia.Lindenmeyer@fumcomaha.org

Rabbi Azriel Returns!

Mondays, 10 - 11:30 AM, Starting June 24

Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, shares "A Touch of the Sacred: A Rabbi Informal Guide to Jewish Belief" with us. We would love to have you join us!

ENGAGING IN WORSHIP



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meditation Opportunities Abound at Countryside

Due to the growing interest in prayer and meditation at Countryside we're offering two powerful opportunities in May and June:

Online "Mystical Misfits" Meditations May 13 - June 14

Join Dr. Elnes for another round of "Mystical Misfits" 20-minute meditations online Mondays and Fridays at 7 AM. In order to be gathered together in one place, the sessions will be streamed ONLY on Countryside's Darkwood Brew Facebook page instead of three separate pages. Just "like" the Darkwood Brew page and you'll be sent a notification each time Dr. Elnes is streaming. Or, just show up at 7!

Online "Spirit Lab" on Wednesday nights! May 15 - June 12

Would you like to add a learning and fellowship opportunity to your meditations? Join Dr. Elnes and others on the free, Zoom web conferencing platform (www.zoom.com) on Wednesdays at 9PM. "Spirit Lab" starts with 25 minutes of teaching on various topics, followed by 25 minutes of group meditation. The advantage of meeting on Zoom is that you can engage in group conversation, either in audio-only mode or both audio and video. In other words, you can see and converse with those gathered with you, and either be seen yourself or be invisible to others. Topics for conversation will be engaging and wide-ranging, and different styles of meditation will be explored. These sessions will be quite helpful to those at all levels of meditation experience, including those who have not done it before. To access the Zoom sessions, simply go to www.zoom.com and type in the meeting code 402-391-0350 (Easy to remember because the code is the same as Countryside's office telephone number.)

Countryside's New Weekly "Day One" Worship Has Started!

Thanks to a grant from the Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation, "Day One" is now an official third Weekly Sunday service, Sundays at 8 PM. Integrating both ancient and modern worship modes, "Day One" is meant to START your week, not end it. Come experience the simplicity of a meditative style of worship lit by 99 candles and music played on our new Fazioli 308 piano by Alex Ritter. The service is punctuated by crystal singing bowls and a liturgy that is chanted by some of Omaha's best voices. Come early for a class led by Dr. Elnes in Common Grounds Coffeehouse at 6:45 PM. (*More info below.*)

Invite Your Friends to "The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World" starting June 2.

Now that we're on the Tri-Faith Commons, Countryside has created three different ways to experience, and also invite your friends to, "The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World." This series will be the focus of Sunday morning worship, several small groups, and a Sunday evening coffeehouse class taught by Dr. Elnes. Together, we'll explore the relationship between Christianity and other faiths - particularly how a Christian can claim fully the path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths God may create for humanity. In other words, it's the perfect series to hold in our Tri-Faith setting and invite friends to on Sunday evenings.

WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays - on hiatus for summer.

For more information about Worship contact Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 231

Email: erice@countrysideucc.org



RABBI ARYEH AZRIEL

our Scholar-In-Residence, will be teaching another six-week series of classes on Judaism. We would love to have you attend!

Starts June 24!
10 AM in Marys' Hall

Sign up at the
Connection Station





On July 9th (Cubans) and July 16th (meatballs) our Core 56 students will learn how to prep, assemble, and cook a meal from another student. Since we are using heat and sharp things, class size is limited to 10, so register today - get details from Rebecca at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

HELLO

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

June 2 and June 9

12:30 PM in Rahab

See Robyn: robynh@countrysideucc.org



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 Sunday afternoon from 4:30 -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. On summer hiatus.

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. On summer hiatus.

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, together, and grow in faith. On summer hiatus.

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 (all choirs on summer hiatus)

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 Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:30 PM and sings once a month in church.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Rev. Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 232

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garage Sale June 6, 7 & 8

Thursday, June 6, 6 - 8 PM, Sale night for Countryside Members Friday, June 7, 8 AM - 6 PM, Saturday, June 8, 8 AM - 2 PM. Sign up for shifts at <http://countrysideucc.org/garagesale>

Faith Singers Tour, July 6 - 14

Follow the Faith Singers Tour as they go to Minneapolis, Wisconsin Dells, Mackinac Island, Flint, Michigan, and Chicago July 6-14 at <http://facebook.com/cccfaihsingers/>

COYO Sr High mission trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico - July 21-28

Follow the COYO Sr High mission trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico working with SBP to rebuild homes damaged by the hurricanes July 21-28 at <http://facebook.com/coyosrhigh/>

COYO Sr High Welcome event at Worlds of Fun, August 5, 8 AM - 11 PM

Save the date and check back for more information. Will include incoming Freshman and outgoing Seniors.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

COYO Jr High Lock In - July 12, 8 PM - 8 AM

Spend the night in your new favorite building. Bring a friend and a snack to share. Sleeping bags are optional.

ALL COYO

All COYO Families Dinner - July 14, 5 PM

Bring a side or dessert to share as we welcome the Faith Singers home from Tour. The whole family is welcome to come.

Hell Creek Revival at Countryside - July 20, 4 PM - 9 PM

Celebrate the move with Art, Music, and Food Trucks. Fun for the whole family! Volunteer to help out. Sign up at the Connection Link.



Congratulations COYO class of 2019



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR JUNE/JULY

June 2 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the worship service.

June 9- Children's Church

Children start in the Sanctuary and proceed out after Children's moment.

June 16 - Family Worship

June 23 -Children's Church

Children start in the Sanctuary and proceed out after Children's moment.

June 30 - Family Worship

July 7 - Family Worship

July 14 Children's Church

Children start in the Sanctuary and proceed out after Children's moment.

July 21 - Family Worship

July 28 - Children's Church

Children start in the Sanctuary and proceed out after Children's moment.

HELLS CREEK REVIVAL - SATURDAY, JULY 20 4 PM - 9 PM

Come celebrate our move to the Tri-Faith Campus on July 20, 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the backyard of Countryside. From 4:00 to 6:00 PM, the activities will be more child-focused with a giant coloring page, instrument petting zoo, collage making, face painting, drama theater, big garden, and dance party. Food trucks will arrive at 6:00 PM featuring Churro food truck, pizza, and shaved ice that you can purchase directly from them. Live music by Blues Ed's band Five Minute Drive and Aaron Shoemaker kids singer. From 6:30 to 8:30 PM, the activities will be more adult focused with music by Rev. Yolanda Mapes and Jules & Joe from Countryside, with a beer and wine garden. All activities are free. Bring money for the food trucks and beer and wine garden. There will also be free refreshments available all day. All are welcome!

BITS AND PIECES

Collage Class

On July 23 and 25, gifted artist and congregation member, Christy Palmer, will teach the art of collage in a two-part class for 3rd and 4th graders. Classes will run from 5 - 8 PM, with a scheduled dinner break. Class size is limited to 12 students so register today. Contact Rebecca for more information contact rebecca_m@countrysideucc.org.

CORE 56

Core 56 Cooking Classes

Cuban sandwiches and Meatballs are on the menu for our Core 56 cooking classes this summer! On July 9th (Cubans) and July 16th (meatballs), our Core 56 students will learn how to prep, assemble, and cook a meal from another student. Participants will also eat and clean up together. Since we are using heat and sharp things, class size is limited to 10, so register today. It would be most helpful, but not required, for participants to have had some experience using kitchen knives and oven/stove. Classes will be held from 5 - 8:00 PM. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend with their student. Contact Rebecca for more information rebecca_m@countrysideucc.org.



Lucas kids enjoying some down time after the 9 AM service.

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 and Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM (Aug. - Apr.) for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds.

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 mission and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

Sunday School classes are located on the lower level in the new building. Please follow signage.

Children's Church

Chapel - This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like communion, prayer, and storytelling. It's open to children five years old through 6th grade.

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

Lower Level - During the school year on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts, activities, and storytelling.

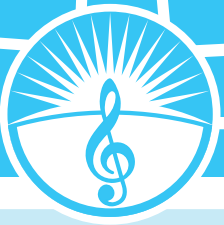
Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

Lower Level - On Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus's ministry and work. We also enjoy fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Choir News

Countryside's adult choirs will be singing through Pentecost, Sunday, June 9. Adult Choirs will resume in August, kicking off the 2019/2020 choral season with a Choir Retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 10, 2019. Watch for specific information in the August newsletter and in the C10 weekly emails. If you are interested in learning more about our adult choirs, please contact Trish Hoffman-Ahrens at thoffman425@gmail.com. We look forward to an incredible year in our new space.

THANK YOU!

A huge Thank You to the countless volunteers, who helped our Music and Art Ministry sort, organize, pack and move all of our music, instruments, and other creative assets from 8787 to our new home at 13030 Faith Plaza. We deeply appreciate your time as well as your tireless efforts. We could not have done it without you.

A special Thank You to Pam Kregg, our volunteer music librarian and choir leader. Pam was instrumental in planning, directing and guiding our move. Most importantly, Pam's attention to detail and focus ensured that our music ministry did not miss a beat as we transitioned from one location to another. A herculean effort! Pam, thank so much for all that you have done and continue to do.

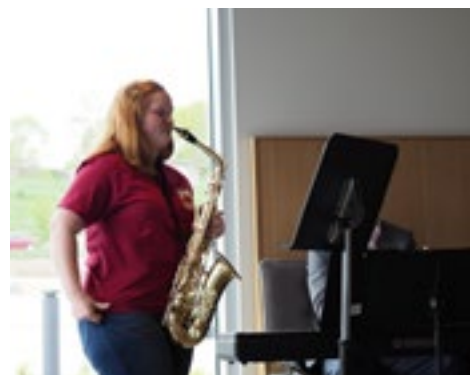
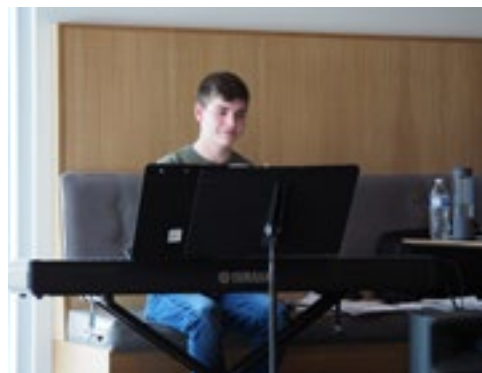
"Search with All Your Heart"

Faith Singers' Home Concert Sunday, July 14, at 5pm Dinner and 6pm Concert

The home concert is the culmination of the 2019 Faith Singers Tour. Come hear the Faith Singers share their music and experiences from what will be an exciting and profound journey in the upper-Midwest including Flint, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois.

As a special treat for concert-goers, there will be a pre-concert dinner served at 5pm in Mary's Hall where the you can hear about their experiences directly from them.

Please join us as we welcome the Faith Singers home!



Our accomplished Faith Singers showcased some of their extraordinary talents during the annual variety show in May.

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.

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM. The choir sings monthly in worship. On summer hiatus.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year. On summer hiatus.

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. On summer break starting June 9.

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. On summer break starting June 9.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact:

Alex Ritter
Acting Artistic Director
Email: alexr@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org



THE BOX FOR JUNE/JULY

June BOX – Paper goods for the immigrant families affected by the ICE raids in August of 2018. The need is still dramatic for approximately 30 families. They are in need of all types of paper goods; toilet paper, paper towels and diapers (all sizes). The members of the Board of Christian Outreach greatly appreciate your continued support and concern for these families. These items will be delivered to the families. We thank you in advance for your donations to those in need in O’Neill, NE.

July BOX – The Santee/Niobrara school students and their families have been dramatically impacted by the flooding the past few months. We are asking on behalf of the students in the Santee/Niobrara districts, for T shirts in children’s sizes Small, Medium, Large and X-Large as well as Youth sizes Small, Medium, Large and X-Large. These items will work for boys and girls in schools Pre-K thru 12. This will also help them get back to school. These items will also be delivered to them prior to school starting.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry went off without any major issues serving 115 families which equates to 357 individuals at our first pantry at the new church! In preparation for our June and July pantries, we are still asking for additional volunteers to help in the following way:

- place signs in a variety of locations between our current location and the previous address (8787 Pacific). These signs can be placed on Friday evening or early Saturday morning.
- We also are needing a couple of folks to be at the 8787 Pacific Street location on June 1 and July 6 to hand out maps, share directions and chat with patrons who might yet think the pantry is at our old location.

Should you have an interest in helping with this or working the pantry, please contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350 ext. 235 or email to communitycupboard@countysideucc.org requesting any additional information you may need. You can also sign up at the Connection Link on Sunday mornings after service.

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 Connection Station.

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

CRC SUMMER UPDATE

Witness Tree Planting

In the early days of the settlement of the United States, land was distributed among settlers. Surveyors documented the trees that rested at the imaginary corners and angles of parcels to make their boundaries. They were called “witness trees,” that which witnessed a corner or angle.

The expression is used today for trees present at key events in history. Countryside is planting its own witness tree this spring to commemorate our arrival on the Tri-Faith Commons, surely a key event in our history. It will stand by the path to Abraham’s Bridge.

A “Wild” Experience for Children

Slide down a hill, climb a boulder, plant some carrots, watch butterflies sip their lunch!

The development of our nature-based playground and learning area is underway. This special outdoor space is where we invite children to engage with the “wild” world through play and activities. Visit this special place with children, stand back, and see the magic happen!

Fine-Tuning Continues

Meanwhile, the punch list items continue to be addressed. As we settle into our church and understand how the building functions, fixes small and big continue to be discovered and attended to. Applause for Rick MacInnes, Dan Loven-Crum, Matt Herzog of Project Advocates, our architectural team and many others.

What a Church Family!

The Open House and Ceremony last month was a great day with hundreds of visitors touring our church. Gracious Docents and our indefatigable leadership and staff made everyone feel welcome. Where help was needed our members stepped forward. Thanks to all!



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@countysideucc.org.



LIFE MINISTRIES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PRIDE FESTIVAL - Saturday, June 29 from 12-4:00 PM. Countryside Community Church has been an active community within the Pride Festival for the past several years. Thanks to the amazing commitment of Diane and Don Scott, We need volunteers to man our booth, please contact Diane at twang56@cox.net or stop by the Connection Link in the Foyer to signup. Several families have asked about Countryside participating in the parade as well. We need an individual or group who would like to coordinate this piece. The parade runs from 10 AM -12:00 PM. If you have an interest, please contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org or call at 402-391-0350 ext. 235.

ALL CHURCH APPRECIATION POT LUCK SUPPER - Sunday, June 9, 5:00-6:00 PM. Just a simple way of saying "thank you" to our volunteers, builders, painters, contractors, architects and others for our amazing new church! The church will provide the main dish. You are asked to bring either a side, salad or dessert. For ease of coordinating, A-I: please bring sides, J-R: please bring salads and S-Z: please bring desserts. Signups will be available at the Connection Link on Sunday mornings or you may contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext., 235 or at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity will be presented on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:00 PM, JUNE 11 and JULY 9 as well as Saturday mornings from 10-11:00, June 15 and July 13. This frank and open discussion exploring the basic science surrounding the biology, orientation and gender identity of our sexuality, the impact of bias on these issues and an outline of the services available to families, professionals and organizations. You may reserve your seat by emailing: info@EqualityAdvancement.com. (Sponsored by Countryside's Board of Life Ministry.)

CONTEMPLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY RETREATS

Rita Otis will offer three opportunities to explore photography and prayer; two full-day retreats and one half-day retreat. Seeing Deeply, the first all-day retreat, will be held on Saturday, June 22, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Seeing Deeply is an act of intimacy; it is to see ourselves in relationship to God's created world rather than observing it. This retreat is designed to nurture our ability to see deeply. With a camera we take the energy of intimacy and make it manifest. That is contemplative photography. Suggested cost for this retreat is \$40/person.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, June 3, at Countryside at noon. Box Lunch in Mary's Hall and tour of Countryside to follow. They will resume meeting at First Watch (1222 S 71) on July 1.

Family Activities Committee members will gather on Sunday, June 23 and July 28 in Anna meeting room, to continue planning summer events for our church families. RSVP to marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

E.T.C. members will gather on Thursday, June 6, at Granite City, 6:30 PM. RSVP to marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

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. 235

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, June 1 and July 6. We need 60 volunteers every month but we have an increased need for 15-20 additional volunteers over the next few months. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Pantry Focus Committee for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of June and the Board of Arts and Music for hosting in July. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what Countryside's Board of Deacons is responsible for and how you might help.

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new people! If you 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 Connection Link and talk to Mary Beth to learn more.

Thank you!

YOU ARE AMAZING!!! Thank you so much for all your time, dedication, energy and fun that everyone put into UNpacking after moving Countryside to our new home! We averaged 9 volunteers/day in two hour shifts. Many of you stayed for a full 4 hours. We truly cannot thank you enough and we definitely would not have been able to do this move without you!

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@counttrysideucc.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 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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. Meets Fridays at 10:00 AM. 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@counttrysideucc.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 counttrysideucc.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 9:30 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.



trifaith.org

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

MORE THAN A JOKE - SHAVUOT EDITION

Saturday, June 8 - 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Temple Israel, 1311 Sterling Ridge Dr.

On the evening of Shavuot, when the Jewish community celebrates the gifts of Torah and learning, our Tri-Faith clergy partners will join our rabbis for a holiday edition of "More Than a Joke" - an evening of conversation about the Ten Commandments in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Our line-up of comical clergy include Rabbi Brian Stoller, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Deana Sussman Berezin, Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander, Rev. Will Howell, and Imam Jamal Daoudi. Tri-Faith Interim Executive Director Wendy Goldberg will be our moderator. And while the adults learn with the clergy alongside our fellow congregants and Tri-Faith friends, there will be fun and educational activities for our children to learn about the Ten Commandments with kids from Countryside and AMI as well! This will be a beautiful evening of study and friendship that you do not want to miss!

Panel #1 - The First Tablet: For the Love of God, What Do You Want from Us?!

Panel #2 - The Second Tablet: Adultery, Coveting, and Other Big No-No's

Children's Shavuot activities: What are the Ten Commandments and Why Are They Important to Us?

TWO WAYS TO ENJOY MEETING OUR TRI-FAITH NEIGHBORS

Did you know AMI has a monthly potluck supper? They welcome anyone in the Tri-Faith community to join them. It is held the first Friday of every month at AMI, June 7 being the next one. To participate all you need to do is text 402.885.9232 and RSVP with your favorite dish! Please, no pork, shellfish, alcohol or gelatin. If you are concerned about your dish you can always bring a card with the ingredients listed.

Countryside sponsors a Ladies Lunch group which meets on the first Monday of each month, the next two are June 3 and July 1, at First Watch (1222 S. 71) at noon. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal and warm conversation with women from Countryside Church, Temple Israel and AMI.



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

HOLIDAYS

Muslim - Eid-Al Fitr - June 4

Eid marks the end of the Islamic month of Ramadan and is celebrated by service at AMI at 9:00 AM (takbeer) at 8:30 AM, prayer promptly at 9:00 AM, snacks and gathering after prayer.

Jewish - Shavuot - June 8/9

Shavuot is the Hebrew word for "weeks" and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, which occurs seven weeks after Passover. Shavuot, like many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival that marked the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. In ancient times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is a celebration of Torah, education, and actively choosing to participate in Jewish life.

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WORSHIP SERIES - JUNE 2 - JULY 7

Living
the
FAITH of
Jesus
in a
PLURALISTIC
WORLD



FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 5

Thank you
**CHURCH
POTLUCK**
Sunday, June 9
5:00-6:00 PM

Come say "Thank You!" to everyone
who helped build our church!

Countryside is supplying dinner!
Please bring a side, salad or dessert.

For ease of organizing:
Families with last names -
A-I: please bring sides
J-R: please bring salads
S-Z: please bring desserts

Sign-ups will be available at the
Connection Link on Sunday mornings
or contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350
or at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

see page 10 for details

**GARAGE
SALE**

THURSDAY

June 6

6 PM - 8 PM

Preview night for
Countryside members

FRIDAY

June 7

8 AM - 6 PM

SATURDAY

June 8

8 AM - 2 PM

See Connection Station for details

**Contemplative
Photography
Retreats**

Explore photography and prayer
led by Spiritual Director, Rita Otis.

Two full-day retreats (limit 15)

June 22 and August 30

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

One half-day retreat (limit 30)

September 14, 9:00 AM – Noon

Sign up at Connection Station

details page 10