



WELCOME BACK TO OUR SMALL GROUPS

We are excited to be able to welcome the congregation back into the church. This summer is ALL about moving from our 2-D existence with Zoom and online worship to 3-D where we can safely gather together in small groups, board and committee meetings and in worship. We want ALL to feel welcome to return to in-person worship at Countryside as each is comfortable doing so. The building and the staff are ready to welcome you back. We know the community has missed seeing each other tremendously and we want to hear your pandemic stories and how you are returning to a new normal. We are open and ready to nourish your spirit in worship through the word, music and prayer and also through community.

We understand that coming back may be difficult for some people and that you might need to exercise extra caution but when the time is right we encourage you to come back. We are currently working to upgrade our audio/visual equipment in a number of our meeting rooms so that by fall using a hybrid meeting form (in-person and Zoom) should be available if that is something your group decides you would like to do. We would love to see some of our small groups, book studies, journey groups, basically any and all members who would like to come back to Countryside to meet in-person contact our office at office@countrysideucc.org or call Kris Hill at 402.391-0350 (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning) to schedule your time and room.



NO PRE-REGISTRATION, SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

You no longer have to pre-register to attend services on Sunday mornings. Now you can show up to either the 9 or 11 AM service. For now, both services will be the same (no classical or jazz choices). Masks are still required inside the building.

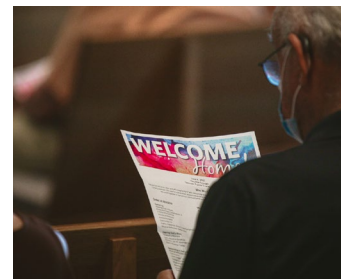
Summer office hours are in effect for the Countryside office until September 1. The office will be closing one-hour earlier, 8 AM - 3 PM. If you have any questions, please email the office at office@countrysideucc.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP



WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH! WE ARE ALSO ONLINE AND ON KMTV 3

We are currently in the YELLOW phase of our opening guidelines. In July there are THREE ways to catch Countryside Community Church on Sunday mornings, in person at 9 AM and 11 AM (**REGISTRATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED**), online through YouTube live which you can connect with at countrysideucc.org/live or on KMTV Channel at 10:30 AM. We will be continuing our KMTV services through the end of the summer.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, WEAR YOUR MASK IN CHURCH

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."
Matthew 25:40 NIV

We are so excited to be able to gather again for Sunday worship starting June 6! Being with one another as a worshiping community is something our hearts have yearned for more than words can express. It will be a gift to be together soon, but we must remember the lessons of care and compassion this season of pandemic has taught us. These lessons go far beyond the COVID-19 virus and include those still vulnerable to its effects.

Masking was not a normative part of our culture prior to the past year, but we have seen how thoughtfulness in masking and social distancing have had multiple implications on our collective health over the past year. Not only have we saved lives related to the COVID pandemic, but we also saw influenza numbers massively decrease. Many people said this was the first year in ages they did not even have a cold! As we go back to worship together, we will be asking everyone to hold fast to these lessons of compassion by continuing to mask in the building for the protection of everyone's health.

While many people have been vaccinated, some have been unable to receive the vaccination because it has not been approved. All children under 12 are part of this demographic and we have little knowledge of the long-term effects of having COVID on our children. So, when you interact with children who come to our services, please be mindful of taking extra care to give them the same space and consideration we have given our vulnerable populations all along. Additionally, expectant mothers may not have been able to have the vaccine. Still others are allergic or have special conditions like immunosuppression, cancer, or health issues that may leave them particularly vulnerable to diseases.

It is our time to shine with the love we feel in our hearts towards one another. Let us celebrate regathering by continuing to show extravagant love of neighbor by masking, keeping space, and asking before we approach new people or those we have not seen in a while. Thank you for your thoughtful attention to continued love of neighbor. We'll see you soon!

Your interim leadership team,
Pastor Anna Crews Camphouse
Pastor Tracey Perry
Dan Loven-Crum

JULY WORSHIP

This month's worship series is titled, *Who is This Jesus?* Join Pastor Tracey as she takes us on a journey to discover who Jesus is to each of us.

JO-ON-THE-GO, JULY 18

Join us between services on July 18, for fellowship and coffee and smoothie drinks provided by Jo-On-The-Go. Thank you to Countryside Foundation for making the delicious drinks free of charge for everyone for that morning. We hope to see you there!

COME, ASK, LEARN - THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30 AM

Pastor Anna, Pastor Tracey and Dan Loven-Crum will be available on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for fellowship and conversations in the Common Grounds Coffee House. This is the time to come meet our new pastors, ask any questions about what is going on at YOUR church and learn about our new leadership model. No registration is required.

Staff

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Interim Director of Vision & Stewardship
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COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



QI GONG - FOUR DAY CLASS, AUGUST 3 - 6, 9-10 AM

Rita Otis is offering a four-day class on Qi-Gong, Cultivating Health and Happiness. In this class she will explore the philosophy of Yin/Yang, awaken four main energy centers, teach simple movements to enhance energy and connect to Divine Mystery through beauty, joy and gratitude. The class will take place August 3 - 6 from 9 - 10 AM at Countryside. The cost of the class is \$40. To register for the class, please contact Rita Otis at RMOtis@outlook.com.

MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS WITH CARLOS, WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Mindful Meditation Sits with Carlos Figueroa are continuing Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom. You can access these sits through the zoom link on the church calendar. If you have any questions or would like more information about these opportunities, please contact the church office at office@countrysideucc.org.

FAITH AND ENVIRONMENT BINGO GAME

The Faith and the Environment committee is offering this bingo challenge to hone your environmental stewardship skills. Prizes will be awarded to all participants and special awards will be give to those who earn one bingo. The first five players to fill the entire bingo card will be awarded an extra special prize. Winners will be announced in the September newsletter. This is the one game where everyone and the environment wins. When you get a bingo, email Ann Naylor at annnaylor32@gmail.com.

Environmental BINGO!				
E	A	R	T	H
Use reusable ziptop bags or containers instead of ziploc baggies for 2 weeks	Try organic fertilizers and avoid using chemicals on your lawn for one month	Turn off the water between shampoo/soap and rinsing in the shower three times in a month	Close your blinds on the south and west sides of your home during the afternoons for two weeks	Read one article in the paper, Sierra Club, National Geographic, or Audobon Society for four weeks
Use a water-saving handle on your garden hose to control the flow of water rather than letting the water run freely	Talk to one person you know about climate change weekly for four weeks	Try low-waste options for laundry, dish, and hand soaps (such as strips or refillable containers)	Sit outside on your deck/lawn, in a park, or on the church lawn for at least ten minutes and focus on God's creation weekly for four weeks	Replace three commercial cleaners with natural cleaners to clean your home
Throw away your disposable contacts rather than flushing them down the toilet	Reuse or recycle 100% of your glass bottles and jars for four weeks	FREE SPACE 	Replace all of the light bulbs in your home with LED bulbs to save energy	Turn off the water when brushing your teeth for one month
Try using wool balls in your dryer instead of using fabric softener or dryer sheets	Make sure your sunscreens are "reef-safe" https://savethereef.org/about-reef-save-sunscreen.html	Try e-cloths, Norwex, or other similar fabrics to clean your home without chemicals	Bring reusable grocery bags for your groceries AND your produce for four weeks	Eat one less meal using beef per month
Shop for local produce at least three times in a month	Don't allow your car to idle if you are going to be stopped for more than 5 minutes	Try paper products (tissue, toilet paper, paper towels) made from 100% recycled paper	Wash all laundry with cold water for four weeks	Turn your thermostat up 5 degrees when you are not home in the summer for four weeks

CHOIR HAS STARTED! PLEASE JOIN US!

The Countryside adult choir, under the direction of Barron Breland, began rehearsing in person on Wednesday, June 30, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet every other week over the summer to keep things consistent, but not too strenuous. We will start off by singing through some favorites, have some workshops with professional singers to relearn the art of singing, work on four-part harmony by doing a hymn sing with the organ, and maybe even record a video to be used in the services over the summer.

For more information please email Alex at alexr@countrysideucc.org.

MEN'S BREAKFAST, TUESDAYS AT 8 AM

Looking for fellowship and great conversation? Check out the weekly Men's Breakfast at First Watch on 72 and Pacific. Every Tuesday morning at 8 AM feel free to stop in and have breakfast. You can come every week or stop in once a month, it's up to you! All are welcome to attend!

NEW BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR TRACEY

Pastor Tracey is starting a new bible study called, The Word is Alive. Please watch your C-10 and our social media platforms in July for more information for this new study.



TRI-FAITH GARDEN AND ORCHARD UPDATE

There's a fifth building on the Tri-Faith Commons! Our Garden and Orchard now has its own shed. Thank you to G&R Contractors for building this much-needed storage space for our Garden and Orchard Team to use as we continue to address food insecurity in Omaha: trifaith.org/garden-volunteer



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tri-Faith Kids Meet-up

Thursday, July 8, 10 - 11:30 AM, Temple Israel Playground, 13111 Sterling Ridge Dr.

Looking for an avenue to connect with other parents on the Tri-Faith Commons? Join other Tri-Faith parents and children at the Temple Israel Playground. Tri-Faith will provide Popsicle sticks and wipes; you bring the kids!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Conversations: Executive Panel on the Freedom of Thought and Belief

Thursday, July 8, 12 - 1 PM, online

Join Wendy Goldberg as she facilitates a panel discussion with Omaha thought leaders and executives around diversity of thought and belief in the workplace, as we honor and celebrate the work and retirement of OPPD President and CEO Tim Burke.

Registration required - go to tinyurl.com/execpanel to register.

A Watershed Moment for Muslims, Christians, and Jews in 1920s Persia

Tuesday, July 13, 1 PM, online

In July 1924 in Tehran, Iraq, Robert Imbrie became the first U.S. Foreign Service officer to be killed. His death set off political repercussions between the United States and Iran that are still felt to this day.

In this talk, Susan M. Stein will describe Imbrie's impact on the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities of Iran, as well as the lessons and stories she learned about when researching him for her book, *On Distant Service: The Life of the First U.S. Foreign Service Officer to be Assassinated*.

Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch

Monday, July 9, 12 - 1 PM, online

The Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch is an opportunity to meet new friends, stay connected, and build intergenerational bonds between women of all faiths and identities.

Join us for sisterhood and casual conversation over lunch!

Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Soil & Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith with Fred Bahnsen

Thursday, July 22, 6 PM, online

2021 Faith Matters Series

How does food impact your spiritual journey? How does the garden serve as a metaphor -- throughout scripture, and in our everyday life? Join Program Director Amanda Crichlow Silva for this Faith Matters event with author Fred Bahnsen as we discuss his book, *Soil & Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*.

Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Making the Familiar Strange: Islamic Call to Prayer with Nizam Qassem

Tuesday, July 27, 12 - 1 PM, online

Join Education Director Jeremy Fricke and Nizam Qassem, a member of the American Muslim Institute, for this session of Making the Familiar Strange as we explore the Islamic call to prayer (adhan).

Send your questions and thoughts in advance to Jeremy at jfricke@trifaith.org.

Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Heroes of Scripture: Prophet Hud - A Tri-Faith Clergy Conversation

Tuesday, July 27, 6:30 - 8 PM, in-person and online

Join us for our third session of "Heroes of Scripture: A Tri-Faith Clergy Conversation," an example of real-life interfaith dialogue in action. Through this four-part series, each Tri-Faith community on the Commons will take turns hosting a discussion about prominent figures from scripture.

American Muslim Institute's Imam Daoudi will outline a Muslim perspective on the story of Hud, an important Arabian prophet described in the Qur'an as a descendant of Noah. This session will potentially be offered in a hybrid (in-person + online) format. Regardless of how you may attend, please register for this event using the Zoom link provided.

Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Tri-Faith Picnic

Sunday, August 1, 4 - 8 PM, all campuses on Tri-Faith commons

Join us for our annual Tri-Faith picnic. Watch for more information.

TRI-FAITH COMMUNITY



NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES: TRI-FAITH LIVING

Now that we are back on the campus, it's the best time ever to recommit to our involvement in the Tri-Faith Commons! What does it mean to be engaged with our neighbors? How do we want to be a part of the awesome community who share Faith Plaza with us? This is definitely a question that we need to be really working on this year. Please know discussions will be ongoing on how we can engage in ways that both bring forth the best of Countryside as well as support our neighbors.

Here are some of the ways we can engage in July!

- Looking for a family outing? Check out the Tri-Faith kids meetup on Thursday, July 8 from 10:30-11:30 AM at the Temple Israel Playground.
- Want to gather with some amazing women over lunch? Join the Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch on Monday, July 5 and Monday, July 19 at noon on Zoom.
- Feeling like you want to learn about Creation Care? Consider Zooming in to Soil and "Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith" on Thursday, July 22 from 6:00-7:30 PM.
- Wishing you knew a bit more about Islam? Make time for "Making the Familiar Strange: Islamic Call to Prayer" on Thursday, July 27 at noon on Zoom. And don't miss "Heroes of Scripture: Prophet Hud—A Tri-Faith Conversation" on Tuesday, July 27th at 6:30-8:00 PM.
- Feel like you are ready to hear from the larger Omaha community about how the values of Tri-Faith intersect with the larger world? Check out the Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Conversations discussions "Freedom of Thought and Belief" on Thursday, July 8 at Noon on Zoom. Also check out "To-Gather Picnic Table Design/Concept Preview with 7 Local Architectural Teams" on Thursday, July 22 at noon. One of these tables will be housed right here at Countryside! Come check it out!
- Want to do a deep dive on topics from history designed for the Tri-Faith and interfaith audience? Don't miss Abraham's Whiteboard: African American and Jewish Connections in Samuel Bak's Holocaust Art on Thursday, July 1st from 6:30-8:00 PM.. Another fabulous learning opportunity is "A Watershed Moment for Muslims, Christians, and Jews in 1920s Persia" on Tuesday, July 13 at noon on Zoom.

Please SAVE THE DATE: August 1, from 4 - 8 PM for a Tri-Faith Picnic on the Commons! There will be food trucks available all over campus for us to enjoy. If you would like to help sponsor the food for this event, please email Amanda Ryan at Tri-Faith at alryan@trifaith.org.

One more thing, I am planning on leading groups on the second and fourth Fridays starting in August to go worship at the Synagogue and the mosque. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the office to let us put you on the list. We will also have a registration available on the website at countrysideucc.org/register after July 15.

Blessings and peace in your continued love of neighbors in Faith Plaza and beyond,
Pastor Anna



A recent small group gathering at the Tri-Faith Garden and Orchard, Planting the Three Sisters with Taylor Keen (not pictured). Pastor Anna is pictured in the middle.

ABRAHAM'S BRIDGE

The iconic Abraham's Circle Bridge connects the four buildings and stands as an inspirational focal point on the Commons. Accessible from all three houses of worship as well as the Tri-Faith Center, the bridge runs over Hell's Creek. The bridge serves a catalyst for relationship building between the congregations, as groups meet weekly to walk and talk with one another. The bridge also serves a focal point for programs like Stories From the Bridge, in which congregants and neighbors share their lived experiences.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

What are the appropriate steps to follow if I have a concern regarding the Executive Leadership Team or one of its members?

1. Who is the Executive Leadership Team?

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) includes Pastor Tracey Perry as our Minister of Worship and Congregational Care, Pastor Anna Crews Camphouse as our Minister of Engagement and Formation, and Dan Loven-Crum as our Director of Stewardship and Vision. This is a non-hierarchical leadership model.

2. Who are the lay members (congregational representatives) of the Leadership Relations Committee and what are their roles?

Emily Wadhams, Annette Sterling, Al Cardona, and Tom Scates are the congregational members of the LRC. The Leadership Relations Committee (LRC) serves the church by monitoring the ongoing relationship between the ELT and the congregation. In essence, it is a sounding board to assist the church in maintaining a healthy relationship between the congregation and the leadership and in identifying and resolving issues. They are also a support for the leaders and assist in fine tuning the Collaborative Leadership Model during this interim period.

3. When should I contact the LRC?

The LRC encourages congregational members to meet directly with any member of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) to discuss their concerns. Members of the congregation may share questions or concerns about church leadership staff members with any of the four lay members of the LRC. They will listen and assure responsiveness to those concerns. Of course, lay members of the LRC are not the only avenue of communication. Depending upon the topic, the LRC may encourage church members to take their concerns to other relevant church boards or the Church Council. If possible, we prefer that your initial contact be by email.

Lay members of the LRC, with their contact information, are listed below.

4. How does the LRC serve the congregation?

The LRC serves the congregation by openly and frankly sharing issues that have been brought to its attention by fellow congregation members. At the LRC meetings, the lay members of the LRC represent the congregation and its concerns, questions, and perspectives to the full committee. The LRC also responds to issues raised by the Executive Leadership Team. The meetings provide a frank, private and confidential dialogue focused on the relationship between the Executive Leadership Team and the congregation. In this dialogue, the lay members “stand in” for the congregation since it would be impractical to have such a conversation with the entire congregation.

5. Once I have shared an issue with an LRC lay member, what should I expect to happen?

First, you should expect open ears and appropriate respect for your privacy and confidentiality as noted above. An LRC lay member will first try to assess whether the issue is appropriate for the LRC. You should then expect the LRC lay member to work with you to plan how your issue is addressed—including providing you with information about what will happen next. This may include bringing it up for discussion at the LRC meeting. You will hear back from that LRC member regarding the results of the discussion, along with any follow-up plans.

The goal of the LRC is to have honest reflective discussion with the congregational member, therefore the LRC will not discuss any anonymous feedback.

The LRC lay members and their contact information:

Emily Wadhams: emshee02@yahoo.com

Annette Sterling: rubbyroaes@hotmail.com

Al Cardona: alcar66@gmail.com

Tom Scates: omahascat@cox.net

LRC COMMITTEE



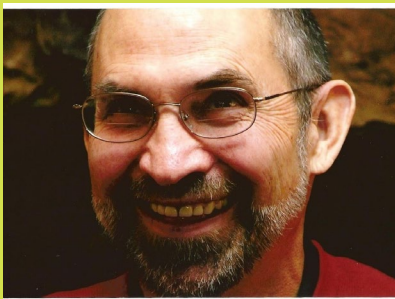
Emily Wadhams



Annette Sterling



Al Cardona



Tom Scates

COUNTRYSIDE CARES



IN MEMORIAM

Lisa Fahrlander's father has passed away in Iowa.

Paul Nelson's mother who was from Minneapolis recently died.

Becky (Warren) Hines father Jack Rogers died in Pullman, Washington, on June 15.

Barbara O'Dell (Bill) passed away in June 23 in an Omaha hospital, and her memorial service will be held later.

The life of Bill Morrison (Nona) will be celebrated at Countryside on July 17.

BIRTHS

Dan and Leigh Wengert's and also **Jeannie Cunningham's** new little granddaughter Eleanor Cunningham Wengert was born June 8; Eleanor's delighted great grandmother is **Helen Wengert**.

Dee Hickman's newest grandchild, Burkely Curtis Hickman, was born on June 9.

Juliana and Jerry Johnson now have identical twin grandsons! Max and Ethan were born in Omaha on June 23.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

July 20, Tuesday, at 6 PM, Countryside Chapel: There will be a special meeting for Countryside's Stephen Ministers and Board of Pastoral Care. Please attend.

August 3, Tuesday, 5:00 PM - Stephen Ministry Leadership Team; 6:30 to 8 PM is Peer Support, both in Ruth.

August 17, Tuesday -- Board of Pastoral Care's quarterly meeting will be at 6:30 in Ruth. We'll be preparing for our second annual "Stories from the Bridge," so your attendance is essential!

AUGUST 1 IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SUNDAY AT COUNTRYSIDE.

We'll be spending time together on this topic during the worship services; thankfully, Countryside has resources for trusted listeners through our Stephen Ministry program, Jan Brown, Pastor Tracey or Pastor Anna.

PICTURES FROM OUR FIRST MONTH BACK IN-PERSON



THE BOX FOR JULY

The Box for July is back to school supplies. These will be distributed to three local high need schools in Omaha. The need is greater than ever, as most students transition out of homes and back to school. Obtaining the necessary supplies - which range from clothing to calculators - can be a costly feat: the average family will spend \$670 this year on supplies and clothing. Access to school supplies helps children by giving them the tools they need to succeed.

The next time you're at Target or Walmart, grab some extra school supplies for local kids in need and drop them off at our Box, which is located between the two double doors at the entry of the church. You can also use our Amazon site by going to countrysideucc.org/give and selecting The Box.

Items being collected include pencils, notebooks, crayons, glue, backpacks, notebooks and folders.

The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you in advance, for your generosity.



Pastoral care breakfast.

YOUTH UPDATE

COYO Sr. High

As many of our high school students are vaccinated, we were able to gather for our first lock-in since 2019! We watched movies, chalked the front walk for PRIDE, and played a real life adaptation of the game Among Us. Although there was a thunderstorm that night that washed away our drawings AND messed up the A/V system the next morning, it was amazing to watch.

Please keep our students, adult leaders, and Youth staff in your prayers this month as we head out on our trips. The Faith Singers are headed to a yet undisclosed location (as per student request for a surprise) and our COYO students are heading to South Dakota to the Grizzly Primitive Campsite within Black Hills National Park. Both of our trips this year are centered around restoration—restoring connection within our Youth community, resting and restoring our bodies, minds, and spirits, and reserving time to strengthen our connection with God through prayer, mindfulness, and community. We'll be sure to share pictures and stories in the August newsletter!

COYO and Middle School Parents

Please complete the release form for your students to participate in COYO and Middle School activities. If you have not received the form, contact Rebecca at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org.

Confirmation

Heads up-- This fall, we'll be offering a hybrid Confirmation program for our students with in-person groups for vaccinated students and a Zoom meeting room for those yet unvaccinated. Included with the registration, we'll be asking for release forms and proof of vaccinations so hang onto those cards!

Core 56

Our 5th and 6th graders will be gathering outside this month to work on a couple of art projects! We'll meet during our regular time and follow all COVID guidelines—masks, outdoors, etc—to keep our students as safe as possible. Parent participation would be greatly appreciated so consider accompanying your student on those days. Please watch your email for info!

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COYO Youth decorated our front entrance with chalk art for PRIDE at their lock-in on June 20. The congregation was supposed to enjoy it at our Sunday services on June 21, but unfortunately a storm washed it away the same night.