

AUGUST 2021



Hanging out in the Youth Room this summer.



Helping with tree clean up after the storm.



Board of Youth prepping chairs.

COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH WAS BUSY IN JULY

The Faith Singers "Holy Surprise" trip turned into a stay-cation, so the youth choir members set up camp in the Youth Room to Rest, Recharge, and Reconnect. After centering ourselves into our intention for this time together with prayer and meditation, we spent time playing games, making bracelets, and coloring. We were then joined by COYO students for a lively game of Stroll with the Troll. The following day we ventured out to Hitchcock Nature Center for a morning hike seeking out a connection with God in nature. On our way back to church we stopped at Zesto for some ice cream and then headed back to church for more bracelets, chess, pool, cards, shows, and food. Tuesday took us to Le Peep for breakfast on the patio, then to bowling for a couple of games. Back in the Youth Room, Tyler tried his hand, well, his feet actually, at skateboarding. Rumor has it that it went pretty well and no one was injured! Then our seniors, Lauren and Jackson, cooked dinner for us. The final day of our stay-cation day had us trying to keep up with a Bob Ross show and flexing our artistic abilities, watching movies. We ended with dinner on the Salween Thai patio.



Members of the Board of Youth have been sanding, stripping, and repairing reclaimed chairs in preparation for the "Chair-ity" event that will likely happen this fall. Once the chairs are ready, our COYO students, Faith Singers, and Core 56 students, as well as some adult congregation members, will decorate the chairs for an auction. Watch for more information on this!

COYO students helped Robyn and Dave Hubbard clear tree debris after the July 9 storm significantly damaged their trees and bee houses. Robyn baked cookies to help us keep our strength up (no pictures of those because...) and after clean up we shared a meal together!

COYO RETURNS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

Ten high school kids and four youth leaders headed out to Grizzly Creek Primitive in the Black Hills at the end of July. This group of adventurous youth focused on service, prayer and taking time together by resting and recouping from a long year apart. They hiked the beautiful trails in the Black Hills and made a stop at Mt. Rushmore. They spent time in prayer practice, making meals over the fire and other fun stuff. It was a fun trip for everyone involved. "I love the time I get to spend with my friends at COYO," said Christian Vihstadt, senior at Millard North high school. "It was a perfect way to end the summer and finally being able to take a trip together after this long year and a half, especially because I wasn't sure if we would even get to go anywhere together this year."



SUNDAY WORSHIP



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

In August 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](https://www.countrysideucc.org/live) or on KMTV Channel at 10:30 AM. We will be continuing our KMTV services through the end of the summer.

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in our area we are asking our members to LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS and to continue wearing masks inside our building. Thank you!



WORSHIP

We would like to thank Rebecca Morello and Don Sarton for their time and words of wisdom over these past few weeks. We are blessed to have talented and spirit-filled people on staff and in our congregation.

The next sermon series will be focusing on two of our discernment questions (see page 7 for information about our upcoming discernment).

How do we want to be challenged spiritually and intellectually? What is our call to serve?

Starting in September we will be following subjects to learn about the United Church of Christ under their Justice & Local Ministries information. Justice & Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ supports congregations and other settings of the church in doing justice, seeking peace, and building vibrant faith communities that are welcoming to all. The ministries and services of Justice and Local Church Ministries are central to the identity of the United Church of Christ.

Specifically we will be focusing on:

Racial Justice (anti-racism) - building healthier environments, communities, and social spaces in order to address stigma, health disparities, and human rights issues.

Immigration - The United Church of Christ has a long history of solidarity in the struggle for dignity and human rights for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees regardless of their immigration status. We do this through a network of grassroots leaders in the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration (sign up here) working to share a prophetic stance and lift up the voices of impacted leaders.

LGBTQ (ONA - Open And Affirming) - Open and Affirming is a journey of building inclusive churches and other ministry settings that welcome the full participation of LGBT people in the UCC's life and ministry.

Disabilities (A2A - Accessible to All) and Mental Health - God calls us to create a just world for all people living with disabilities. God calls us to the work of justice for people experiencing

stigma, invisibility, and marginalization by church and society. We are called to work to ensure that church and society reduces the stigma faced by those living with disabilities and makes room at the table through education, advocacy and partnerships

Addiction -

As people seeking God's healing and justice, with the understanding of addiction as the result of social sin, we can understand that addiction recovery requires community resilience and political advocacy. Advocating for the end of discrimination in the form of racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, sexism and socioeconomic insecurity can strengthen communities and help prevent addiction.

Creation Justice (Climate Change) - As one of the UCC's eight Just World Covenant programs, Creation Justice Churches guide congregations in discerning how they can best embody a commitment to care for God's creation.

We are planning on having talk back sessions after the 11 AM service after each of these subjects so keep an eye on the newsletter and C-10 for more information to come.

To learn more about the United Church of Christ and what we believe go to ucc.org.

Staff

Rev. Anna Crews Camphouse, ext. 230
Interim Minister of Engagement & Formation
annac@countrysideucc.org

Dan Loven-Crum, ext. 226
Interim Director of Vision & Stewardship
danl@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Tracey Perry, ext. 231
Interim Minister of Worship & Congregational Care
traceyp@countrysideucc.org

Emma Boyd
Youth Programming Coordinator
emmab@countrysideucc.org

Jan Brown, ext 234
Pastoral Care Coordinator
janb@countrysideucc.org

Will Carnazzo, ext 206
Building Property Coordinator
willc@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder, ext 223
Financial Secretary
sharig@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez
Administrative Assistant, ext. 222
steveg@countrysideucc.org

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 221
krish@countrysideucc.org

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 224
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Rebecca Morello
Director of Youth and Family Ministries, ext. 230
rebeccam@countrysideucc.org

Alex Ritter
Director of Arts Ministries, ext. 215
alexr@countrysideucc.org

Diane Scott
Community Engagement Coordinator
dianes@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 225
debbiev@countrysideucc.org

Roxanne Wiles
Educational Program Coordinator
roxanne@countrysideucc.org

COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



LUNCH BUNCH RETURNS

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Monday, August 9! They will gather at the church from 12-1:30PM, lunch will be catered so please bring \$10 or your own lunch. The ladies haven't been together since March 2020, and they're pretty excited to see one another. If you're interested in joining this group, which is our traditional "circle" group from way back, please contact Jan Brown at janb@countrysideucc.org so she orders enough lunches.

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.

COUNTRYSIDE 101 CLASSES SEPTEMBER 12 AND 19

If you want to learn more about CountrySide and what it has to offer, our CountrySide 101 new members classes are for you. Please join us after services on September 12 and 19 (Noon) at CountrySide. For more information please contact Robyn Hubbard at robynh@countrysideucc.org.



The Box in action. Mallis Bonner and Heidi Neumann drop off May Box donations to the Inter-cultural Senior Center.



Choir is back! See sidebar for information.

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 PM. 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 alex@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!

RACE IN AMERICA BOOK STUDY

The Race in America Book Study continues as we move through the study of four books: White Fragility, Caste, How To Be An Anti-Racist and The New Jim Crow. The study is ongoing and participants are welcome to start at any time we begin a new book. To join or for more information, text Diane Scott at 402-707-1556.

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch **Monday, August 16, 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.

Making the Familiar Strange: God's Warning Against Monarchy with Jason Rife **Tuesday, August 17, 12 - 1 PM, online**

Join Education and Program Associate Ally ZimmerMas and Jason Rife, Tri-Faith's Education Intern, for this session of Making the Familiar Strange as we explore the story of God's warning against monarchy in the First Book of Samuel. Read or review the story: 1 Samuel 8

Send your questions and thoughts in advance to Ally at azimmermas@trifaith.org.
Registration required - go to trifaith.org/events to register.

Heroes of Scripture: Noah (Nuh) and the Flood - A Tri-Faith Clergy Conversation **Tuesday, August 24, 6:30 - 8 PM, online**

A representative of the Tri-Faith Initiative will describe a perspective on the story of Noah (Nuh) and the Flood. Afterward, clergy from Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and American Muslim Institute will engage in a panel discussion highlighting differences and similarities in their views of this story.

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

TRI-FAITH PICNIC ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on August 4 for the Picnic on the Commons! We can't wait to see you all again next year for this annual interfaith celebration — Save the date for Sunday, August 14, 2022.

Thank you to our partners, Congregation of Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and American Muslim Institute - AMI, and to all of the volunteers, staff (and spouses), sponsors, vendors, community partners, and everyone else who made this very special day possible.



Pictures from the Tri-Faith Picnic on the Commons in August.

COUNTRYSIDE CARES



IN MEMORIAM

Recently deceased Countryside members **Brownie** and **Ron Gass's** daughter Deb (Dan) Stang passed away in Omaha on June 23. She was receiving hospice care at home and was surrounded by her family.

MARRIAGES

William and **Abigail Reimer** were married at Countryside on July 17 by Pastor Tracey Perry. **Lindsay Taylor** and **Sam Kline** were joined in marriage at Countryside on July 23, and the ceremony was officiated by Pastor Tracey Perry. **Trish Hoffman-Ahrens's** daughter Lindsey Mae Ahrens was married on July 24 to Spencer Polk.

PASTORAL CARE

August 17, Tuesday, 6:30 to 8:15 PM: We will meet in Ruth for our quarterly meeting. The majority of our discussion will involve our Special Events Committee's plans for the October 10 Tri-Faith event called "Stories from the Bridge: Renewal." Everyone come to our meeting and mark your calendars for October 10!

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Monday, August 9! We'll gather at the church from 12-1:30 PM, and Jan will order a catered sandwich lunch (everyone please bring \$10). The ladies haven't been together since March 2020, so they're pretty excited to see one another. If you're interested in joining our group, which is our traditional "circle" group from way back, please contact Gloria Ried or Jan Brown so that there are enough lunches.

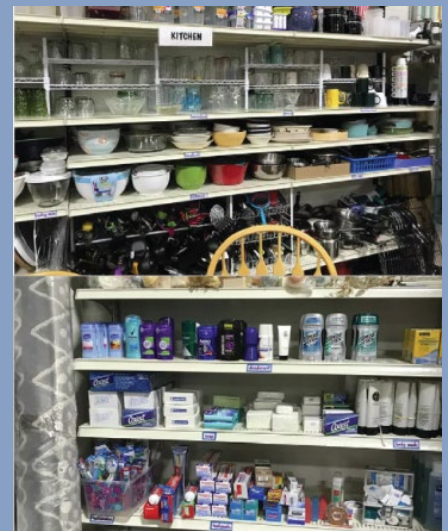
AGAPE TEAM NEEDS BAKERS, SERVERS, AND KIND HEARTS! We just know many of you would qualify. The Agape Team was begun by Mary Johnston several decades ago in order to offer a welcoming space for fellowship after a funeral. You may serve as often as your time permits; please contact Jan Brown or Karen Follon if you have questions or would like to sign up: Janb@countrysideucc.org; Kfollon@aol.com.

PICTURES FROM OUR JULY 25 SERVICE



THE BOX FOR AUGUST

The Box for August is Partnership 4 Hope. Partnership 4 Hope (specifically their Youth Mart) is a community-based initiative designed to address the unique challenges that Young Adult Former Foster Youths face. The community and population it serves are young adults in the greater Omaha metropolitan area, nineteen years of age and older, who have "aged out" of the foster care system. The Youth Mart is a donation center that serves former foster youth ages 16 to 24 as they face the transition into living independently with little support from family. Young adults are allowed to shop free of charge at the Youth Mart for household essentials, furniture and personal care items. Items being collected include young men and women's clothing, small household appliances, pots and pans, self-care items including toiletries and feminine products. You can use our Amazon site by going to countrysideucc.org/give and selecting The Box or drop your donation off at our Box between the two double doors at the church.



The Youth Mart at Partnership 4 Hope.

CHURCH COUNCIL



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Countryside Community Church has recently experienced many changes and challenges. Our church council and congregants are working together to support our interim ministers, our staff, and each other.

On Wednesday, July 21, our interim ministers were put on paid administrative leave by the personnel committee while we assess each of their responsibilities in this interim period. In response to church council's responsibility to address these items, the council met on July 22, July 25, and July 29. Minutes from these meetings will be available once approved.

The congregation of Countryside, led by the church council, will soon embark on the next phase of our discernment; one that is grounded in the principles of the United Church of Christ and honors our role as the Christian Partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative. Council members held a retreat Saturday, July 31 to refine the process of discernment. We remain committed to transparency and inclusive decision making.

Going forward, all future council meetings will include an opportunity for congregational input. You can also share your comments with us via email at churchcouncil@countrysideucc.org. Our next scheduled meetings are:

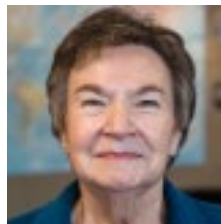
- Thursday, August 19
- Thursday, September 23
- Thursday, October 21

Please continue to keep our church in your prayers. We look forward to seeing you on Sundays to worship together, because together we can do hard things.

Countryside Church Council members



Aubrey Fitzke



Bonnie Buckland



Ann Huxtable-Scates



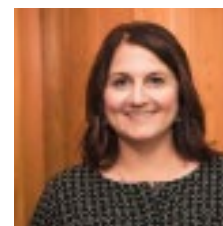
Bruce Blanchard



Cindy Cronn



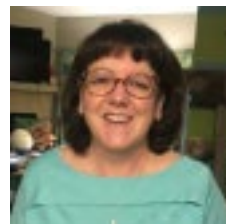
Derek Kuhr



Katie Gorham



Mike Bonner



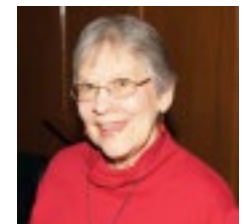
Nancy Cohen



Pat Rainbolt



Phil Johnson



Sarah May



Dale Jones



Sharon Royers



Jody Sanders

COUNTRYSIDE'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Countryside is blessed with a congregation filled with talent and business experience. Our officers and board members are nominated and elected by our members and represent the church body in the various aspects of managing church finances and affairs. The following is a listing of our current church council:

Aubrey Fitzke

Vice Moderator

Bonnie Buckland

Clerk

Phil Johnson

Treasurer

Ann Huxtable-Scates

Board of Arts Ministry

Cindy Cronn

Board of Christian Education

Katie Gorham

Board of Christian Outreach

Nancy Cohen / Dale Jones

Board of Deacons

Jody Sanders/Sharon Royers

Board of Life Ministries

Sarah May

Board of Pastoral Care

Pat Rainbolt

Board of Trustees

Derek Kuhr

Board of Youth

Bruce Blanchard

At-large Member

Mike Bonner

At-large Member

For a complete list of church council and all boards and committee members please go to countrysideucc.org/about-us/boards-committees

If you have any questions or concerns for the church council you can email them at churchcouncil@countrysideucc.org

COUNTRYSIDE FUTURE



DISCERNMENT STARTS IN SEPTEMBER - WE NEED YOU!

Discernment is a word Christians often use instead of “making a decision” or “picking a choice,” although it means more than that. Discerning means making the choice to pray and ask where God is leading you. Discernment is the willingness to take the next step. Taking time to pray over a decision is critical for larger, important decisions, like how do we serve? Who do we want to be? In these situations we want to ask God and listen for answers.

The church council, during their retreat at the end of July, examined what questions Countryside Community Church needs to ask itself as we move forward and look for settled ministers. Three key questions came to the front.

As a church community, in light of our mission statement: (see sidebar for mission statement).

1. **How do we want to be challenged spiritually and intellectually?**
2. **What is our call to serve?**
3. **What does it mean to be the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative?**

To answer these questions, it is going to take a church-wide effort. We are going to move into a time of discernment starting in September. To get the conversations started we will be offering **small group meetings**. These will be done in homes, on Zoom and at the church. They will be made up of 6-12 church members who, together, will meet and talk about their hopes and prayers for Countryside as well as answer these three questions. Registration for these small groups will begin in September.

Learning/listening sessions are another component of our discernment process. These will be opportunities to learn about the United Church of Christ, our leadership model and more about the United Church of Christ search and call process.

Congregational information meetings will be used as another opportunity to get involved and also to provide feedback from the small groups. Here is where you will receive updates and share in the search and call process for settled ministers.

Lastly, we will provide feedback opportunities to respond to the output of our small groups and to allow for the most common themes to come to the surface.

What can you do to get involved in the discernment process as we begin?

- **Sign up to be part of a small group** starting in September (countrysideucc.org/register).
- Participate in the all church meetings, such as the learning/listening sessions and congregational information meetings.
- **Speak up.** Countryside Community Church is **YOUR** church. We want to hear from as many of you as possible.
- **Pray.** During this time of discernment it is important that we pray about what is ahead for us. No one, at the moment, has it all figured out. Discernment calls for honesty, trust, prayerful attentiveness, a willingness to let go of self, and respect among all who are involved.

We are currently looking for church members to help us **facilitate** during our discernment process. This would mostly be done in the small group setting. If you are interested in being a facilitator, please contact Diane Scott at dianes@countrysideucc.org. Jan Brown will be training facilitators to lead the small group sessions at the end of August.

We also need people who are willing to host small groups in their homes and people to take notes during these sessions, to free up the facilitators to focus on that job. For these opportunities please go to countrysideucc.org/register and you can volunteer to host or scribe through a link on that page.

We look forward to entering this conversation with you and to listening to the response of the Spirit of God within us and among us.

Please continue to come to church, read your **weekly C-10 emails** and our **church newsletter** to learn about discernment opportunities and how you can get involved. We will also have a space on our **website** where we will place all the information on discernment as it happens, countrysideucc.org/discernment. We can't do this without **YOU**.

Prayer for Discernment

Spirit of God, You created me in the divine image and you call me to live the Gospel. Guide me with wisdom that I may know the path of life which best calls forth the gifts which You have given me. Breathe in me your peace and joy that together strengthen and refresh the heart. Bless me with the courage to say "YES" to your call for my church's future, whatever it might be.

COUNTRYSIDE MISSION STATEMENT

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.

COUNTRYSIDE BELIEFS

- We believe in the love and graciousness of God. We practice the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, and we rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that God is still speaking to us. Our work is to make the ways of God relevant today.
- We believe that there are many paths to God. We invite people to journey with us on their spiritual quest.
- We believe in the power of people of faith and good will working together to improve our community, nation, and the world.
- We believe in an inclusive church where all are welcome to come to discern, belong and grow.



JAMES HICKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

by Sheila Hargreaves, Church Librarian

We're looking forward to having visitors in our library again! Following is a list of the new books which were recently placed on the shelves. Please come and browse. To check out a book, fill out the form on the clipboard laying on the low shelf to the right as you enter. When you return the book, check it off on the list. You can either put it on the shelf according to the number on the book or just leave it laying by the clipboard and I will put it back on the shelf. While you're in there, be sure to enjoy the beautiful views through the windows!

Cathedral on Fire: A Church Handbook For the Climate Crisis, Berndt, Brooks, 2020

Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation, Harvey, Jennifer, 2014

God & Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now, Crossan, John Dominic, 2007

The Gospel According to the WIZ and Other Sermons from Cinema, Moss III, Otis, 2014

Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks, Bass, Diana Butler Bass, 2018

Heart of Christmas, The, Florence, Susan Squellah, Unknown

How to Read the Bible, A Guide to Scripture Then and Now, Kugel, James L., 2007

Illustrated World's Religions, The: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions, Smith, Huston, 1991, 1994

Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible and the Ecological Crisis, Tull, Patricia K., 2013

Jesus and Yahweh: The Names Divine, Bloom, Harold, 2005

Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary, Borg, Marcus J., 2006

Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity, Felten, David M. and Procter-Murphy, Jeff, 2012

Ninety-Nine Stories of GOD (fiction), Williams, Joy, 2016

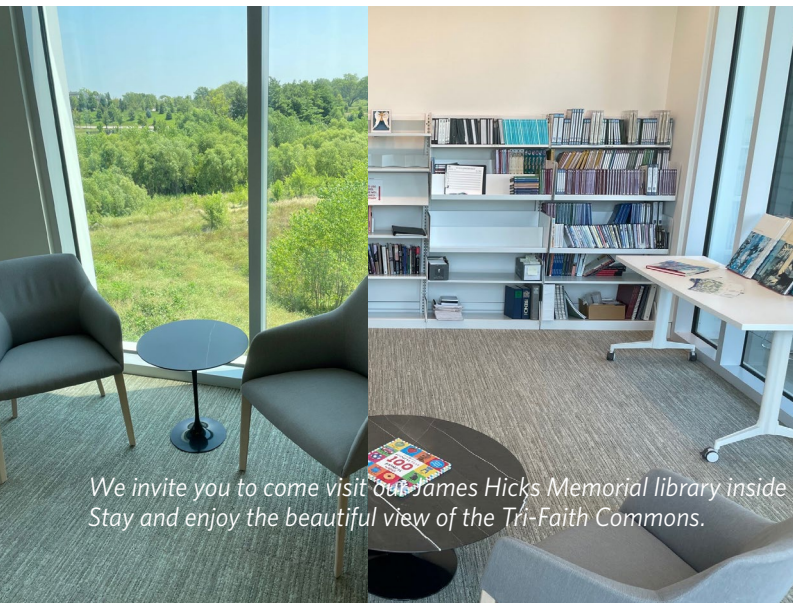
Sabbath Pause: Seven Weeks of Daily Practices, Chapman, Terry, 2012

Tweet If You Love Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation, Drescher, Elizabeth, 2011

Western Muslims and the Future of Islam, Ramadan, Tariq, 2004

Who Is My Neighbor? The Good Samaritan Through the Windows of Chartes Cathedral, Enderle, Nancy and Stotts, Stuart, 2019

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



We invite you to come visit our James Hicks Memorial library inside the Tri-Faith Commons. Stay and enjoy the beautiful view of the Tri-Faith Commons.

WE ARE THE CHURCH.

A POEM FOR US, COUNTRYSIDE
by Jan Brown

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Pay close attention. Read, pray, listen.
Something inside aches and a heart breaks open.

You'll want to turn away. Don't.
There are others who are hurting.
Find them.
There's a group now.

You will quarrel over arcs of justice,
But these are your people.
You could never do this work alone.

An endless pile of mending,
Love aflame.
Tend the sparks,
keep the light on.

Amen.