

NOVEMBER 2021



Sunday, October 3, New Members Sunday

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

In the spirit of thanksgiving, all are welcome to join the many participating Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faith communities to celebrate our diversity as well as our unity in a collaborative service of worship, song, and prayer. First Christian Church at 6630 Dodge Street will be hosting the 26th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service. The theme this year Hope Undiminished and the service begins at 5 PM. As always, there will be a free will offering that will be donated to Together Inc. We encourage all ages to experience this special service, as we gather together, united in love.

26th Annual
Jewish
Christian
Muslim

Interfaith THANKSGIVING

HOPE UNDIMINISHED

Sunday, November 21
5:00 p.m.

Hosted by:
First Christian Church
6630 Dodge Street

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, a free will offering will be donated to:



DEBBIE VIHSTADT IS NEW PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR

Debbie Vihstadt will be Countryside Community Church's new Pastoral Care Coordinator. She has worked at Countryside for the past 6 1/2 years as a graphic designer and Communication Assistant. "I am excited to start in this new role," she said. "In my past, I have worked as a Program Director for both the Arthritis Foundation and the American Cancer Society and am so thrilled to have the opportunity to return to the type of work I love." This position will have her working with staff and lay ministry to support, reach out and focus on the Christian journey and congregational caring of Countryside Community Church.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

COUNTRYSIDE WILL NO LONGER BROADCAST SERVICES ON KMTV 3

Starting in November, Countryside will no longer be televising our Sunday services. Come and worship with us "In-Person" each Sunday at 9 AM or 11 AM or join us online and watch our "live stream" on our website (countrysideucc.org/live) or YouTube (youtube.com/countrysideomaha). We want to thank the Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation for making television available for us during the worst of COVID-19. We are committed to connecting people who are not comfortable accessing our Sunday morning services online. Countryside Youth is working on a technology ministry and is willing to come to homes on Sunday mornings and instruct members on how to view the service on a computer or device. If you or anyone you know would be interested in this service, please email Rebecca Morello at rebeccam@countrysideucc.org.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP AT 9 AND 11 AM ON SUNDAYS

We invite you to join us in person at 9 AM and 11 AM on Sundays. Our services are also streamed live online through YouTube live (countrysideucc.org/live). We still require masks for inside our building. Thank you for continuing to LOVE your neighbor!

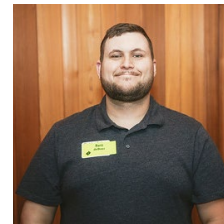
Welcome New Members!



Betsy McDaniel



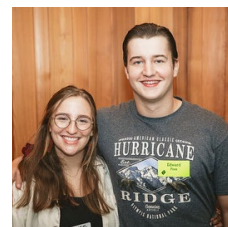
Kristina Metzger



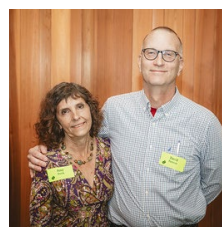
Rett deBoer



Christina Kleffman



Jeanne and Ed Coyle



Amy Durie and Dave Forrest



Daron Kruse and Judy Hartlieb



Staff

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Debbie Vihstadt
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Roxanne Wiles
Educational Program Coordinator
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COUNTRYSIDE CONNECTED



EARTH UNIVERSITY- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7 PM

Thursday, November 4, Why You Want to grow a Mini Nebraska Prairie in Your Backyard 7:00 to 8:00 PM. via Zoom (Link is at countrysideucc.org/calendar)

Tonight we will be joined by Sarah Leuder and Kate Nootenboom, the Hubbard Fellowship Scholars working with Chris Helzer, renowned naturalist and The Nature Conservancy's Director of Science in Nebraska. They will bring us up to date on the amazing work they are doing restoring 5,000 acres of conservancy-owned land as well as research and conservation programs for most of the eastern third of the state. The results gleaned from their research is shared with landowners so they can improve their land. Kate and Sarah will be sharing the wonders and benefits of the prairie for wildlife and humans. They will also give advice on how we can create mini prairies in our backyards.

MINDFUL MEDITATION SITS WITH CARLOS, WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

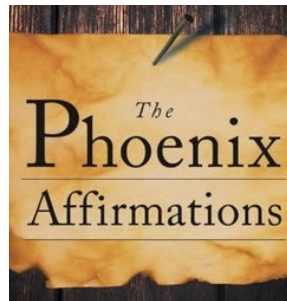
Mindful Meditation Sits with Carlos Figueroa are continuing Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom. You can access these sits through the Zoom link on the church calendar. If you have any questions or would like more information about these opportunities, please contact the church office at office@countrysideucc.org.

FAME (FRIDAY ARTS & MUSIC EXPERIENCE) EVERY FRIDAY AT 10 AM

Join a fun group of seniors every Friday at 10 AM at Countryside for an art project, a yummy treat and to listen to some good music. We may also have visitors from time to time. It is a great way to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends for an hour. Everyone is welcome. No reservations are required. Masks are required right now for our indoor activities.

PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS CLASS TO START SOON

Coming up soon, our new members will be beginning a Phoenix Affirmations class. Over six weeks they will study a set of 12 principles, written by clergy and laypeople, on the emergence of progressive Christianity. They are divided into three sections: Love of God, Love of Neighbor and Love of Self. Even if you are a long-time member, if you have never taken the class, or if you have and want to hear a different perspective, join us. The understanding of these principles continues to grow and change as God continues to speak. For information, please contact Diane Scott at dianes@countrysideucc.org or 402-707-1556.



GENESIS TO REVELATIONS BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR TRACEY

Get ready and get excited! Beginning on Saturday, October 16 from 10 - 11 AM, Pastor Tracey Saturday morning Bible Study with Pastor Tracey has begun. The group meets at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel and is beginning an extensive examination of the Word of God from Genesis to Revelations. Scripture will be examined through exegesis, hermeneutics, archaeological evidence and discussion of Jesus the Man and Jesus, the divine being, as the Son of God. Come with your Bibles and let's study the word of God together. Study materials are provided. Email Pastor Tracey at Traceyp@countrysideucc.org for more information.

PRAYER WARRIORS MINISTRY

Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Tracey is leading a Prayer Group Ministry. You are invited to come together to develop the spiritual practice of group prayer. We pray for our church, our families, our community, our country and the world. We come together of one accord to pray for any and all prayer needs and requests, for ourselves and others. All prayer requests are kept confidential and not shared. Contact Pastor Tracey at Traceyp@countrysideucc.org.

SATURDAY MORNING ZUMBA CLASSES VIA ZOOM

These sessions are free, introductory classes, open to all ages. For more information, contact Cynthia Lindenmeyer at cynthia@acrenactivismtoday.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!

LUNCH BUNCH - SECOND MONDAY OF MONTH

Lunch Bunch is meeting on Monday, November 8. They will be gathering at Taxi's on 120 and Blondo at Noon. If you're interested in joining this group, which is our traditional "circle" group from way back, please contact Gloria Ried at g-g.ried@cox.net. Thank you to Gloria Ried for her ongoing leadership of this program!

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE



RELIGION@WORK PODCAST

Religion@Work, a podcast from Tri-Faith Initiative, brings together diverse voices to share stories and discussion on the intersections of religion, faith, and spirituality in our work lives.

Join Tri-Faith Deputy Director Erik Servellon as he interviews diversity, equity, and inclusion experts, scholars, and workers from a range of industries. They'll talk about how we can better integrate religious diversity into the workplace by bringing our whole selves to work.

Listen to our premiere episode, "Pushing Interfaith Work Forward" with Wendy Goldberg, Executive Director of Tri-Faith Initiative, on Apple, Google, and Spotify Podcasts.

Other Episodes Include Religious Other Inclusion

- Embracing Religious Diversity at Work
- Healing, Empathy, and Religious Accommodation
- Combating Anti-Semitism in the Workplace
- Fostering the Ability to Disagree

Go to trifaith.org/ourwork/religion-at-work to learn more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Abraham's Whiteboard: Another Abrahamic Religion: the Bahá'í Faith **Thursday, November 4, 6:30- 8 PM, online**

Since its founding in the 19th century, the Bahá'í Faith has become the most geographically widespread Abrahamic religion outside of Christianity and Islam. But what do its followers believe, and how did it start?

This session of Abraham's Whiteboard will introduce us to the Bahá'í Faith by exploring the history of this relatively new religion and the basics of what it teaches. Along the way, we will also learn about its connections to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

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

Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch

Monday, November 8, 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 Bahnson

Thursday, November 18, 6:00 - 7:30 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 Executive Director Wendy Goldberg for this Faith Matters event with author Fred Bahnson as we discuss his book, Soil & Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith.

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

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Conversations: Year-End Update

Thursday, December 9, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, online

Our final Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Conversation event of the year!

Join Tri-Faith staff and supporters to celebrate all we have accomplished, and to dream about all we have to look forward to in 2022.

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

Women of Tri-Faith Virtual Lunch

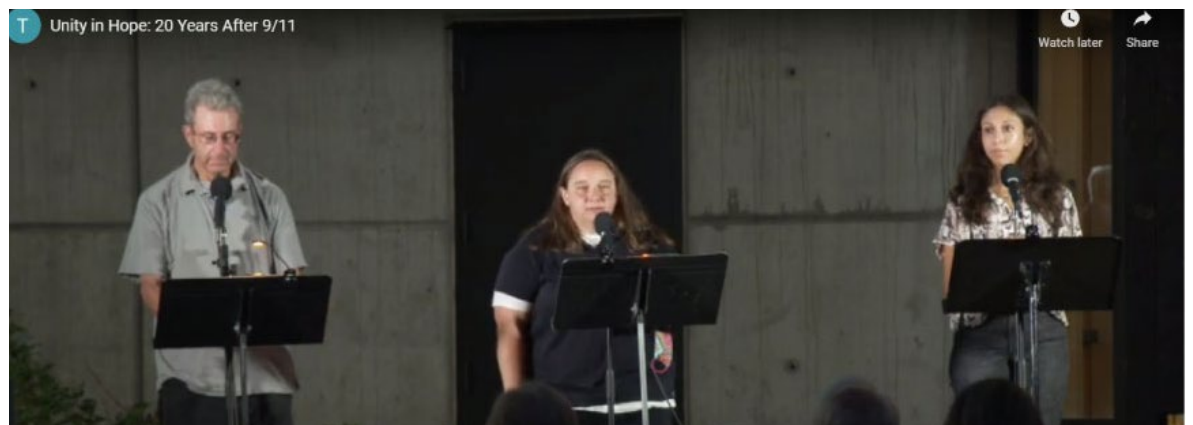
Monday, December 13, 12 - 1 PM, online

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.

Missed a Tri-Faith event? You can watch several past events online including the **Unity in Hope: 20 Years After 9/11** by going to www.trifaith.org/past-events.



A clip from Unity in Hope: 20 Years After 9/11 with our own Rebecca Morello.

COUNTRYSIDE CARES



IN MEMORIAM

Larry (Rita) Troutd, passed away October 22. His funeral service will be at Countryside, November 9 at 3 PM.
Tom (Linda) Brakehall, member for Countryside, passed away in Chicago on October 14. His memorial service was held in Chicago with family.
A memorial service for Daniel Eilers, son of **Tom and Jill Eilers**, was held on October 23 at Countryside.

BIRTHS

Jeri and Dave Lundblad are new grandparents again to grandson, Owen Kirkland, born October 2 in Omaha. He joins big sister, Veronica.
Ann Huxtable-Scates and Tom Scates welcomed their 8th grandchild on October 6, Bennett Michael Pettiford. Parents are Kaitlan and Benji Pettiford. He joins big sister Cecilia.
Rick and Cathy MacInnes welcomed their newest grandson, Levi Charles (after his great-grandfather, **Charles, "Mac" MacInnes**) Podlesak on October 21. He is the son of **Amy** and Dan Podlesak.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

December social is **December 3**, more information will be coming!

MESSENGERS NEEDED

We are looking for people who would like to help with the care of our congregation with small acts of kindness. This would include visits (when they can be done safely) to members in nursing homes, card writing, baking cookies, meal trains, phone calls or texts of encouragement. You can participate in any area of interest. If you are interested please contact Debbie Vihstadt at debbiev@countysideucc.org or beckyh42@msn.com and they can get you signed up. There will be classes in January to give you guidance on how the program will work and guidelines to follow. If you have questions, you can come talk to Debbie between services at the Welcome Center.

STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS - THANK YOU!

Below are pictures from the event. Thank you to everyone who was involved in stories from the Bridge! We could not have done it without you!



Allison Evans



Amal Alexander



Mary Watke



Erik Servellon



Jennifer Scranton



Sarah Kasaby



Sharon Royers



Tamir Ayad



Music by Trio

THE BOX FOR NOVEMBER

The Board of Christian Outreach will be collecting cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, and diapers for several organizations this month. These organizations include the Community Cupboard, Refugee Empowerment Network, Together, and Youth Mart. This allows BOCO to collect more of some much needed items but respond more accurately to the current needs of each organization and those they serve. We will also be working with the Refugee Empowerment Network to provide assistance to a refugee family from Afghanistan. That effort will likely come at shorter notice so stay tuned for ways you can help. Thank you for your continued support of our community and outreach. There is a lot of incredible work being done and it is a gift to be able to deepen Countryside's connection to these incredible organizations.

The list includes:
Laundry detergent
Feminine Hygiene products
Dish detergent
Clorox Cleaners
Toilet bowl cleaners
Fabric softener
Body lotion
Shampoo/Conditioner
Diapers (all sizes)

You can use our Amazon site by going to countysideucc.org/give and selecting The Box or drop your donation off at our Box between the two double doors at the church.

CHURCH NOTES



POP UP ADVENT HANDBELL CHOIR

This is a short-term opportunity to participate in a bell choir without a yearlong commitment, and offer beautiful handbell music for worship during Advent. You don't have to have ever touched a bell or chime before! We will have five or six rehearsals starting with a workshop on how it all works.

If you are interested, please let Alex Ritter know at alex@countrysideucc.org.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

There's never been a better time to join our choirs! Get out and see your old friends and make some new ones. Contact Alex Ritter at alex@countrysideucc.org if you are interested in joining our youth or adult choirs.



VOLUNTEER CORNER - THE CARD FAIRY

Happy Birthday! Merry Christmas! There are few things as unexpected but delightful as receiving a card in the mail on your birthday or during the Christmas season. And Countryside is lucky enough to have a card fairy who makes this happen. Everyone in the congregation who is over 80 receives a birthday card on their special day. That amounts to about 100-120 cards during the year. The cards are handmade by members of FAME, the Friday morning arts and music extravaganza. The name of the author is featured on the back of each card.

Margie Bolte began the program when she was pastoral care coordinator and her good work continues. The cards are addressed every month by hand and, even though the cards are only sent to those over 80, there is no mention of age. "Most people in their 80s don't want others to know exactly how far along they are," said the card fairy. "Sending the cards is just a little thing and I enjoy it."

In addition to the birthday cards, those congregation members no longer living in their homes receive Christmas cards. And the BIG news this year is that FAME will be making Christmas cards to sell. The FAME group will choose ten different designs to duplicate for the Christmas cards. Then the group will sell boxes of ten cards for \$10.

In addition to addressing each card by hand, the card fairy likes to put beautiful stamps on each envelope; special Christmas stamps and the Love stamps for the birthday cards. Countryside is lucky to have a card fairy- an unsung hero who likes to do something little to make someone else's day.



FAME Christmas cards for sale this year.

STEWARDSHIP 2022 - GOD'S CONTINUING WORK

Your 2022 Stewardship committee members have recently come together to accept the responsibility of steering the fundraising effort for our church. Well, what a time to come before this congregation and ask for more. It's been years of giving so much already, hasn't it?

As your fellow congregants on the Stewardship Committee, we humbly believe that all this hard work, this charity of time, effort and money that we have each given, this sacrifice of our comfort and tests of our faith and confidence in this church are spiritually prescribed steps in our part of God's continuing work.

And we mean just that. All of this that we are experiencing together, we are actively witnessing God's work playing out in partnership with us, Countryside Community Church. We believe we are on the verge of emerging stronger as a community of faith, and with a new sense of purpose and vision.

We are asking you to give your time, your patience and for your financial support. Specifically, we are seeking a 13% increase in current giving in order to finance the staff and programs in our current budget.

Whether you have yet to donate money or have been a long-time donor, we ask you to search your heart and find what you are able to contribute in order to further this mission we are undertaking together. What programs are important to you? What shape do you want the church to be in when we do receive the minister we seek or when all programming resumes in full swing?

Any donation is a powerful statement that you are investing in this great experiment of faith. The Stewardship Committee invites you to participate in the 2022 Stewardship campaign - God's Continuing Work. Commitment cards are being mailed out to the congregation. They are also available in the bulletins or in the Foyer on Sundays. Or if you like, make your pledge online or sign up for online donations by visiting countrysideucc.org/give. Online donations provide Countryside with consistent income throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider how you will support the church and then return your Commitment Card or set up online giving today!

Doug Dushan, Chair

Amy Blanchard

Tim Kerrigan

Pat Rainbolt

Ed Schwartz

Stacey Warner

COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH

COYO

This past month, our Youth Group worked on the discernment questions, delivered items to Youth Mart, and welcomed Robyn Hubbard to our Sunday Youth group. After the storm earlier this summer, some of our Youth went to the Hubbard's house to help clean up branches and debris and restore a safe, calm environment for Robyn and Dave's bees. In addition to feeding us and baking chocolate chip cookies for us, the Hubbards gifted a Nintendo Switch to our Countryside Youth. The students were excited and set it up in about 4.5 seconds. Many thanks to the Hubbards for their generosity!

Confirmation

We're underway with our study of the Phoenix Affirmations and 8 Points of Progressive Christianity! Last month, we tackled the lists, reading through the affirmations and points to get a working understanding, we watched a worship together to learn to identify different parts of our Countryside Worship and discuss their purpose and meaning in our community worship. During the month of November, we will begin to dive deeper into individual affirmations, exploring how we integrate these affirmations into our faith journeys. Our Sunday group meets, masked, in person and our Wednesday group meets over Zoom!

CORE 56

Core 56 students are wrapping up their work on their art chairs which will soon be ready for preview! October graced us with absolutely beautiful weather...up until the last couple of weeks. But we were able to spend time together playing and arting outside, acclimating ourselves to the colder weather.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In October, we began our at-home Sunday School lessons focusing on the story of Joseph—from hole in the ground to reconciling with his brothers, we illustrated a graphic novel based on Joseph's experiences discovering his talents, navigating rough circumstances, and listening for God's voice to guide him along the way. November brings us to Moses and the Burning Bush, Ruth and Naomi, and Psalm 23 before we begin our Advent study of Incarnation: God dwelling within us! We will have Advent Wreath kits available for families with Sunday School students (and probably some for those without—but no promises).

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Pictures below:

Top left - Confirmation, top middle, building a fort, top right, Thank you to Robyn for our new Switch!

Bottom left, donations to Youth Mart, bottom middle, Core 56, bottom right, the new Switch in action.

