

# COUNTRYSIDE CURRENTS

Spring

The monthly newsletter of Countryside Community Church



## Faith as the Clouds

by Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

John Claypool once observed that the Bible is written in the language of people and events. The Bible speaks of faith in a wide variety of ways ... narrative, poetry, song, parables, correspondence, prophecy, wisdom sayings, pithy stories, comedy, tragedy, & fairy tale (myth), proclamation/preaching ... lions and tigers and bears, oh my!

Most of us have been raised to think there is only one faith, only one way of believing, only one way of living the faith life. I suppose in some pedantic way, that may be true, but when it comes to living the faith, to accepting the challenge of making faith 3-dimensional in our lives, it's also true faith is like a cloud that hangs suspended above us floating at the whimsy of an unseen wind. A while back, I was sitting outdoors reading a book when I decided to stretch my neck and rest my thoughts by looking up at the sky. I looked up at the clouds scattered across the sky and noticed they weren't all in motion to the same degree as others around them. No one cloud was like any of the others around it. There were similarities to be sure but every cloud was distinctly its own being separate and apart from any of the others.

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# May

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## Welcome to Countryside!

Let us offer you a warm Countryside welcome. As a community, we place 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're an inclusive, open, and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance. We're 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 promote peace, equality, and justice in our conflicted world.,

**New Visitor to Countryside?** If you're a first-time visitor to Countryside, please let us know! We'd like to present you with a gift of our gratitude for visiting with us. Please stop by the Welcome Center in the Church foyer!

### A brief look at Countryside

- Sunday Service – 10 a.m. in person or streaming online.
- Nursery – Child care is available at Sunday service and Wednesday Recharge evening programs. The Nursery is located on the main level along the south hallway.
- Common Grounds Coffeehouse –Join us before or after Sunday service in the Commons for coffee and fellowship.
- Amplified Hearing Devices & Hearing Loop are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.
- Community Worship & Children's Church offered.
- Countryside Email list – If you'd like to receive Countryside's weekly e-newsletter, contact the [church office](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org) at office@countrysideucc.org or call 402-391-0350.

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# Seasons: Exploring the Journey of Life

*A Collaborative Reflection on the Saga of Life from Beginning to End*



In May we'll continue our exploration of the stages of life by examining our adult stages. We can easily see that once we grow beyond adolescence and matriculate to

adulthood, the bulk of life is spent in various phases of adulthood. John Claypool describes adulthood as "the most strenuous segment of our existence. If adolescence is the most intense stage along the way, I would say that adulthood is the most demanding. Not only is it so long, it also involves so many different challenges *simultaneously* (emphasis mine)."

One of the developmental issues of our growth to adulthood is our final affirmation to the embracing of an individuated personal identity. It's been my opinion our identity is birthed as we are given physical bodies and that our identity grows in just the same way as our bodies. For a good while, we move through childhood and adolescence under an assumed identity, a borrowed identity if you will, living under the shelter of our parents, deflecting the need to hammer out a separated identity until such time as we are forced to face the issue directly. Some of us move through that stage without much trauma and some of us struggle every step of the way resisting at every turn. We may even

struggle in contradiction to the identity shelter of our family. For some, that struggle is not completed even long into adulthood itself until it eventually consumes our energies in adult chaos.

In one of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's fables, he tells of a tribe stricken with a devastating plague of insomnia. The sleeplessness leads to such forgetfulness that the members of the tribe even forget the right names of things. They fight the plague by writing down the names of things they need to remember about the things themselves. The amnesia becomes so bad, they eventually forget how to read. The decline, sleeplessness to forgetfulness to illiteracy, is what we now suffer in our culture: We not only do not know, but we do not know that we do not know.

For some, that is an illustration of what it means to struggle with identity: We do not know or have forgotten who we are. Our forgetfulness about our past becomes a part of the puzzle of our identity we have forgotten or discarded and we limp along until we either realize our forgetfulness or we give up and the memories tied to our identity are lost altogether.

Join us as we continue to reflect on what it means to be a human in every season of life!

Pastor Keith



## In deep appreciation

# Sheila Hargreaves Stepping Down From Library Duties

Sheila Hargreaves has been the volunteer librarian for the James Hicks Memorial Library at Countryside since the fall of 2011. Sheila loves books and has always been an avid reader. She would spend the summers with her grandmother in Springfield, Illinois, and, because there weren't children in the neighborhood, she would spend her days reading books from the nearby library. She passed on that love of reading to her three children.

Sheila's path to Omaha and Countryside came through her then-Lutheran pastor husband. Sheila attended a Center for Faith Studies event at Countryside and was overwhelmed by how friendly and warm the congregation was.

It took her a while to make the change from the Lutheran church but when she joined Countryside in 2010 it was the best thing ever.

Sheila noticed all the books sitting on the shelves at the 8787 Pacific building in what was then the Commons Room Fireside. When the room was renovated and repurposed, the books were moved downstairs to a corner of Memorial Hall. Sheila then volunteered to be the librarian.

Sheila and Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss cleaned up the books, relabeled and reorganized them. Sheila was a legal secretary and paralegal and her organizational skills came in handy. Instead of an educational or scholarly library, Sheila guided the collection toward being a church library with books that apply to the congregation and the interests of its members; it should be accessible and easy to use for the church members.



When planning for the move to the Tri-Faith Initiative, Sheila attended many of the planning meetings and lobbied for the library, hoping for a location closer to the sanctuary. Nevertheless, the library is one of the most beautiful rooms in the church with fabulous views over Abraham's Bridge and the other Tri-Faith buildings.

Sheila feels good about accomplishing what she wanted to with the library and looks forward to new leadership there. Sheila continues to be involved with the Ethington Journey Group and Books, Bible and Beyond. Be sure to thank her for her twelve years of service to the library.

## Faith as the Clouds

by Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Continued from page 1

One was headed in one direction and just below it, another skirted underneath and headed in a slightly different direction. It looked for a moment there would be a collision but what would it matter? They were clouds, not cars!

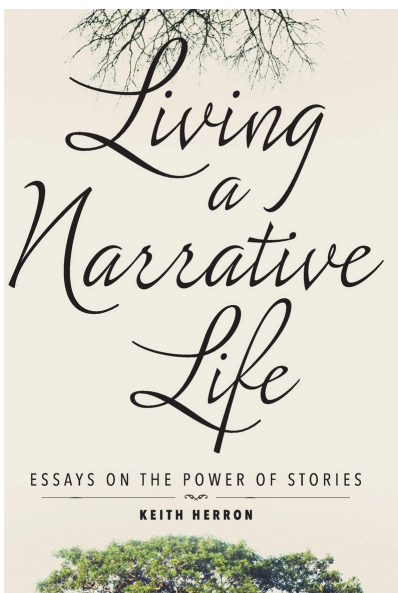
Around the fringes of each cloud, I could see how they were constantly disappearing and reappearing. I suppose if I could have seen the entire cloud clearly, I would have noticed the entirety of the cloud was simultaneously melting and morphing.

Faith, like the clouds carried aloft above us, is dynamic and alive. It's wispy and ever-changing. Faith is growing and failing all in the same moment. You can be headed in different directions at times while also recognizing that you are being carried aloft by a power beyond yourself.

No matter what you use as a metaphor to say the unsayable, know that God is in it all with you. God is a part of your thinking and a part of your being. God is with you in the doing of faith, whether you're succeeding in the moment or failing.



*All is gift,  
the air I breathe,  
the wind through the trees,  
the breath of God  
breathes in them and in me.  
I breathe the air that  
Jesus breathed.  
I feel the wind that Mary felt.  
Every breath a thanks,  
every breeze a praise.*



## Living a Narrative Life Workshop

June 3 & 10, 2023, 9-11 am, Chapel

Join us in June for "Living a Narrative Life!" This 2-day workshop celebrates our everyday, ritualized lives by exploring our stories across the arc of life. It's about how we change and grow from moment to moment, from year to year, and from one stage of life to another. Using principles derived from narrative therapy, we'll reflect on:

- how our stories spill over into other arenas of life, demonstrating the interconnectedness of life,
- how all things come from the same place, and how we're all connected in some mysterious way.

[Register online here](#) or scan the QR Code



## Get Connected!

Countryside offers many opportunities to connect with one another and the community. Read the weekly C-10 for current and expanded information on these and other groups, events, and programs.

**Social groups** meet for the sheer joy of connecting with friends old and new. Some gather at the same location week to week, like Fellowship Arts and Music Etc. This group meets each Friday in the Rehab for – you guessed it – activities that revolve around arts and music. Others, like the Lunch Bunch, meet once a month at various venues. A devoted small group of young Dungeons and Dragons aficionados meet each Friday evening for gameplay. On Sundays, a small group of junior high school students meets just for the joy of fun and games!

**Journey Groups** meet weekly to discuss and discover what our Still-speaking God calls us to do in our lives, community and the world. In the process, we form deep relationships offering support to one another through life's journey. Journey groups meet in person, although some groups offer a hybrid Zoom option. Journey Groups are always being formed. If you're interested in joining a Journey Group, contact the church office.

**Study & Interest groups** meet to expand their horizons on specific or narrow topics of interest. Some move beyond deepening their understanding and awareness to become involved in the greater community. Some of the existing purpose-driven groups that meet in person include the Sunday Morning Racial Justice Book Group, Banned Book Lovers Group (third Monday of each month), and Banned Books Small Group (Tuesdays at 6:30). Race in America, a weekly Wednesday night group, meets on Zoom only. Phoenix

Affirmations groups delve into the 12 principles that guide Progressive Christianity. There's even a new poetry-focused group!

**Bible Study groups** focus on developing and deepening our understanding of what it means to be a Christian in today's world. Some meet on a regular schedule, others for a specific period of time. Rev. Don Sartor's extremely popular Bible Study group's current series is *Understanding Our Roots*, a 10-week study focusing on Luke's work organizing the many oral and written accounts of Jesus.

**Educational small groups**, like Adult Forum, meet to hear about and discuss various topics of interest. This group meets each Sunday after church service. Its most recent series focused on the history of world economics. Some small group opportunities are less structured. For example, the Impact Speaker program brings in outside experts on trending and important topics, like the impact of immigration on Nebraska's economy. Impact Speakers are presented on Recharge Wednesdays.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Countryside has so many events and programs that offer volunteer opportunities, including office staffing, the Garden of Hope, Countryside Pantry, and special events such as the Ice Cream Festival, United We Walk, and Pride Parade. Contact the [office](#) at 402-391-0350, or check the weekly C-10 for the latest opportunities to get connected and make a difference!



## Small Groups

**Sunday Morning Racial Justice Book Group, 8 – 9 a.m.** The Zoom link is on the church [calendar](#) at [countrysideucc.org/calendar](http://countrysideucc.org/calendar). Email [Sharon Royers](mailto:srroyers@centurylink.net), [srroyers@centurylink.net](mailto:srroyers@centurylink.net) for more information.

**Men's Breakfast, Tuesdays, 8 a.m. at First Watch,** 72nd and Pacific streets. Everyone is welcome!

**Dungeons & Dragons,** Fridays, 5:30–8:30 p.m. Sr. High-age students, in the Youth Room. Jr. High-age students, Tamar.

**Jr. High Youth Group,** Sundays, 5–6 p.m. Open to ALL Jr. High-age students, grades 7 & 8.

**The Banned Book Lovers Group,** third Monday each month, 6:30 p.m. in Anna.

**The Banned Book Study Group,** Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. in Common Grounds or Zoom. The link and passcode are available on the church calendar.

**Fellowship Arts and Music Etc. (FAME),** Fridays, 10 a.m. in Rahab. No reservations are required!

**Mindful Meditation,** Thursdays, 7 p.m. Zoom only, link is available on the church calendar.

**Adult Forum,** Sundays, 11:10 a.m. in the Deborah Room for an educational exploration of various topics and books. A Zoom link is also available on the church calendar at [countrysideucc.org/calendar](http://countrysideucc.org/calendar).

**Books, Bible and Beyond,** Wednesdays noon to 1 p.m. in Ruth. May 3 is the final meeting before we break for the summer. Exploring contemporary literature that challenges and inspires. For more info, email Nancy Behringer, at [nnbehringer@icloud.com](mailto:nnbehringer@icloud.com), or Nancy Ethington, [nethington522@gmail.com](mailto:nethington522@gmail.com).



## Los Chavalitos: Thank You, Countryside!

The act of giving is one of the most fulfilling and joyful experiences a person can have. Giving can come in many forms, whether it's time, money, or resources. Countryside chose to give through its 2022 Christmas Offering to Los Chavalitos, a medical clinic and outreach located in Nicaragua.

The leadership of Los Chavalitos recently sent a letter of thanks to the Board of Christian Outreach and Countryside's congregation for their generosity. This letter is a reminder of the joy and fulfillment that comes with giving. The act of giving not only benefits the recipient but also brings a sense of purpose and happiness to the giver.

"On behalf of Los Chavalitos clinic in Managua, Nicaragua, I extend heartfelt thanks to the members of Countryside for the generous gift of \$16,289.23," wrote APUSAN, Inc. Board Member Sara Pirtle. "With this support, the clinic can purchase medicine and supplies ... to provide clinical and community health services for the nearby impoverished communities.



Since 1994, Los Chavalitos has provided medical advice, guidance, and treatments to communities in Nicaragua. The clinic offers patients access to physician services at the clinic five days a week and has a strong outreach network in more than 18 remote locations. The clinic's trained female leaders diagnose and treat common childhood diseases with simple medications, making a positive impact on the overall health of residents.

"Thank you and the church for your help to my people, who so need it," wrote Dr. Frank Rodriguez, Los Chavalitos co-founder and APSUN board member in Nicaragua. "May God bless you ... God will reward you for all of the favors that you do for our people."

"The lives of numerous children and their families are positively impacted by the clinic's presence in their midst," wrote Pirtle. "*Muchas gracias* for being a major player in this important mission!"

Throughout the year, it's important to remember the joys of giving. Whether it's through financial donations or volunteering time and resources, giving has the power to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need. Let's continue to spread love and generosity, knowing that our actions can make a profound impact on the world.



Youth Service Trip Fundraiser

# Investing in Our Future: Minnesota Here We Come!!

We are a welcoming church ... or are we??

What about welcoming those who are deaf ... or blind ... or use a wheelchair?

The youth of our church will consider these types of questions (and more!) this summer in Minnesota.

In June, Countryside’s senior high youth group, along with staff and lay members, will connect with other congregations and community organizations to widen their understanding of accessibility. They’ll learn about how we (as a congregation) can incorporate this understanding into our fellowship, faith, education, and worship. They’ll also learn different ways to live most fully into “All Are Welcome” and bring that knowledge back home to Countryside.

**Good news! You can help! [Donate today!](#)**

Your gift of \$25 or more will help reach their goal of \$10,000 to cover travel, lodging and other expenses for this important trip. With your generous gift, you’ll be investing in our church’s future in two vital ways, by:

- supporting our wonderful church youth (aka our future church leaders) – AND by
- helping to make Accessibility To ALL (A2A) a reality!



Members of the 2022 Youth Service Trip to St. Louis

It’s easy to give:

Scan the QR code to access the donation link, [click here](#) to donate online or note “Youth Trip” in the memo of your check payable to Countryside Community Church.



Please make you donation by May 31, so we can ensure that all of their expenses are covered before they leave for Minneapolis.

Even more good news! All of your generous gift, 100 percent, will go directly towards the cost of the trip. No overhead, no fuss, no hassle!



# Intergenerational Art Installation Ready for Pentecost

An intergenerational group recently met for two Wednesday nights, April 12 & 19, to create works of art for Pentecost this year. The workshops were open to all ages and genders, and no previous experience was necessary.

Adults and children from kindergarten through sixth grade worked together to create mosaic-type acrylic art that will be installed on the great wall in the Narthex. Each adult and child completed their own piece of this mosaic using acrylic paints on stretched canvas.

The project involved a fun pour and swipe technique that was appropriate for all ages. Kids aged kindergarten through second grade were paired with an adult, each with their own canvas. They had the option of working in tandem or

side-by-side on their own design.

Although there were three different techniques used, each person completed only one technique on their canvas. The completed artwork was mindfully created to complement the Pentecost worship service, but the project's main goal was to provide an interactive, intergenerational experience. It was an opportunity for the adults and kids in the congregation to become better acquainted.

The intergenerational group who created the installation for Pentecost this year succeeded in creating a beautiful and meaningful mosaic that will be cherished by all who see it. The project was not only a chance to create art but also an opportunity to build relationships and strengthen the sense of community within the congregation.



# Seasons: Fun, Intergenerational Activities on Wednesdays Complement Sunday Sermons & Discussions



**Sundays through May 21**  
**10 a.m., Sanctuary**  
**11:15, Marys' Hall**

**Wednesdays through May 24**  
**6-7:30 p.m. Mary's Hall.**

The intergenerational Wednesday night activities are tied into *Seasons*, Keith's five-week sermon series that runs through the week of May 21. For more information on his sermon series, visit page three of this issue of Currents. If you don't attend on Sundays, you can still come on Wednesdays. All are welcome! The experiential activities bring to life the season of the arc Keith preaches about that week. These activities are created for everyone – of any age or ability. Whether you're 8, 28 or 80 years old, you're invited to join the fun each week.

**May 3:** Adolescence: Countryside Playlist! In small, inter-generational groups, we'll populate a Spotify playlist for all of our congregation members.

**May 10:** Young Adulthood: Taco Night! Together, we'll have prep and creation stations suitable for all ages to participate. A community meal extravaganza!

**May 17:** Middle Adulthood: Learning New Things! Some of our real-life middle adulty folks will share something that they've learned – something that wasn't required for school, work, or family.

**May 24:** Older Adulthood: Fire Pit Stories and S'mores! Stories from older adults in our congregation about some of their favorite life experiences. And of course, s'mores!

## Youth & Family Ministries

[Rebecca Morello](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideucc.org), Director of Youth & Family Ministries, 402-884-8036  
[Emma Boyd](mailto:emmab@countrysideucc.org), Youth & Family Ministries Program Coordinator, 402-884-8035

### Sr. High Youth Group

Sundays, 6-8 p.m., Youth Room  
6 p.m. BYOD  
6:30-8 p.m. programming & fellowship

**May 7:** Mother Figures in the Bible

**May 14:** No Sr. High Youth Group

**May 20:** Youth Group  
volunteering offsite

**May 28:** No Sr. High Youth Group

### D&D group

Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room and Tamar.  
Students grades 7-12 are invited to join a Dungeons and Dragons campaign on Friday nights every week.

**May 26: No D&D**

### Confirmation

Congratulations to our recent Confirmands! Our confirmation class will be offered again in the fall on Sundays at 4 p.m.

### Core 56

Core 56 is on break and will resume on **May 31**. All students going into grades 5, 6, and 7 in the fall are welcome to join us for fellowship from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

### Children's Ministries

Pre-K - 6th grade, Sundays.

**May 7:** Community Worship

**May 14:** Children's Church

**May 21:** Community Worship

**May 28:** Children's Church

### Jr. High Youth Group

Sundays **TIME CHANGE:** 4-6 p.m. Youth Room. All Jr. High-aged (grades 7 & 8) students are invited to attend for games and fun!

**May 7:** Outside Activities

**May 14:** No Jr. High Fellowship

**May 21:** Field Trip!

**May 28:** No Jr. High Fellowship

### Wednesday Wonderers

Pre-K - 4th grade. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Blue Room, Green Room, and Tamar (Lower Level).

**Apr. 5:** No WW

**Apr. 12:** Road to Emmaus

**Apr. 19:** Thomas and Mary Magdalene – Last Week of

Wednesday Wonderers.

# Youth & Family Ministries

## Summer News and Notes

Our youth group stays active throughout the summer! Stay tuned to see how we can enjoy the warm weather together and spend time with the youth of our Tri-Faith partners. If your student has games, performances or competitions that Rebecca and I can attend to support them, please let us know! We love watching them engage in things they're passionate about. Also, if your student would like to earn service hours over the summer, we have children's activities or other ways to help them reach their goals.

### Service Trip

Our service trip this summer will take us to Minneapolis, Minn. Sr. High students and a handful of adults will be going to MLSP June 22-28. The focus of our trip is disability justice. We look forward to connecting with congregations and organizations in the area in order to strengthen our advocacy efforts in our own community and other new communities. Rebecca will be sending registration and other information soon.

## Summer Camps 2023

### Countryside Communion Camp

**June 5-9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

A family camp for students in grades pre-k thru 6th grade that meets each evening. This camp is intended for younger kids and their families as their young children prepare to begin taking communion. They should stay as a family to participate. [Register](#) everyone who will attend.

### UCC Neb. Youth & Outdoor Ministries

**Kamp Kaleo** offers camps for grade school students, junior and high school students, and young adult campers with developmental disabilities. Scholarships are available. For more information, visit the main [Kamp Kaleo](#) website at [kampkaleo.com](http://kampkaleo.com). Visit the UCC Nebraksa Youth and Outdoor Ministries Facebook [here!](#)

### Core 56

Beginning May 31, Core 56 meets all summer, 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays. We watch movies, play games outside, do art, and a bunch of other stuff! Summer hours are extended to 8 pm to accommodate movies and other activities.





## Youth Activity Photo Gallery



# The Box for May: Moving Veterans Forward



Moving Veterans Forward (MVF) has been designated as the recipient of our May Box by the

Board of Christian Outreach. For over a decade, MVF has been providing essential support to veterans who are facing homelessness and loss. They operate a warehouse that is stocked with household goods, allowing veterans to shop for everything they need to start their lives anew.

Imagine starting fresh in a new home with nothing but the clothes on your back. Every item, from pots and pans to towels, lamps, and light bulbs, is essential to creating a comfortable and functional

living space. By donating new items to MVF, we can help these veterans rebuild their lives and make a positive impact on our community.

Please consider making a donation to The Box in the foyer or indicating Countryside as the delivery address for online purchases made through their [Amazon Wish List](#). Every contribution, no matter how small, will make a difference in the lives of veterans in need. Thank you for your generosity and support!

When choosing an item to donate, think of each room, kitchen, living room, bed and bathroom. The list of needs is truly wide! From pans to towels, lamps to laundry essentials, cutlery to light bulbs and beyond.

## Countryside Quarterly Report

Spring has arrived and soon flowers will bloom. And how wonderful it is to see our church “blooming once again” after the pandemic! Thank you for your financial support of Countryside and your commitment to carry out the pledge you made during our last stewardship campaign.

Countryside is doing an incredible job ensuring our expenses are in line with our budget. Our church operates on a budget the congregation approved at the Annual Meeting in February. Robust programming is the the lifeblood of our church-- your pledges enable us to provide the many activities for our children and adults.

Thank you for your devotion to Countryside.

Blessings,

Joyce Davis  
Board of Trustees, Chair

### Countryside Community Church 2023 Q1 Quarterly Budget Update

Revenue	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
Member Giving	\$ 387,841	\$ 382,551	\$ 1,063,307
Other income	\$ 17,123	\$ 15,625	\$ 62,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 404,964</b>	<b>\$ 398,176</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,807</b>

Expenses	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
Operating Expenses	\$ 332,024	\$ 353,934	\$ 1,415,739

**Barista On Board!**  
Start your Tuesday mornings with friends and a cup of coffee in Countryside's Common Grounds coffee shop.  
April 4-May 9  
8-10 a.m.

**Coffee Shop.**

Countryside Community Church

## AMI Rolls Out New YouTube Video: "Who is AMI?"

The American Muslim Institute (AMI) recently released a new YouTube video titled "Who is AMI?" that highlights the beauty of the community, the diverse congregation, and the programs offered at the center.

The video addresses misconceptions people often have about Islam and AMI and provides answers to

frequently asked questions. It shows AMI is not just a mosque, but also a community center that serves as a hub for social, educational, and spiritual activities.

Its programs and events help build a sense of community and foster a deep understanding of Islam. The "Who is AMI?" YouTube video is an excellent way to learn about the center's programs and the people who make it such a special place. [Click here](#) to watch the full 6-minute video.

## 2023 Tri-Faith Unity Garden Awakening May 21

Join us Sunday, May 21 at 1 p.m. as we awaken the Unity Garden & Hope Orchard at the Tri-Faith Center for the spring season. Celebrate with a Sacred Corn

Blessing led by Taylor Keen, reflections on the garden from the Tri-Faith Partners, and music to enjoy. Light refreshments will be served.

Reminder: The Tri-Faith Unity Garden is just south of Temple Israel, near the playground. RSVP on the Tri-Faith website, [www.trifaith.org](http://www.trifaith.org), under Events.



## Reminder for 2nd Annual RRSJ Conference, June 7 & 8

Tri-Faith Initiative, along with UNO's Religious Studies Department, and the UNO Strategic Investment Initiative will host the second annual Race, Religion, and Social Justice Conference, June 7 & 8, at the Tri-Faith Commons. This year's theme is "Building Bridges of Hope." The conference will address intersections between race, religion, and social justice across different sectors of society.

There will be a range of education, conversation, and workshop sessions, as well as visual and performing arts pieces. Attendees will also be able to enjoy food trucks and other vendors.



## *Countryside Fellowship Gallery ~ April*

Fellowship after services at Countryside Community Church UCC is important in building community, deepening relationships, and fostering a sense of belonging among members and visitors. It's a vital aspect of the church's mission and values, and a tangible expression of our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Members and visitors gather together in the Sanctuary, Foyer and Common Grounds for coffee and conversation. It allows informal interactions and connections to be made and provides an opportunity for members to get to know each other on a more personal level.

Fellowship is not just a social activity. It reflects a commitment to building a welcoming and inclusive community. It is a tangible expression of our belief in the power of connection and relationship-building, and a testament to the transformative potential of shared experiences and shared values.

