

# AUGUST



**Tri-Faith Picnic 2015**



## TRI-FAITH PICNIC AUGUST 14

Countryside will once again host all three faiths for the Annual Tri-Faith Picnic on Sunday, August 14, from 12:30-2:30 PM. There will be games and activities for all ages as well as plenty of food and beverages. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our new neighbors and get to know each other better.

Grilled Halal Beef Burgers, Kosher Hot dogs, and cold drinks and water will be provided. We are asking each family to bring a potluck dish to share with everyone (plan a dish to serve 20 people). Keeping Jewish and Muslim food practices in mind, we ask that you please stay away from pork (not even bacon in the salads, please!), gelatin or shellfish. If you do use any of these, please list the ingredients of your recipe on your dish so our volunteers can make signs for our guests.

As we gather with our neighbors, perhaps ask them about their dietary customs and how they

follow them in their faith traditions. It will be a great way to learn from one another, and show our neighbors that who they are matters to us. See you in the buffet line!

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What does halal mean? Halal is an Arabic word that means "permissible." In terms of food, it means food that is permissible according to Islamic law. For a meat to be certified "halal," it cannot be a forbidden cut (such as meat from hindquarters) or animal (such as pork.)

What is a kosher hotdog? The primary difference between kosher and non-kosher hot dogs is that Kosher hot dogs do not contain pork. Kosher hot dogs also are made from beef or poultry that has been slaughtered according to Jewish law. Like other hot dogs, kosher dogs contain high quality cuts of meat and spices.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome - Page 2**
- Pastoral Care - Page 3**
- Center For Faith Studies - Page 4**
- Journey Groups- Page 5**
- Youth Ministries - Page 6**
- Children's Education - Page 7**
- Music Ministries - Page 8**
- Christian Outreach - Page 9**
- Relocation Update - Page 9**
- Life Ministries - Page 10**
- Get Connected - Page 11**

# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

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Email - [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org)  
Website - [www.countysideucc.org](http://www.countysideucc.org)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/](http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideOmaha/)

## **Program Staff**

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

## **Ministers**

**Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.**  
Senior Minister, ext. 113  
[erice@countysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countysideucc.org)

**Rev. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
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[brianp@countysideucc.org](mailto:brianp@countysideucc.org)

## **Audio/Visual**

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## **Minister of Spiritual Direction**

**Rita Otis**  
Minister of Spiritual Direction, ext. 129  
[rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com)

## **WELCOME**

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm Countryside welcome. We are a community that places great value on welcoming ALL to an open and affirming community where we celebrate and rest in a God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations. We invite you to journey with us as we work together with the guidance of the Spirit, seeking those places where we are called to participate with God toward the fullest expression of who we are created to be. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ we believe the greatest expression of the Body of Christ is found in the local congregation, and each person in our community has a unique conversation with God that serves the whole. Countryside is a place where God is still speaking to us and to our community. Each of us is called to discern that voice and act on that discovery. We welcome you and invite you to participate with us in this calling.

## **OUR MISSION**

We are an inclusive, open and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance. We are diverse, yet united by Christ's example. We care for one another, support one another and challenge one another to become all that God creates us to be. We work together to nurture our community and to promote peace and justice in our conflicted world.

## **I AM NEW TO COUNTRYSIDE**

**Sunday Services** - 9 AM Classical Service and 11 AM Jazz Service

**Nursery** - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both Sunday services and for Wednesday evening programs. The Nursery is located on the upper level along the main hallway towards the church's northwest entrance.

**Common Grounds Coffeehouse** - Between services from 10 AM to 11 AM we invite you to the Commons directly off the Foyer for coffee, donuts and fellowship.

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

**Amplified Hearing Devices** are available at the Information Station in the Foyer.

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

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

**Box, Basket and List** - The Box, Basket and List are three ways that Countryside shares our gifts with one another and our community: The Box is a way to share our material possessions with one another and is located in the Foyer; the Basket is Countryside's way of sharing financial offerings with our community for the support of our ongoing program ministries. The baskets are located at the back of the Sanctuary. And the List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another and is printed in the Order of Worship.

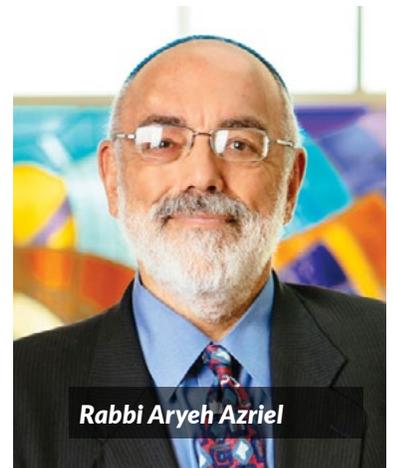
**Restrooms** - Restrooms are available on the main level by the offices and on the lower level by the elevator and by the gym.

**Countryside Email list** - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org) or call 402-391-0350.

## **NEW SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE**

The Center for Faith Studies at Countryside Community Church is pleased to have Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel as the new scholar in residence. Rabbi Azriel will office at Countryside and offer education for Countryside and the community on the Jewish understanding of Hebrew scriptures, the midrash tradition, and historical and cultural understandings that undergird all of the teachings of the man we Christians know as Jesus.

Rabbi will begin this fall with two classes: Bible study class on Monday mornings October 17th - November 7th and Tales from the Midrash - Wednesday evening November 30 through December 21. More studies will follow in the spring. In addition, Rabbi Azriel will be available for occasional "Ask a Rabbi" for Journey groups.



**Rabbi Aryeh Azriel**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Save the Date!

Please plan to join us for the "Aging at Home" Workshop.

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Countryside Community Church Chapel

A panel of experts will present us with available options so that we may remain in our own homes as we age. Be sure to mark it on your calendar! It will be a half day well-spent. Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Board.

## STEPHEN MINISTRIES

### Stephen Ministries Annual Retreat!

We'll be refreshing our relationships and mission for this fall, designing a new outreach effort, and enjoying the day together.

All Stephen Ministers who've been trained within the past few years are encouraged to attend.

Please plan to come on Saturday, Aug. 27, 9am-3pm in the Countryside Chapel. Coffee, fruit, and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Jan Brown by Aug. 19. Your facilitators will be Chris Alexander and Jan Brown.

## JOYS

### Congratulations to the following couples!

Dan and Mike Loven-Crum were married on June 25 in a service officiated by Rev. Chris Alexander.

Earl and Nancy Cohen were married on July 9. The wedding was officiated by Rev. Eric Elnes, PhD.

Emily and Marcy Krolikowski were married on July 9 in a service officiated by Rev. Eric Elnes, PhD.

Kristen Janky and Jarrid Johansen were married by Rev. Chris Alexander on July 22.



Dan and Mike Loven-Crum

*Countryside is a caring congregation that offers support to its members in numerous ways. Along with our pastors, who are always willing to provide you with compassionate direction, care and advice when called upon to do so, we have a wonderful support system with our Care Team and Stephen Ministers.*

### Care Team

*The Care Team consists of thoughtful, generous members of the congregation who provide various types of comfort or assistance to those in our church family experiencing times of hardship.*

### Stephen Ministry

*Stephen Ministry is an active lay ministry program within our church that provides confidential Christian support and hope to those who are facing difficulties in their lives.*

### AGAPE

*The AGAPE group has been a ministry of love and support for many decades, providing a warm and loving fellowship opportunity following memorial or funeral services.*

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Pastoral Care contact Jan Brown.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 117

Email: [janb@countrysideucc.org](mailto:janb@countrysideucc.org)

# WNA

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE



Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! There is a community meal, choir rehearsals and educational opportunities. This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

### WNA SUPPERS

Meals are \$5/person or you can purchase a month's ticket for \$20/person not to exceed \$80/family. Place reservations at the Information Station. Meals are served from 5:00 to 6:20 PM.

**August 31** – burgers, corn on the cob, watermelon

### GRADE/MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Choirs

Cherub Choir (gr K-2): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 114  
Pilgrim Choir (gr 3-6): 5:15 - 6:00 PM - rm 117  
Covenant Choir (gr 7-8): 6:15 - 7:00 PM - rm 117

#### Programs

Holy Moly (gr K-2): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 112  
Holy Moly (gr 3-4): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 114B  
Core 56 (gr 5-6): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 110  
Confirmation (gr 7-8): 7:00 - 8:00 PM - rm 119

#### Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 7:30 – 8:45 PM  
Spirit of Grace : 6:20 – 7:20 PM

### ADULTS/HIGH SCHOOL

#### In The Commons

#### Starts August 31

Come hear live music, enjoy barista drinks, and connect with good friends. Occasional programming events too!

September 7 starts a six-week series: BOCO Presents. Come hear various community outreach partners talk about their ministries.



## FALL FAITH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

**Center for Faith Studies Fall 2016 Lectures:  
*Who Do You Say That I Am? Conversations With the Soul***

**August 4 at 7:00 PM- Roger Gabriel, Master Educator, Chopra Center  
*The Law of Dharma - Fulfilling Life's Potential.***

Following the news of recent weeks, it is easy to become fearful, anxious and distressed. It is easy to become un-moored from the center and believe that God has given up on the world. If this describes how you have been feeling, give yourself a gift and attend the first CFS event for the season! Roger Gabriel was born in Liverpool, England and spent his formative years in the United Kingdom where he first learned meditation. Roger has assisted Deepak Chopra with numerous training programs, seminars and workshops, taught thousands of people on all continents to meditate, and assisted in training hundreds to be teachers of meditation, Ayurveda and yoga. Roger currently serves as a Chopra Master Educator, member of the Chopra Center Certification's Advisory Board, and teaches regularly at Chopra Center workshops, seminars and teacher training programs. His presentation will focus on the law of dharma – the first step of which begins with the discovery of the true self -or soul- and ends with how this self is uniquely equipped to serve others in this time and place.

**August 25 at 7:00 PM- Melvin Bray, Author, Convener and Story-Teller  
*Better: Waking Up to Who We Could Be.***

*When some people speak, you want to take notes. When Melvin speaks, I want to belong.*  
-Brian McLaren, Author, Speaker, Activist

Melvin Bray is a Darkwood Brew favorite who will be in Omaha for the first time this fall! An author, convener and storyteller, Bray has a quality about him that sets people at ease even as they address the intractable issues of the day. His newest book, coming in September, asks "What if we could actually change the world by telling better stories? What if the world we have—with its racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, religious hatred, ecological disregard—is exactly the world we have spun into existence through the stories we have told?" Melvin Bray insists that a better world is possible if the stories around which we organize our lives begin to match the beauty we imagine is possible. Bray puts forth his own daring yet faithful re-imaginings of classic faith stories that inspire more beautiful, more just, more virtue-filled ways of being in the world.

**WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY** - Melvin will lead a reflection and writing workshop the next morning, August 26 from 8 AM to 12:00 PM at Countryside. Titled, *Better Stories, Better World*, this ambitious 4-hour workshop is divided into two parts. The first will examine how we tell our faith stories. The second, how we enact those stories of faith in our daily lives. We will discuss how the ways we tell our faith stories shape the ways we live our lives—for the good and the bad. Finally, participants will practice better ways of being in the world as it relates to racial equity, diversity and inclusion—ways of being that reflect the beauty, justice and virtue we say we want to see in the world. Participants are encouraged to bring their curiosity and daring, humility and flexibility to this time of collective discovery and learning.

**All events are \$10. Tickets can be purchased between services on Sunday, August 21 and Sunday, August 28. Tickets are also available at [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com) (search Center for Faith Studies) or at the door.**

## CFS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas this coming Fall season.

- Volunteers are needed to be a part of the CFS planning committee.
- CFS event support: 1-2 refreshment volunteers to set up the cookies, coffee and water on CFS nights.
- A person versed in Facebook and social media who would like to post pictures after events, post upcoming events, post to community calendars and develop a list of media contacts.
- A volunteer to deliver and post flyers to area libraries, coffee houses, bookstores, etc.

Should any of these positions intrigue you, please contact either Kelly Keller at [Kellyk@countrysideucc.org](mailto:Kellyk@countrysideucc.org) or Mary Beth at [marybethl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countrysideucc.org). Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration.

*The Center for Faith Studies provides learning opportunities for the faithfully inquisitive Countryside Community. We encourage lifelong learning, growth and deepening understanding utilizing current scholarship through the CFS community lecture series, adult education classes and community partnerships.*

### Racial Justice Book Group

Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Commons. Readings and videos on racialized America. Sign up through CFS office. Current book: *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey.

### Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, August - May. Bring your lunch and discuss *Great Courses*.

### Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Resumes on September 7.

### Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Moderator's Room. Starts again on August 21st with a session on the Israel-Palestine conflict and then will begin *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds* on August 28.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Kelly Keller**.

**Office Phone:** (402) 391-0350 ext. 119

**Email:** [kellyk@countrysideucc.org](mailto:kellyk@countrysideucc.org)

**Website:** [www.centerforfaithstudies.org](http://www.centerforfaithstudies.org)

**Face book:** <https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Faith-Studies-120882397136>

# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What is Converging Paths?

The Converging Paths Ministry strives to strengthen the church community - both Countryside and the larger Church, by supporting faith formation and leadership formation through small groups (Journey Groups). The Converging Paths Ministry is developing small group resources based on the solid theological foundation of *The Phoenix Affirmations*. Members of Journey Groups have said that they believe they make better, more Christ-led decisions in their lives. Ask Rev. Chris Alexander about Converging Paths. She would love to tell you more!

## SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

### New Group Forming on The Phoenix Affirmations

All are welcome (especially visitors and new members) to a Small Group Conversation on The Phoenix Affirmations.

Tuesdays, from August 23 - October 4, 7:00 PM in the Commons. David Leslie will be facilitating. Please contact Chris Alexander with any questions: [chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org).

### Save the Date

Join us for Sustainability Discussions with David Holzclaw. This event will take place on Sundays (October 2 - November 20) at 5:00 PM in the Moderator's Room

### Reel Faith Sermon Series

We close out the summer with "Reel Faith", a sermon series that explore seven movies and their insight into our daily life in the Spirit. If you would like to follow this series with a journey group, let us know and we will find you a group that fits your schedule! Here are a list of the movies being explored:

Aug. 7: Mission Sunday/No Movie

Aug. 28: Shrek

Aug. 14: *Chocolat*

Sept. 4: The Spiritual Wisdom of Harry Potter

Aug. 21: About Schmidt

Please join us after the 11:00 AM service to view the movie explored in the series on that day. Snacks and drinks will be provided!

*Journey Groups are small groups that meet weekly to discuss and discover what our still speaking God is calling 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.*

### A Place to Call Home

Several Journey Groups are following the sermon series, *A Place To Call Home*, discovering what it means to be truly at home in this world by exploring the interplay between physical and spiritual spaces in the Bible.

### Darkwood Brew

New Journey Groups are forming that watch and discuss *Darkwood Brew* videos. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships.

### Gifts of the Dark Wood

This Journey Group explores Dr. Elnes's latest book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. Learn more about how we meet God in the depth of our struggles.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Journey Groups contact Chris Alexander.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 130

Email: [chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org)

## PLANT ONE MORE

Our mission at Plant One More is to encourage home gardeners and community gardens to plant a little more than they can use so it can be shared with the community.

Donations will be received at Countryside Community Church July 17 through September 4, 2016 from 8:45 AM until 11:00 AM  
More info is available at [www.PlantOneMore.org](http://www.PlantOneMore.org).

## An Afternoon at the Movies

Please join us after the 11:00 AM Service to view the movie explored in the Reel Faith series on that day. Snacks and drinks will be provided!

Aug. 14: *Chocolat*

Aug. 28: Shrek

Aug. 21: About Schmidt

Sept. 4: The Spiritual Wisdom of Harry Potter

in the Chapel

## Who Do You Say That I Am?

### Conversations with the Soul.



August 4, 2016

**Roger Gabriel**

Master Educator, Chopra Center for Wellness  
*The Law of Dharma - Fulfilling Life's Potential*



August 4, 2016

**Melvin Bray**

*Better: Waking up to Who We Could Be.*

All Events are \$10. Tickets can be purchased at [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com) (search for Center for Faith Studies)

## Center for Faith Studies Fall 2016 Lectures

see page 4 for details



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Garage Sale

##### Garage Sale Setup Shifts

Saturday, July 30 – Thursday, August 4.

Sign up for a shift on our website [www.countrysideucc.org/garagesale](http://www.countrysideucc.org/garagesale)

##### Garage Sale Shifts

Thursday, August 4, 6:00-8:00, Friday, August 5 8:00-4:00, Saturday, August 6 8:00-2:00.

Sign up on our website [www.countrysideucc.org/garagesale](http://www.countrysideucc.org/garagesale)

##### Garage Sale Dates

Bring your friends and shop 'til you drop! We look forward to seeing you.

Thursday, August 4, 6:00-8:00 PM (Members only pre-sale)

Friday, August 5, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Saturday, August 6, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Worlds of Fun! Welcome the Freshmen!

Monday, August 8, 8 AM-11 P M, Cost is \$30.

Welcome the freshman and say goodbye to the seniors. Have a great time at Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun. Everyone is welcome including your friends. Bring money for food on the road and whatever games you play in the park. We will pay for lunch in the park or just before the park. Sign up on our website [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org).

#### COYO Sr High & Faith Singers Fall Retreat

August 27-28 - Leave Saturday at 9 AM and return Sunday at 5 PM

Come have a blast to kick off the year at Camp Rivercrest. Paintball, zip line, high ropes, swimming, fun. Also if you are at all interested in Faith Singers which you should be because our next summer is going to blow you away and our new Music Director Amy Luckenbill is awesome, then you can try out for Faith Singers on the retreat. The cost is \$30 which is RIDICULOUS!

## COYO JR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Register for Confirmation

Confirmation starts on August 31. The first meeting is for students and parents on Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall. Every 7th & 8th grader is welcome to attend confirmation. It is a study of the Phoenix Affirmations and the life of the church. Sign up on our website [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org).

#### Tubing Day at Carter Lake

Monday, August 15, 1:00-6:00 PM

Meet at church at 1:00 to head to Carter Lake for tubing and water skiing. Cost of the event is free! Bring a friend and a swim suit and towel. Back to church by 6:00. Bring snacks if you want food.



Countryside Youth (CoYo) serves students in grades 7-12. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities that develop community, encourage spiritual growth, and serve the wider community in Omaha. Monthly events and summer trips are offered to enhance youth experiences.

#### Confirmation - on summer recess until fall

Confirmation meets Wednesdays at 7 PM and Thursdays at 3:45 PM during the school year. It is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders to explore the Phoenix Affirmations, the Bible, and the church.

#### Mission Trips

Mission trips help students get hands-on faith experiences. Mission trips include Pine Ridge, inner city, foreign country, and wilderness trips that explore God's creation.

#### COYO Sr High

COYO Sr High meets during the school year on Sunday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships and serve the community.

#### COYO Sr High 606 - on summer recess until fall

Exploration of the Christian Faith from the ground up. Everyone in high school is welcome to attend. Come once or come every week. Meets Wednesdays at 6:06 PM in the COYO Room.

#### COYO Jr High

COYO Jr High meets during the school year on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

### QUESTIONS?

For more information about Youth Ministries contact Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 111

Email: [willh@countrysideucc.org](mailto:willh@countrysideucc.org)

[www.countrysideucc.org/coyo](http://www.countrysideucc.org/coyo)



Sr. High at Boundary Waters



Jr. High in Colorado



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

### August 7 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

### August 14 - Children's Church

Children begin in the Sanctuary until the procession to the Chapel.

### August 21 - Family Worship

Children remain in the sanctuary with their families.

### August 28- Children's Church

Children begin in the Sanctuary until the procession to the Chapel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Core 56 will meet August 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM in the Youth Room. Please use the courtyard doors (on the east side of the building near the Youth Room and Memorial Hall) to drop off and collect your students. Bring a snack to share and a water bottle.

2016 Vacation Bible School, "In the Beginning..." was AMAZING! Our VBS leaders, both adult and youth, were unbelievable! Our students were engaged and excited! All around, it was a pretty cool week. Our leaders created interactive experiences with the students including a visit with snakes, lizards, and bugs—and the NRD fellow who was quite knowledgeable and kind, cooking, depositing recently collected compost from their homes into the new Countryside compost tumblers provided by FaTE (Faith and The Environment), creating rain sticks from repurposed material, and even a bucket drum circle! Our students, leaders, and helpers also created the beautiful collage panels that are on display in the Foyer!

Our Nursery Ministry is dependent on volunteers and is in need of dedicated Countryside members to cover some Worship services this summer. Our nursery shifts run from 8:30 AM until 10:30 AM and 10:30 AM until 12:15 PM. Please contact Rebecca with questions and interests in volunteering.

Children's Education offers programs designed to inspire, explore, and develop a solid faith foundation. Through story, discussion, and experiential activities, our students embark on a Christian path encouraged by enthusiastic study, adventurous approach to Scripture, and cultivation of a strong faith community.

### Nursery

Childcare is available during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds. Our nursery volunteers are trained and have passed background checks.

### Acolytes

Our Fireflies bring the light of Worship into the Sanctuary each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in your child becoming an acolyte, contact Rebecca.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a short summer camp designed to immerse our students in a community experience of scripture stories and activities.

### Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

During the school year, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum that teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts, activities, and storytelling.

### Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

On Wednesday nights, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus' ministry and work. We also fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

### Sunday School

Our students and teachers engage with scripture and activities with our in-house curriculum through Countryside's theology and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

### Family Worship

Typically held on the first Sunday of each month, Family Worship offers opportunity to share scripture, message, and communion as a family! Children's Bibles, books, and age-appropriate activity bags are available.

### Children's Church

This child-centered Worship celebrates our faith stories with songs, scripture, and discussion while honoring faith practices like Communion, prayer, and stewardship! It's open to children 5 years-old through 6th grade.



VBS Creation Time



VBS Art Project



VBS Working on Project



VBS 2016 Craft Time



VBS Drum Circle

## QUESTIONS?

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 109

Email: [rebeccam@countrysideucc.org](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideucc.org)



Countryside has one of the most celebrated music & arts ministries in Omaha. We have excellent opportunities for expressing our faith through the creative arts. Our halls are bustling with activity on weekdays and Sundays as everyone brings their unique creative talents to worship services.

**Note:** Choir rehearsals resume this month with adjusted meeting times listed below.

### **Elementary Music**

The Cherub Choir (K-3) and Pilgrim Choir (4-6) are designed to allow elementary-aged musicians to develop their new music skills for worship. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 5:15-6:00 PM. Each group sings monthly in worship.

### **Covenant Choir**

Covenant Choir is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:00 PM before Confirmation Class in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

### **Faith Singers**

Faith Singers, for highschool students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM. The choir sings most weeks during the school year.

### **Chancel Choir**

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are \*Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 PM.

### **Spirit of Grace**

Spirit of Grace choir, also for adults, explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings once or twice per month. Rehearsals are \*Wednesdays, 6:20-7:20 PM.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact Amy Luckenbill.

Amy Luckenbill  
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115  
Email: [amyl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:amyl@countrysideucc.org)  
[www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Music & Arts Kick-Off Events**

- 8/20 Adult Choirs Retreat
- 8/24 Choir Rehearsals Begin \*Please note new times for adult choirs
- 8/27 Faith Singers retreat at Camp Rivercrest with COYO (2 days)
- 9/4 Faith Singers Sunday Rehearsals Begin

### **A Letter from Our New Director of Music & Arts Ministries**

Dear friends and co-journers in faith,

On July 11th, I was formally introduced to the church family at the 9 AM and 11 AM worship services. If you missed church that day, no worries! You can see a clip of the service at <https://vimeo.com/175876660>.

On my last Sunday at Overland Park Christian Church, a warm and loving church home, much like Countryside, the children had just completed a week of Vacation Bible School. During the children's moment, the Children & Families Minister was recounting the five lesson themes from the event: "God Heals", "God Comforts", etc. The last lesson of the week was "God Sends."

As children tend to do during this time, the granddaughter of an extraordinary friend of mine who passed away last December interrupted, saying, "Like he's sending Amy!" As the wave of emotion crashed against me, I heard Lisa pause and respond, "Yes, Vanessa. Amy has loved us for ten years and now God is sending her to love another congregation."

The rest of the service and the party that followed were a blessing to me and to my family. The love and support that we have received on both ends of our transition have been tremendous and I am thrilled beyond measure to be here. I really, really, really like you (watch the clip!) and I am already starting to love you. I am amazed at your openness - not only to people, but to IDEAS; and moved by your bravery - your commitment to the Tri-Faith Initiative gave me the courage to answer the call.

When the heart is full, the eyes overflow! (Yiddish Proverb)

- Amy Luckenbill



Amy Luckenbill, Director of Music & Arts

### **Transition Thanks**

A number of volunteers and staff members have gone above and beyond the call to cover the many duties of the Director of Music while the Search Committee was finding Amy. Huge thanks go out to Bruce Blanchard, Alex Ritter, Tyler Gruttemeyer, Vicky Palmissano, Aly Amstutz and the rest of the music staff, office staff, and leadership who filled in the gaps where necessary. You have made the transition manageable and we thank you!

-Director of Music & Arts Ministries Search Committee



## THE BOX FOR AUGUST

We are collecting new socks and underwear for youth of ALL ages, especially for the older kids. They will be distributed to the more than 250 households that come to our monthly Community Cupboard, and will quietly provide another layer of dignity for someone needing these essential items. Please pick up a few of these items, bring them with you to Countryside, and place them into the Box during the month of August.

## SHOW US YOUR SSG

The Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) was recently pleased to give a Small Service Grant from Countryside's Faith and the Environment (FatE) for a dual 50 gallon composter that is already in use on the church property! FatE initiated composting during Vacation Bible School as part of "How we Care for Creation". The composter will allow us to start utilizing some of our food waste and coffee grounds to enrich the soil here at Countryside.

**COMPOSTING IS EASY TO GET RIGHT** if you understand a few guidelines;

COMPOST: coffee grounds, fruits, vegetables, egg shells, leaves

NOT COMPOST: bones, meat, dairy, seeds, grain

Balance layers of wet/green(nitrogen) items with layers of dry/brown(carbon) items

\*Always leave top layer brown to keep flying insects and odors away.

## QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information regarding Countryside Christian Outreach, email [christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org). To find out about how you can volunteer at the food pantry, contact [communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org).

*Christian Outreach embraces opportunities that reflect appreciation, respect, and love where there was otherwise much neglect - providing funding and service opportunities that nurture lasting change in our congregation, our community, and our world.*

### The Box

*...is where specific items are collected each month to address various needs. "The Suitcase" is where we continuously collect hotel-size toiletries. Both are in the Foyer near the front doors.*

### Community Cupboard

*A large mobile food pantry takes place right here at Countryside on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00-11:30AM. You are invited to come witness this miracle happening!*

### Holiday Offerings (Christmas and Easter)

*Each year the Board of Christian Outreach directs two special mission offerings—the Christmas and Easter offerings. These offerings are given to organizations both locally and internationally.*

### Small Service Grants (SSG)

*Countryside members who volunteer with local groups/events may apply for small service grants (SSG) of less than \$500 to cover materials and supplies. Contact us or find the SSG grant request forms on the church website.*

## AUGUST UPDATE

The Church Council approved a motion to give the CRC permission to engage our architectural team, APM and HGA, in the Design Development stage of the building project. CRC members, Rick MacInnes and Paul Nelson and Project Advocates representative, John Taylor, will meet with the architects the first week of August to discuss and plan for the Design Development stage.

A detailed timeline of activities and benchmarks relating to the Tri-Faith and our building project will be presented to the congregation soon. Be on the lookout for it!

**STONE SOUP**, a children's story.

Do you remember *Stone Soup*? Once upon a time a poor village ran out of food and faced starvation. One clever villager decided to make a large pot of soup for the whole village. He filled a pot with water and set it to boil in the village square. The ingredient he added to the pot was a stone. The villagers scoffed at his stupidity as he assured them that his soup would be wonderful. He invited each family to contribute some small offering to the pot. Slowly each family came forward, one carried a shriveled carrot, another a potato, still another an onion. Each family gave the little that they could to the soup pot. A delicious bubbling soup was soon offered to all the village and to their amazement stone soup fed everyone for many days!

Do you know where this is going? If each Countryside family contributed a little or a lot to our new church, if we could tell the world that all of our congregation gave something to our future home, then we would have a wonderful...a delicious story to share! Our souls will be fed and enriched as we take our place with our neighbors on the Tri-Faith Campus! Please pledge today. If you have already put your offering in the soup pot, thank you!



## PLEDGE NOW

[www.countrysideucc.org/pledge](http://www.countrysideucc.org/pledge)

*To stay informed of what is happening with the relocation efforts, look for the Relocation icon in Countryside's communications: the display area outside the church office, weekly C10 emails, monthly newsletter, and the Countryside website [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.org).*

## QUESTIONS?

*If you have questions or comments, see one of the following committee members: Rick MacInnes, Tim Kerrigan, Cyndi Kugler, Paul Nelson, Pam Kregg and Nancy Behringer or email [crc@countrysideucc.org](mailto:crc@countrysideucc.org).*



# LIFE MINISTRIES



*Life Ministry supports and improves the quality and "wellness" of family life. Life Ministry strives to engage people in a wide variety of social and educational activities for individuals and families. It is designed to strengthen family bonds and provide outreach in support of family members. Life Ministry also brings strength and continuity to Countryside's volunteer base by advising staff and by serving as a conduit between congregation and Countryside's Life Ministry and Volunteer programs.*

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Life Ministries contact Mary Beth Link.

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350, ext. 112

Email: marybethl@countysideucc.org

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

### Wednesday Night Alive Suppers begin August 31!

Christy Palmer volunteered her time and expertise to coordinate the Wednesday Night Suppers for us this year. Throughout the summer, Christy has been actively involved in compiling our supper providers and their menus with her focus keenly on healthy, organic, gluten-free, well-balanced, dinners.

Here is the list of dinners that will begin on Wednesday, August 31, 5:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall:

- August 31: Burgers, corn on the cob, watermelon, and salad (FATE committee)
- September 7: Taco Night (Ryan and Christy Palmer)
- September 14: Matzoh Ball Soup and Charoset: a traditional Jewish spread made from apples, walnuts & honey (Jessica and Johann Johnson)
- September 21: Lasagna, garlic bread and salad (Darren Muhammad)
- September 28: Alphabet soup, lentil soup, cheesy toast and salad (Bonnie & Mark Welsch)

The suggested donation for Wednesday Night Alive Suppers is \$5/person or you may purchase by the month not to exceed \$80/family. THANKS to Christy for her organization and coordination of this family-based ministry!

### Chair Yoga

Yoga will continue through Tuesday afternoon, August 30 in the Foyer at Countryside Church from 2-3:00 PM. For additional information contact Donna Miesbach at 402-330-2747 or at dmiesbach@cox.net. Also, please be aware that Donna is offering another class beginning Sept. 14-Nov. 15, 2016.

### Plant One More

**Plant One More** is ready to receive your fresh produce! Eva Houston and mom, Vicki, are gratefully accepting additional produce from your gardens on Sunday mornings through September 4. This year donations of produce will be given to Youth Emergency Services and Together Inc. You are asked to bring your donations to Countryside's front courtyard on Sunday mornings between 8:45-11:00 AM. For additional information regarding this ministry, go to [www.PlantOneMore.org](http://www.PlantOneMore.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Parenting with Love and Logic** will meet Wednesday evenings September 14-October 26, 6:00-7:30 p.m. This class provides practical tools and techniques to help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. It will be taught by Mary Johnston, a trained and certified Love and Logic facilitator. Registrations are available at the Information Station or by contacting Mary Beth. A suggested donation of \$60/person or \$80/couple will cover the cost of supplies needed for the class.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### THE LIST

The List is the way we share of our time and talent with one another. Each week we lift up an opportunity to volunteer within a specific ministry at Countryside. Check the Order of Worship each Sunday or the weekly email to learn about the List for each week.

### Tri-Faith Event Volunteers Needed!

Friday, Aug. 5, five volunteers are needed to help move furniture out of the Commons and replace it with 8-foot tables needed for the food pantry on Aug. 6. Also, volunteers are needed to help move tables from Memorial Hall to the Foyer on Friday, Aug. 12 for the Tri-Faith Picnic. Contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 for additional information.

Eight to 10 STRONG individuals are needed early Sunday morning, Aug. 14 to roll out the tables and chairs and place them under the tent and in the circle for the Tri-Faith Picnic.

Additional volunteers to complete our list: volunteers to work the drink tables, bounce house and assist in the clean up. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org). drink tables, bounce house and assist in the clean up. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Countryside's Nominating Committee

We will be filling the openings on the eight leadership boards within the church structure. If you would like information on any of our leadership boards, responsibilities of board membership and/or the process by which these boards are filled, contact either France Blanchard or Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350.

### Volunteer Receptionists

We are currently seeking five individuals who would help out in the front office receptionist's desk during the week. You can pick your time frame; hours are 8:30-11:30 PM or 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Monday through Friday. Duties would include answering the phones and other light office work. Feel free to bring a book or surf the web during that time, should it get a little slow. For more information, contact either Dan Loven or Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350.

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed for the Pantry on Aug. 6 - during the garage sale. Any and all age groups are welcome. Ability to lift, bend and stand on your feet for extended periods of time are appreciated. If interested contact Mary Beth Link at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org). or Andi Lawlor at [communitycupboard@countysideucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countysideucc.org)

## SOCIAL GROUPS

### Family Activities Committee

This group offers educational and social opportunities that strengthen family bonds and support all family members. Open to families with children, birth through 12 years old. They meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Family Life Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This group encourages commitment to making church a priority through active participation in fun, faith and fellowship events. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Knit-n-Wit

Join in the fun as you learn to knit, continue an existing project or teach others to knit/crochet. Open to knitters of all skill-levels. Meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM at Whole Foods. Contact Jeanne Cunningham at [jkcunningham@cox.net](mailto:jkcunningham@cox.net).

### WNA Supper Group

This group consists of volunteers in our congregation. If there is a meal you and your family really love, then share it with the church on Wednesday evenings beginning in August. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month at First Watch, 1222 S 71 St. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Nine-to-Dine

Consisting of 9 individuals, this group meets on a monthly basis at various restaurants in Omaha or sometimes someone's home for a nice home-cooked meal. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Lunch Bunch Circle

This group meets for lunch as well as special programming on the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. Contact Gloria Ried at [g-g.ried@cox.net](mailto:g-g.ried@cox.net).

### FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)

This group dabbles with watercolor paints and adult coloring books. We listen to music, laugh a lot, share stories and a pot of coffee (or two!), and enjoy being together. Contact Pam Kregg at 402-896-3866.

### Men's Breakfast Group

This group of Countryside men (all ages) share their breakfast at 7 AM every Tuesday morning at Rockbrook's Garden Café. Contact Mary Beth Link at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Countryside's Angels Bicycling

This group is open to anyone (all ages) interested in bicycling. They meet periodically when the weather is calling them to ride! Contact Mark Stursma at [mstursma@yahoo.com](mailto:mstursma@yahoo.com).

## EDUCATION GROUPS

### Faith and the Environment (FatE)

This group promotes spirituality through environmental education, advocacy and simple acts of kindness within Countryside and beyond. They meet on the 1st Monday of the month, 5:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at [christysuepalmer@gmail.com](mailto:christysuepalmer@gmail.com).

### LGBTQ 101

LGBTQ 101 is a monthly class held on the 2nd Thursday of each month and is facilitated by PFLAG members. The class covers LGBTQ issues and increases awareness of gender identity and expression. Contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countysideucc.org).

### Adult Education

See full listing under Center for Faith Studies on page 4.

### Journey Groups

See page 5.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUPS

### T'ai Chi Chih®

TCC is a series of gentle movements that can be done by anyone. This group meets every Thursday at 10 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at [rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com).

### InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Countryside Foyer. **Change in program: August and Sept. will be held the 3rd Saturday.** Contact Rita Otis at [rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com).

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

### Church Council

Between congregational meetings, the Church Council acts upon all issues facing the Church. They establish the overall policy of the Church and work with the staff on the general direction of the activities of the Church: Meets the 3rd Thursday after the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Jennifer Hamann, Moderator, at [moderator@countysideucc.org](mailto:moderator@countysideucc.org).

### Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

This board nurtures outreach projects, coordinates efforts within the church to develop mission themes, and selects organizations to receive special offering grants. Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Sarah Miller at [swaetz14@hotmail.com](mailto:swaetz14@hotmail.com)

### Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

This board brings strength and stability to Countryside's educational efforts by advising staff and providing both adults and children with educational programs. Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Contact board chair Bill Sellgren at [sellgren3@cox.net](mailto:sellgren3@cox.net)

### Board of Art & Music (BAM)

This board provides sincere, artful and spiritual experiences for the congregation. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Brenda Stursma at [brenda.stursma@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.stursma@gmail.com)

### Board of Life Ministries (BOLM)

This board oversees all social activities, volunteer coordination and family based educational classes held at Countryside. Contact board chair Mary Johnston at [zjeesgram@aol.com](mailto:zjeesgram@aol.com)

### Board of Youth (BOY)

This board brings strength and stability to COYO through development, planning and management for our youth programs. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair Mike Murphy at [mike@nelsonmurphyinvest.com](mailto:mike@nelsonmurphyinvest.com)

### Board of Trustees

This board oversees the financial and property concerns for Countryside, including stewardship, budgeting process and regular review of the financial position of the church. This board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Contact board chair Tim Kerrigan, at [tgerrigan@investorsomaha.com](mailto:tgerrigan@investorsomaha.com)

### Board of Pastoral Care

This board promotes staff and lay ministry efforts to support contact and comfort church and community members, focusing on people facing difficult times in their lives. This board meets quarterly at 5 PM. Contact board chair, Tom Scates at [omahascats@cox.net](mailto:omahascats@cox.net).

### Board of Deacons

This board is responsible for any church tasks that are related to worship and fellowship as well as communicating with new members and visitors. Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Contact board chair, Bonnie Buckland at [bonniebuckland@outlook.com](mailto:bonniebuckland@outlook.com).

### Nominating Committee

This committee is composed of 9 - 12 church members including past chairs of the boards and moderator. They meet weekly from September through November. The mission of the Nominating Committee is to recruit church members to serve on the eight leadership boards at Countryside Church, the vice moderator-elect, and the church delegates who attend Nebraska's Annual Conference of the United Church of Christ. Contact board co-chairs France Blanchard at [fblanchardh@gmail.com](mailto:fblanchardh@gmail.com) or Pam Kregg at [pamgg@cox.net](mailto:pamgg@cox.net)





# Reel Faith

Worship Series  
July 17 - September 4

The Bridge to Terabithia  
Groundhog Day  
Chocolat

Oh, God!  
About Schmidt  
The Spiritual Wisdom of Harry Potter

Shrek

See page 5 for details

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**THURSDAY**  
**August 4**  
6 PM - 8 PM  
Preview night for  
Countryside members

**FRIDAY**  
**August 5**  
8 AM - 4 PM

**SATURDAY**  
**August 6**  
8 AM - 2 PM

See page 6 for details

## BRUSH UP NEBRASKA PAINT-A-THON

**SATURDAY** August 13  
**SATURDAY** August 20

All Countrysiders who are able and willing to paint and/or spruce up a home for a family of elderly and disabled folks! *(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)*



To sign up contact Mary Beth at [marybethl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countrysideucc.org)



## Choir Kick-Off Events

**Chancel Choir & Spirit of Grace**  
Saturday, August 20  
8:30 AM - NOON

**Faith Singers**  
Saturday - Sunday,  
August 27-28  
COYO Camp  
Rivercrest Retreat

**All Kids Choirs**  
Wednesday, August 24  
Cherub & Pilgrim  
5:15 - 6:00 PM  
Covenant Choir  
6:15 - 7:00 PM

see page 8 for details