

# FEBRUARY



HOLY X January 7



Meditation practice during CORE 56



Removal of the church bell



HOLY X January 7



Removal of the church bell

## JANUARY HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE

## RESTORE THE SHORE

This summer, COYO Sr. High is going back to the Jersey Shore in Wall, New Jersey, to do repair and rebuild homes that were damaged during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 - five years ago. There are still over 300 families not in their homes just in the Wall Township area. Students will work alongside Americorps members. The organization that is in charge of the effort, SBP, has existed since Hurricane Katrina and has helped thousands of families rebuild. Federal assistance has long run out in New Jersey, so our help is needed to Restore the Shore.

Last year's mission trip was the best mission trip I have ever done in 24 years. SBP was an outstanding organization that could provide meaningful work for a large group, encourage students to work hard through the leadership of Americorps volunteers, and bring hope (not just labor) to families who very much need it. The accommodations at Camp Evans were outstanding under the leadership of Joy Blazak. And, I have never seen a youth group work harder! They were united and motivated to Restore the Shore! - Will Howell, Director of Youth Ministries.



Information Station on January 7

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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

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Website - [www.countrysideucc.org](http://www.countrysideucc.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@countrysideucc.org](mailto:erice@countrysideucc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
[chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org)

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[robynh@countrysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countrysideucc.org)

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## **Audio/Visual**

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Videographer  
[bens@countrysideucc.org](mailto:bens@countrysideucc.org)

## **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 toward 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, donut holes 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.

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

## **HISTORIAN'S CORNER**

In January of this year, Countryside's bell was removed from the bell tower to be refurbished before installation at the church's new building at the Tri-Faith Commons. The world famous Royal Eijsbouts bell foundry in the town of Asten, Netherlands, cast the bell in 1965. The bell was originally installed in 1965 when the church's existing sanctuary was first built in 1965. The bell and the church's existing spire sat over the roof of the Sanctuary. When the Sanctuary was remodeled and the Foyer added in 2000, the bell and the spire moved on top of the newly built Margre Durham Bell Tower

The design on the bell is meant to resemble corn stalks, since the region the Royal Eijsbouts bell foundry is known for their corn production. The inscription on the bell translates..."Eijsbouts made this bell in Asten in 1965".

As a side note: In 2014, the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France celebrated its 850th anniversary. On this occasion, it was decided to restore the bells of the Cathedral to their former glory with a new set of bells. The order was given to the Royal Eijsbouts foundry in Asten, where the largest bell (Marie) was produced.



..."Eijsbouts made this bell in Asten in 1965".

# PASTORAL CARE



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

**January 29, 6:30-9:00 PM** – New classes for our program begin in the Chapel and will be on Monday nights for 15 weeks.

**February 6, 5:30 PM** – Stephen Ministry Leadership Team in Jan's office.

**February 6, 6-8 PM** – Peer Support in the Chapel.

## PASTORAL CARE BOARD

**February 20, 6:30-8:15 PM** – Pastoral Care Board meeting in Jan's office. You may use the lower door by the gym; knock loudly!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES – The Voices of Countryside – "TAKE TWO!"** : March 25, Palm Sunday, 12:15-1:30 PM – We will resume videotaping your amazing, sweet stories for our wonderful historical project. Plan to come to the pancake brunch after church, and then make your way to Dr. Amy Luckenbill's office for an opportunity to share your memories of our church and how it has impacted your faith, life, family. (There will be one more opportunity in the summer, but please consider doing this in March so that we can begin our official documentary.) Thank you to Margie Bolte, Karen Follon, the Stephen Ministers and the Pastoral Care Board for your support of this project.

## JOYS

**Deb Anderson** and **Bill Pappas** were married on December 23, 2017, at Beacon Hills Restaurant at Aksarben Village in Omaha, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

**Pat Holt** has a new granddaughter, and that also means **Jim Gilbert** has a new grand-niece! Page Averly Holt was born on December 29, 2017, to Matt and Kate Holt of Omaha.

**Peggy** and **Chris Dunn** are grandparents, and **Samantha** is a new mom! Little Everleigh Gray was born early in January, and all are doing well.

**Rick** and **Cathy MacInnes** have a new grandson; Niles Christopher Johnson was born on January 7, 2018, in New York City, to parents Alissa and Beau Johnson, with big sister Zoe helping to welcome Niles home.

*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



## Grade/Middle School 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): 6:30 - 7:30 PM - rm 119

## Adult Choirs

Chancel Choir : 5:30 – 6:40 PM

Spirit of Grace : 6:45 – 7:45 PM

## The Converging Paths Podcast

In-house Podcast : 6:30 –7:00 PM

Guided Meditation : 7:00 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday Night Alive is for all ages! Enjoy, educational opportunities, adult choirs and *The Converging Paths Podcast*. This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

**NO Wednesday Night Alive Activities Ash Wednesday, February 11**

## CONVERGING PATHS PODCAST

The Converging Paths Podcast is a weekly audio podcast with Dr. Eric Elnes where "God experiences" converge with everyday life, turning each day into a potential encounter with the Holy. Dr. Elnes has interviewed nationally-recognized faith leaders Floyd Thompkins, Chuck Marohnic, Marcia McFee and Bruce Van Blair about their "God experiences" and how these experiences continue to inform their everyday life and work. After the interview, Dr. Elnes offers a guided meditation in which wisdom is gleaned from the interview, is organically integrated into an experience of prayer and meditation that may just provide that "meeting ground" between yourself and God that you've been looking for. Speakers have included Ashley Swartz and Tri-Faith leaders.



## CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS



**Prayer 101; Prayer Retreat with Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.**  
**March 16-18** - Amidst so much personal and collective chaos, few people ever discover the reality of Jesus's central message, "Heaven is already here! Change your whole way of thinking and believe the good news." The cost for the prayer retreat is \$220 per person. This includes two nights of lodging in the Swanson Center at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland, Nebraska. Scholarships will be available. We hope you can join us. RSVP to [robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org).

### **Institute for Holocaust Education, Tuesday, March 20 at 7 PM**

Dr. Mark Wygoda is the son of Hermann Wygoda who is also known as "Comandante Enrico," to the 2,500 partisan troops he commanded as a Division Commander in the Italian Liberation Army from 1944-45. His family's sole survivor, Hermann was a German-born Polish Jew who lived a covert life both in Poland, where he had been a smuggler to the Warsaw ghetto, and in Germany, where he had been a foreman, translator, and armed courier for a German business. As a Partisan commander, he planned war actions, negotiated prisoner exchanges with the local German commander, and ultimately helped liberate the city of Savona, Italy.

Dr. Mark Wygoda, a Biology professor at McNeese State University, will share his father's amazing story and its lessons with our community, as we honor and remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

## ADULT EDUCATION



### **An Introduction to Islam**

Thursdays, January 18 - February 15, 7:00 PM  
Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi will join us Thursdays at 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall for an introductory class on the dynamic Islam tradition, including an understanding of the five pillars of Islam: a declaration of faith, daily prayers, giving, fasting for the month of Ramadan, and a pilgrimage to Mecca. All are welcome!

### **Mystical Teachings in the Jewish Bible**

Rabbi Azriel is starting a new class and will continue to explore the mystical teachings of the Chasidic Masters, "Sparks Beneath the Surface: The Spiritual Teaching of The Chasidic Masters Underneath the Torah Portion in the Jewish Bible." Classes will take place in Memorial Hall on Mondays, 10 AM on January 29, February 5, 12 and 19. All are welcome!



### **Great Decisions 2018**

Jim Bachman will once again facilitate a discussion of the topics chosen for the Great Decisions curriculum. The topics for 2018 include:

- The waning of Pax Americana
- Russia's foreign policy
- China and America: the new geopolitical equation
- Media and foreign policy
- Turkey: a partner in crisis
- U.S. global engagement and the military
- South Africa's fragile democracy
- Global health: progress and challenges



Classes are Wednesdays at 7 PM, January 24 through March 21, in the Conference Room. To register please contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org).

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**

Racial Justice Book Group meets Monday evenings in the Commons at 7 PM Current book being discussed is 'We Were Eight Years in Power' by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

### **Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch**

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. World's Greatest Churches is the curriculum being discussed.

### **Books Bible and Beyond**

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. We will begin discussing "Grounded", Finding God in the World by Diana Butler Bass.

### **Sunday Adult Forum**

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying 'The Holy Land Revealed'.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact **Chris Alexander**

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

**Email:** [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org)

or **Courtney Holiday**, CFS Admin. Assistant

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

**Email:** [courtneyh@countysideucc.org](mailto:courtneyh@countysideucc.org)

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

**Face book:** Center-for-Faith-Studies

# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Inquiry Journey Group - Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:30 PM, February 7 - March 28***

A simple and effective tool for changing your thinking is a process called Inquiry, in which you question a thought that causes you pain, and then "turn the thought around" to discover wisdom and insight just beneath the surface. Inquiry, or "The Work," was originated by Byron Katie, and first described in her book *Loving What Is*. Allison Mecham Evans, who studied with Katie and has used Inquiry with her life coaching clients – and herself – since 2010 is facilitating an Inquiry Journey Group here at Countryside on Wednesdays at 5:00-6:30 PM from February 7-March 28. Allison says, "Inquiry has changed my life. It has dramatically improved all my relationships, increased my daily happiness, and made me a more creative, self-directed person." For more information and to join please contact Allison at [allison.evans@me.com](mailto:allison.evans@me.com) or leave your contact information at the Information Station in the foyer following any Sunday service.

### ***Convergence University***

For groups following Convergence University curriculum, there are many and varied resources such as podcasts, sermons, children's materials, discussion series, prayers, blogs, and litanies for personal devotions all available free from This We Affirm website at the Center for Innovation at San Francisco Theological Seminary. These resources are curated within the themes of each of the 12 Phoenix Affirmations which makes it helpful for additional study as we follow our worship series through the Living Lectionary in 2017-18. If your group is interested in joining Convergence University, or if your group is already following Convergence curriculum and just needs access to these resources, please contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countriesideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countriesideucc.org) for the website and login information.

### ***Journey Groups***

*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. New Journey Groups are regularly forming that meet to discuss the current sermon series, watch and discuss Darkwood Brew videos or engage in special small group studies. Join in and dig into some provocative theological discussions while developing lasting relationships. Contact Rev. Chris Alexander to get plugged into a Journey Group.*

### ***Free Darkwood Brew Membership***

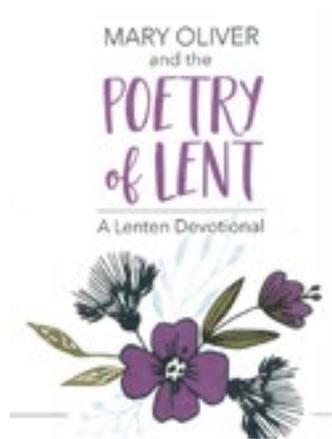
*Did you know that as a member of Countryside you have free access to the entire Darkwood Brew video library? You can watch any of the 28 series with topics ranging from forgiveness to the environment at [www.darkwoodbrew.org](http://www.darkwoodbrew.org). Use the username: CCCUCC and the password: tryside8787.*

### **QUESTIONS?**

For more information about Journey Groups contact Rev. Chris Alexander.

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

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



**LENT DEVOTIONALS**  
\$2 SUGGESTED DONATION  
FOR SALE BETWEEN  
SERVICES IN FEBRUARY



CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS:  
**REV. ERIC ELNES, Ph.D.**  
*Prayer 101- Prayer Retreat*  
March 16-18, 2018

Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland, Nebraska  
The cost for the prayer retreat is \$220 per person.  
Includes two nights lodging, meals, snacks and event.  
*Scholarships are available.*  
Contact Robyn at [robynh@countriesideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countriesideucc.org)  
details page 4

**Countryside's  
Hors d'oeuvre Contest**

Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share.  
*Sign up at the Information Station*



at the home of  
Todd & Kathleen Samland    Friday, February 9  
3515 S. 94th Ave.                    6:30 p.m.



**February 27**  
**6:00 - 7:30**  
Barbara Weitz Community  
Engagement Center  
UNO

*See page 11 for details*

**TRI-FAITH DIALOGUES**  
**The Gender Gap in Religious Practices**



# YOUTH MINISTRIES



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.

### 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.

### Confirmation

Confirmation meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Choirs

Faith Singers (high school) meets 4:30 - 6:00 PM Sundays and sings twice a month in church. They also go on tour every summer

Confirmation Singers (7-8 grade choir) meets Sundays 6:30 - 8:00 PM and sings once a month in church.

### 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

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo

## COYO SR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Restore the Shore, June 23 - July 1, Wall Township, NJ**

Help families get back in their homes after 5 years. See front page for more information.

**Youth Sunday, February 4 at 10:00 AM**

There are plenty of roles that you can fill. Let Will know what you want to do in the service. Roles include readers, prayers, greeters, ushers, videos, work on props, announcements, examen, box basket list, and blessing. This is also the kickoff day of the fund-raiser Restore the Shore. You can help spread the word around church to raise money for people still not in their homes after 5 years in New Jersey.

**Superbowl Party - Sunday, February 4 at 5:00 PM**

Come join us for food, fun, prizes, football and commercials! The festivities will be held in the Youth Room. Bring a snack to share.

**Taste of Tri-Faith, Sunday, February 11 at 12:30PM**

Taste of Tri-Faith. Come to Temple Israel for food and friends. Let's have a good showing of Tri-Faith Youth at this event. Bring a food thing to share.

**Bobby Jo Valentine, Sunday, February 18 at 6:30PM**

Bobby Jo Valentine in concert in the Commons. COYO Jr High and COYO Sr High are invited to experience the music and heart of Bobby Jo. [www.bobbyjovalentine.com](http://www.bobbyjovalentine.com)

### Sundays in February

4:30 PM Faith Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (9th - 12th Grade Choir)

6:00 PM Dinner for all COYO Sr High, Faith Singers, and COYO Jr High

6:30 PM COYO Sr High in Youth Room (Friends, Faith, and Service)

## COYO JR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Sunday, February 4 at 10:00 AM**

There are plenty of roles that you can fill. Let Will know what you want to do in the service. Roles include readers, prayers, greeters, ushers, videos, work on props, announcements, examen, box basket list, and blessing. This is also the kickoff day of the fund-raiser Restore the Shore. You can help spread the word around church to raise money for people still not in their homes after 5 years in New Jersey.

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Bobby Jo Valentine in concert in the Commons. COYO Jr High and COYO Sr High are invited to experience the music and heart of Bobby Jo. [www.bobbyjovalentine.com](http://www.bobbyjovalentine.com)

**Game Night, Friday, February 23 at 7:00PM**

COYO Jr High Spielbound. Have a great time at the awesome board game café. Admission is Free, but if you want any food or drinks bring money. Feel free to bring a friend.

### Sundays in February

4:30 PM COYO Jr High (Friends, Faith, and Service)

6:00 PM Dinner for all COYO Jr High, COYO Sr High, and Faith Singers

6:30 PM Confirmation Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (7th & 8th Grade Choir)



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

### February 4 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Books and worship bags are available to borrow from a cart in the Foyer. Only one Worship this week!

### February 11- Sunday School

The Gift of Healing...and Gratitude: Jesus blesses ten men and all are cured of their illness. One and only one returns to thank you Jesus. Gratitude—noticing the blessings we have—expands our joy and our blessings.

### February 18 - Children's Church

Children will proceed together to the Chapel for child-centered worship.

### February 25 - Sunday School

The Parable of the Vineyard Owner...and Us: In this parable, the vineyard owner pays all the workers the same amount, even those who did very little work. God is generous to all and always!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Core 56

Our Core 56 groups welcomes all students in 5th and 6th grade to meet to discuss scripture stories that center primarily around the New testament and the teachings of Jesus. Each week, we will discuss scripture stories, consider historical and cultural context, and contemplate how we can use what we have learned from them in our lives today. Please ask your Core 56 student to bring their bible—if you don't have one, just ask Rebecca! At the beginning of each class, we will spend some time in a meditative prayer sit, as we build up to 10 minutes by the end of the semester. This past month we hit the seven minute mark so we are well on our way. This month, we will begin a Lenten project, which is usually focused on reprioritizing our personal prayer time.

While it is not required, we ask that you register for Holy Moly and Core 56 by completing the corresponding Google forms on the Countryside website. It is helpful in our planning.

### Sunday School

We are very excited to study scripture stories with our Countryside children! During the 9 AM service, our students will meet together in two classrooms: pre-K and one large group for Kindergarten through 6th grade. During the 11 AM service, our students are divided between four classrooms: Pre-K, K-1st, 2nd-4th, and 5th & 6th grades - see below.

We leave together as a group after the Children's Moments and head to classrooms. Students remain in their classrooms until collected by a parent or guardian. Please remember our students and teachers in your prayers as they explore scripture stories together this semester.

This month, our students will begin Gratitude journals, that they will use for the rest of the semester, as well as bookmarks that they will take home.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

### Lower Level

(take stairs or elevator one floor down)

#### 9:00 Service

Room 114A - Grades K-6

#### 11:00 Service

Room 117 - Grades 2-3

Room 114B - Grade 4

Room 112 - Grades 5-6

### Upper Level

(same as the sanctuary, chapel, and nursery)

#### 11:00 Service

Room 214 -Pre-Kindergarten

Room 213 - Grades K-1

### Nursery

Our nursery staff is available on Sundays from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM and on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm until 8:00. In the interest of keeping everyone in the nursery safe, we want to remind everyone that the Nursery is reserved for infants and children up to age 2. We can usually accommodate a 3-year old easily, but if you have older children that require care during normal nursery hours, please contact Rebecca at [rebeccam@countrysideucc.org](mailto:rebeccam@countrysideucc.org) to make other arrangements. Thank you!

*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 staff is trained and have passed background checks.*

### Family Worship

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

### 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.*

### 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 five years old through 6th grade.*

### Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

*During the school year, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum 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's ministry and work. We also fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.*

### 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.*

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Children's Education contact [Rebecca Morello](mailto:Rebecca Morello).

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



# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Confirmation Singers Schedule Change

Confirmation Singers is now meeting on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:30, in tandem with Confirmation Class. If you have a child who has not been able to participate on Sunday afternoons, now is their chance to join in the fun. Tyler Gruttemeyer will direct the group.

**Bobby Jo Valentine - February 18, 6:30 PM - Coffeehouse**

Countryside has one of the most celebrated music and 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.

### Arts Affirmation

Children in Pre-K through 6th grade, will have opportunities to explore all types of performance and media arts in a project-based arts curriculum. All projects are designed around the twelve Phoenix Affirmations. Sunday afternoons 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

### Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Sunday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in the Junior Choir Room. The choir sings monthly in worship.

### Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year.

### Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings once or twice per month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45 PM.

### Chancel Choir

The adult Chancel Choir sings selections from the Classical Choral Repertoire weekly in worship. Regular rehearsals are Wednesdays, 5:30-6:40 PM.



COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH PRESENTS

# BOBBY JO VALENTINE

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 18  
6:30 PM  
COMMON GROUND  
COFFEEHOUSE

**\$10**  
Suggested Donation

Childcare Available  
\$5 in the nursery

Bobby Jo Valentine Live – One Night Only! Sunday, February 18, at 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Common Grounds at Countryside Community Church

Countryside Community Church in coordination with the Board of Arts and Music are proud to present singer/songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine. Hope-folk. Soul-pop. Poetic rock. Bobby Jo Valentine's award-winning music exists outside the lines of any genre, and the music's thoughtful lyrics and catchy melodies reach listeners on all paths of life.

Born into a Baptist church of strict lines and sharp edges, and coming out of that culture to discover who he really is, Bobby is now a believer of a different sort: a believer in the wild, strange, beautiful nature of the world. Faith has come to mean something much deeper, wider, and less cut-and-dried than when he started. Now, Bobby finds that he often has more to learn from the people who don't believe as he does than from those who do.

## 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)

# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



## THE BOX FOR FEBRUARY

This month we are collecting cans of soup that will be donated through Together Omaha. Countrysiders helped start Together Omaha decades ago. The organization collaborates to prevent and end homelessness. It envisions a community of prosperity where everyone experiences safe, affordable housing, food security, health and wellness. Please check your pantry for cans or boxes of soup you do not need, and/or pick up a few at the store and bring them to the BOX.

## BOX RESULTS FROM DECEMBER

Countryside's blanket drive produced a total 67 blankets. --So many that it took two car loads to deliver all of them! The main recipient was the Sienna Francis house, which shelters and empowers individuals experiencing homelessness to navigate their own path to safe and appropriate housing. Thank you so much to all of you who contributed blankets. They surely help make a difference in the frigid temperatures.

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING UPDATE

Countrysiders raised a running total of \$14,174.46 for our 2018 recipient, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI). It was originally formed with the help of Countryside leadership, and it continues to help people learn to grow food in rural areas all over the world. These funds will primarily go towards remodeling and upgrading bathrooms in the women's dorm on the campus in Japan. Thank you so much to all who were able to help make this gift so meaningful. \*Group retreats and personal sabbaticals are common at ARI with visits ranging from two weeks to nearly a year. For more information visit <http://www.ari-edu.org/en/>

## SHOW US YOUR SMALL SERVICE GRANT (SSG) 2018!

We are looking for projects that need a relatively small amount of money, to help make a relatively powerful impact. These are small service group grants that were created to help pay for materials and supplies. If you have an idea for an SSG, please send an email to [christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org](mailto:christianoutreach@countrysideucc.org), or find SSG form at [countrysideucc.org/serving-together](http://countrysideucc.org/serving-together).

*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 9:00-11:30AM. 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 Grant (SSG)

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

# RELOCATION UPDATE

## YEAR END RELOCATION CAMPAIGN REPORT CARD A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!

The commitment and generosity of Countryside and our friends in the community is a reason to pause, just for a moment, to offer thanks and to celebrate how far we have come!

The \$103,924 left to raise and then matched by the Challenge Grant will get us to that magic number of \$26 million! The additional \$1 million for the enhanced sustainability features of our building continues to be a challenge that we are pursuing. Our building will be ready to accept those features when the money becomes available.

Please pause for this moment of celebration for how close we are to our planned use of funds....

Whoops! Celebration time is up!

Back we go to the hard work of raising the money to make Countryside's Vision and Mission for the future a reality!

**C-10 Relocation Campaign Report Card**  
December 31, 2017

Planned Use of Funds	
Land	\$ 1,500,000
Building / incl contingency	\$ 19,200,000
Contents & Soft Costs	\$ 3,800,000
Capital Reserve Endowment	\$ 1,500,000
	<b>Total Project Cost \$ 26,000,000</b>
Enhanced Sustainability Options*	\$ 1,000,000
	<b>Total Project Cost with Enhanced Sustainability Options \$ 27,000,000</b>

Source of Funds to Date	
Land Donation	\$ 1,500,000
Lead Gifts	\$ 12,100,000
Church Building & Property Net	\$ 4,040,000
Anonymous Gifts (2)	\$ 3,000,000
Congregation's Response	\$ 3,029,584
Omaha Community Foundation Challenge Grant	\$ 1,000,000
Members' Challenge Grant	\$ 1,122,569
	<b>Total Funds Committed/Received \$ 25,792,153</b>

Funds to be Raised from Congregation	
New or Increased Pledges / Grants	\$ 103,924
	<b>Total Remaining Funds to be Raised by Countryside \$ 103,924</b>

Additional Potential Funds	
Challenge Grant Match for New & Increased Pledges	\$ 103,924
Outside Foundations / Enhanced Sustainability	\$ 1,000,000
	<b>Total Potential Project Funding \$ 1,103,924</b>

\* Enhanced Sustainability Options are above and beyond the \$26,000,000 needed for the project. Funding to be sought outside the congregation from Foundations and Private Donors.



## 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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Annual Meeting Luncheon** will be held on Sunday, February 4, in Memorial Hall. We ask that you sign up for the luncheon so we will have enough soup and dessert for all.

**Countryside's Annual Hors D'oeuvre Contest**, sponsored by E.T.C. Social group, will be held at the home of Kathleen and Todd Samland on Friday, February 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There is no fee for this event. You are asked to bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre which will then be enjoyed by many and judged in one of 5 categories. Winners of those categories will receive a prize! If you would like you may bring adult beverages, but please know that coffee and pop will be provided. Signup at the Information Station for this highly anticipated, delicious and fun-filled event. Should you have questions, chat with Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112. Palm Sunday Pancake Feed will be held on Sunday, March 25 after BOTH services. Cris' Cakes will be serving up warm, delicious pancakes for us again this year. Be watching for additional information on this all church event brought to you by the Family Activities Committee.

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

**Ladies Lunch group** will meet on Monday, February 5 at First Watch at Noon. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal, warm conversation and lots of laughter!

**Lunch Bunch Circle** will meet at J Coco, 5203 Leavenworth Street, at Noon on Monday, February 12. Shirley Clemens will be the hostess for the event. Should you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Vincent at darrellvincent@cox.net.

**Family Activities Committee** members will meet on Sunday, February 25, 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Office.

**Yoga** classes begin at Countryside on Monday afternoons, 5:45 p.m. in the Junior Choir Room on the lower level. The classes will be facilitated by Cheryl Richards. Suggested donation for the class is \$10/class. For additional information or should you have questions, please contact Cheryl at cerichards@cox.net.

**Interplay** will not be held in February.

**Tai Chi Chih/QiGong** classes will not be held on February 1, 8 or 15. Class will resume on the 22nd.



*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@countrysideucc.org



Converging Paths podcast Jan. 24

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Cinema Group

Volunteers are needed to coordinate a Cinema Group for 2018. If you enjoy going to the movies and following it up with a cup of coffee and great conversation stop by the Information Station today or contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350.

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, February 3. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org.

### Handyman's Group

We are looking at putting together a group of men/women who are very capable of fixing, repairing, painting and other general "handyman" kind of tasks. Dan Loven-Crum is the contact person for this group. Stop at the Information Station to learn more about this task oriented fellowship group or give Dan a call at 402-391-0350.

### Kitchen helpers are needed!

Countryside's four kitchens need a group of folks who are willing to come in weekly to clean countertops, empty dishwashers, wipe down appliances and general light cleaning so our kitchens are a healthy and more inviting place to work. Contact Mary Beth at marybethl@countrysideucc.org or at 402-391-0350 ext. 112

### Family Activities Committee (FAC) and E.T.C. Social Group

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new, adventuresome folks! If you are a good organizer, enjoy working with a wide variety of folks, enjoy a good party or just like being around a delightful group of folks then one of these groups is for you. Stop by the Information Station to learn more about both of them by talking with Mary Beth.

## 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 Life Ministries Office. Contact Mary Beth Link at marybeth@countrysideucc.org.

### Events that are Totally Cool (ETC)

This multigenerational 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 marybeth@countrysideucc.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.

### 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 marybeth@countrysideucc.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 marybeth@countrysideucc.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 or 402.333.3115.

### 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 marybeth@countrysideucc.org.

### Mahjong

This multi-generational group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Commons. They teach and play Mahjong with anyone who would like to learn. Jeri Lundblad is the coordinator of this group and you may contact her at jeri62lynn@gmail.com for additional information.

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES

See [countrysideucc.org/about-us](http://countrysideucc.org/about-us)

## 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.

### InterPlay

This interactive group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Countryside Foyer. Contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.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 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in the Youth Room. Contact Christy Palmer at christysuepalmer@gmail.com.

### Adult Education

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

### Journey Groups

See page 5.



[trifaith.org](http://trifaith.org)  
[americanmusliminstitute.org](http://americanmusliminstitute.org)  
[templeisraelomaha.com](http://templeisraelomaha.com)

## TASTE OF TRI-FAITH

**Sunday, February 11, 12:30-3:00 PM**

Members and guests of our Tri-Faith partners are invited to share an afternoon of food, stories, and fun at Temple Israel on the Tri-Faith Campus. Bring a dish – appetizer, main dish, or dessert – that is a meaningful part of your family's traditions, one of your family's favorite, or just what whatever inspires you! We also ask that you provide a sentence or two describing your dish and identifying its ingredients and possible allergens. Please avoid pork, shellfish, gelatin, and alcohol.

Our theme for this year's Taste of Tri-Faith is hunger. In addition to sharing a meal with each other, we will be sharing food with our friends and neighbors experiencing food insecurity by bringing a non-perishable food item for Countryside's Community Cupboard. Protein-based items are in need, including peanut butter, canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon), beans, etc.

There are also volunteer opportunities. We need greeters, food runners, table monitors, and help with clean up. If you would like to assist, please sign-up at the Information Desk or contact Jenn Vinton at jenniferfitchett@yahoo.com or Trish Hoffman-Ahrens at thoffman425@gmail.com. As always, all are welcome!

## TRI-FAITH DIALOGUES

**The Gender Gap in Religious Practices - February 27, 6-7:30 PM**

Join us at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center at University of Nebraska Omaha, 6400 South, University Drive Road North. Complimentary food and beverages will be available!



## TRI-FAITH KIDS

**Art Forms at American Muslim Institute (AMI)**

Our next gathering is February 10 from 5:00-6:30 PM at AMI, 13140 Faith Plaza. Topic: Art Forms and a pot-luck dinner... as always please avoid pork, shellfish and gelatin! Hope to see you there!

## HOLIDAYS

### Jewish

**Purim** February 28- March 1

Purim is celebrated with a public reading—usually in the synagogue—of the Book of Esther (Megillat Esther), which tells the story of the holiday. Under the rule of King Ahashverosh, Haman, the king's prime minister, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of Persia from destruction. The reading of the megillah typically is a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman's name is read aloud.

Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only biblical book in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Hanukkah, traditionally is viewed as a minor festival, but elevated to a major holiday as a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman became the embodiment of every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance of Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become: a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival against all odds.



[facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/](https://facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/)  
[facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/](https://facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/)  
[facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/](https://facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/)

WORSHIP SERIES

**HOLY<sup>x</sup>**  
JOURNEY TO THE SACRED  
x = \_\_\_\_\_

**January 7 - February 11**

- January 7: What is holy water?*
- January 14: What is a holy person?*
- January 21: What is a sacred vocation?*
- January 28: What is a sacred animal?*
- February 4: What is sacred music? (Youth Service)*
- February 11: What is sacred art?*

NEW WORSHIP SERIES  
**JOURNEY TO  
JERUSALEM**

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM  
Coming in February



Ash  
Wednesday  
February 14  
7:00 PM.



**Annual  
MEETING  
2018**

**Sunday, February 4**  
11:15 Soup Lunch  
12:00 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting with  
soup lunch to follow.

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE



TASTE OF TRI-FAITH

SUN., FEBRUARY 11  
12:30 - 3:00 PM

TEMPLE ISRAEL  
13111 Sterling Ridge Dr.

Please bring a dish to share.  
Avoid pork, shellfish, gelatin & alcohol.  
Please bring a non perishable food item  
to donate to Community Cupboard



see details on page 11