

# NOVEMBER



**ETC Family Pumpkin Carving and Movie Night**



## OCTOBER AT COUNTRYSIDE



## GRATITUDE SUNDAY COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Good News! As we approach this Thanksgiving holiday, the Countryside Board of Trustees' Stewardship Team would like to express our most sincere thanks and appreciation. Your support, encouragement, and prayers are truly making a difference as we commit our financial resources to our 2018 operating budget, which supports the daily ministry and programming of Countryside. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!!!

While we recognize that not all in our community are able to increase their pledge at this time, as a whole community, we have received an incredibly strong response thus far, with 70% of pledges received increasing their commitment to our 2018 operating budget. Many pledges have also begun that increase immediately, to help with our 2017 shortfall. This percentage of increased pledges is higher than anyone can remember in recent years. If you haven't renewed your pledge yet, or if you've never pledged financially to Countryside, this is not the time to back off. The increases we've received have covered \$86,000 of our \$229,000 shortfall for 2018. Now is the time to commit financially to the ministry and programming you experience at Countryside year around. We want all of Countryside's supporters to experience the

love of giving to a ministry we believe in. The positive response we've received demonstrates your love for the path we are on together at Countryside. We have a challenge to accomplish our balanced budget. This is the time to say, "this is my church family and it is important to me." We are a congregation of generous people. Please give generously from your abundance to the church's ministry and programs this year. And as you make your pledge, may you feel the joy and satisfaction of knowing that Countryside is making a difference in the world. Let's show the world what Countryside is capable of!

### Counting our Blessings Lunch Sunday, November 19 12:15 in Memorial Hall

The Board of Trustees invite you to "count our blessings" through an outstanding celebratory church family lunch with musical entertainment by Table Grace. In this season of Thanksgiving, let's come together and celebrate that which we've been given. RSVP's are requested by November 13. You may register at the Information Station or contact the church office at 402-391-0350.



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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

8787 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68114  
Phone - 402-391-0350  
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. Dr. Chris Alexander**  
Associate Minister, ext. 130  
[chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org)

## **Executive Administrative Assistant**

**Robyn Hubbard**  
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 103  
[robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org)

## **Business Office**

**Dan Loven-Crum**  
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 102  
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**Shari Garder**  
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**Steve Gomez**  
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**Kris Hill**  
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**Bonnie Buckland**  
Church Clerk  
[bonnieb@countysideucc.org](mailto:bonnieb@countysideucc.org)

**Brian Palmer**  
Building/Property Coordinator  
[brianp@countysideucc.org](mailto:brianp@countysideucc.org)

## **Audio/Visual**

**Ben Semisch**  
Videographer  
[bens@countysideucc.org](mailto:bens@countysideucc.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.

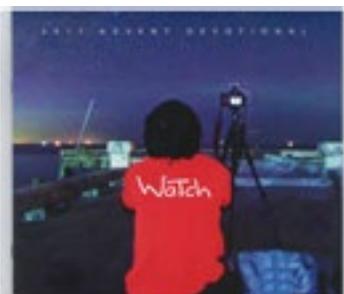
**Countryside Email list** - If you would like to be on Countryside's weekly email list, please contact the church office at [office@countysideucc.org](mailto:office@countysideucc.org) or call 402-391-0350.

## **HISTORIAN'S CORNER-GLORIA RIED, HISTORIAN**



**Countryside Manse (Parsonage)**  
Members of Countryside met in the basement of the manse while the church was being built. Betsy Manners, wife of founding pastor Roger Manners, cleaned up muddy footprints that had been tracked in after each Sunday's Service. The last residents of the manse were John and Phyllis Miller, directors of music. It was torn down to make room for an expansion.

## **2017 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS FOR SALE**



For people of faith, telling time always involves more than a swift glance at digits on screen or a dial. To know it's half past three is simple. But to know the hour of judgement and grace is complex. It requires additional effort. We invite you to take some time to pray and reflect with the UCC Advent Devotional "Watch". This devotional provides daily opportunity during Advent for intentional reflection and prayer on Mark 13:35, "Watch, pay attention, stay wide awake, for the hour is coming..." The devotional will be available in Foyer for \$5.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

If you're interested in learning more about Countryside's Stephen Ministry program, please talk to Jan Brown or a Stephen Minister. During Advent, we'll be gathering the names of those who feel called to this caring-based ministry. Classes will begin on Monday night, January 30, and will last for 15 weeks.

Stephen Ministers will meet Tuesday, November 7, with the Leadership Team at 5:30 PM in Jan's office, and then Peer Support from 6-8:00 PM in the Chapel. Please attend if you're currently working with a care receiver, either formally or informally.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Personal Goodbye Follow-Up:** Thank you to those who attended our September 30 annual Pastoral Care Workshop, "The Personal Goodbye." If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the materials we used, please contact Jan. The response has been excellent for this topic, and we are considering hosting it again next fall, with a special emphasis on helping our parents and older loved ones make their memorial service decisions.

**The Voices of Countryside aka "The Days of Our Lives":** So many of you have a story to tell and we'd like to hear it! Specifically, what Countryside memories do you treasure? How has this church impacted your faith journey or your family? Please consider sharing your stories at the Trustees' Luncheon on Sunday, November 19. During lunch, Stephen Ministers and the Pastoral Care Board, in addition to volunteer leaders Margie Bolte and Karen Follon, will have a special area set up to ask questions and listen to your stories and we're planning to record these in some fashion.

We literally want to "take our history with us" to our new church and honor the enduring strength within our congregation over the decades. This endeavor to listen to your memories will begin that day, but will then continue throughout 2018. Please note future announcements and flyers about this special opportunity, and contact Jan Brown if you'd like your stories to be included.

## JOYS

On Sunday, October 15, four children were baptized during worship services. We ask you to pray for these young families and their faith journeys:

**Ryanne Lee Mann**, daughter of Tony Mann and Ali White

**Joel Everett Foster**, son of Jordon and Kara Foster

**Charles Magnus Higgins**, son of Jack and Whitney Higgins

**Hunter Scott Wilson**, son of Scott and Megan Wilson

## IN MEMORIAM

Friend of the church, **Pamela Adams Vaughn**, passed away August 19, and her service was held at Countryside on Saturday, September 16, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating. Pamela's husband Peter was a member of Countryside and had passed away four years ago.

**Elizabeth A. Larson** passed away on September 28, 2017, and her funeral was held at Countryside on Friday, October 6, with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes officiating. Elizabeth is survived by her husband of 40 years, Barry Larson, four stepchildren, 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



**WNA Suppers** 5:30 - 6:20 PM see menu page 10

### 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 a community meal, educational opportunities, adult choirs and *The Converging Paths Podcast*. Note: Children and Youth choirs are being moved to Sunday afternoons as part of the new Arts Affirmation program (see page 8). This is a perfect way to connect with church friends, create new friendships or take time just to breathe!

## 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. Upcoming speakers to be interviewed include Susan Smith, Ashley Swartz and fellow Tri-Faith leaders.

**NO WNA on NOVEMBER 22**

*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)



## CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jan Phillips: What You Have Seen Me Do... Working Miracles in a Modern Age

Lecture: November 9, 7:00 PM

What classifies as a miracle today? What does it look like to heal one another, to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers? What does an updated version of the Good Samaritan story look like? Explore what it means to be prophetic in a divided world.



### Jan Phillips: Retreat - All Are Called, All Are Chosen: Becoming the Light We Hope to See

Retreat: November 10-11: (Friday, 7:00 PM and Saturday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM)

The Board of Life Ministry, in collaboration with the Center for Faith Studies, invites you to All are Called, All are Chosen; Becoming the Light we Hope to See presented by our special guest speaker Jan Phillips. Jan is a writer, storyteller and workshop facilitator who provokes thought and inspires action. She will be presenting a "meet and greet" introduction to her Saturday workshop on Friday evening, November 10, 7:00-9:00 PM with the workshop all day Saturday, November 11, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Her presentation will be a multi-media, multi-sensory event that opens the connection between our spirituality, creativity and action in the world through the use of images, music, poetry and stories. Jan is founder and Executive Director of the Livingkindness Foundation. She has published 10 award-winning books and 3 CDs of original music. This is a rare opportunity to give yourself the gift of time and reflection. Cost of the retreat is \$75 which includes your Center for Faith Studies ticket on Thursday evening, meet and greet on Friday and all day Saturday workshop. Registration is available online at eventbrite.com (search for Center for Faith Studies) or you may pick up a registration form at the Information Station. Tickets: \$75 (retreat tickets includes Thursday event)

### Let Me Be Frank- The Traitorous Turnabout of an Evangelical Heir Apparent

January 11-12, 2018, 7:00 PM

Thursday night movie viewing followed by a question and answer session with Frank Schaeffer and Scott Griessel.

Tickets: \$10, child care available, please RSVP 48 hours in advance by contacting our office at 402.391.0350 ext 119 or courtneyh@countrysideucc.org



### Suggestions for 2018-19 Lecture Series

The Center for Faith Studies Advisory Committee is taking recommendations for possible speakers for our 2018-19 Lecture series. If you have read a great book lately, heard a podcast that intrigued you, or would like to learn something in a particular area of interest, please send your requests and suggestions to Chris Alexander at chrisa@countrysideucc.org and we'll check into the possibilities.



### ADULT EDUCATION

#### Jewish Mystic Tradition of Kabbalah - Mondays, 10 -11:30 AM

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will be speaking to the Jewish Mystic Tradition of the 12th century known as the "Kabbalah." Kabbalah means "received tradition" which is used to express the belief that these mystic Jews were not innovating, but merely revealing the ancient hidden esoteric tradition of the Torah.



Rabbi's class on Oct. 16



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 - Beginning in August, we will study the UCC Curriculum "White Privilege: Let's Talk," in collaboration with First United Methodist Church. Group #1 and Group #2 will alternate Monday evenings in the Commons from 7:00-8:30 PM for these discussions. In November, both churches will gather together for a closing event and discussion at First United. If you are interested in joining these group studies, please contact Mary Jo Barbush Weiss at mjbbarbeiss@gmail.com .

#### Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel. Bring a lunch. Currently studying: The World's Greatest Churches - from The Great Courses series.

#### Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Currently we are reading and discussing the book Who Wrote the Bible? by Richard Elliott Friedman.

#### Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying Native Peoples of North America.

### QUESTIONS?

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

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

**Email:** chrisa@countrysideucc.org

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

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

**Email:** courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

**Website:** www.centerforfaithstudies.org

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

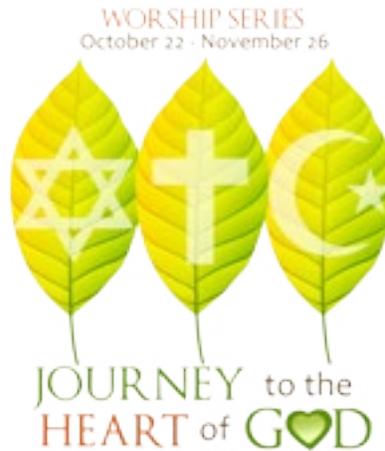
# JOURNEY GROUPS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Journey to the Heart of God - New groups are forming*

New groups are forming for extended discussions of the worship series: Journey to the Heart of God. This series will be led by clergy of all three Abrahamic Faiths, two services each, helping us journey to the heart of God by highlighting two understandings that are core to their faith tradition. One of the distinguishing features of this Age of the Spirit is the awareness that all three Abrahamic Faiths worship the same God, even as the traditions are quite different from one another. Consider joining a journey group to discuss these differences and the revelations they share with us about God. To register for a group please leave your contact information and the times you are available at the information station or contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countysideucc.org).



### **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.

### **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 for the website and login information.

## QUESTIONS?

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

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

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

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS:



**JAN PHILLIPS**  
*What You Have Seen Me Do...  
Working Miracles in a Modern Age*  
Lecture  
Thursday, November 9, 7:00 PM

Lecture tickets are \$10 and are available through the church office or at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) (search Center for Faith Studies)

*see page 4 for details*

*Please Join Us For  
New Member Classes*  
Sundays, November 5 & 12  
12:15 - 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel  
New Member Sunday  
December 3, followed by Advent Brunch  
Contact Robyn Hubbard at  
[robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org) with questions

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS:



**JAN PHILLIPS**  
*All Are Called, All Are Chosen:  
Becoming the Light We Hope to See*  
Retreat: November 10 - 11  
(Friday, 7 - 9 PM & Saturday, 9 AM - 3 PM)

Tickets are \$75 and are available through the church office or at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) (search Center for Faith Studies)

*see page 4 for details*



Voices of Countryside a.k.a.  
"Days of our Lives"

What Countryside memories do you treasure? How has this church impacted your faith journey or your family? Please consider sharing your stories at the Trustees' Luncheon on Sunday, November 19. A special area will be set up to ask questions and listen to your stories.

*see page 3 for more information*



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **COYO Sr High Alumni Pie Night-Wednesday, November 22, 7-9:00 PM**

All COYO Sr High and COYO Alumni are invited to the Commons to catch up and eat some pie and enjoy some barista drinks. Let Will know if you can donate a pie.

#### **Interfaith Youth Get Together-Sunday, Nov 19 at 4:00 PM**

Meet at First Central Congregational Church (421 S 36th St, Omaha, NE 68131) to meet other students of different faiths and have dinner before the interfaith thanksgiving service which is at 5:00 PM. This event is FREE.

#### **Sundays in November**

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)



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 JR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**THERE WILL BE NO CONFIRMATION ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 DUE TO THANKSGIVING. CONFIRMATION WILL RESUME ON NOVEMBER 29.**

#### **Interfaith Youth Get Together-Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 PM**

Meet at First Central Congregational Church (421 S 36th St, Omaha, NE 68131) to meet other students of different faiths and have dinner before the interfaith thanksgiving service which is at 5:00 PM. This event is FREE.

#### **Sundays in November**

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

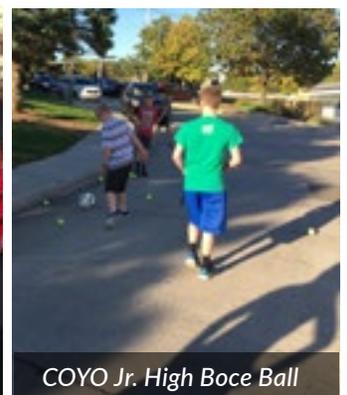
6:30 PM Confirmation Singers rehearsal in Choir Room (7th & 8th Grade Choir)



COYO Tri-Faith Youth gathering



COYO Tri-Faith Youth gathering



COYO Jr. High Boce Ball

**Nov. 22  
7 PM**

**COYO Alumni Pie Night**



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### November 5- 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 Narthex/Foyer.

### November 12- Sunday School

Joshua Trusts God: After Moses's death, God asked Joshua to finally lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. Even though Joshua was frightened, he was assured that God would be with him. We can do more than we think if we trust God to show us the way.

### November 19 - Children's Church

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

### November 26 - Sunday School

God, you are my Shepherd: Through song and poetry, David talks to God about all his feelings. In Psalm 23, David realizes God will protect him, care for him, and love him

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WILL NOT HAVE CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 22, IN HONOR OF THANKSGIVING!**

### Core 56

Our Core 56 group welcomes all students in 5th and 6th grade to meet and 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 3-5 minutes in a meditative prayer sit.

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.

### Holy Moly

Our students meet in two classrooms on the lower level in groups of K-2nd graders and 3rd and 4th graders. Each week this fall, we will explore an Old Testament tale with storytelling, a short video, and an activity. In November, we will cover the stories of Esther, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Jonah.

### Sunday School

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.

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, we will explore the story of Joshua as well as the 23rd Psalm!

## 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

*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**.

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deck the Hall!

There are many opportunities for you to participate in creating a festive environment in our sanctuary and community spaces this holiday season. And many hands make for light work! Please consider volunteering to help this November and December.

### Advent Building Day

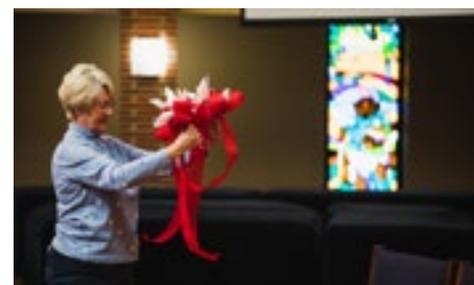
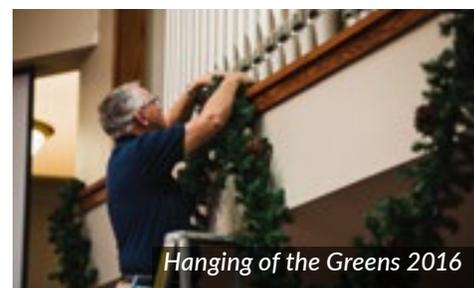
November 18 at 10 AM - There is a great deal of preparation that goes into creating a beautiful space in which to worship. We need a number of skilled décor builders who are comfortable working with projects in fabric and greenery who can prepare the Hanging of the Greens pieces in advance of the installation date. If you are a quilter, bow maker, or other decorative, crafty type, we can put you to work! Please contact the project coordinators to let them know that you will join us on November 18.

Project Coordinators: Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss      mjbarbeiss@gmail.com  
Tom Campbell      tfcampbell1951@gmail.com

### Hanging of the Greens

December 2 at 10 AM – This is the day that all of the pre-made pieces are installed in the sanctuary and around the church. This is a church-wide event, supported by the members of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Music & Arts. Please contact the project coordinator to let us know that you will join us to “dress the house” on December 2. Chili and cinnamon rolls to follow!

Project Coordinator: Trish Hoffman/Ahrens      thoffman425@gmail.com



### Advent Calendar

On each day of December, leading to Christmas, we will reveal one 11" x 14" shadow box containing an original art piece by one of Countryside's many talented visual artists. Each piece will be inspired by a poem from Ann Weems' collection Kneeling in Bethlehem, on which the choral Christmas cantata is also based. We need artists to create these one-of-a-kind Advent treasures! Artistic offerings can be in any media: paint, paper quilling, watercolor, fabric, cross-stitch, charcoal, wood carving, or any other medium. Items will be auctioned and proceeds contributed the Christmas offering for 2017. Projects are due before Thanksgiving. Please contact the project coordinator for more information.

Project Coordinator: Cindy Cronn      cronncynthia14@gmail.com

*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 (formerly Covenant Choir) is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 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.*

## QUESTIONS?

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

Amy Luckenbill  
Office Phone: 402.391.0350 ext. 115  
Email: amy@countrysideucc.org  
www.countrysideucc.org



## THE BOX FOR NOVEMBER

The November BOX will be dedicated to the “Toys for Pine Ridge” project. BOCO is partnering with Countryside Youth (COYO) to help provide gifts for children/youth on the Pine Ridge Reservation. We are collecting unwrapped toys/games for children 0 to 19 years of age (as gender neutral as possible). COYO will deliver the gifts to a non-profit in Omaha which has been delivering toys to Pine Ridge since 2003, thanks to Larry Dunn, an Omaha musician known as Lash LaRue. Thank you for sharing in this endeavor to help make Christmas a happy time for Pine Ridge children/youth.

## BOX RESULTS FROM SEPTEMBER

Grief’s Journey is at 7811 Farnam Street in Omaha. It is a place where individuals and families can find help, understanding, comfort and hope after suffering a loss. In such times of grief, sharing food and meals with others is part of our culture. During September, disposable plates and napkins were brought to the BOX, along with recyclable cups and plastic-ware. Altogether, we provided 567 plates, 1560 napkins, 445 cups and 924 plastic utensils. Thank you, Countrysiders. Your generosity quietly eliminates a small need during the aftermath from the death of a loved one.

## LOOK AT THIS SMALL SERVICE GRANT (SSG)!

Some may recall Vicky and Eva Houston smiling behind a table at Countryside last spring and also towards the end of summer. It is part of their work for Plant One More. The spring table was for giving away free seedlings funded by a Countryside SSG. The summer table was for collecting from those gardeners who brought the bounty from the “one more” plant they nurtured through harvest. This year, Plant One More collected 323 pounds of produce which was donated to Youth Emergency Services(YES!) and Together Inc. Around 100 pounds came through our church via the Carlson-Rizdor Garden. Many thanks to Vicky, Eva and all who helped make a difference in local hunger through this organization.

*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



## WHAT IS THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE EXCITED ABOUT IN OUR NEW CHURCH?

The Committee members had a close look at the latest plans for the Sanctuary, Chapel and Music Department areas. The plans that were met with the greatest excitement are:

### **Sanctuary**

- An inspiring design for worship or congregational gatherings with a dramatic cross as the focal point of the space.
- Curved pews that enfold the people.
- Use of natural light and elements such as wood and tile.
- A flexible chancel area for varied performance options.
- Acoustical properties of the sanctuary will be very fine.
- The organ box will have a translucent scrim that will allow pipe display in varied ways, i.e.: liturgical or neutral colors or solid wall-look.

### **Chapel**

- The open views of the Tri-Faith Commons property.

- A flexible space ideal for worship or meeting/lecture events.
- Prominent display of our present Sanctuary cross.
- Access to the small kitchen/service area shared by the Common Grounds.

### **Music Department**

- Flexible layout/design of space for use as a practice/performance area, or a meeting/lecture space for other member needs.
- Music storage design is ample and accessible from within and outside the room for efficient filing and retrieval of materials.
- Acoustical properties will enhance practice and performance activities.
- Location of the Music Department on the main level with easy access to the Sanctuary and main church offices.

The hard work of this Committee can be found in the design of these spaces. Many thanks to the volunteers who serve on this committee!

**PLEDGE NOW**

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

## 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

### Wednesday Night Alive Suppers November's Menu:

Join us Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:20 in Memorial Hall for fantastic fellowship and some really well planned, balanced and delicious meals! Cost is only \$5/person!  
 November 1: Baked Potato Bar & Lithuanian Torte - Christy Palmer  
 November 8: Tortilla Español, Salad, Dessert - Jenna Gabriel Gallagher  
 November 15: Butter Chicken, Aloo Gobi, Basmati Rice - Veena's Catering  
 November 22: Thanksgiving Break - No WNA  
 November 29: Salad Bar - Maureen Hornacek

WNA supper helpers are still needed! Contact Christy at [Christysuepalmer@gmail.com](mailto:Christysuepalmer@gmail.com) ASAP if you would like more information. Your expenses will be reimbursed.

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATES

**Countryside's Family Activities Committee** asks that you begin saving pop cans with the tab intact, bottle caps, and empty Kcups to be used at this year's Advent Workshop. There will be containers in which to drop these items located in Mary Beth's office. We are expecting 50-60 kiddos at the Workshop, so start dropping things off now! Advent Workshop, an all church event, will be held on Sunday, December 3, 12:30 PM in Memorial Hall. There will be brunch for everyone and crafts for the kiddos as well.

**What do Twinkling lights, Ollie the Trolley and Vino Mas have in common?** Join ETC members on Thursday evening, December 7, 6:00-10:00 PM to find out the answer to this question! Register early as there is limited seating on Ollie the Trolley! What a great way to start out your holiday festivities. Cost is \$15 per person.

**Interplay** WILL NOT BE HELD in November. For additional information, please contact Rita Otis at [rmotis@cox.net](mailto:rmotis@cox.net).

**Lunch Bunch Circle** will meet Monday November 13 at the church in the Moderator's Room for a Pot Luck Lunch at 12 noon. Virginia Bigelow and Donna Miesbach will have an entertaining program for us. Call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 to join this outstanding group of women.

**Nine to Dine Groups** are looking for singles or couples who would like to join in a monthly visit to local restaurants for an evening of great food, fellowship and some warm conversation. Interested? Contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or [marybeth@countysideuucc.org](mailto:marybeth@countysideuucc.org).

**Classics and Conversation** is taking a break through the Holiday season. Movies will resume in January 2018.

## VOLUNTEER

**WANTED.....full time and part time mug washer positions available immediately. Hours 12:00 to 12:30 Sunday mornings. No experience needed, free on the job training provided. Fringe benefits: friendship, service to church and lots of laughs. Apply in person on any Sunday morning or contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.**

*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: [marybeth@countysideuucc.org](mailto:marybeth@countysideuucc.org)

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Groundskeepers

Groundskeepers are needed to help ready our gardens for winter. Anyone who is interested in helping with this project, please stop by the Information Station today and sign up to help. THANKS in advance for your assistance!

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, November 4. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact [communitycupboard@countysideuucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countysideuucc.org).

### Parents Night Out Program

The Board of Life Ministry is hoping to put together a Parents Night Out program for families with younger children at Countryside. We are needing two specific groups of volunteers in order to make this happen: Older volunteers ("surrogate Grandparents") who enjoy working with children ages nursery through 12 years of age. These folks would need to have a background check to ensure safety for our children.

The second group, the parents, who would be willing to share their children with us one night a month so they could enjoy time together as a couple.

### Cinema Group

Countryside is looking at starting up a Cinema Group! If you enjoy going to the movies and following it up with a cup of coffee and great conversation, then this group is for you! Stop by the Information Station today to indicate your interest.

### Tri-Faith

If you'd like to engage more directly with the people of Tri-Faith (but don't want to make a major, ongoing commitment), consider becoming an "on-call" volunteer for Tri-Faith programs as they evolve. Expand your horizons and take a leap! This is a simple but great way to test the waters and discover whether you want to dive deeper. Stop by the Information Station today, learn more about volunteering and register your interest.

### Thank you

Thanks to the Pastoral Care Board for hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings throughout the month of November. Be sure to chat with one of the board members to learn all the areas that this board represents.

## 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@countysideucc.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@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.

### 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. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@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 marybeth@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 marybeth@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 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@countysideucc.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 [countysideucc.org/about-us](http://countysideucc.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)

## TRI-FAITH KIDS

### November Thanksgiving Feast

Please join Tri-Faith Kids for our Annual Giving Thanks Potluck Feast!

**When:** Saturday, November 11, 5:00-6:30 PM

**Where:** AMI - American Muslim Institute 13140 Faith Plaza Omaha, Nebraska  
 Tri-Faith Kids provides the turkey and games. Families bring a side or dessert to share. Please, no pork, shellfish, gelatin or marshmallows in any food. Label anything with nuts.

For more information contact Anji Stanek - [anjistanek1@gmail.com](mailto:anjistanek1@gmail.com)

All are welcome. We hope to see you there!



Tri-Faith Kids

## VISITING AMI

### What should I wear to services?

Modesty is an important part of the Muslim faith, so we encourage attendees to show respect when dressing for a visit to the center.

Women: non-revealing clothes such as long skirts, loose-fitting pants below the knee and sleeved shirts covering the waist are recommended.

Men: slacks or below the knee-length shorts and sleeved shirts are recommended.

When entering the sanctuary, all visitors are asked to remove their shoes.

It is also respectful for women to wear a head scarf when attending the sanctuary.

### Will I be expected to participate in the service?

You don't need to participate in any prayer service, yet you are welcomed to do so or reflect and meditate.

Physical touch between males and females is another sensitive issue for Muslims. So no hugs and be sensitive to shaking hands with different genders from the Muslim community. The very common greeting among Muslims is: Assa Lamu Alaikum (peace be to you).

## VISITING THE SYNAGOGUE

### What should I wear to services?

Most people wear dress pants, nice tops, suits or dresses. While formal dress is not required, Temple Israel requests that you save your blue jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts and tennis shoes for other activities.

Men and women may choose to wear a head covering or not. A basket of kippot if you would like to wear one. Tallit (prayers shawls) are welcome but they are not provided.

### Will I be expected to participate in the service? How will I know what to do?

The person who is leading the service will announce the page number and when you are to stand and sit. Please read aloud and sing with the congregation. During the service, congregants may be called to the bima (pulpit) to light the Shabbat candles, bless the wine, or participate in the Torah service. Please know that these honors are prearranged and you will not be singled out and asked to come on the bima without warning. Please avoid entering or exiting the sanctuary when the Torah is being read. As a courtesy to others and as a sign of respect to the Rabbi or guest speaker, please avoid leaving the sanctuary during the sermon or d'var torah. When the congregation is standing in prayer, we ask that you wait to re-enter the sanctuary until the congregation sits down. Children are welcome in the sanctuary.



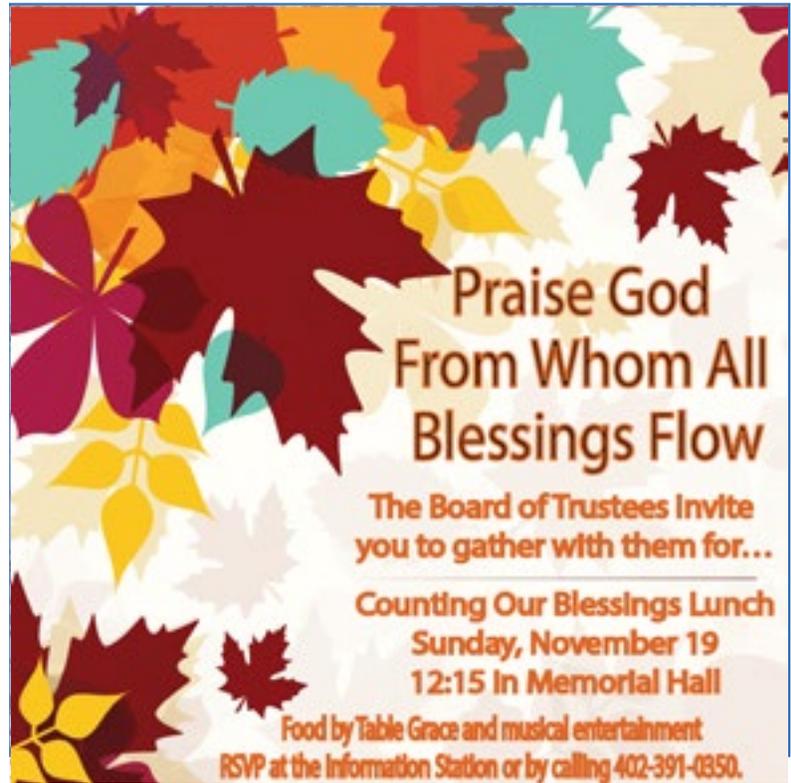
[facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/](https://facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/)  
[facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/](https://facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/)  
[facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/](https://facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/)



WORSHIP SERIES  
October 22 - November 26



JOURNEY to the  
HEART of GOD



**Praise God  
From Whom All  
Blessings Flow**

The Board of Trustees invite you to gather with them for...

**Counting Our Blessings Lunch**  
Sunday, November 19  
12:15 In Memorial Hall

Food by Table Grace and musical entertainment  
RSVP at the Information Station or by calling 402-391-0350.

22nd Annual  
Jewish  
Muslim  
Christian

# Interfaith THANKSGIVING

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133

**Sunday, November 19, 2017  
5:00 p.m.**

Hosted by:  
First Central Congregational Church  
421 South 36 Street  
Omaha NE 68131



All 7th-12th grade students are invited to a youth gathering at 4:00 p.m. at First Central Congregational Church for a free meal.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, a free will offering will be donated to Together Inc.




Join us for  
*Hanging of the Greens*

**Saturday, December 2  
10 AM**

Help decorate the church for the holiday season and enjoy chili and cinnamon rolls when we are done!

Sign up at the Information Station

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Hanging of the Greens**  
December 2  
10 a.m. - followed by lunch

—•••—

**Advent Brunch/Workshop**  
December 3, 12:30 p.m.  
Memorial Hall

—•••—

**Jazz Christmas/  
Staff Open House**  
December 6, 6:00 p.m.  
(music starts at 7 p.m.)  
Coffeeshouse

—•••—

**Christmas Eve Services**  
December 24  
10 a.m. Cantata Service  
5 p.m. Family Worship  
10 p.m. Candlelight Worship