

# JANUARY



Staff Open House



Lighting of Advent Candles



Jazz Christmas



Advent Workshop



Treats between services



Staff Open House/Jazz Christmas

## CHRISTMASTIME AT COUNTRYSIDE

## 2019: A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

We're growing ever closer to new thresholds and our year of celebration! In March, you'll begin to see boxes everywhere, and by the beginning of April, we will have completely moved from 8787 Pacific Street to our church building on the Tri-Faith Campus. A new commute to church, a different parking lot and entrance, a sanctuary that will be both magnificent yet unfamiliar, sparkling Sunday School rooms, choir rooms and new offices – all with that fresh new construction smell. But what else will we see once we're there?

All of our treasures will be waiting for us: our bell, our large cross in the new Chapel, every single beautiful stained glass window adorning various places on two levels, the sacred space of the Columbarium, our hymnals, our worship services. And let's not forget the most important treasure of all: we shall see each other across the pews and over donut holes. Just like a family who moves to a new home with both excitement and some sadness, we'll have all the feels. Similarly, when that family wakes up in the morning, everyone is still

together. Adjustment to new places occurs because people are the great equalizer to make beloved all sorts of new surroundings. It happened decades ago here in our current building, which was once new to Countryside members, thanks be to God and many generous pioneers – and we trust that it will happen yet again.

Congregationalists have always been pilgrims on journeys. Often the destination was only partly known in advance, and sometimes there was a sense of disorientation as lands, policies and even people shifted in the process. But what has never shifted over the generations has been our Morning Star, our True North, our Lord as Faithful Compass. We will follow the Spirit west just a few miles and trust that we will never be lost pilgrims. We know we can look to each other, to our pastors, to our numerous lay leaders, and to our protective Lord. Lead Us On, Kindly Light.



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# WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



## **Church Office**

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Email - [office@countrysideucc.org](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org)  
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)

## **Executive Administrative Assistant**

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

## **Business Office**

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## **Audio/Visual**

**Ben Semisch**  
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. 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.

## **WE NEED HELP MOVING!**

Are you a packer? Are you the person who loves sorting and throwing things away? How are you with labeling boxes, packing tape and hysterical church staff? If any of these areas interest you, please stop by the Information Station to sign up as we begin organizing personnel to help us with the move. The Board of Life Ministry is coordinating this adventure and they NEED YOUR HELP!



**Last Christmas for Countryside at 8787 Pacific Street**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Tuesday, January 8 – 5:30 PM, Leadership Team in Jan’s Office  
6:00 PM, Peer Support in the Chapel

## PASTORAL CARE BOARD

Saturday, January 26 – 9 AM-12 PAM, Training for All Countryside Boards, Memorial Hall  
Tuesday, February 12 – 6:30 PM, Pastoral Care Board, Jan’s Office

## BIRTHS

Rick and Cathy MacInnes have a new grandson; Ellis David Podlesak was born on December 11, 2018, to Amy and Dan who live in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

## BAPTISMS

On December 9, Malin Elisa Beck was baptized; she born July 24, 2018, and is the daughter of Shaun and Michelle Beck.

## IN MEMORIAM

Eugenia Hartig passed away November 30, 2018; there was no planned memorial service.

Roger Lindwall died December 2, 2018, and his funeral was held at Countryside on December 21 with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

Marilyn Jansen passed away December 8, 2018; her life was celebrated at Roeder Mortuary on December 13.

Jack Brawner died December 11, 2018, and his service was at Westlawn Mortuary on December 15, with Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander officiating.

*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)



(Top left) Pastoral Care Board serving staff appreciation lunch.

Lunch Bunch holiday gathering at Gloria Ried’s.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDRENS EDUCATION AND ART PROGRAMS CHANGES

Starting Wednesday, January 9, Holy Moly and Core 56 will be combining with Arts Affirmation 6:00-7:30 PM.

K-4 will start with the Holy Moly story at 6:00PM, then do two arts sessions at 6:30PM and 7:00 PM, one music and one visual arts.

Core 56 will start with art at 6:00 PM and then have an hour of Core 56. All kids are welcome to get involved with all of the new programs.

\*Note - there will no longer be Arts Affirmation on Sundays

## FRIENDS FROM TRI-FAITH HAND OUT CANDY CANES AT 5 PM CHRISTMAS SERVICE





## CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

**Silent Sacrifice -The Story of Japanese American Incarceration in California's San Joaquin Valley and Beyond - Thursday, January 17, 2019, 7 PM**

A documentary film sharing the experience of Japanese Americans before, during and after WWII and the ramifications of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens from Japan. Free and open to the public!



**Dr. Joe Starita - A Warrior of the People: The Story of Dr. Susan La Flesche Thursday, February 28, 2019, 7 PM**



On March 14, 1889 – 31 years before women could vote and 35 years before Natives were considered citizens in their own country – Dr. Susan La Flesche overcame enormous racial and gender barriers to become the nation's first Native American doctor. Her story is one of unimaginable courage and extreme devotion to her beloved Omaha Indian people. Tickets are \$10 on eventbrite.com or at the door.

**Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes - Mystical Misfits Prayer Retreat March 22 - 24, 2019,**



Join Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes for a weekend adventure in prayer and meditation practices. If you have trouble connecting with God using "traditional" prayer practices, or are simply considering important questions right now and seek God's guidance, this retreat is for you!

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Convergence University

**Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM**

Convergence University is a bible study and discussion group led by Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm as part of our Wednesday night Faith Formation programming here at Countryside. The focus of the group is to speak to current issues of our time using our scripture and religious traditions to inform our discussions. These sessions are open to all and child care is available if needed. For more information please contact Chris at [chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org) or just drop in any Wednesday evening. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 9, after our Christmas break.



### The Inner Matrix Returns

**Saturday Mornings, January 12-February 9, 9 - 10:30 AM, Chapel**

A 6-week interactive program for people to come together and discuss their progress as they move through the life-changing process outlined in Joey Klein's book, *The Inner Matrix*. Learn how to live a truly rich and meaningful life. The Inner Matrix will be hosted by Mary Dircks. Guest speaker, Melissa Stock, joins us again (for one of the sessions) with new insight. Sign up at the Information Station.

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.

### Sunday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:10 AM in the Pilgrim Room. Currently studying "The Era of the Crusades." On break until January 8.

### Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15PM in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Currently studying *The Celtic World* by Great Courses. Resumes January 9.

### Racial Justice

Currently reading Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* and/or *Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald. Contact Mary Jo Weiss ([mjbarbeiss@gmail.com](mailto:mjbarbeiss@gmail.com)) for meeting information.

### Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel. Studying *Days of Awe & Wonder* by Marcus Borg.

### Convergence University

If your group is interested in Convergence University curriculum and would like access to additional resources provided from the *This We Affirm* website, please contact Chris Alexander at [chrisa@countrysideucc.org](mailto:chrisa@countrysideucc.org) for login information.

### Darkwood Brew Membership

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).

Username:CCCUCC Password: tryside8787

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Center for Faith Studies contact Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Travel to Israel with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes in 2019

Is a trip to Israel on your bucket list? If so, we have the trip for you. Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes is leading a trip to Israel and the Palestinian Territories November 3 through 16, 2019. This may be one of the most remarkable tours you will ever consider.

An ancient historian once wrote, "the land itself is the fifth gospel." He saw the impact of ancient trade routes and crossroads upon Bible literature; how the land itself influenced people's understanding of themselves, their relationship with others, and even their relationship with God.

Standing at breath-taking vistas, viewing ancient crossroads, walking ancient Bible paths that Jesus and the prophets knew provides an exciting step toward making the pieces of the Bible fit together. In Dr. Elnes's words, visiting this land "turns reading the Bible into a 3-D experience for the rest of your life."

Drawing on Dr. Elnes's profound biblical and historical knowledge (Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary), as well as an in-country guide who is a legend among guides in Israel (Dr. Stephen Langfur), we will travel everywhere from the Dead Sea in the south to the town of Dan in the furthest north.

Along the way, we will focus on the center of Jesus's public ministry around the regions and shores of the Sea of Galilee. We will sail the sea on a double scale replica of a fishing boat found in our lifetime on the northern shore. In Jerusalem we will sit on the Temple Steps in the Ophel Ridge and reconsider the Kingdom Parables of Jesus in Luke 19-21. One prominent Jewish scholar insists this is the one place where we may say with certainty that Jesus actually was and where He taught parables. We will walk on the ancient Herodian pavement that was familiar to Jesus, adjacent to the Western Wall. All this and more! More information at the Information Station or contact Robyn Hubbard, [robynh@countysideucc.org](mailto:robynh@countysideucc.org)

Come, walk, and learn the land of the Bible with us.

### Seven Letters to Seven Churches:

#### What Kind of Church Shall We Be(come)?

The "Seven Letters" series will be the last FULL series we hold at our present location until Lent, when we move in the middle of the next one. This fact wasn't lost on Countryside's Worship Team, who spent a long time considering what would be the most meaningful series to hold at such a significant time. This series was chosen because it will give us an opportunity to ask two important questions before our move: "What kind of church are we now?" and "What kind of church do we hope to become?"

By looking closely at seven letters written to seven different churches in the Book of Revelation, we'll find that the kinds of churches that existed "way back when" are little different than churches that exist today. Which one are we most like? What can we learn from all of them? While many people shy away from the Book of Revelation, you will find that when given some historical background these letters will really come alive for you and be quite engaging.

Incidentally, if you were at Countryside ten years ago, the title of this series may sound familiar. That's because Countryside used this same series to ask the exact same questions shortly after Dr. Elnes arrived as our new Senior Minister as we considered our future. Since that time, much has changed at Countryside and much as remained the same. Some of what changed was in direct response to what we uncovered in that series! Join us at this historical juncture in our church's life and ask what the Holy Spirit is inviting you, and our church, to be and become in our journey together!

youth  
Sunday  
February 22

Contact Will if you are interested in participating.  
[will@countysideucc.org](mailto:will@countysideucc.org)

### WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 9-Noon on Wednesdays in the Conference Room

For more information about Worship contact Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 113

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

SILENT SACRIFICE  
The Story of Japanese American Incarceration during World War II

Thursday, January 17 | 7 p.m.  
Countryside Community Church  
Free and open to the public

details on page 4

CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES PRESENTS  
seeds OF ACCEPTANCE  
Conversations on Diversity & Inclusion  
Documentary  
CENTER FOR Faith Studies

January 6, 2019  
Memorial Sunday  
Both Services

We will be honoring those whom we have lost in 2018 through a slide presentation at both services on January 6.



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## COYO SR HIGH

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Escape Room - Sunday, January 20 - 6:00-9:00 PM**

Dinner at 6:00 PM then head to the House of Conundrum Escape Room. Cost is \$10. Back to church by 9:00 PM

**Hosting Temple and AMI - Sunday, January 27 - 6:00-8:00 PM**

COYO Sr High is hosting youth from Temple Israel and American Muslim institute for some dialogue as well as classic COYO games.

**COYO Sr. High and Faith Singers**

No COYO Sr High or Faith Singers on December 30. Resumes on January 6.



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 is taking a break from the Sunday afternoon group sessions for the short term. Stay tuned for more information. 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 4:45- 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 Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:30 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

**Lock in - Thursday, January 11 - 8:00 PM - 8:00 AM**

Spend the night in your favorite church, possibly for the last time. Bring a friend and a snack to share. Sleeping bags are optional.

**Confirmation**

No Confirmation on December 26 or January 2. Confirmation resumes January 9.

**COYO Jr High on Sunday evenings**

COYO Jr High is back on Sunday afternoons starting January 6 at 4:30 PM.



Snacks at lock-in



Toys for Pine Ridge

We had about three times more toys than we have had before, which is great because Toydriveforpineridge.org wanted to go to two more schools this year but they weren't sure they were going to get enough toys. When they pulled up and saw our collection they were relieved and overjoyed!



Dinner at Lalibela



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR JANUARY SERVICES

### January 6 - Family Worship

Our children remain in the Sanctuary for the Worship service! Activity bags and books are available to borrow on a cart in the Foyer.

### January 13- Sunday School

The Boy Jesus— At 12 years, Jesus was drawn to linger in the temple, to listen to the rabbis and to pepper them with questions. When his frantic parents found him, he responded, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

### January 20- Children's Church

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

### January 27 - Sunday School

Jesus Stills the Storm-- Jesus never avoided the storms life brought. But he entered them with God at the calming center of his being, as he demonstrates in the story of Stilling the Storm, a story so important that it is shared in Matthew, Mark and Luke!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REGISTRATIONS

To register your student for Sunday School, Holy Moly or Core 56, please check the website: [countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/](http://countrysideucc.org/learning-together/childrens-ministry/).

## CORE 56 SPRING SEMESTER

This spring, our Core 56 students will learn about a variety of prayer practices. While we already practice a seated meditation, we will expand this practice to include some deliberate techniques to focus and engage further with the Spirit. In some exciting news, we have ordered a portable canvas labyrinth that will not only be a point of study for the Core 56 students but will also be available for other members and friends of Countryside. It'll be 30 feet wide and ready for walking meditation as soon as it arrives!



Getting ready for prayer practice.

## TRI-FAITH KIDS

Visit [trifaith.org/events/interplay-events/](http://trifaith.org/events/interplay-events/) for information about this year's schedule. For more information, please contact Anji Stanek at [anjistanek1@gmail.com](mailto:anjistanek1@gmail.com) and put Tri-Faith Kids in the subject line.



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 and Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM for infants and toddlers ages newborn to two-year-olds.

### 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.

9:00 Service - Upper Level  
Nursery - Pre-K  
Room 114A - Grades K-6

11:00 Service - Upper and Lower Level  
Room 117 - Grades 2-3  
Room 114B - Grade 4  
Room 112 - Grades 5-6  
Room 214 - Pre-K  
Room 213 - Grades K-1

### Children's Church

Upper Level in Chapel - 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

Lower Level - During the school year on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30, 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

Lower Level - On Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30, our 5th and 6th grade group delves into scripture study of Jesus's ministry and work. We also enjoy fellowship at lock-ins, movie nights, and group suppers.

## QUESTIONS?

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

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



# MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Staffing Plan for Art and Music Ministry

The Personnel Committee and the Board of Arts and Music remain dedicated to planning for current and future staffing needs. A discernment team is in the process of being formed. It will include clergy, staff, and members of the Board of Arts and Music and representatives from other boards. Discernment will begin in January, 2019, and continue through summer 2019.

We are grateful to the volunteers and leaders who stepped up to keep our programs and events going through the holiday season.

A steering committee has been formed to direct the search for an interim Adult Choir Conductor, responsible for conducting Chancel Choir and Spirit of Grace. Members are Alex Ritter, Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens, Chris Gilmore, Emily Wadhams and Eric Elnes. Please stay tuned for updates as planning continues.

*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 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 Wednesday 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 4:45-6:00 PM. The choir sings twice a month during the school year.*



Working on ornaments and serving treats at the Advent workshop.

### Spirit of Grace

*Spirit of Grace choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature and sings 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*



Enjoying Christmas tunes from Countryside Jazz at the annual Jazz Christmas.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact:

Alex Ritter  
Acting Artistic Director  
Email: alexr@countrysideucc.org

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



Countryside is decked out in purple for the Christmas season.



## THE BOX FOR JANUARY

The Box for JANUARY will be YES (Youth Emergency Services). We are collecting warm blankets and hand warmers for the youth at YES. YES serves homeless and at-risk youth by providing critically-needed resources which empower them to become self-sufficient. Basically, they help youth in crisis get back on their feet in whatever way they can. After meeting their immediate needs for food, shelter, clothing and safety, they create a support system which helps them flourish. Youth Emergency Services offers a range of programs and services. They believe all youth, no matter where they come from or who they are, should feel safe and welcome. Throughout their programs, YES offers specialized case management services, the opportunity for youth to be paired with community mentors, and weekly support groups to help them build life skills, make connections and strengthen relationships. This includes therapy services, LGBTQ+ support group, and staff and volunteer-led activities and trainings. Some of the specialized services include: YES Youth Street Outreach, YES Emergency Shelter, YES Transitional Living Program, and YES Maternity Home.

## O'NEILL UPDATE

The O'Neill Focus Committee thanks you for strongly supporting their efforts this year through your donations of food staples, paper goods, and gift card donations for the families in O'Neill, Nebraska this year. Through your generosity, we were able to provide 38 Shopko gift cards for the families in need. We thank you so much for your kindness.

This is an ongoing project and your support is always appreciated! Currently, there is an immediate need for diapers of all sizes – but more specifically, the larger sizes. Any donation is greatly appreciated. Should you have questions or would like to become involved in this ministry, please contact Bob/Nancy Davis at tomorrow24@me.com, Judy Varner at sheep lady424@gmail.com or Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss at mjbbarbeiss@gmail.com.

*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

## JANUARY UPDATE

With the turn to the new year our building is in the final stages of its birth. From the beginning Vrana Construction has been inspired by Countryside's vision for our future on the Tri-Faith Campus. They are working hard to present us with a structure that is solid and enduring to take us into our future.

Here are some of the tasks that are near completion: Sanctuary drywall finish and wood ceiling installation.

- Narthex ceiling/walls.
- Bell tower metal work.
- Columbarium marble installation.
- Elevator installation.
- Education wing cabinetry finishes.

The CRC leadership continues to work through the "to do" list that never seems to get smaller:

- Furniture orders have been submitted keeping a sharp eye on our budget.
- Storage and custodial areas are being designed.
- Signage throughout the building is being costed out. The committee will decide how best to identify the various rooms so members and



visitors will know where they are going and how to get there.

- Moving expenses are being researched. Volunteers packers will be needed! The more packing we do ourselves the less our expenses will be. Calling all packing geniuses, you know who you are; your moment to shine is coming very soon!

This new year, 2019, will surely be marked as one of the momentous turning points in our history. The Relocation Committee extends to our Countryside family the joy that comes with new beginnings in the new year!



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

## ALL CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS

**Countryside's annual Soup 'r Sweet - Sunday, January 20, in Memorial Hall beginning at 12:15 PM** Haul out the cookbooks or unlock the family's secret recipe for your favorite soup, stew, chili and/or dessert! The winners of the soup, stew, chili category as well as the dessert will be determined by your personal vote (tickets, 5/\$1). This yearly event is not only delicious, filled with fun and conversation, but also all the proceeds will be donated to Los Chavalitos, the 2018 Christmas Offering. So come, enjoy great food and warm fellowship as you help those in need. Signups to ATTEND THE EVENT ONLY are available at the Information Station. If you plan on preparing either soup, stew or chili and/or dessert, please sign up to attend on MyData at <https://countrysideucc.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/140>.

## LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

**Equality 101: Orientation and Gender Identity** will be presented on Saturday, January 12, 10:00-Noon OR on Tuesday, January 15, 6:00-7:00 PM. Both times the class will be held in the Commons at Countryside Community Church. This frank and open discussion exploring the basic science surrounding the biology, orientation and gender identity of our sexuality, the impact of bias on these issues and an outline of the services available to families, professionals and organizations. You may reserve your seat by emailing: [info@EqualityAdvancement.com](mailto:info@EqualityAdvancement.com) or by signing up at the Information Station. (Sponsored by Countryside's Board of Life Ministry.)

## SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

**Making Merry** is a new social group at Countryside Church! The Board of Life Ministry is introducing a new way for the church members to connect with each other. "Making Merry" will be an e-mail group where members can connect with others who want to participate in a variety of entertainment events. For instance, performing arts, sports, movies, dining, forming a card or gaming group and even for attending church events. This is not just for single people and is open to all. It could also be an opportunity to share an unused ticket to an event. Signups will be available the first Sunday in January. If you have more ideas to add, please contact Deb Hickman at [debhickman@centurylink.net](mailto:debhickman@centurylink.net).

**Ladies Lunch group** will meet on Monday, January 7 at First Watch at Noon. No need to sign up, just come and be ready to enjoy a great meal and warm conversation with women from Countryside Church, Temple Israel and AMI. See you there!

**Family Activities Committee** members will gather in the Family Life Office on Sunday, January 27, to finalize plans for the game night and upcoming Family Film Night. RSVP to [marybethl@countrysideucc.org](mailto:marybethl@countrysideucc.org).

**Interplay** will meet on Saturday, January 12, 9:30-11:30 AM in the Foyer of Countryside Church. Information or questions, please contact Rita Otis at [rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com).

**Tai Chi Chih** classes meet on Thursday mornings in the Foyer from 9:30-10:30 AM. Please contact Rita Otis at [rmotis@outlook.com](mailto:rmotis@outlook.com) if you have questions.



*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](mailto:marybethl@countrysideucc.org)

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Folks are needed to help set up and distribute food at the pantry on Saturday, January 4. We need 60 volunteers every month. Hours are 7:45-11:30 AM. Contact [communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org](mailto:communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

*Community Cupboard November pantry provided food for 111 families which accounted for 356 individuals.*

### Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Deacons for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of January. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what the deacons responsibilities are and how you might help.

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new people! If you 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 and talk to Mary Beth to learn more.

### Volunteers needed for our upcoming move!

Are you a packer? Are you the person who loves sorting and throwing things away? How are you with labeling boxes, packing tape and hysterical church staff? If any of these areas interest you, please stop by the Information Station to sign up as we begin organizing personnel to help us with the move. The Board of Life Ministry is coordinating this adventure and they NEED YOUR HELP!

## 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@counttrysideucc.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 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary Beth at marybeth@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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@counttrysideucc.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. Meets Fridays at 10:00 AM. 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@counttrysideucc.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 [counttrysideucc.org/about-us](http://counttrysideucc.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 9:30 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.



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

[templeisraelomaha.com](http://templeisraelomaha.com)

## TRI-FAITH - THE JUDGE (MOVIE)

### The Judge

Tuesday, January 29, 7 PM,  
Ruth Sokolof Theater, 1340 Mike Fahey St  
Director Erika Cohn - 88 minutes

Following the first woman judge in Palestine, this documentary examines the religious and legal stipulations between men and women according to Sharia law. Post-show discussion on stereotypes surrounding Islam, will be presented with the Tri-Faith Initiative.

## TRI-FAITH - MORE THAN A JOKE

Tuesday evenings, 6-7:30 PM

Jan 15, 22, and Feb 5, and 12.

Mayne St. Market in Benson

Join us Tuesday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30 at Mayne St. Market in Benson for this light hearted series with Tri-Faith leaders. Refreshments will be served.

## TRI-FAITH OFFICE STAFF MEET FOR MONTHLY LUNCH

Ever wonder what is happening organically with the move to the Tri-Faith Commons? The office staff of the three faiths met at Panera for lunch to get to know each other. Sarah Kasaby from AMI arranged the lunch for the staffs to get to know each other better since we are all going to be neighbors. It was very informal and there were lots of questions from the Countryside staff about what it was like to move and what to expect from a new building. There were also discussions about youth groups, holidays, sanctuaries and where the lunch was going to take place next month as it is going to become a monthly event!



Office staff from Temple Israel, AMI and Countryside meet for lunch.

## HOLIDAYS

### Jewish

Tu Bishvat January 20-21, 2019

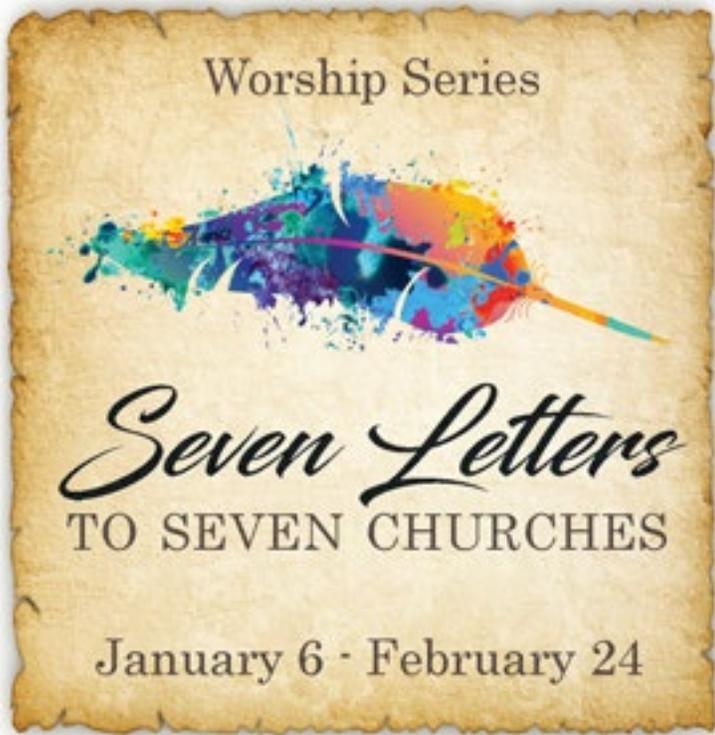
Tu Bishvat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shvat. Scholars believe that originally Tu Bishvat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu Bishvat that is similar to a Passover seder. Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu Bishvat seder each year. The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends.

## DID YOU KNOW TRI-FAITH OFFERS A SPEAKERS BUREAU?

To request a speaker from the Tri-Faith Initiative, please complete the form at least 30 days before your event. The speakers are volunteers, so they cannot guarantee a speaker for every event, but they will do their best to fulfill your request. Fill out the online form at: [trifaith.org/the-center/speaker-bureau/](http://trifaith.org/the-center/speaker-bureau/)



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



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**Soup & Sweets**

January 20  
at 12:15  
Memorial Hall

We will be voting with tickets for the best soup/stew or chili AND the best sweet!

*Cost of tickets are 5/51 with all proceeds going to Los Chavalitos, the 2018 BOCO Christmas Offering*

Sign up at the Information Station  
see page 10 for details



 **Countryside**  
Community Church

**Annual MEETING 2019**

Sunday, February 10  
11:15 Soup Lunch  
12:00 Annual Meeting  
Annual Meeting with soup lunch to follow.  
*following 10 AM service*



**BOARD RETREATS**

*Bright future*

**BOARD CHAIR RETREAT**

*Board chairs only*  
Thursday, January 24  
6 - 8:30 PM  
*Dinner will be provided*

**BOARD RETREAT**

*All incoming board members*  
Saturday, January 26  
9 AM - Noon  
*Snacks will be provided*