

OCTOBER 2019



Revive - September 8



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Wm. Paul Young Dinner - Sept. 25



August 11 Service



August 11 Baptism



Wm. Paul Young Dinner - Sept. 25

LATEST HAPPENINGS AT COUNTRYSIDE

SHARE THE LOVE STEWARDSHIP 2020

At Countryside Community Church, we believe that all are “loved beyond your wildest imagination.” Our theme for our 2020 stewardship campaign is **SHARE THE LOVE!** Your pledge supports Countryside’s mission and vision as a partner on the Tri-Faith Commons.

Our presence on the Tri-Faith Commons is a strong message about the importance of a faith community that is caring, spiritual, respectful, inclusive and diverse. As part of the Tri-Faith Initiative, we want to harness the power of our three congregations to practice respect and acceptance. We share much in common, and seek to learn about and from each other. We want to **SHARE THE LOVE!**

In the coming year, we can make our message even stronger. To do this we need your help.

At Countryside, we pride ourselves on gifts of time, talent and treasure. We are asking you to make a pledge in support of the 2020 budget, and consider increasing your pledge for the coming year. **SHARE THE LOVE!**

The most exciting news in our stewardship campaign is that we have a matching gift opportunity for every new dollar you commit. Any new pledge, or increase on your current pledge, will be matched dollar for dollar through November 2! So help us reach our goal. Prayerfully consider giving now.

Make your pledge online, or sign up for online payments. Remember, online payments help us with consistent income throughout the year. You can also fill out the attached giving card, and drop it in the basket found at the back of the church or leave it in the church office.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee:

*Diane Poots, Mark Draper, Joyce Davis,
Bob Davis, Patrick Rainbolt, Mike Brown,
Aubrey Fitzke*



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WELCOME TO COUNTRYSIDE



Church Office

13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha NE 68144
Phone - 402-391-0350
Email - office@countrysideucc.org
Website - www.countrysideucc.org
Facebook - 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. 231
erice@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander
Associate Minister, ext. 230
chrisa@countrysideucc.org

Rev. Will Howell
Minister of Youth & Families, ext. 232
willh@countrysideucc.org

Executive Administrative Assistant

Robyn Hubbard
Executive Administrative Asst., ext. 224
robynh@countrysideucc.org

Business Office

Dan Loven-Crum
Dir. of Admin. & Communication, ext. 226
danl@countrysideucc.org

Shari Garder
Financial Secretary, ext. 223
sharig@countrysideucc.org

Courtney Holiday
Office Manager, ext. 227
courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

Steve Gomez
Administrative Assistant, ext. 222
steveg@countrysideucc.org

Kris Hill
Administrative Assistant, ext. 221
krish@countrysideucc.org

Debbie Vihstadt
Communication Assistant, ext. 225
debbiev@countrysideucc.org

Bonnie Buckland
Church Clerk
bonnieb@countrysideucc.org

Minister of Spiritual Direction

Rita Otis
Minister of Spiritual Direction
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, 11 AM Jazz Service and 8 PM Day One Service
Nursery - child care (ages 0-2) is available at both morning Sunday services. The Nursery is located on the upper level on the south side, next to the office.

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.

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

Amplified Hearing Devices are available at the Welcome Center 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 or call 402-391-0350.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION/CLASSES BEGINNING SOON

The next new members class is October 20 and 27, after 11 AM church in Pricilla.

Since our move to the new building, many have said "This building is everything I hoped it would be - and then some." Now is our opportunity as a congregation to attract and nurture new members. Three great things about Countryside are: (1) our involvement with the Tri-Faith Initiative; (2) our warm and inclusive welcome of the whole human family, not just parts of it; and (3) the number of ways Countryside makes faith relevant in everyday life.

If the present is any predictor of the future, Our future will be everything we hope it will be - and then some. Why not invite your friends to be part of it? These classes are designed to educate newcomers and visitors about the church, the church staff, and the many church programs. Indicate your interest by signing up at the Connection Link on Sunday morning or contact Robyn Hubbard at 402-391-0350 ext. 224 or robynh@countrysideucc.org.

RABBI AZRIEL RETURNS - MONDAYS, OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 25

10-11:30 Mary's Hall, *A touch of the Sacred: A Theologian's Informal Guide to Jewish Belief* by Dr. Eugene B. Borowitz and Frances W. Schwartz

Join Rabbi Azriel as he uses the book to draw from both the rational and mystical Jewish thought that have inspired two generations of rabbis, cantors, and educators, and will now inspire you. With him, you will explore:

- Seeking the Sacred One
- Doing Holy Deeds
- Creating Sacred Community
- Reading Sacred Texts
- Thinking about Holiness
- Learning from Holy Thinkers



Rabbi Azriel



STEPHEN MINISTRY

October 1, Tuesday, Ruth Conference Room – 5:30, the Leadership Team meets. From 6-8 PM, all Stephen Ministers are invited to attend Peer Support to support one another in our journeys as care givers.

PASTORAL CARE BOARD - STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE

Stories from the Bridge -On Thursday, October. 3, from 5-8 PM, in Marys' Hall, please come to an evening of stories of resiliency and wisdom, music and fellowship. All are welcome! A few storytellers from our three faith communities will be sharing reflections, and there will be some time to meet new friends "across the bridge." Appetizers will be served and Trio BEA will provide music. We request a courtesy RSVP by September 27, Janb@countysideucc.org, or just call the church office, 402.391.0350.

Pastoral Care Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

WHAT!?! A NEW GROUP TO CONSIDER

Ever experience the reluctant surprise? Sometimes we just have to ask that proverbial question: WHAT!?! Beginning Wednesday, October 9, from 6:30 to 8 PM, Pastoral Care is offering a confidential discussion group for anyone whose life has taken an unexpected turn. We'll be sharing personal stories, supporting one another, and discussing Lysa Terkeurst's book *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*. The group will meet on Wednesday evenings in Miriam for seven weeks. If you're interested in joining us, please contact group facilitators Jan Brown or Connie Johnk Ware. We'd appreciate knowing ahead of time how many people to plan for. If you're joining us, please purchase the book at Parables or online.

STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH IS OCTOBER

The Pastoral Care Board will be honoring Countryside's amazing staff on Sunday, October 20, during worship services. Also, the staff will enjoy a Halloween lunch on October 31 in the Coffee Shop. Watch for further information and possibly more staff trivia like last October!

IN MEMORIUM

Sally (Gary) Bernhardt's mother mother, Jeanne Blocher, passed away Septmber 23 in Lincoln. Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander presided at her Omaha graveside service on Spetember 26.

Pat Holt's and **Jim Gilbert's** cousin Val Rolfs passed away September 9, 2019, and the funeral was in Kansas on September 13.

Kris Olberding's mother Karen Claussen of Fremont passed away September 5. There will be a memorial service at First Congregational UCC in Fremont at a later date.

Dean Kratz, age 95, died in Omaha on July 30, and the family is planning a memorial service at Countryside on September 30 at 4 PM, with a reception to be held at the church afterwards with Eric officiating.

BIRTHS

Shari (Kenn) Garder, Countryside's Financial Secretary is a new grandmother! Hadley Louise Garder was born just after 10:00 PM on September 26. to Matt (son) & Sarah (daughter-in-law). Shari's other son Jason and his wife are due in the next week so there will be a double blessing in the Gardner household.

ODE TO JOY - DAN TROMBLA

Dan Trombla is a warm and cheerful presence at Countryside. He experiences joy by helping and staying active, which is great for ETC, the committee on which Dan and his wife, Donna, have served since joining Countryside two and a half years ago. If there's an ETC-organized event, like Soup-r-Sweet or the Hors d'Oeuvres Contest going on, you'll find them working behind the scenes to make it work – and out in front to make it fun.

"I love helping others," Dan says. "Regardless of the task or situation, I love to offer my help, support, and assistance." When not pitching in around Countryside, Dan enjoys many hobbies – alone, with Donna, and with friends. Dan says, "I am an avid fisherman and golfer and love being outdoors." On any given weekend, you might also find Dan and Donna going from their book club, to their convertible driving club, or to a Husker game. "Whether a project, outside activities, helping others or working, I want to stay busy. Therefore, I am quite often looking for something to do and usually find something to keep me active."

As much fun as Dan has between volunteering, projects, and hobbies, people are his source of deepest joy. "Family first, always," he says. "I have a wonderful wife and great kids, and we love to be together." Dan met the wonderful Donna in Lincoln in 1971. "She was the prettiest thing I ever saw," he says. They married during Dan's stint in the U.S. Navy and have two grown children: son Jesse recently moved to Omaha and daughter Ali and son-in-law, Drew, live in Phoenix. Dan says, "We always have such fun together." His friends are also a joy to Dan. "Our entire friendship circle is based upon our previous church membership. We worshiped together and became very close. All our friends are definitely an extension of our personal family."

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. 234

Email: janb@countysideucc.org



Donna and Dan Trombla



CENTER FOR FAITH STUDIES

CFS UPCOMING EVENTS

Margaret Wheatley, November 16, 9-4 PM. Tickets are \$50 and are buy one bring a friend for free. Get your tickets on eventbrite.com.



Presented
by

CENTER FOR
Faith Studies

In partnership with
  

More Than a Joke Symposium - September-April 2019-2020

Done in Collaboration with our Tri-Faith Partners, this is a weekly educational opportunity to discuss topics from the perspective of all three Abrahamic Faith traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Our October topic begins three Wednesday weekly lunch and learn discussions led by the clergy of each faith tradition and then ends with the Tri-Faith clergy panel discussion and dinner. The October schedule is as follows:

God for Grownups: Modern Theologies for Modern Believers (and Skeptics Too)

Wednesday Lunch-and-Learns, October 16, 23, 30, 12:00-1:00 PM

Tuesday Evening Dinner and Panel Discussion, November 5, 6:30-8:30 PM

All October events and November 5 dinner will be at Countryside Community Church. For the full year schedule see countrysideucc.org. or the events section of Countryside's Facebook page.

ADULT EDUCATION

Inner Matrix

Mary Dircks and Jim Steele will co-facilitate a new Inner Matrix Group on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Lydia Room at Countryside beginning October 2 and continuing through October 30. Join others to explore the simple practices and core concepts of The Inner Matrix by Joey Klein, and create the life you choose. Combining the ancient traditions of East and West with the latest science in genetics, psychology, and brain function, Joey shares how to transform your life by shifting deep mental, emotional and physical patterns that create stress and limit success. Also save the date—Monday, October 28—Apprentice Trainer Melissa Stock will speak about Conscious Transformation in your daily life. More details to follow. Melissa works directly with Joey Klein and delivers a dynamic message.

Convergence University, Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

We will still be focusing on the Phoenix Affirmations but adding a bit of a twist! Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander will be expanding on new ways to take in information and listen to God. She will be tying Convergence University into a variety of new experiences that include visual arts, discussion and Mindfulness Sits with Carlos Figueroa. See information below. Classes run September through April.

Mindfulness Sits - Second Wednesdays of the Month, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Starting in September, Carlos Figueroa will be presenting a new experience called Mindfulness Sits, in collaboration with the Mindfulness Outreach Initiative and Convergence University. Join Carlos every month as he guides you in a journey towards a better understanding of your spirituality. Classes run September through April.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

Wednesday mornings, October 16 - November 13, 9:15-10:00 AM. How parents can have Conversations with their kids about the sacred (a spiritual education for our young souls). Classes will be taught by our own Rabbi Azriel. More information will be out soon.

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 Deborah Room. Currently studying "The Era of the Crusades."

Adult Ed Brown Bag Lunch

Mondays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, bring a lunch. Studying The Islamic Golden Age

Racial Justice

Contact Mary Jo Weiss (mjbarbeiss@gmail.com) for meeting information.

Books Bible and Beyond

Wednesdays at noon. Discussing "God: A Human History" by Reza Aslan.

NEW BOOK CLUB! - Anji Stanek Book Club

Mondays from 7 - 9 PM in Miriam. First book is "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr

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.
Username:CCCUCC Password: tryside8787

QUESTIONS?

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 230

Email: chrisa@countrysideucc.org

or Courtney Holiday, Office Manager

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 227

Email: courtneyh@countrysideucc.org

Website: www.centerforfaithstudies.org

Face book: Center-for-Faith-Studies



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series: "Drawn In" - Starts October 27

In the modern world, there is a crucial need for creativity. When you compare the world as it was in the 1950s and the world we live in now, for instance, it quickly becomes apparent that the average person of any age or occupation has been asked—no, required—to respond to shifts that our ancestors only a few generations ago could not have envisioned. The stresses and strains have been extensive. We've had to do some pretty quick thinking—and soul-searching—as a species to come out on top of these shifts or even just to keep up with them. Sometimes they seem on the verge of overwhelming us.

History has proven over and over that when the Holy Spirit is at work in people on a vast scale, you get into some pretty "deep shift"! If you think that God is sitting idly by on the sidelines watching all the challenges we face and not doing anything to help us out, think again. Yet whatever God does involves an in-breaking of new awareness. With every awareness we're called to break out of whatever box we've been in and follow the Spirit into new territory.

Over the next several weeks we'll explore the surprising parallels between creativity and the spiritual path. Helping us along the way will be tie-ins to the St. John's Bible exhibit at the Joselyn Art Museum, and the upcoming CFS lecture/retreat by Dr. Margaret Wheatley. In the process, we'll uncover some unexpected ways by which a narrow life may open out into more expansive territory, how a flattened life may be revived and once again become three-dimensional, and how we all may find and live into our "sweet spot"—or our sacred Calling—a bit more fully.

Have you been to DAY ONE worship?

Have you tried out our new Sunday evening (8 PM) worship experience called Day One? A service with a similar meditative feel in Seattle regularly draws 500 or more participants, and has for years. We think ours will one day, too. While the service is currently small, it is growing as a result of the word spreading in the Omaha community.

Day One is quite different from our morning services. The sanctuary is lit by 99 candles up front. You smell incense. You hear prayers, singing bowls, and monastic-style chanting from the back. You hear our gorgeous piano up front. It all moves you more deeply into prayer. After 45 minutes you can hardly believe the service is already ending!

Come early to grab a coffee, tea, or espresso beverage in Common Grounds before it all begins. And do invite your friends. We anticipate this service being a significant growth opportunity for our church as it meets a need that is presently being unmet in Omaha.

WORSHIP

Worship Planning team meets 10-Noon on Wednesdays

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

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 231

Email: erice@countysideucc.org

**OLLIE THE TROLLEY
HAUNTED CEMETERY RIDE**
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
6:30-8:30 PM

There are only 32 seats left! \$30 per person
Sign up and pay at the Connection Link.

more details on page 10

Mindfulness Sits
with Carlos Figueroa
Mindfulness Outreach Initiative

6:30 - 8:30 PM
Second Wednesday of Month

September - April *details page 4*

HELLO

NEW MEMBERS/ORIENTATION CLASS
October 20 and 27
After 11 AM service

See Robyn: robynh@countysideucc.org

Pastoral Care Board presents:

STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE

Six storytellers from our three faith communities will be sharing reflections, and there will be some time to meet new friends "across the bridge." Appetizers will be served, too. Look for more information in the next few weeks.

Thursday, October 3 **5 - 8 PM**



YOUTH MINISTRIES

COYO SR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lock In and Haunted House - Friday, October 25 - Saturday, Oct. 26. 8:00 PM-8:00 AM

Come spend the night in your favorite church. Optional trip to a Haunted House around 10:00 PM. Bring a snack to share. Sleeping bags are optional. Friends are always welcome! Cost is \$10.

Refugee Family Welcome

COYO Sr High is partnering with BOCO to sponsor a refugee family with groceries and supplies for an apartment. There will also be opportunities to meet the family and help them get settled. Lists of needed items will be at the Connection Link.

COYO JR HIGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Skinny Bones - Saturday, October 12. 7:00-10:00 PM

Meet at church at 7:00 PM to go to Blair for Skinny Bones (a smaller version of Vala's) Entrance fee, camp fire, hot dogs, and s'mores included. Bring money if you want to buy other snacks or gifts. Back to church by 10:00 PM. Friends are always welcome! Cost is \$10.

Confirmation

There will be no Confirmation on Wednesday, October 16.

GOODBYE TO WILL HOWELL

Dear Countryside Community Church:

This has been an exciting season of change in my life, as I recently got engaged to Angela Glover and have been planning our wedding, as well as combining our lives in a new and wonderful way. About a month ago Angela received a job offer from a small college in Vermont and we have been thinking and praying about a move back east near my family. We have come to the decision that we are going leave Omaha. We both feel that God is leading us to make this change after so many years in Omaha and after so many years of youth ministry for me.

I am resigning my position of Minister of Youth and Families as of October 19, 2019. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve this church and it is a time that I will never forget. My life has been changed for the better because of the welcoming, progressive nature of Countryside. My theological framework has opened exponentially since coming to Countryside and finishing Seminary at Chicago Theological Seminary. I have loved being a part of the Tri-Faith Initiative and the Tri-Faith Clergy group and I have learned so much about Judaism and Islam through those friendships. I have loved leading the youth program and having the honor of serving your students and developing a program that helps students understand their faith and feel the love of God.

Change is difficult, but I am certain that God is leading us all to what we have been created for, and into deeper places. Thank you for all the support as a person and as a Minister in the United Church of Christ. May God bless all of the endeavors of Countryside for the next generations.

Sincerely,

Will Howell

* The Personnel Committee will be in discussion with the Board of Youth, Board of Christian Education and the Youth leaders to set forth a plan for the Interim and a search for a new youth leader. More details will be shared as they develop.



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 Sunday afternoon from 4:30 -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 - 8 PM, including dinner at 6 PM. The purpose is to build strong and welcoming friendships, serve the community together, and grow in faith.

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 Rev. Will Howell.

Cell Phone: (402) 960-0818

Office Phone: (402) 391-0350 ext. 232

Email: willh@countrysideucc.org

www.countrysideucc.org/coyo



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER

October 6- Sunday School

Jacob and the Wrestling Match—Jacob begins to listen for God and really wants God's blessing. God is steadfast—always with us and ready to help us build a more loving community. Has God been with us, even when we haven't paid attention?

October 13- Worship together in the Sanctuary

Youth Music Sunday

October 20 - Children's Church

October 27- Sunday School

God calls Samuel—Our story tells us the voice heard by the boy Samuel was the voice of God. "Speak Lord, I'm listening." God knows our names and calls even boys and girls.

FALL SCHEDULE

Wednesdays

6:00-6:30 Core 56 music in Tamar

Holy Moly (K-4) story and lesson in the Purple Room

6:30-7:30 Core 56 meets in the Yellow Room

6:30-7:00 K-2 Music with Aly meets in Tamar/ 3-4 Holy Moly activity in Purple Room

7:00-7:30 K-2 Holy Moly Activity in Purple Room/ 3-4 Music with Aly in Tamar

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 (Aug. - Apr.) 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 mission and faith practices. Sunday School is offered for students pre-K through 6th grade.

Sunday School classes are located on the lower level in the new building. Please follow signage.

Children's Church

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

Wednesday Night Programming - Holy Moly

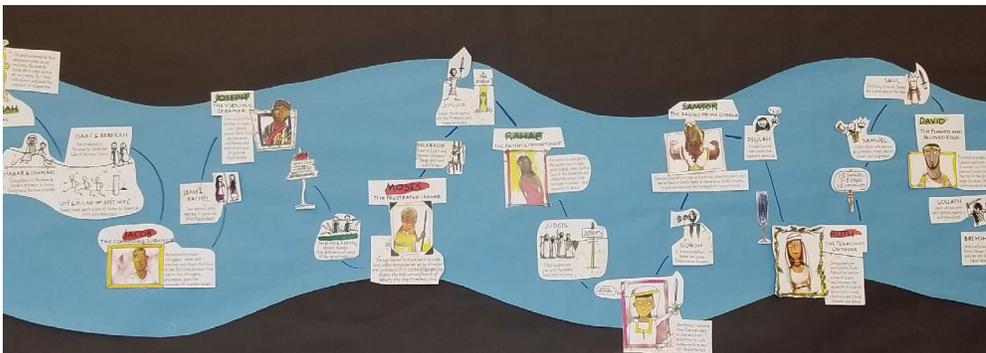
Lower Level - During the school year on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30, K through 4th grade students meet for Holy Moly! A Sparkhouse curriculum teaches Bible stories with multimedia, crafts, activities, and storytelling.

Wednesday Night Programming - Core 56

Lower Level - On Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30, 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.



Sunday school students with class altar and playing with stuffed animals.



Sunday School bulletin boards.

QUESTIONS?

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

Email: rebeccam@countrysideucc.org



MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRIES



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.

Confirmation Singers

Confirmation Singers is for youth in grades 7 and 8. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings 5:45-6:30 PM in Rahab (next door to the music office). Their rehearsals will begin on September 4.

Faith Singers

Faith Singers, for high school students, rehearses each Sunday from 4:45-6:00 PM in the choir room. in Rahab (next door to the music office). Their rehearsals will begin on September 8.

Countryside Community Church Choir (C4)

The C4 choir for adults explores a variety of contemporary choral literature as well as a classical choral repertoire. C4 sings regularly at Sunday worship services. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 PM in Priscilla. Childcare up to age 12 provided.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about Music & Arts Ministries contact:

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

www.countrysideucc.org

UPCOMING MUSIC

Resonance presents: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor October 10, 7:30 PM

The Great Mass in C minor is considered one of the greatest works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He composed it 1782 and 1783 after his marriage when he moved to Vienna from Salzburg.

The work embodies pomp and solemnity and also anticipates the symphonic masses of Joseph Haydn in its solo-choral sharing. The mass shows the influence of Bach and Handel, whose music Mozart was studying at this time. In 2015, Pope Francis told reporters the "Et incarnatus est" from the large-scale work "is matchless; it lifts you to God!"

This concert will feature Karina Brazas (Day One singer who has sung in worship) as soprano soloist and Jesse Wohlman (Day One singer) as baritone soloist. Creighton University's Chamber Choir will join Resonance, a semi-professional chorale, and will perform under the direction

All Kids Choir Sunday - Edem Soul Music October 13, both services

Edem K. Garro, also known as Edem Soul Music, is a composer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist whose work primarily focuses on cultural preservation. Please join us in worship on October 13, where our children's and youth choirs will lead us in worship and draw the sermon series to a conclusion. If you have kids who would like to sing, it is not too late to get involved!



Combined youth choirs from our first service.



Edem K. Garro, also known as Edem Soul Music

Vesper Concerts presents: A Gospel Experience October 13, 3 PM

We will be hosting the Vesper Concert Series' Choral Collaborative Concert. A mass choir featuring UNO and local high schools will perform gospel works under the direction of highly-acclaimed gospel musician and educator Raymond Wise, a Professor of African American Diaspora Studies at Indiana University.

Misa Criolla October 20, both services

Please join us in worship on October 20 to hear C4 perform Ariel Ramirez's Misa Criolla. Ramirez was an Argentine composer who composed the work shortly after Vatican II, writing in the vernacular both verbally (Spanish) and musically (using indigenous folk idioms). The service will feature an ensemble playing on Latin-American instruments and we will have a brief talk-back after both services to explain more about the music and take questions from the congregation.



C4 Choir performing September 8



THE BOX FOR OCTOBER

The Box for OCTOBER is asking for your help in providing the following items for the food pantry at Lutheran Family Service: Basmati or Jasmine rice, dried beans (black, red, pinto, garbanzo), lentils, hot sauce and dried spices, sugar, cooking oil, diapers (any size) shampoo/conditioner, bars of soap and deodorant

We thank you in advance for your help with this project! Please drop off any of these items at the BOX located in the Foyer.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry served 127 families which equates to 434 individuals at our September pantry. With cooler weather quickly approaching, the need will become greater. If you would like to help either through donating your time, finances or food items, please contact Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org. Thank you in advance for your help!

SHOW US YOUR SMALL SERVICE GRANT (SSG)

Are you using your head, heart and hands in service outside the church? Is at least one other person involved? If so, you are a Small Service Group (SSG). The Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) wants to know about your good work so others know where to go for assistance, or how to get involved as well.

Jesus once figured out how to make a loaf of bread and fish stretch to feed hundreds. By supporting groups of two or more people who want to serve an unmet need or overlooked population, Countryside hopes to multiply blessings, too.

Please print the SSG form from the website countrysideucc.org/serving-together/ssgs/ and return it to Mary Beth Link at the Connection Link.

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 Connection Link.

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.



COUNTRYSIDE CORNER



In May, over 40 volunteers went through docent training to educate the visiting public about Countryside Community Church. Karen Follon and her committee put together a treasure trove of information about the church and the significance behind its design and the materials used within. Each month we will share a portion of the docent training in this new section - Countryside Corner.

FOYER

Purpose - Traditionally, church foyers are places where one is invited to acknowledge the distance we place between ourselves and God, recognizing that God invites us into greater relationship. This invitation is symbolized by the unlocked doors of the sanctuary which are tall and plainly visible from the narthex with a view eastward to the Tri-Faith Commons site as a reminder of our connection to people of other faiths.

Tree of Life - The use of wood throughout the entire church facility reminds us of the fact that our Bible begins and ends with a tree - the same tree, in fact: the Tree of Life.

In Genesis, the Tree of Life is the one that the metaphorical couple were prevented from eating after consuming the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

In Revelation, the Tree of Life stands at the center of the New Jerusalem. Its fruits are now freely accessible to all people, and its leaves are "for the healing of nations." (Rev. 22:1-2)

As people who live somewhere between the beginning and the ending, the wood reminds us that we are on a journey together - a journey that does not end in a rejection of the world, but its fulfillment.

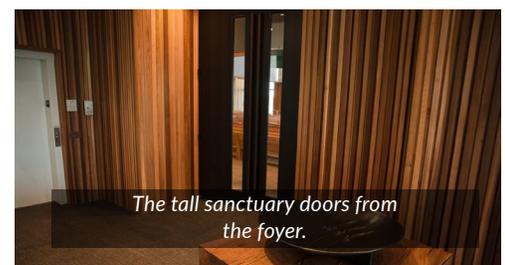
History - Countryside was founded in 1949 as young families began to settle in to the once rural farmland in the Loveland area of Omaha after World War II.

From the beginning, Countryside members have come from a variety of Christian backgrounds, unified in their belief that all people are children of God and deserve to be free from fear and oppression. Members have also been drawn to the Congregational emphasis on the right of individual congregations to order their own affairs, call their own ministers, and establish their own covenants.

Today, members from more than 40 different faith backgrounds have been called to join our community, allowing us to fully embody the meaning of the Greek word, ecumenical, meaning "the whole household of God."



Some of our smallest members enjoying conversation in the church foyer.



The tall sanctuary doors from the foyer.





LIFE MINISTRIES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Countryside's Family Fall Festival is being planned for Saturday, October 12, beginning with a kiddos (and adult) costume parade at 5:30 PM, followed by a spook-a-licious family supper (pizza and more) and fall games and activities including pumpkin carving and cookie decorating! How can you pass this up? It's a great way to make sure the costumes work! Family Activities Committee members invite you to enjoy an evening of fun-filled, fellowship oriented fall fun! Signups are available at the Connection Link in the Foyer. Should you have questions, please contact Ashley Bender (ashv03@aol.com) or Hannah Reilly (hannahrc@gmail.com). This event is open to all families.

Ollie the Trolley's Haunted Cemetery Ride, Friday, October 18, 6:30-8:30 PM We will tour some of Omaha's oldest cemeteries and learn of their history as we go. Due to popular demand we are filling a second trolley - there are currently only 32 seats left! Cost is \$30 per person and covers cost of the trolley (sponsored by E.T.C.) Ride if you dare! Sign up and pay at the Connection Link.

Halloween Candy collection - with Halloween Trick or Treat quickly approaching, we ask that you consider what to do with all your left over or extra candy that you and/or your children have collected. Countryside's Family Activity Committee (FAC) is offering the option of donating your extra candy to a worthy cause by simply bringing it to church between now and November 10, dropping it off in the basket and then you're good to go! FAC members thank you in advance for your help with this project!

LIFE MINISTRY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Earth University - F.A.T.E. (Faith and the Environment) group will be offering a six-week discussion on WATER, Thursday evenings beginning October 3 at 7:00 PM in Countryside's Chapel. Stop by the Connection Link in the Foyer to pick up your class brochure and to register for this very popular offering.

SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE

Ladies Lunch group will meet on Monday, October 7, at American Muslim Institute No need to sign up, bring a brown bag lunch with drinks provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy warm conversation and great fellowship with the women of Countryside Church, AMI and Temple Israel. See you there!

Family Activities Committee members will gather on Sunday, October 27, at 10 AM to finalize plans for the Advent Workshop. RSVP's are appreciated.

Lunch Bunch Circle will meet on Monday, October 14, at The Garden Café in Rockbrook Shopping Center, 108th and Center. Jeanne Peters Huelskamp is the October hostess. Call Gloria Ried at 402-333-3115 if you would like additional information

Interplay will meet in Countryside's Chapel. Play is not just for children! Let your creative spirit come out and play on Saturday, October 19, 9:30-11:00 AM. It's good for the mind and body...and it's fun! For additional information or questions, please contact Rita Otis at rmotis@outlook.com.

Tai Chi Chih classes will be held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, in the Foyer of the church. Contact Rita at rmotis@outlook.com for additional information.

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. 235

Email: marybethl@countrysideucc.org

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Community Cupboard Food Panty is needing additional help at the pantry on Saturday, October 5, 7:45-11:30 AM. It takes approximately 60 volunteers to put together, serve and clean up a Pantry Saturday. Your help is ALWAYS welcomed and needed! Contact communitycupboard@countrysideucc.org or chat with Mary Beth about helping. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

Countryside's two social committees dedicated to family life are always open to new, adventuresome folks! Stop by the Connection Link to learn more about both of them by talking with Mary Beth.

Thank you!

Thanks to the Board of Trustees for hosting coffee hour throughout the month of October. Be sure to stop one of the board members to learn more about what Countryside's Board of Trustees is responsible for and how you help.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who volunteered at Countryside's Fall program rollout REVIVE! From everything to the delicious taco bar, to the manning of the tables and answering questions, to the the service project for Together...THANK YOU! It truly takes a village and we definitely live in a resplendent one.



Thank you also to everyone who helped with the Center for Faith Studies Wm. Paul Young events! We could not have done it without you all! We had such great feedback and both nights were great successes! Thank you for all you do!

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 3rd Thursday 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.

Women's Lunch Group

This multi-generational group, open to all women, meets at noon on the 1st Monday of each month. 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 (Friends, Art, Munching & Enjoying)

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@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

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

templeisraelomaha.com

americanmusliminstitute.org

ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES ON PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

Thursday, October 17, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, 6400 South, University Drive Road N
A Lecture by and a Discussion with Dr. Asma Afsaruddin

Asma Afsaruddin is Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures in the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. She is the author and editor of nine books, including her forthcoming *Jihad: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2020); the award-winning *Striving in the Path of God: Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought* (Oxford University Press, 2013), which has been translated into Indonesian; and *The First Muslims: History and Memory* (OneWorld Publications 2008), which has been translated into Malay and Turkish.

This program is co-sponsored by the Tri-Faith Initiative, Religious Studies, History, and Political Science Departments, and International Studies Program at UNO.

For more information, contact Dr. Ramazan Kilinc at rkilinc@unomaha.edu or at 402-554-2683.

FAITH OVER FEAR - OMAHA

November 2, 5 PM and November 3, 2 PM
American Muslim Institute
13140 Faith Plaza

This training shares up-to-date research, tools, and effective strategies for the work of faith and community leaders who wish to counter anti-Muslim bias, discrimination, and violence in the United States.

This training is designed for faith leaders, lay leaders, and multifaith or faith-based organizational leaders committed to countering anti-Muslim discrimination in their communities. We'll share up-to-date research, resources, tools, and messaging to be stronger, strategic, and more effective actors in shaping our nation toward a greater vision - where all people, no matter their religious or cultural background, are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. Please contact Nina.Fernando@s2scampaign.org with any questions.

Registration required: please register by going to the website: www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/trainings and scrolling down to upcoming trainings and clicking Register Here, under Omaha, Nebraska. Or you can go to the Tri-Faith or Countryside Facebook pages and follow the links.

LADIES LUNCH GROUP

Monday, October 7, Noon
American Muslim Institute

No need to sign up, bring a brown bag lunch with drinks provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy warm conversation and great fellowship with the women of Countryside Church, AMI and Temple Israel. Each building takes turns hosting every month. Watch the newsletter or other church communications for monthly updates. See you there!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday Mornings at 7 AM, Garden Cafe in Rockbrook Village

Come join the men of Countryside, Temple and AMI for breakfast and great conversation every Tuesday morning. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend!



facebook.com/TriFaithInitiative/
facebook.com/AmericanMuslimInstitute/
facebook.com/templeisraelomaha/

WORSHIP SERIES
September 15 - October 20



**Hearing that still, small voice
and finding your own.**

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Justice for Kids

Tuesday, October 15
7:00 pm Chapel

We invite you to attend this grassroots movement to help advocate for the elimination of all suspensions and expulsions for children pre-K through 2nd grade and to seek accountability from all stakeholders including parents, administrators, educators, children and the community in achieving this goal.

for more details
about this movement visit
www.keepkidsinschool.org

**"Teach me
how To
be better"**
- Sincerely,
The Future Of
Humanity

Presenters are
Precious Lesley,
Leo Lewis II,
and Mia Gray

COUNTRYSIDE'S

Fall Family Festival

**Saturday, October 12
at 5:30 PM**

Break out your costumes early for Countryside's annual Fall Family Festival! There will be a costume parade, family dinner, pumpkin carving, cookie decorating, games and fall activities and crafts! Sign up at the Connection Link to join the fun!



Resonance presents:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's
Great Mass in C Minor
October 10, 7:30 PM

Creighton University's Chamber Choir will join Resonance and will perform under the direction of our own Barron Breland.

Vesper Concerts presents:
A Gospel Experience
October 13, 3 PM
A mass choir featuring
UNO and local high schools

Missa Criolla
Performed by C4 Choir
October 20, both services
more details about each event
can be found on page 8