

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Above: Members of the Tri-Faith community gathered for a silent prayer vigil on Sunday, Sept. 8. TODAY! Children are invited to Discovery Kids following the service. Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

September 15, 2024

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.
Text in **bold** indicates places where the congregation is invited to join in response.

Gathering

COMMUNITY TIME (9:55)

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG

Hymn #517 (vs. 1-2), *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Just as the heavens burst forth in praise to God.....

Many: We celebrate God's abundant and powerful love.

One: Day by day, and night by night.....

Many: God watches over us, loving and healing us.

One: Come, celebrate with joy the love of God.

Many: Open our hearts and spirits, Lord, and teach us your ways. AMEN

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #86, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & DISCOVERY KIDS

Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes, Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

FIRST LESSON: Proverbs 1:20-33

Reader: Marcia Blum

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease without dread of disaster.”

SECOND LESSON: Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MESSAGE*The Way*

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

*Responding to the Word***PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION*Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Youth Emergency Services as the recipient of the September Box donations.

COMMISSIONING OF WEB OF CARE COORDINATORS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Creator of all that has been, is, and will be, You are the God who sees us. You are the God who sustains us. How can we ever thank you for all that you have granted us? For you have granted us our very lives, creating us in your own divine image, and calling us good.

Thank you for the capacity and the privilege of giving. May these gifts, which we give right back to you, transform hunger into nutritious food; literacy into education; thirst into clean, accessible water; disease into healing; displacement into welcome; and despair into hope. We humbly ask you to use these gifts for the transformation of lives and communities so that our abundance may be for their need and their need become our abundance.

To you, God, be the glory! Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the God of love.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

As you are able, please come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you prefer to take communion in your seat, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to you. At Countryside, we serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice to support a diversity of needs. Communion cups may be discarded in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #434 (vs. 1-3), *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

C4 Choir, Adam Witte, director - Alex Ritter, organ

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Ray and Mary Meints
in celebration of their 41st anniversary.

Joys & Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have someone who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list, and /or be included on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

CONCERNS

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Please continue to pray for **Pam Govier's** father, Don. He is now at Brookstone Meadows but just developed pneumonia. Additionally, there is a COVID outbreak there, so Pam is only able to visit with him over the phone.

Please pray for his recovery and restoration of his health, and for Pam to feel all of our support.

JOYS

Pat Smith celebrated her 95th birthday yesterday on September 14. The Choir invites you to celebrate with her and her family in Common Grounds following today's service. Please join them for a piece of cake and to say Happy Birthday to Pat!

Center for Faith Studies Presents

Faith and Democracy 2024: What's at Stake?

Join us for an urgent and timely conversation about the fusion of faith, politics, and power in today's America.

Friday, October 4, 2024 | 7 PM Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis and Rev. Jim Wallis

Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 8 AM – 12 PM Keynote Speaker Dr. Samuel L. Perry; Panel Discussion with Dr. Samuel L. Perry, Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis & Rev. Jim Wallis; Breakout Sessions exploring white Christian nationalism's impact on Education, Reproductive Rights, Housing and Climate.

Countryside Community Church, the Christian Partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative
13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE 68144

Buy Tickets Here, scan the QR code at right or visit
faithanddemocracy2024.com.



Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, a fierce advocate for justice and inclusion, will expose the dangers of nationalism intertwined with Christian identity and call on us to resist ideologies that distort the teachings of love, equality and compassion that lie at the heart of Christianity.

Rev. Jim Wallis, author of *The False White Gospel*, will reveal how white Christian nationalism undermines the core values of faith, promoting racism and power-seeking instead of justice and equality. His message: reject this harmful ideology and fight for inclusion and racial justice.

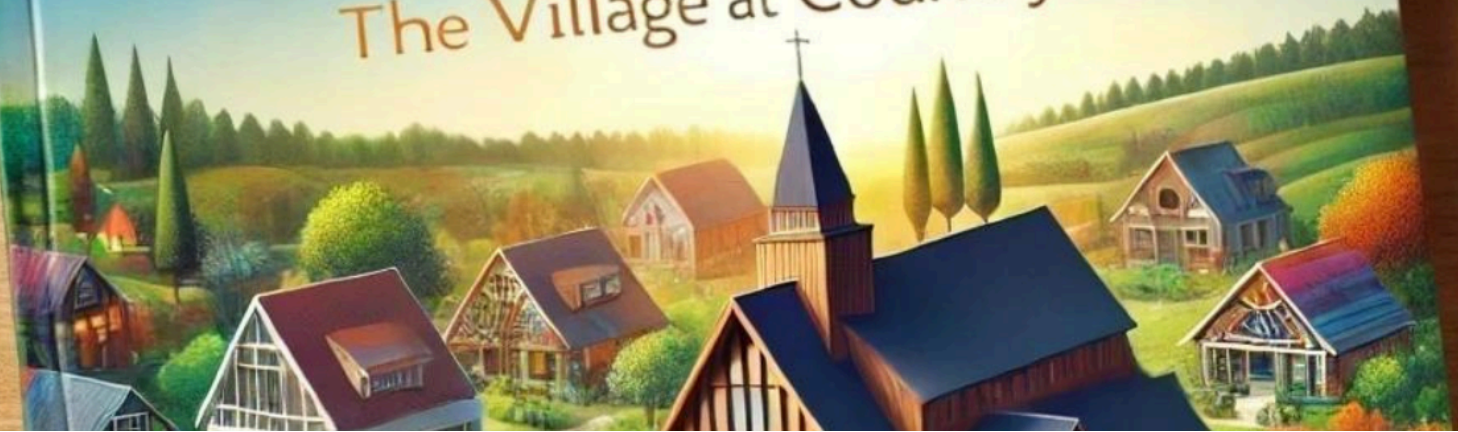
Dr. Samuel L. Perry, leading scholar and author of *Ties That Divide*, will take us deep into the latest research on white Christian nationalism and its dangerous impact on the 2024 election. Understand how this ideology fuels division and what we can do to address it at the local, national, and personal levels.

This is not just a conversation—it's a call to action. Explore how faith, politics and identity collide in America, and learn how we can reclaim democracy for all people. Secure your tickets now for an event that promises to challenge, inspire, and equip you for the work ahead.

About the Center for Faith Studies

The Center for Faith Studies is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant community of curious minds eager to delve into the mysteries of God, the universe, and humanity's place within it. Through dynamic speaker events, engaging classes, intimate small-group discussions, and thought-provoking large-group presentations, we harness the power of comparative religion, theology, the humanities and the sciences to spark a deep and meaningful exploration of faith and existence. Join us as we embark on an extraordinary journey of discovery and enlightenment.

The Village at Countryside



We are excited to invite you to the launch of The Village at Countryside! Our new small group ministry offers Village Houses (small groups) designed to foster connection and support for every stage of life, including parents, families and more. We are thrilled to already have more than 70 people signed up! We hope you'll be next!!

The launch of The Village at Countryside begins with a Village Dinner on September 18 from 5-6 p.m. ([please register for the dinner HERE](#)); \$10/person or \$20/family suggested donation) followed by the first meetings of our Village Houses. This will be an evening of fellowship, food and deepening relationships. Childcare & Kids programming will be provided.

All Village Houses will begin by reading and discussing David Brooks' *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*. We suggest you support our community by buying local at [The Bookworm](#) if possible. Read more about The Village at Countryside [here](#). Sign up today for both the dinner and to be part of a [Village House](#).

The second episode of *It Takes A Village* is now available! This week, Sarah and I dove into the first three chapters of *How to Know a Person*. This first section is all about the art of truly seeing. In response to how our contemporary culture leans towards seeing others superficially, Brooks calls us to see others with curiosity and compassion. This powerful book will guide conversations in our Village Houses, offering a meaningful way to connect and grow together.

It Takes a Village podcast:

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to watch the first installment

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code for the podcast (audio version)

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code for the RSS feed



Blessings, Jenny