

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones. ~ Proverbs 17:22

September 22, 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 AM)

PRELUDE *Friends and Strangers* William Jeffrey

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG *All Are Welcome*

†CALL TO WORSHIP Adam Witte

One: It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.

Many: But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

One: And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

Many: Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

TRANSFORMING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Reader: Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.

But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

MESSAGE

The Power of Collective Compassion

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

Servant Song

arr. Tom Fettke

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving and Gracious God,

You have shown us through Jesus what it means to be humble, to serve, and to embrace the least among us. As we offer these gifts today, we are reminded of Your call to welcome and care for others. Use our offerings to further Your kin-dom, where the last are first and the servant is greatest. Amen.

HYMN

Hymn #714 For the Fruit of All Creation

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

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

Please prepare to partake of the Eucharist in your seats. The communion kits include whole wheat bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. (Gluten-free is available.) Raise your hand if you need assistance with your communion elements and an usher will assist you. Communion cups may be discarded in the baskets as you leave the sanctuary.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Windows

Chick Corea

C4 Choir: Adam Witte, director - Alex Ritter, organ and piano
Matt Wallace, saxophone - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Nicole West
in loving memory of Katura Marie Blunk.

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 on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

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

Kari Randazzo's father is having surgery on September 27. This will hopefully be his final surgery in what has been a long journey of health issues. Please pray for all to go well and for his healing and recovery.

Tom (Ann) Scates asks for prayers for his brother, Harry, who has been battling some significant skin cancers the last few years. Recently, Harry has become greatly weakened and is having trouble eating and drinking, which has led him to become very weak. He is under doctor's care and his son Todd is very supportive. Please keep Harry in your prayers that he can regain his strength.

Please join in celebrating these joys with prayers of praise:

Dr. Brady Beecham (daughter of **Bob and Jan Beecham**) receives the UNMC Achievement Award on September 27. She lives in Lexington, Nebraska with her husband Dr. Aravind Menon, and their two children attend the bilingual public school there. They are frequent visitors to Countryside. Let us share in Bob and Jan's pride at their daughter's awesome achievement!

The Village at Countryside



The Village at Countryside launch event, Wednesday Sept. 18, was a huge success! The village dinner catered by The House of Bah was delicious and integral to helping shape our community life as one founded on interdependent relationships and mutual belonging.

We have more than 150 people signed up to participate in a Village House small group, and it is not too late for you to add your name to the list. Check the church website, call the office or let one of the staff know that you'd like to participate and we will happily assign you to a House.

Village Houses meet almost every night of the week at 6 or 7 p.m. Houses to support families with young children meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. during our kids programming and nursery care.

All Village Houses are reading and discussing David Brooks' *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*. If you haven't purchased the book, we suggest buying local at The Bookworm, if possible (info@bookwormomaha.com | 402-392-2877 | 2501 S. 90th St., Omaha, NE, 68124).

Read more about The Village at Countryside on our website, countrysideucc.org/thevillage.
It takes a Village!



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.