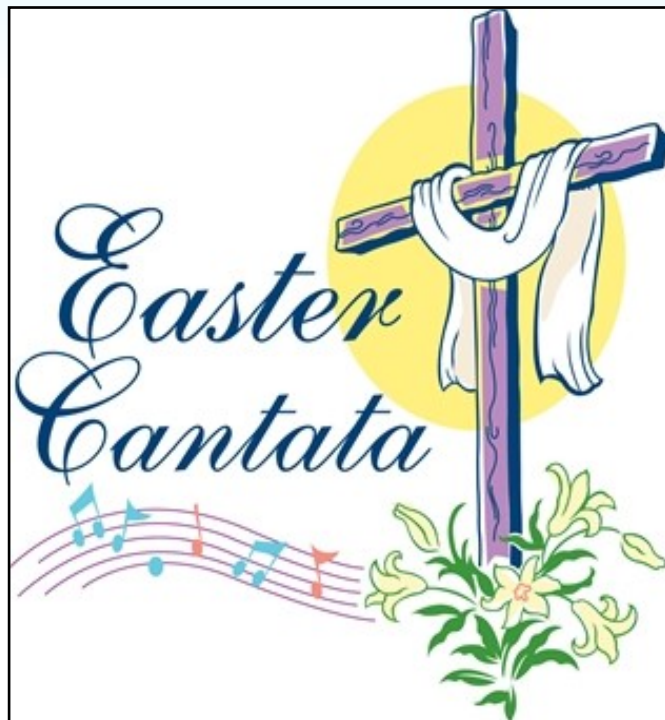


April 1, 2023

THE COUNTRYSIDE COURIER

Countryside Presbyterian Church (USA)
7768 SW Hwy. 200, Ocala, FL 34476
Tel: 352 237-4633 Fax: 352 873-3974



EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday April 2, 2023
9:00 and 10:30 Service**

**Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023
7:00 p.m. with communion**

**Good Friday, April 7, 2023
12:00 Noon**

**Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023
9:00 and 10:30 Service
Cantata at 10:30 service**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Mary Jane Bates April 3, Melita McGrath April 4, Michael James April 6, Marv Shults April 6, Rich Hendrix April 11, Dottie Valentine April 13, Leonard Letendre April 14, Sandy Stearns April 14, Bob Manning April 15, Sally Zarnowiec April 22, Kay Johnston April 24, Wayne Harmon April 27, Erma Williams April 30

LITURGIST FOR APRIL—Carol Melchior/John Bain April 2

**USHERS FOR FEBRUARY—Wayne Melchior, Ann Brown, Bobbie Letendre,
Lenny Letendre, Sharon Ryer, Susan Ferguson, Debbie Burbridge**

SANCTUARY PREPARATION—Marie Stachnik

COMMUNION PREPARATION—Tari Ambler/Valerie Sanders

GREETERS—Sally Rickolt, Sally Zarnowiec, Peggy Adams

AUDIO VISUAL TEAM—Carl Berry, Ken Jacob, Al Kremer, Linda Peters, Valerie Sanders

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY,
APRIL 10, 2023—EASTER MONDAY.**

STEWARDSHIP

I would like to start this (mostly) monthly Stewardship article by posting the message of an email that I received from a military friend of mine. I believe that this is a wonderful message for all of us to consider as we constantly come to grips with how much we give to support our church.

57 Cents

'A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was "too crowded." "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

'Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kind-hearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School." For two years she had saved for this offering of love. When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

'But the story does not end there...A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents.

'Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00--a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the 20th century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends. When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated.

'Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time. In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, "Acres of Diamonds." This is a true story, which goes to show WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH 57 CENTS.'

A large majority of our congregation had nothing to do with the building of our beautiful church which is now over 16 years old. We have a theater style audio visual system in the sanctuary which is somewhat cantankerous. We have seats that will support over 500 people because the best guess, or professional advice, at the time felt that the membership would grow to fill the seats. Our HVAC system is now that old. We have been able with significant anonymous support to replace sixty-six percent of the system for the sanctuary and it is doing a great job in keeping us comfortable on Sundays. I believe it is fair to say that we are doing a great job of maintaining our church. But, to coin a phrase, the big issue is the elephant in the room, our mortgage. Our Finance Committee is doing the best job that it can with our income and our rainy-day funds.

The Membership Committee is doing its part through advertising our services, sending post cards to everyone moving into an address in two zip codes in the area immediately around the church. We had five new members join the church on February 26, 2023..

Every member of Countryside can help simply by asking your neighbors and friends to come to church with you on the Sunday of your or their choice. We need to fill those extra seats.

The little girl in the story above has proven that the efforts of an individual can have amazing results. You do not have to be a member of the Membership Committee to make a difference. Remember that very few people join any organization by asking. They join when asked by someone that is committed to making a difference in their church, club or other endeavor.

I would like to end this with a PRAYER OF THE DAY from one of our Sunday services:

Generous God, in abundance you give us things both spiritual and physical. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting things of your kingdom, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

John Redden
Stewardship Chair

SUNDAY AFTERNOON ARTS CONCERTS



Two hundred seventeen guests enjoyed the twenty-seven member Ocala Youth Symphony perform a lively selection of musical numbers. The concert took place on March 12 at Countryside Presbyterian Church's Sunday Afternoon Art Concert Series. Attendees commented on the ambition and enthusiasm of these young symphony members!

The Ocala Youth Symphony director and conductor is Cindy Robertson Warringer who started the symphony in 1998 due to a demand for an activity for young musicians. She is still the symphony director today. Johnathon Couch, the Assistant Director was the guest conductor at the Countryside concert. Johnathon played cello for the Ocala Youth Symphony when he was in school locally. He continued his music career and later attended Florida State University where he received a degree in organ performance. Johnathon is currently working toward his master's degree in organ performance.

The next concert will be on Sunday, April 2 at Countryside Presbyterian Church when the Central Florida Master Choir will present their annual Spring Concert, *Night and Day*. Selections will include works by J.S. Bach, Paul McCartney, Ludwig Van Beethoven and others. Dr. Harold McSwain directs the choir which is accompanied by GayLyn Capitano and the New Moon String Ensemble. It will be a very enjoyable and challenging program by accomplished voices! Do arrive early for good seating as over 500 patrons attended the Master Choir's recent December performance.

Grace Dunlevy is the Concert Series Chairman and John Bain manages setup and ushers the day of the concert.

Submitted by Sally Zarnowiec

DID YOU KNOW ?

...that April 22 is Earth Day?
Celebrate God's Gift of Creation
together.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Holy Week this year falls early in April, with Palm Sunday coming up on the first Sunday of the month.

Our schedule of services during Holy Weeks is as follows:

Palm Sunday – April 2 – Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday – April 6 – Service at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday – April 7 – Service at 12:00 noon
Easter Sunday – April 9 – Services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

We will observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, and also during the Maundy Thursday service.

Communion will be offered by the intinction method, dipping the bread in the juice and consuming both elements together. We follow this method also at our 9:00 a.m. contemporary service, which offers the sacrament every week.

On Palm Sunday, our 10:30 a.m. service will include musical offerings by the Bell Choir.

On Easter Sunday, our 10:30 a.m. service will include an Easter Cantata musical offering by the Chancel Choir.

Our 9:00 a.m. service offers contemporary Christian songs led by our Praise Team. You may recognize some of these songs from local Christian radio stations. We display the song lyrics on-screen during the service in The Founders Hall, just like we display hymn lyrics in the sanctuary services.

Yes, coffee and light snacks are available at the early service.

If you view Countryside worship services online through our YouTube channel, you may notice that we are now live-streaming the 10:30 a.m. service. We have a link to the live stream page on our website at countrysideocala.org – simply click on the link and it will take you to the “Live” page on YouTube. We will continue to leave recordings posted online for viewing during the week.

Arthur Burditt and Susan Jones, Co-Chairs



*HAVE A BLESSED,
JOYOUS,
AND HAPPY EASTER!*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Thursday Christian Education class is still studying the book Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers by Dane C. Ortlund.

We are having two Lenten studies. Brian McNally is leading the study The Road to Coronation. It meets on Mondays at 2:15. Dale Ambler is leading a small group study in his home on 24 Hours that Changed the World by Adam Hamilton.

The Book Club will not meet in March but will meet April 24, 2023 at 2:00. They will be discussing the book Uniquely Stella.

The library is coming along. The volunteers have been working hard. Jane Frost has been choosing three books to put on the visitor table, to give people an idea of what kinds of books are available.

We are having Intergenerational Vacation Bible School June 19-22 from 5 to 8. The topic will be “The Most Powerful Forces in the Universe.” We need a volunteer who would like to lead the music part of Vacation Bible School. Call either Kara Savage 407-340-3375 or Linda Peters 352-362-9658. If there is no answer just leave a message or text either one of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Peters and Kara Savage, Co-Chairs



Save the date for:
Intergenerational Vacation Bible School
June 19 to June 22, 2023
5 to 8 p.m.



Ushers Needed

We are in serious need of additional ushers.
Can you help?

USHERS

Are you called to serve in this ministry? Join the Ushers and help with the offering and communion, and assist members as needed.

If you wish to join or have questions, please contact:

Wayne Melchior, wmelchior66@yahoo.com or 410/967-4141
or
Arthur Burditt, akburditt@gmail.com or 352/875-7878

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy Easter Everyone!

We welcomed five new members on February 26, 2023. Please welcome Carol Gardner, Karen Titus, Connie Valois, and Sharon and Garret Vermeulen to our church family when you see them. If anyone is interested in joining our church, please go to the session room after church service.

The postcards inviting new families to our church were sent out to the 34481 and 34476 zip codes.

We are in need of volunteers to stand or sit at the visitor table and welcome our visitors. Please see me or Sharon Janes if you would like to volunteer. My telephone number is 352-362-9658. Just leave a message and I will get back to you.

We will welcome our new members on April 23, 2023 at the 10:30 service.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Faith and Linda Peters, Co-Chairs

MISSION COMMITTEE



Starting in April, the Mission Committee will have a one-item collection each month. It is hoped that this will bring in more food for Interfaith Emergency Services.

April—Pasta

May—Peanut Butter

June—Macaroni and Cheese

July—Ramen Noodles

August—Mayo or Salad Dressing

September—Apple Sauce

October—Snacks (no candy)

November—Condiments

December—Cereal

Starting in 2024: January—Vegetables; February—Soup; March—Canned Fruit

**Save
the
Date**

Countryside Annual Picnic—May 20, 2023

Watch for more information in bulletins.

COUNTRYSIDE MISSION CORNER

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance 32%

Presbyterian Hunger Program 36%

Self-Development of People 32%

This Special Offering will be taken on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Thank you for your support!

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Peanut Butter Drive: May 5-19

Peanut butter and jelly are collected to supplement the needs of children no longer in school.



Thanks for all your generosity.

Mission Committee



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

2

9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 3:00 Concert
PALMPASSION SUNDAY

3

2:15 Coronation Bible Study with Brian McNally
 5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers

4

6:00 Master Choir

5

1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal

6

2:15 Christian Ed Committee
 3:30 Christian Ed Class (Choir Room)
 6:00 Girl Scouts
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7 P.M.

7

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 12 NOON

8

10:00 Cantata Rehearsal

9

9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 One Great Hour of Sharing
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD EASTER DAY

10

2:15 Coronation Bible Study with Brian McNally
EASTER MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

11

10:00 Haircuts
 10:00 Nominating Comm. Mtg.
 11:00 Membership Meeting
 6:00 Master Choir

12

8:30 Breakfast
 10:00 Fellowship Meeting
 10:00 Lydia Circle
 12:30 Worship & Music Meeting
 1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal

13

3:30 Christian Ed Class
 6:00 Women's Book Study

14

15

8:30 D.A.R. Mtg.
 10:00 Countryside Farms Mtg.

16

9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service

17

18

6:00 Master Choir

19

11:00 Finance Mtg.
 1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 Line Dance Social

20

1:00 Crafty Christians
 3:30 Christian Ed Class
 6:00 Girl Scouts

21

22

12 Noon
 Memorial Service
 Anna Massa

23

9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 New Member Welcome

24

2:00 Book Club

25

6:00 Master Choir

26

1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal

27

10:00 Session Mtg.
 3:30 Christian Ed Class

28

29

30

9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service

ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP DAY FOR 2023 SATURDAY MORNING MAY 6, 2023

A big thankyou to the 23 members plus friends of Countryside and to 6 members of Countryside Farms HOA for helping at the First Cleanup morning on Saturday March 11. Much work outside and inside The Founders Hall was accomplished despite the parking issues due to the very successful Lions Club Craft and Flea market in the parking lot that day.



But there is more work to do. Once again, Building & Grounds Committee needs your help for just a few hours on Saturday morning, May 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. This is our regular Annual Spring Cleanup during which we will tackle the following work:

- ◆ Cleanup in all gardens around the church including the Memorial Garden and Meditation Garden. This work includes weeding, pruning, and planting
- ◆ Window Cleaning inside and Outside
- ◆ Dusting and polishing wood surfaces and doors inside the church

We will gather in The Founders Hall at 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Then, we will give out work assignments. Tea, coffee, Danish and energy giving donuts will be available for breakfast. We plan to work from 9 to around 12 noon. Lunch will be pizza and salad.

Look for the sign-up sheet for this event in The Hallway that leads to The Founders Hall. The sign-up list will give us a measure of how much work can be tackled for this cleanup. So, please, sign up to help.

Thank you for your continuing Stewardship; see you there on Saturday May 6.

John Bain
(Co-chair Building & Grounds Committee)

COUNTRYSIDE BREAKFAST, APRIL 12



The next **Countryside Breakfast** will be on **April 12 at 8:30 a.m.** Our speaker this month is our own Dr. Ed Tenhor who has been associated with Countryside for many years. Ed has been a substitute pastor, a choir member, VBS presenter and has been a breakfast speaker several times over the years. Dr. Ed has compiled a list of 50 favorite villages in Florida and wants to share photographs and village information with you. Did you know there's an Amish village near Sarasota, a colorful fishing village named Matlacha, a village called Watercolor and many more. The cost of the breakfast is \$10 per person and each attendee will receive a list of the villages and where they are located, including mileage to visit them yourself. Please sign up in The Hallway on Sundays April 2 and 9.



LINE DANCE SOCIAL THE FOUNDERS HALL

APRIL 19, 2023
6 TO 9 P.M.—\$5 PER PERSON



Wayne & I would like to wish all our friends at CPC a fond farewell as we start another chapter in our lives in Hanover, Pa. as of 4/1.

When we walked through the doors of this church 17 years ago, we knew we had found our church home. It has been a blessing in our lives to know you & to work together. We will certainly miss you & will keep you in our hearts forever.

Love,

Judy & Wayne Harmon
637 Basswood Lane
Hanover, Pa 17331



Countryside Presbyterian Church of Ocala Inc.

7768 SW Highway 200
Ocala, FL 34476
352 237-4633 FAX 352 873-3974

Part Time Interim Pastor—Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings
352 875-3002

Sunday at Countryside—Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service—9:00 a.m.
Worship online at countrysideocala.org

E-mail us at
rina@countrysideocala.org, connie@countrysideocala.org

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

