

February 1, 2023

THE COUNTRYSIDE COURIER

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

February 26, 2023—1st Sunday in Lent



*"To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul,
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be
put to shame; do not let
my enemies exult
over me."
~ Psalm 25:1-2*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Susan Ferguson February 1, John Redden February 2, Kathie Paules February 5, Don McCurry February 7,
Wayne Melchior February 7, Fran Bolson February 8, John Berry February 9, Jerry Deen February 10,
Gene Topp February 11, Jay Walsh February 13, Carol Mackenzie February 16, Sue Barringer February 17,
Ron Niebo February 18, Andy Bonner February 26, Bernie Sullivan February 27,
Carolyn Parry February 29

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Valerie Sanders March 1, Frank Szutar March 1, Linda Heenan March 3, Steven Norman March 6, Wilma
Foreman March 10, Donna James March 13, Al Whitford March 14, Edna Fazio March 15, Anna Benedetti
March 17, Cleona Redman March 18, Joanne Tieman March 20, Marilyn Whitford March 20, Edie Loeffler
March 21, Janet Hendrix March 22, Claire Baker March 27, Dave Gibbs March 27,
Catherine Whitehead March 27

LITURGIST FOR FEBRUARY—Melita McGrath

**USHERS FOR FEBRUARY—Wayne Melchior, Carol Melchior, Linda Martin, Judy Harmon,
Wayne Harmon, Ann Brown**

SANCTUARY PREPARATION—Marie Stachnik

COMMUNION PREPARATION—Sue Reed

GREETERS—Tina McCurry, Sally Rickolt, Peggy Adams

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



In loving memory of Kimberly Redden Atkinson—Grace Dunlevy and Bob Levenson

In loving memory of Kimberly Redden Atkinson—John and Virginia Redden

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We're pleased to know that Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings will be continuing to lead us in Sunday worship. As is our tradition, we will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month, February 5.

February promises to be an active month for our worship and music ministries at Countryside.

Both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir are rehearsing again every Wednesday. New ringers and singers are always welcome. Also, any singers with an interest in being part of our Easter Cantata are invited to see Raúl in the choir room.

We're excited to share that Countryside will resume offering an early service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. beginning on February 26. Our early service will feature contemporary music and weekly communion. It will be held in The Founders Hall.

We'll have a table set up in the hallway on Sundays February 12 and 19 to share further information and enlist volunteer support for our contemporary worship ministry. We expect to resume rehearsals for a Praise Team to provide music for the early service. Rehearsal times will be announced "soon and very soon."

Ash Wednesday this year is on February 22. We will be holding worship service on that day at 12:00 Noon.

Arthur Burditt and Susan Jones, Co-Chairs

A Giving Tree Thank You Letter from Family Five

"We would like to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the beautiful gifts that you gave to us for Christmas. The children loved everything they got. I made a beautiful Christmas Dinner with the food, and was able to purchase more food with the gift cards.

We could tell that the gifts were selected with care, love and great thoughtfulness.

We truly were blessed to receive them.

Thank you for thinking about us during the holidays.

God Bless you all,"





Countryside Church Family

Thank you so much for showering me with your kindness and goodness this Christmas as well as all year long! It's truly a joy working for such kindhearted people as yourselves! Keep seeking Christ and His Kingdom!

Happy New Year!

Chelsea Davison



COME TO

Countryside's Annual Faire

February 11, 2023

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



2/22/23 Service

12 Noon

On Saturday February 11 the annual Countryside Country Faire will be held from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Be sure to tell your family, your friends, your neighbors and even your yard man and your favorite cashier at Publix all about this fun event where they can shop till they drop and then refresh themselves with a delicious lunch at the café of pulled pork sandwich with slaw or a hot dog and chips. Remember to stop by the Bake Shop for a delicious treat to take home for later. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday February 11. Sherry Lowry

MEMBERSHIP

February is the month of love. And what better example do we have of love than God. God is LOVE. God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to die for our sins, so we might have eternal life. We should love others as God loves us. So, when you are sitting in your pew on Sunday morning, and you see someone around you that you do not know, please show your love for others by introducing yourself and asking that person their name and if they are a visitor to our church. Invite them to join you in the fellowship hall for coffee and goodies.

If you know someone who would like to join our church, please have them go to the first room on the left (session room) to join after church. Reverend Rhonda Link-Cummings and members of session will welcome them. People can also become affiliate members of Countryside. An affiliate member is one who belongs to another church but would also like to be a member of Countryside. A lot of snowbirds are affiliate members.

We will be starting a contemporary service on February 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. There will be more details in the bulletin in February. There will be communion every week at this service.

And last, but not least, thank you for your support of our special offering for the postcards. This is one way of our reaching new families in the area to invite them to our church.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Linda Peters and Don Faith, Co-chairs

COUNTRYSIDE BREAKFAST MARCH 15, 2023



Please note, due to the Countryside Faire occupying The Founders Hall through February 11, there will be no Countryside Breakfast in February. However, we will return on Wednesday, March 15, at 8:30 a.m. This is the third Wednesday, not the regular second Wednesday, because The Founders Hall will be a voting precinct for the special state election on March 7.

We are pleased to welcome back **Interfaith Emergency Services** for the first time in four years. Chief Executive Officer Karla Grimsley-Greenway will present an overview of the many services and missions that Interfaith provides to our community. Countryside has always supported Interfaith with many donations; join us for breakfast and find out how Interfaith uses these donations and other ways you can help their missions.

John Bain (for the Fellowship Committee)



LINE DANCE SOCIAL THE FOUNDERS HALL

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023
6 TO 9 P.M.**

\$5 PER PERSON

COME DO SOME STEPPIN'



RINGERS AND SINGERS

**SEE RAÚL IN THE CHOIR ROOM IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN!**

Join the Choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

**JOIN AND BE PART OF THE UPCOMING
EASTER CANTATA!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education is kicking off the new year with a book study helping us understand the heart of Jesus with Dane C. Ortlund's book, Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers. We are taking a deeper look into what comes naturally to Jesus and how these aspects can become natural to us as Christians. We meet on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 in the choir room.

We are doing something a little different for our Lenten Study this year! Brian McNally will present "CORONATION – The story and study of the Passion of Christ." The class will be taught over a six week period during the Lenten Season. The "Coronation" is a teacher/student study of the events described in the Bible that end in the Passion and Death of Jesus on the cross and the absolute victory proclaimed at his resurrection. The classes will begin March 6 and conclude on Easter Monday, April 10. Classes will start at 2:15. Stay tuned for location and further information from Brian!

Along with Brian's study, a new fellowship and Bible study group will also begin during Lent this year. The group, "Come to the Table," will gather at Tari and Dale Ambler's house in On Top of the World beginning on Monday, February 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We will start each gathering in fellowship over a light meal (soups, casseroles, etc.) and follow this time with a variety of Bible study topics led by Dale. Our first study will be, "24 Hours that Changed the World," by Adam Hamilton looking at the last 24 hours of Jesus' earthly life and its significance for all who choose to believe. Because this will be an in-home group, Tari and Dale will be limiting the group to 12 including themselves and using a first come/first served basis to fill the group by responding to Dale's email for those who are interested: DFAPURDUE81@gmail.com.

The next book our Monday Book Club is reading will be *Uniquely Stella*, by Deborah M. Menenberg. It's a post WWII book about a 19-year-old former war factory worker who embarks on a journey of unexpected consequences. After meeting a young black woman on a train heading west, they uncover the complexities and depth of discrimination and prejudice. Lessons that go on to fuel Stella's poignant and powerful journey that in fact begin with the birth of her Down's syndrome daughter. Inspired by a true story, *Uniquely Stella* combines love, humor, and grace into a tale reminding us that the policies and laws governing us should always be guided by a passion for equality. We will read the first 200 pages for February 27 and finish the book for March. Book Club meets the 4th Monday of every month at 2:00 in the Choir Room.

While our library is still in reorganization mode, we have placed three books on the Visitors Table for you to enjoy! These books are **In the Footsteps of the Master**: a book that follows the footsteps of Jesus with contemporary photographs and maps of the Holy Land along with inspiring text, **Who's Who in the Bible**: a biographical dictionary of people from the Bible, and **A Daybook of Prayer**: including meditations, scriptures, and prayers to draw nearer to the Heart of God. If interested, you may check out these materials in the Library located in the office. If you have additional questions, please see Jane Frost.

Kara Savage and Linda Peters, Co-Chairs



**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY FEBRUARY 20 FOR
PRESIDENTS' DAY**

SUNDAY AFTERNOON ARTS CONCERTS



Amazing! Guests clapped and swayed to *Yellow Bird* and other island music favorites while the “Amazing” Steel Drums Ensemble performed on January 8 at Countryside Presbyterian Church’s Sunday Afternoon Art Concert Series. Fun was had by all as the full steel orchestra played “the happiest music on earth.”

The “Amazing” Steel Drums Ensemble began in 1993. All instruments are created from 55 gallon steel drums by Tom Reynolds, originally a St. Croix native who now resides in Sanford, Florida. The ensemble is part of The Good Spirit Foundation, Inc., a 401 © (3) charitable organization that also provides opportunities at a day camp for young people to learn the skill and discipline of playing steel drums.

There will NOT be a concert on February 12, 2023. Please join us for the Countryside Country Faire (yard sale) at the church on Saturday, February 11!! This concert series will RESUME on March 12 with The Ocala Youth Symphony performing. Led by Cindy Robertson Warringer who formed the group 24 years ago, members come from Marion and surrounding counties and audition for positions. The Youth Symphony performed with the Ocala Symphony in the outdoor Christmas concert this past year. Come and see what is good with the youth in our community.

Much appreciation to Grace Dunlevy for chairing the concert series and John Bain for organization and set-up the day of the concert.

Submitted by Sally Zarnowiec

Remaining Sunday Afternoon Arts Concerts scheduled for the 2022-2023 season

February 12, 2023 -- No concert

Please support The Countryside Country Faire (yard sale) at the church with doors opening at 8:00.

March 12, 2023 -- The Ocala Youth Symphony

In 24th year, The Symphony, composed of 10-18 year olds from Marion and surrounding counties, is conducted by founder, Cindy Robertson Warringer

April 2, 2023 -- The Central Florida Master Choir

Directed by Dr. Harold McSwain and accompanied by GayLyn Capitano, the choir will present their annual Spring Concert

May 14, 2023 -- The Marion Civic Chorale

Chorale is directed by David Bedenbaugh and accompanied by Gary LaCroix

**GIVE BLOOD,
GIVE LIFE**



BLOOD DRIVE

FEBRUARY 5

9:30 A.M. TO

1:00 P.M.

COUNTRYSIDE MISSION CORNER

Due to the generosity of Countryside members, a total of **\$12,167.00** supported missions here in Ocala and around the world in 2022. Thank you so much!

2022 Mission Giving

- ◆ Hunger Offering— **\$4,364.00** (\$2,182.00 Interfaith Food Bank and \$2,182.00 to Presbytery for World Hunger Relief.)
- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing— **\$1,133.00**
- ◆ Pentecost Offering — **\$817.00** (\$326.80 for Montgomery Camp and \$419.20 to Presbytery)
- ◆ Global Peacemaking — **\$379.00** (\$94.75 for Ocala Domestic Violence Center and \$284.25 to Presbytery)
- ◆ Joy Offering — **\$1,151.00**

Special Offerings for Ukraine. \$4,323.00

- ◆ Samaritan's Purse received \$500.00 from church and \$1,575.00 from members.
- ◆ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance received \$500.00 from church and \$1,748.00 from members.

Again, many thanks to everyone who supported these agencies.

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Souper Bowl of Caring is on Sunday, February 12.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Soup's on!!! Bring in canned soup, packaged soup, chili, beans, crackers, etc. to help others have a warm meal on a cold day. We will be collecting January 22 through Sunday February 19.

Thanks for all your generosity.

Mission Committee

*Monthly Mission In-Kind Report
December 2022/January 2023*

Total Items—469

Total Value—\$500.70



Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>2</p>	<p>0</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Fellowship Meeting</p> <p>2:30 Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:30 Christian Ed Class (Choir Room)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery Montgomery Conference Center 9:30 am.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:30 Worship Online Service</p> <p>Super Bowl Sunday Minute</p> <p>1st Call for Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Blood Drive 9:30—1:00</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 Master Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Lydia Circle</p> <p>1:30 Worship & Music Meeting</p> <p>2:30 Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2:15 Christian Ed Meeting</p> <p>3:30 Christian Ed Class</p> <p>6:00 Women's Book Study</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Countryside Faire 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>10:30 Worship Online Service</p> <p>2nd Call for Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>10:00 Haircuts</p> <p>10:00 Nominating Comm. Mtg.</p> <p>11:00 Membership Meeting</p> <p>6:00 Master Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>2:30 Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:00 Line Dance Social</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00 Finance Mtg.</p> <p>1:00 Crafty Christians</p> <p>3:30 Christian Ed Class</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 D.A.R. Mtg.</p> <p>10:00 Countryside Farms Mtg.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:30 Worship Online Service</p> <p>Transfiguration of the Lord</p> <p>Defibrillator Training After Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 Master Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:30 Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service 12 Noon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 Session Mtg.</p> <p>3:30 Christian Ed Class</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 Worship Online Service</p> <p>1st Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2:00 Book Club</p> <p>5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 Master Choir</p>				



Countryside Country Faire

Saturday

February 11, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

in The Founders Hall

White Elephant

Clothing/Jewelry

Books, Videos & CD's

Toys, Games, Puzzles

Tools

Crafts

Bake Sale

Refreshments available



DID YOU KNOW ?

...that February 26 is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Blue T-Shirt Sunday? The first Sunday in Lent is designated “Wear your blue T-shirt to church Sunday” as a testament to one of the ways One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference.



Countryside Presbyterian Church of Ocala Inc.

7768 SW Highway 200

Ocala, FL 34476

352 237-4633 FAX 352 873-3974

Church Area Coordinator—Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings
352 875-3002

Sunday at Countryside—Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service starting 2/26/23—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.

