

March 1, 2023

THE COUNTRYSIDE COURIER

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



March 3, 2023

World Day of Prayer

**PRAY
FOR
PEACE**

Lord Jesus, You came that the world might know the peace that You have experienced with the Father eternally. Yet, you taught us that in this life there will be wars and rumors of wars. Nations will rise against nation as violence works itself out in the world. However, through You, the world may be saved. O Lord, send Your spirit into the hearts of all men, that the world might know true peace through Your abundant mercy. Amen.

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 MARCH—Carol Melchior

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY—Wayne Melchior, Sandy Stearns, Ann Brown, Grace Dunlevy,

SANCTUARY PREPARATION—Sharon Ryer

COMMUNION PREPARATION—Sharon Ryer

GREETERS—Sally Rickolt, Sharon Newberg, Dick Newberg

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

Welcome to Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings—See Page 6

GATHERING OF COUNTRYSIDE SHEPHERDS

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 28 AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE FOUNDERS HALL

I wish to give a big thank you to all our Countryside Shepherds for your continued support of this important ministry. Your contact with church members is an essential part of keeping everyone closer to the church. In order to keep you updated on both church and member changes we need to have regular meetings. The next meeting of the Countryside Shepherds will be on **Tuesday, March 28 at 1:00 p.m.** If you are interested in becoming a Countryside Shepherd, please call John Bain.



A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to John Bain by text or call to 804-677-5664 or by email to JBGR8SCOT@GMAIL.COM.

Look for more information by email a week before this meeting.

John Bain
For Countryside Membership Committee

FIRST CLEANUP DAY OF 2023

SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 11, 2023

We need your help for just a few hours on Saturday morning March 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We will be cleaning in two areas:



Come and
Join Us!

- ◆ Picking-up tree debris and cutting down scrub plants along the fence line and grassed area at the back of the church.
- ◆ Evaluating the many tote bins of table decorations stored in the left closet in The Founders Hall. What should we keep, what can we give away and what can we dispose of.

This year we will gather in The Founders Hall. Then, we will give out work assignments enjoying coffee and light breakfast. We will work from 9 to 11 a.m., approximately.

There is 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 March 11.

John Bain
(Chairperson Building & Grounds Committee)

MEMBERSHIP

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. Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings and members of Session will welcome them. People can also become affiliate members of Countryside; a lot of snowbirds are affiliate members.

We are gaining a few new prospective members which we really appreciate. New faces seem to appear every week or so.

We are still awaiting the results of the postcards we mailed out inviting visitors to our church. If anyone has any fresh ideas, please let us know.

We hope that, with the early 9:00 a.m. service, we can draw in new members! Many people prefer this earlier time.

God Bless All!!

Linda Peters and Don Faith, Co-chairs

SUNDAY AFTERNOON ARTS CONCERTS



Our concert series will resume on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 3:00 with a concert by The Ocala Youth Symphony. The musicians range in age from ten years to adults and come from Marion and surrounding counties and must audition for a position. Featured presentations will be a salute to Louie “Satchmo” Armstrong, Lantana and *Chit Chat Polka* by Strauss, and others. The Ocala Youth Symphony is in its 24th year and was founded by Cindy Warringer Robinson who has remained as the director since its inception. Come out and join us for a delightful afternoon of music.

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA MASTER CHOIR will present NIGHT AND DAY, on April 2, a week **earlier** than usual this year. 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. The Master Choir is always very well received and concert goers are encouraged to arrive a bit early. The concert in December was “sold out” with over 500 patrons.

Grace Dunlevy, Concert Chair

DID YOU KNOW ?

..that March 20 is Mr. Rogers Day? Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace, reconciliation and children’s education is worth remembering.



COUNTRYSIDE BREAKFAST MARCH 15, 2023 **8:30 a.m. in The Founders Hall**



Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Presentation on Interfaith Emergency Services

by Chief Executive Officer Karla Grimsley-Greenway

For 3 decades, Interfaith Emergency Services has continued to serve the people of Marion County with sincere Christian love and caring devotion. Countryside Presbyterian Church also for many years has donated items and money to Interfaith Emergency Services such as food and clothing, backpack meals, money for medication drugs, Peanut Butter Drive,

Socks Drive and of course the current collection of soup for the Souper Bowl. These donations are a major part of the church's Missions work. By signing up for the March Countryside Breakfast you can enjoy a hearty breakfast AND learn more about Interfaith and the services they provide to the Marion County community.

Sign up for breakfast in the Hallway at church on Sunday March 5 or March 12. Cost \$10 per person.

John Bain (for the Fellowship Committee)

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Our new 9:00 a.m. contemporary service got off to a good start with 32 in attendance. We look forward to building this new ministry further. Volunteer opportunities for both 9:00 and 10:30 services abound.

This is a good time to let friends and neighbors know about our new service. We are serving communion each week at the 9:00 service, and feature a variety of contemporary music by our Praise Team.

In recent weeks our A.V. crew in combination with Building & Grounds has test-run our capability for live-streaming our 10:30 service. We are ironing out some bugs to get this going smoothly soon.

Very soon we will be preparing for Holy Week services. Palm Sunday comes on April 2 and Easter Sunday on April 9. We expect to offer services both days at 9:00 and 10:30. Our Maundy Thursday service on April 6 will be at 7:00 p.m. and will include communion. Our Good Friday service on April 7 will be at 12:00 noon.

We encourage everybody to let friends and neighbors know about these services as well.

Arthur Burditt and Susan Jones, Co-Chairs

Line Dance Social
The Founders Hall

March 15, 2023—6 to 9 p.m.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education is 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. Brian will have a table set up in the hallway for you to sign up. You will need to purchase a book from him for \$10.00. Classes will be on Mondays from 2:15-3:45 in Classroom 2 beginning March 6 and concluding on Easter Monday, April 10.

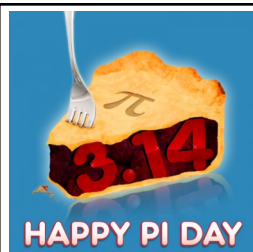
The next book our Monday Book Club is reading will be *Uniquely Stella*, by Deborah M. Menenberg. It’s a post WWII book about a 19-year-old former war factory worker who embarks on a journey of unexpected consequences. After meeting a young black woman on a train heading west, they uncover the complexities 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. Book Club meets the 4th Monday of every month usually at 2:00 in the Choir Room. However, to accommodate for Brian’s Lenten class, the Book Club will meet at **1:00** on March 27.

The library is well on its way to being completed. Carmen has done a great job of organizing the categories and displaying the books. We still need to put the books in alphabetical order according to the author’s last name and make sure every book has the proper identification. This month the following books are being featured. We hope you will check them out: “**The Road Less Traveled**” by Dr. M. Scott Peck, M.D. is a book for every age. It is a book that can help you confront and resolve problems. Dr. Peck discusses the nature of loving relationships, how to recognize true compatibility; how to distinguish dependency from love; how to become one’s own person; and how to be a more sensitive parent to name a few topics. Need to laugh? You will enjoy the book “**More Holy Humor**” by Cal & Rose Samra. Here are a couple of quotes: “Thursday Night – Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.” “Hardening of the heart makes you grow old faster than hardening of the arteries.”

“We hope you will check us out sometime soon!” ~ Jane Frost

Do you like to play the piano or keyboard? We are looking for a player for our Intergenerational Vacation Bible School! The dates for IVBS are June 19-22, 2023. If you are interested, please contact Kara Savage or Linda Peters.

Kara Savage and Linda Peters, Co-Chairs



March 14 is known as Pi Day BECAUSE the numerical date 3/14 is the same as Pi—3.14!

Watch for more news on “Pie Day.”

Welcome to Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings

We welcome our new pastor to Countryside, Rhonda Link-Cummings. She was approved by the Session and the Presbytery to serve as our interim pastor, on a part-time basis, for the coming year while we go about the process of finding a permanent pastor for Countryside. We are blessed to have such an experienced interim pastor as Rhonda. Not only is she the Area Coordinator for Presbytery, she has also served several churches as their interim pastor and guided them in the search process for a new pastor.

As interim pastor to Countryside she will conduct our Sunday services, both the contemporary service in The Founders Hall at 9:00 a.m. as well as our regular 10:30 service in the main sanctuary. She is the Moderation of Session. While she is part-time, she is available for pastoral counseling. In fact, ministering to others is her call as well as one of her loves.

Rhonda grew up in a Christian home in Indianapolis and attended Butler University majoring in organ music. Although she no longer plays regularly, she is an accomplished pianist and organist and has substituted at churches when a regular was not available. She also earned a Master's Degree from Butler in education and counselling.

One evening she went with a friend to her friend's church service and the topic of the pastor's sermon that day was the role of a pastor. Rhonda had what she described as an almost "road to Damascus experience" (remember Paul in Acts) and immediately knew that she was called to be a pastor. She said that it was so clear. She enrolled in Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis and obtained her Master's in Divinity. Her chosen call was to serve as a counselor and chaplain.

It was while serving as a hospital chaplain that she met her husband, Alan Cummings, who was still in divinity school but was serving as an intern chaplain at the same hospital. They have been married for 38 years. Alan is the long-time pastor at Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian Church in Ocala. She and Alan have three children: Steven-36, Chris-34 and Rebecca-30. Steven lives in Taiwan where he is a teacher. He and his wife are the proud parents of Rhonda and Alan's only grandchild, Eliana, who was born this past December. Her other two children are closer to home; Chris in Orlando and Rebecca in Summerville, South Carolina.

Rhonda is active in the leadership of the St Augustine Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA. Among other things, her service has included being the Presbytery Moderator, the Presbytery's delegate to the national Synod, and the Presbytery Worship Chair. She is currently the Area Coordinator for the Ocala area and is on the Call Commission for the Presbytery.

Rhonda is a person of many interests and talents. One day, she suggested to her teenage son Chris that since he played soccer maybe becoming a soccer referee could earn him the spending money he wanted and that he should take a course to become a referee. Chris enrolled in the course, but so did Rhonda! For over 20 years she has been an active referee of high school soccer games as well as competitive and recreational games. She is now the "assignor," the person who assigns referees for high school soccer games in the Gainesville region, and still regularly referees soccer games running up and down a soccer field with agile and fast teenagers. She has found that her work as a referee and her interface with other referees and coaches has expanded her ministry to those outside a formal church setting.

In her downtime she loves to crochet and bake. She particularly loves to bake pies and cookies. She is also an avid crocheter. During the Covid lockdown, she crocheted 35 baby-afghans which were donated to poor and homeless families. She even donated some for the Crafty Christians to sell at our annual Craft Fair. And she regularly donates her crocheted items to local churches and non-profits.

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COUNTRYSIDE MISSION CORNER

FIRST QUESTION: *Who is responsible for mission in Countryside?*

Answer: Everyone. Jesus spoke not only to the priests and community leaders. He spoke to all the people. And this is pertinent to Countryside-why? Because, through your efforts, Countryside contributed 423 soup items during our Souper Bowl Drive. So far, our Hunger Offering for January and February was \$790.00. For those folks not aware of it, we have tables set up in the hallway to take in donations every week. We emphasize soup in February and Peanut Butter in May, but non-perishable food is needed every day.



Crafty Christians ladies were as busy as ever with donations of 59 pillowcases, pillows, scarfs and throws valued at \$342.00.

SECOND QUESTION: *What happened to the stuff we didn't sell during the Country Faire?*

Answer: Our mission continues as we donated items to the following entities:
Sheriffs Ranches Thrift Store Ocala, FL
Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian Church Thrift Store
Forest Public Library Ocklawaha, FL (Books)
Veterans at Malcolm Randall Medical Center Gainesville, FL (Books)
Interfaith Emergency Services (Clothing)

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

On Easter Sunday, The **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be taken to help others. Through your donations, people will be assisted in the US, Turkey and around the world. It is the single largest offering of the Presbyterian Church, USA, and will fund Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Presbyterian Hunger Relief and the Self-Development of people.

Thanks!

Mission Committee



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



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

2
 3:30 Christian Ed Class
 (Choir Room)

3
 World Day of Prayer

4

5
 9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 2nd Sunday in Lent

6
 2:15 Coronation Bible Study with Brian McNally
 5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers

7
 6:00 Master Choir
 Polling for Primary Election

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

9
 2:15 Christian Ed Meeting
 3:30 Christian Ed Class
 6:00 Women's Book Study
 6:00 Girl Scouts

10
 8:30 Clean-up Day
 Daylight Saving Time begins 3/12/23

12
 9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 3:00 Concert
 3rd Sunday in Lent

13
 2:15 Coronation Bible Study with Brian McNally
 5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers

14
 10:00 Haircuts
 10:00 Nominating Comm. Mtg.
 11:00 Membership Meeting
 6:00 Master Choir
 Pie Day

15
 8:30 Breakfast
 10:00 Fellowship Meeting
 11:00 Finance Mtg.
 1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 Line Dance Social

16
 1:00 Crafty Christians
 3:30 Christian Ed Class

17
 St. Patrick's Day

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

19
 9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 4th Sunday in Lent

20
 2:15 Coronation Bible Study with Brian McNally
 5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers

21
 6:00 Master Choir

22
 1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal

23
 10:00 Session Mtg.
 3:30 Christian Ed Class
 6:00 Girl Scouts

24

25

26
 9:00 Contemporary Service
 10:30 Traditional Worship
 Online Service
 5th Sunday in Lent

27
 1:00 Book Club
 2:15 Coronation Bible Study with Brian McNally
 5:30 Come to the Table@ the Amblers

28
 1:00 Shepherds Meeting
 6:00 Master Choir

29
 1:30 Handbell Rehearsal
 3:00 Praise Team
 3:30 Choir Rehearsal

30

31

STEWARDSHIP

Family: a fundamental social group in society consisting of a man and woman and their offspring. That is a simple concept to grasp but it expands rapidly as siblings grow into their early 20's and establish new lines within the same family, yet and in many cases move to far distant places resulting in a new family. These families are a result of birth.

At the same time, we meet new people who we become quite attached to. These are "family" members that we get to choose. They can last a lifetime or for shorter periods. I have friends that developed in grade school and who I still share cards or emails with. I have friends who were in my Pre-Flight Class in Pensacola, FL. I have many friends who served with in squadrons and during my ship's company tour on USS Independence.

I have some Mobil Oil friends and others from other places of employment, or cities where we lived.

Countryside Presbyterian Church is another fertile place for gathering friends, church friends. I know that you have your own stories of past best friends remaining friends for life.

This past December and January 2023 was not a golden Christmas Season for Virginia and me. A memorial service for our daughter followed almost immediately by five hours of back surgery took its toll on us. Our family and family of friends made a tremendous difference by inserting love daily. It was the love that one feels in our hearts and in our minds when our friends and family let you know that they share your grief.

To our HRRVC family, thank you for your kindness, love and support. We will never forget how much support you gave us. Your work on behalf of our Countryside Country Faire was exceptional. God Bless all of you.

To our Countryside church family, thank you for your love and support. I am so proud of how everyone got in line and provided Sherry with the support she needed to make this year another huge Countryside Country Faire success. I will admit to crying when I walked into the narthex to see how the Christmas decorations were displayed. What a wonderful idea.

My friends, this is STEWARDSHIP. Talent and pledges are essential, but our volunteers are the life blood of the church. We have only five employees. Except for contractors maintaining our systems like the HVAC system everything else is done by a volunteer. So, thank the greeters, ushers, choir, video booth and every other volunteer you see working, especially B&G's John 1, John 2, Don and Jim who work so often during each week, as do Dympna and Marie in the kitchen .

A final word on the video booth. An airline pilot can fly a perfect flight getting from point A to B, but have the plane drop 2 feet on landing because of a cross wind or something else and everybody thinks they almost crashed. Well, the video booth can be perfect for most of the service and have one miscue and all thoughts become negative. I prefer to think that some of the brightest people in our church are trying to make a 16+ year old theater system work. It is not the operators so much as the system at fault.

Blessings to y'all,

John (on the mend) Redden,
Stewardship Chair

Welcome to Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings (continued)

Rhonda is excited about serving Countryside as its pastor. She is especially looking forward to getting to know all and to serve as our spiritual counselor and advisor. She regularly visits those in local hospitals. She is also eager to help Countryside grow and continue to be a spiritual influence in our community. She is called to be a minister and pastor and feels that it defines her. Her calling is to continue to share ministry in the name of Jesus Christ to all who walk through the front door of Countryside.

For those wishing to meet with Pastor Rhonda, her phone number is 352-875-3002. Other than for special meetings, she is in the church office most Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We welcome Rhonda to Countryside.



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

RINGERS AND SINGERS

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

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

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.

