

May 1, 2023

THE COUNTRYSIDE COURIER

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



"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

~Acts 2:4

Wear Red on May 28

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Carole Lane May 1, Olga Marie Koehler May 2, Debbie Burbridge May 4, Don Huston May 4, Tina McCurry May 4, Fred Ryer May 5, John Hall May 6, Lanier Deal May 7, Bob Prince May 7, Carol Gardner May 9, Jim Therkildsen May 11, Ed Tenhor May 16, Kaye Rossi May 18, Liz Wade May 18, Jim Heinrich May 26, Carol Schnorr May 29,

LITURGIST FOR MAY—John Bain/Carol Melchior

USHERS FOR MAY—Wayne Melchior, Linda Martin, Dympna Bain, Annette Leo, Carol Melchior

SANCTUARY PREPARATION—Sue Reed

COMMUNION PREPARATION—Sue Reed

GREETERS—Sally Rickolt

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023
MEMORIAL DAY**

STEWARDSHIP

I think that summer for this year began in late February with a lot of very warm weather and by mid-April we were in the 90's. Now May is upon us, and the annual Snowbird evacuation is here. Many of us are planning trips to the north and west. Ginny and I are going to take off in our RV and head out on a two-to-three-month journey.

While we are on vacation, the church does not get to take one. All the church's expenses continue to come in and must be paid. Which brings up the need for all of us to send our monthly pledge, whether we are in Ocala or Minot, North Dakota. Virginia set up our monthly pledge electronically which is a very convenient way to make sure that our pledge is up to date, whether we are home or "on the road again." Connie can help you with setting up an electronic payment. It does not cost anything and saves postage if you are sending checks to the church while away.

I hope all who will be travelling over the summer have safe journeys. Drive carefully, make frequent stops and get adequate rest. Enjoy the summer, but we want everyone to get back to Ocala healthy.

John Redden
Stewardship Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee has been quite busy this year. On Sunday April 16 Pastor Rhonda officiated at a congregational meeting for the sole purpose of electing seven church members to the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Elected were Tari Ambler, Virginia Redden, Brian McNally, Don McCurry, Wayne Melchior, Sue Reed and John Bain. Congratulations to the new committee members. You have a lot of work ahead of you and we all know that you will give this your very best to come up with a pastor that will lead us for years to come.

The Nominating Committee will now focus our attention on the election of elders to the Class of 2026. Elder Suggestion forms will be placed in the church bulletin on May 14 and 21. These forms are for you to suggest church members that you believe will be effective members of our Session in leading the church for the next three years. All Suggestion Forms must be returned to the church office by June 4, 2023. The committee will meet on June 6 to discuss those suggested and will make a list of candidates that will be presented at a called Congregational Meeting on June 11, 2023 for the purpose of electing the four elders needed for the Class of 2026. As always there will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

John Redden
Nominating Chair



May is
Mental Health
Awareness Month

What a relevant time for Mental Health Month. During these crisis times, it becomes important to maintain a healthy mind and body. Eat well and have a support system. Most of all, pray and stay positive—there is



SUNDAY AFTERNOON ARTS CONCERTS



The Central Florida Master Choir once again performed to a standing room only audience for their spring concert titled “*Night and Day*.” The concert, held on April 2 at our Countryside Presbyterian Church, began with Cole Porter’s popular *Night and Day* and ended with the magnificent *Hallelujah Chorus*. The Ukraine National Anthem was among the numbers performed and was received with great enthusiasm by the audience!

At our upcoming, final Sunday Arts Concert on May 14 at Countryside, the Marion Civic Chorale will present familiar Broadway show tunes! The program is entitled “*Some Enchanted Evening – Music from Stage and Screen*.” Be entertained with favorite selections such as *The Impossible Dream* from *Man of La Mancha* and *When You Wish Upon a Star* from *Pinocchio*. You won’t want to miss this fabulous concert!

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

Submitted by Sally Zarnowiec

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Finance Committee has voted to share with the congregation our giving and fundraising contributions versus expenses each month so that everyone may see where we stand financially.

For March 2023:

Contributions	Expenses
\$23,478	\$28,095

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Clayton, Finance Chair



MAY IS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

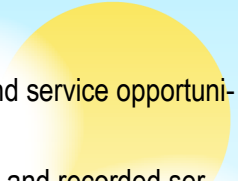
“IT’S NOT AGE, IT’S ATTITUDE”
(from Senior Resource Foundation of Ocala”

DID YOU KNOW ?

...that Brothers Keepers operates a soup kitchen 365 days a year on Interfaith’s campus?



WORSHIP & MUSIC



Countryside members and guests will find this month of May to be as active as ever with worship and service opportunities.

Worshippers planning summer excursions will enjoy the option of joining us online for live-streamed and recorded services they can access through the links on our website.

In-church worship services will continue every Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. through the summer. Please feel free and encouraged to invite others to worship!

Our Chancel Choir will continue rehearsing anthems through May, and then rehearsals will resume in late August. Our Bell Choir also is paused for the summer and will resume by summer's end to prepare new musical offerings for the Fall season.

Meanwhile, our Praise Team will continue rehearsing weekly contemporary Christian music offerings for our 9:00 a.m. service through the summer.

On May 7 we will offer Communion at our 10:30 a.m. service, as is our monthly first-Sunday tradition. Pre-packaged containers also are available as a method for receiving the elements. Gluten-free bread is available as well.

At our 9:00 a.m. service we continue to observe the Sacrament every week.

We observe the sacrament by method of intinction, dipping the bread in the juice and consuming both elements together.

Sunday, May 28 this year is the Day of Pentecost, completing our Eastertide journey from Christ's Resurrection to celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

Weekly worship services at Countryside rely upon a large body of church family members and frequent guests serving and volunteering their time and abilities in a wide range of ministries.

We have a special need for more persons to help out as greeters and ushers, especially at our 10:30 a.m. service. Our sign-up sheets are posted on the wall in the narthex.

Also, we have a special need for more persons to help out with any of our audio-visual support roles – preparing or showing slides, turning our microphones on and off, or running the camera. We have AV support needs at both services. See one of our AV booth team members any Sunday for more information.

We also can use help at the early service with greeting, communion preparation, table setups, and light clean-up. Feel free to come early – our doors are open by 8:00 a.m. as many of us helping out are already arriving to get things prepared. Coffee, conversation and Christian fellowship is a part of how we start our day every Sunday!

Arthur Burditt and Susan Jones, Co-Chairs



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education is continuing with their discussion on Dane C. Ortlund's book, Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers. Throughout our discussions, we've been learning that no matter what has happened in our past, Jesus loves us. We are realizing that it pleases Jesus when we come to Him with our burdens. He will take ALL our suffering from us. He will forgive our sins. Why? Because He is Gentle and Lowly. The only thing required of us is we must go to Him. He is waiting!

If you missed out on joining us to read the book *Uniquely Stella* by Deborah M. Menenberg and enjoy books inspired by true stories in the post WWII time period, this book might be a good one for you! *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. If you are a book lover and are interested in becoming a part of our discussions, for our next read we have chosen a short read, The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller. Here is the description from Amazon: "Now, in *The Prodigal God*, Keller takes his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity and uses the parable of the prodigal son to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation." I don't know about you, but I can always use some hope and salvation! So, grab yourself a copy and join us! Our Book Club meets on the 4th Monday of every month at 2:00 in the Choir Room. This month, that will be May 22.

Our library workers have been Busy Bees and are continuing to work on getting it in working order and ready for visitors. Until that time, Jane Frost is continuing to select a few great choices. They are displayed on a Library Table outside the church office. Are you ready for some good old-fashioned fun? Check out some of the books of Jan Karon as she tells the story of the Episcopal rector Father Tim in the fictitious town of Mitford. Father Tim is a confirmed bachelor and is pursued by many of the single women of the congregation. They present him with many delicious dishes. We even have a cookbook from the series entitled "Mitford Cookbook and Kitchen Reader." You might want to try making "Father Tim's Mother's Pork Roast" or "Cynthia's Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato Soup." Sit back and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun!

Have you ever wondered what the most powerful force in the universe was? Here in Florida, we know all too well how forceful a hurricane can be, but did God intend for that to be the most powerful force created? Come and join us June 19-22 for our Intergenerational Vacation Bible School from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and discover the truth. We will start each day off with singing Worship songs and dinner in the Grace Café followed by enriching lessons from Pastor Ed Tenhor and Pastor Rhonda Link-Cummings concluding with activities outside such as Frisbee Golf and basketball! We are encouraging families to come and bring their children or grandchildren. Special lessons and activities are being put together to accommodate for our younger participants including crafts, role playing and skits, a puppet show and outside fun! However, we are still in need of YOUR HELP! Is God calling you to use your musical talent to help make our IVBS a HUGE success? If so, PLEASE call/text either Kara Savage at (407) 340-3375 or Linda Peters at (352) 362-9658. Please leave a message if no answer, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Kara Savage and Linda Peters, Co-Chairs



Save the date for:

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School

**June 19 to June 22, 2023
5 to 8 p.m.**

MEMBERSHIP

On April 23, 2023 we welcomed during the church service the following members: Cathy Rosal, Lloyd Un-fred, Carol Gardner, Karen Titus, Connie Valois, Sharon and Garret Vermeulen, Sandy Stearns, Annette Leo, Marsha Jones and James Porch. Please say “Hi” to each of them when you see them in church.

Fred Jones joined our church April 23, 2023. He is married to Marsha Jones. Be sure to give Fred a Countryside welcome!


If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our church family, just go to the session room (the room with the huge table in the middle). A member of session will come and greet you.

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



memorials
& gifts

In Memory of Anna Massa
Alan Cummings and Rhonda Link-Cummings
Memorial Fund



PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 28, 2023



But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

John 14:26



ANNUAL COUNTRYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PICNIC SATURDAY MAY 20, 2023

Picnic food served at 12 noon but come early, around 10 a.m., and visit the Cracker Village or the Park's Museum and other attractions.

NEED more detail? Visit the registration table in The Hallway and SIGN UP for the picnic. The Registration Table will be open until May 14. There is no charge for this event (any “LOVE” donations will be welcomed at the picnic).

COUNTRYSIDE MISSION CORNER

Hi Folks,

Thanks for the Pasta. As of this writing, we collected over 200 bags, boxes, jars, and cans of pasta and sauce for Interfaith. During the month of May, we are turning our sights on peanut butter and jelly. In 2022, we were able to give to Interfaith 150 jars of good peanut butter and 55 jars of jelly/jam—440 pounds! Wouldn't it be nice to top 500 pounds this time?

Crafty Christians thanks you for the many donations of fabrics, yard, and sewing supplies. HOWEVER, right now they would like to use what they have and ask that donations be suspended for the summer. Direct any questions to Kathy Paules or Dottie Valentine. Recently, **72 handmade items** were distributed to schools and hospice. Thanks.

Mission Committee also thanks everyone for the **50 personal care items** (shampoos, toothpaste, soaps, etc.) that were given to Interfaith. Personal hygiene is enhanced. Thank you

On **May 28**, the **Pentecost Special Offering** will occur. This is your opportunity to support **youth** in Ocala and around the world. **40% will stay local** to provide an opportunity for area youth to attend camp this Summer at **Montgomery Camp and Conference Center**. Of the remaining 60%....

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteers. Trains and equips volunteers at 13 sites in the US and around the world. Provides funds for retreats, orientation events and counseling to help YAVs discern God's call.

25% Youth Ministries. Funds Senior Project for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation. Supports ministry of Presbyterian Youth. Provides digital support. Supports platforms of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10% Child Advocacy. Supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" which advocates for equitable, accessible, quality public education for all children.

If writing checks, please make them out to Countryside Presbyterian Church and write "Pentecost" on the Memo line.

Thanks,
Mission Committee

Upcoming Mission Opportunities
Peanut Butter and Jelly
(Entire Month of May)

Interfaith RX Program Offering on June 18

Interfaith provides prescription assistance to Marion County residents who are financially stressed and uninsured. The Prescription Assistance Program is housed in the Center for Life and supports the work of local free clinics by ensuring that patients have access to their prescribed medications. If making checks, please make payable to Countryside Presbyterian Church and annotate Interfaith RX in the Memo line.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>MAY 2023</p> 	1	2 Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery at Riverside Presbyterian Church 9:30 a.m.	3 10:00 AI Anon Mtg. 10:00 PNC Mtg. 3:00 Praise Team 3:30 Choir Rehearsal	4 2:15 Christian Ed Committee 3:30 Christian Ed Class (Choir Room) 6:00 Girl Scouts National Day of Prayer	5 May Friendship Day	6 8:30 Clean-up Day
7 9:00 Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Worship Online Service	8	9 11:00 Membership Meeting	10 10:00 AI Anon Mtg. 10:00 Fellowship Meeting 10:00 Lydia Circle 12:30 Worship & Music Meeting 3:00 Praise Team 3:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 3:30 Christian Ed Class 6:00 Women's Book Study	12	13 Lions Club Craft Fair
14 9:00 Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Worship 3:00 Concert Online Service Ascension Sunday Mother's Day	15	16 Polling Station	17 10:00 AI Anon Mtg. 11:00 Finance Mtg. 3:00 Praise Team 3:30 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Line Dance Social	18 1:00 Crafty Christians 3:30 Christian Ed Class 6:00 Girl Scouts Ascension of the Lord	19	20 8:30 D.A.R. Mtg. 10:00 Countryside Farms Mtg. Countryside Annual Picnic (see text box below)
21 9:00 Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Worship Online Service	22 2:00 Book Club	23	24 10:00 AI Anon Mtg. 3:00 Praise Team 3:30 Choir Rehearsal	25 10:00 Session Mtg. 3:30 Christian Ed Class	26	27
28 9:00 Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Worship Online Service Pentecost Sunday	29 Memorial Day Office Closed  THANK YOU!	30	31 10:00 AI Anon Mtg. 3:00 Praise Team 3:30 Choir Rehearsal	<p>Silver Springs State Park, Ocala, FL</p> <p>Picnic Lunch 12:00 but come early—10:00 a.m. (See Page 6)</p>		

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

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



Come and Join Us!


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.

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

John Bain
(Co-chair Building & Grounds Committee)



May 4, 2023

Don't cry over the past,
it's gone.
Don't stress about the future,
it hasn't arrived yet.
Live in the present and
make it beautiful.

Submitted by John Redden
and Don Faith




Have

A

Great

Day!



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

E-mail us at:
rina@countrysideocala.org
connie@countrysideocala.org
Visit our website at www.countrysideocala.org



**LINE DANCE SOCIAL
THE FOUNDERS HALL**

May 17, 2023

6 TO 9 P.M.—\$5 PER PERSON



HOW DID WE MISS IT?

APRIL WAS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

THANK YOU!

YOU BLESS EVERY DAY AND

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

~Erma Bombeck

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.

