

November 1, 2023

THE COUNTRYSIDE COURIER

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



Thursday,
November 23,
2023

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kate Deen November 4, Carol Melchior November 7, Barry Barringer November 17, Kara Savage November 17, Bob Foster, Jr. November 22, Beverly Johnston November 25, Belinda Newhart November 25, Gail Lott November 26, Betty Rodebaugh November 26, Don Cernecarl November 27, Larry Keables November 27, Karen Bonner November 28, Maureen Eberman November 30

LITURGIST FOR NOVEMBER—Carol Melchior

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER—Wayne Melchior, Linda Martin, Lennie Letendre, Bobbie Letendre, Sandy Stearns, Ann Brown

SANCTUARY PREPARATION—Marie Stachnik

COMMUNION PREPARATION—Sue Reed

GREETERS—Sally Rickolt, Evonne DiPiazza, Kim DiPiazza, Peggy Adams

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

The office will be closed November 23 and 24. (Thanksgiving)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Can you believe it's November already?? I sure can't! I'm sure you've already seen the signs of Christmas in the stores which means it is time for our Advent Study! This year, we are going to spend four weeks beginning November 30 to discuss the "good," the "bad," and the "ugly" people in the story of Christ's birth. In our study, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (An Advent Study for Adults)", Richard B. Wilke reminds us that it is because of the evil in our world that we desperately need a Savior. To guarantee our books are in by the end of the month, they will need to be ordered by November 10. The cost of the books will range around \$11.00. If you are interested in participating in our Advent Study on Thursdays at 3:30 beginning November 30, please see Kara Savage or Warren Janes.

Are you a lover of books and looking for a group with which to discuss various Christian themed novels? Come join our Countryside Book Club!! We (normally) meet the 3rd Monday of every month with the exception of this November and December. Due to the business of the upcoming holidays, our next intriguing read will be discussed on January 15, 2024. This time we are going back to one of our favorite authors, Francine Rivers! Set in 1875, we will be transported to the tiny mining town of Calvada, nestled in the Sierra Nevadas: a displaced New England suffragette and a former Union soldier, disinherited by his Southern family, join forces to save the lawless boomtown where everyone wants to strike it rich! Interested in diving into this book with us? Pick up a copy of The Lady's Mine, by Francine Rivers and join us in the choir room at 2:00 on January 15, 2024!!!

Looking to help at church but just not sure what you could do? The Christian Education Committee is looking for some volunteers to help in our Countryside Church Library! We need a team to work together to maintain the running of our library. If you think you might be interested in volunteering, you can let Kara Savage know by texting/calling at 407-340-3375 or through email at karamorey@yahoo.com, or you can always just tell me when you see me! More information and details will be given when a team has been formed.

We are always looking for new members to join our Christian Education Committee and share your ideas for Christian Education activities to further an individual's Bible and Spiritual growth and improving our library!! We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:00 in the Session Room. Our next meeting will be held on November 9.

Kara Savage and Warren Janes, Co-Chairs

memorials
& gifts

***In Honor of Ken and Ann Jacob
Memorial Fund***

***In Memory of Jerry Deen
Kathy and David Paules
David and Gail Gibbs
Memorial Fund***



Interfaith Emergency Services said they REALLY NEED men's clothing and shoes for men that are heading to job interviews or labor jobs. T-shirts, jeans, dress shirts & pants, sneakers, work boots—they need it all!

This is for their free boutique.



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 September 2023:

Contributions	Expenses
\$21,939	\$32,691

As you can see, our expenses consistently exceed our Contributions. We have some financial reserves, but they are being depleted. If you have not done so, continue to contribute in accordance with your pledges. Let's close out 2023 on a high note. Thank you for your continuing support of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Clayton, Finance Co-Chair.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

This is the first Courier we are writing since becoming ruling elders. Arthur and Sue did a really nice job filling this role and turning the reins over to us. We thank them for all they have done for Worship and Music here at Countryside.

November begins and ends as the month of Thanksgiving and preparation for Advent. 1Thessalonians 5: 16-18 Rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

As we plan our monthly agenda, we found there are many opportunities for people to serve in our Sunday Worship service. We need people to be greeters, ushers and liturgists. We could also use people to help in the AV booth as well as communion prep and sanctuary prep. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, let us know.

In addition to the above there are opportunities to be in the choir and bells.

There is plenty of time for you to join the choir and sing with us in the Christmas Cantata on December 10 at the 10:30 service. We practice each Wednesday at 1:30PM for Bells, 3PM Praise Team, 3:30PM Choir. Ringers and Singers should see Raúl.

In preparation for Advent, we will again be offering poinsettias for sale. The cost will be \$15.00 each. Also, please mark your calendar for November 26 and join us in decorating the church. Additional details for the above will be included in future Sunday bulletins.

We have much to be thankful for and we hope you will join us as we worship Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

In Christ
Ken Jacob and Warren Janes Co-Chairs



Worship and Music committee

COUNTRYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUNDAY AFTERNOON ARTS CONCERTS



Vocalist Jennifer Foster was eloquent as she performed a varied selection of solos during the October 8 concert at Countryside Presbyterian Church's Sunday Afternoon at the Arts. She was accompanied by pianist GayLyn Capitano.

The program included famous numbers by Leonard Bernstein; poetry by James Stephens, William B. Yeats and James Agee, each with accompanying music, and a Puccini number from La Rondine. There were also popular pieces from the Broadway hits of The Music Man, My Fair Lady and The King and I. A standing ovation brought Jennifer back to stage to sing the beautiful song, "Somewhere."

We are excited about our next concert on November 12, 2023 at 3:00 when the **Southern Express Big Band** will perform a Veterans Day concert at Countryside Presbyterian. The concert will include classic swing tunes such as "In the Mood" and "American Patrol," as well as patriotic songs, PLUS surprise special arrangements. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of live music and honor our veterans, too, with the **Southern Express Big Band!**

Grace Dunlevy is chairman of the concert series, and John Bain oversees ushers and setup. (Article submitted by Sally Zarnowiec)

RAFFLE BASKET RESULTS



Basket recipients from the 2023 Arts and Crafts Faire are Valerie Bachelder, Maggi Carr, Kate Clayton, Linda Dalasandry, Linda Heenan, Cliff Hughes, Ginny Jackson, Sharon Janes, Marsha Jones, Sue Jones, Jeanne, Bob Kapp, Tina McCurry, Olga Marie Koehler, Lucy Redden, Fred Ryder, Kim Snook, Fran Tavernna, Toni, Dottie Valentine, John & Liz Wade, Mary Wilcox, and Mini Winslow. Total proceeds- \$2,900.00. Thank you.

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

We would like to thank the members of the congregation, and non-member regular attendees, who participated in our focus groups. We are now compiling all of the information that you gave us together with the info from the smaller focus groups. Our next step is to make up a profile using this information to present to the Session for their approval. Then we will send this information to the Presbytery of St. Augustine for their approval.

As we have previously stated, THIS WILL BE A LONG PROCESS; however we are working diligently moving this process forward. We thank you for your patience and please keep praying for us. Again, THANK YOU for your ideas and support.

Wayne Melchior
Tari Ambler, Co-Chairs



..that November 3 is World community Day? World Community Day is an ecumenical women's movement that focuses on justice and peace around the world....and that November 28 is Giving Tuesday, the global day devoted to giving.

MISSION COMMITTEE

WELCOME TO THE “MISSION POSSIBLE” NEWS OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Thank you for bringing in such a plentiful amount of snacks in October. I am sure they will inspire the kids to do their homework!

Now for more Mission opportunities. As you know, November is the month of Thanksgiving.

The food donation item for November is Thanksgiving food. Here are some suggestions:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Canned Green Beans | Canned Corn |
| Canned Sweet Potatoes | Box Mashed Potatoes |
| Stuffing Mix | Non-refrigerated Milk |
| Canned Pumpkin | Cranberry Sauce |
| Corn Bread Mix | Applesauce |

And anything else you can come up with. No perishable items.



You still have time to help Crafty Christians with the “**Christmas Stocking Extravaganza.**” They still need more to reach their goal of 300. Just remember how you felt when you saw your own Christmas stocking!

The Mission Committee is looking for volunteers to join our committee. Our next meeting will be on November 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Because of Christ’s love for us, consider how blessed we are. So let’s all:

**REACH OUT
and
PASS IT ON**

Thank you for your caring.

Sue Jones and Kara Savage, Co-Chairs



Dear Countryside Family,

John and I want to thank you so much for your prayers, get-well wishes, flowers and a seemingly constant supply of dinners during my extended bout of AFIB & other heart issues. I am now hopefully getting better each day, but your prayers are still very much needed and sincerely appreciated. I love you all and I’m so glad I belong to such a caring community.

God bless you
Dympna Bain



**LINE DANCE
SOCIAL**

**NOVEMBER 29,
2023
6 P.M.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section G-2.0401 in The BOOK OF ORDER mandates the makeup of the Nominating Committee.

“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. **Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as serving specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session. The pastor shall serve as ex-officio and without vote.** When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.”

The bold face print above is as it appears in the BOOK OF ORDER. Countryside Presbyterian has historically used the second and simpler method in establishing the nominating committee. It was the accepted method and I used it for the nine years that I have served as the Nominating Chair. It was easier to replace a committee member who, for some reason, could not continue to serve. Each year a committee was established.

Pastor Rhonda has suggested to me that we should change our method and have the nominating committee members elected by the congregation annually at the January congregational meeting. After a lot of thought and prayer I have come to see the benefit of having the congregation fully involved in all our election processes. We will continue to have three serving session members and four members from the congregation. Elders not currently serving on session are eligible for election to the nominating committee.

Forms will be placed in the Sunday bulletin on December 3 and 10 for all active members of the church to suggest church members to serve on the nominating committee.

John Redden
Susan Jones
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs



Spaghetti Dinner
October 21, 2023



FINANCE

Contribute to Countryside and Save on Your Taxes



There seem to be few win-win situations these days, but if you have an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other tax advantaged account there is one that can benefit both you and Countryside. Since the change in the tax laws several years ago which increased the standard deduction, most likely many of us no longer itemize our deductions when figuring our federal income tax. Thus, we are no longer able to deduct any contributions from our income to reduce our federal tax burden. I would imagine also that many of us are required each year to take a Required Minimum Distribution or RMD from any IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other tax advantaged accounts that we have and must therefore pay income tax on this distribution. Or alternatively, we may take distributions from our plans on a yearly basis on which we must pay taxes.

However, the IRS gives us one glimmer of help. Basically, if you contribute directly from an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or certain other tax advantaged account to Countryside Presbyterian Church you may do so without adding the amount of the donation to your taxable income. This is called a “**Qualified Charitable Distribution**” or **QCD**. The contribution must be sent directly from your plan administrator, such as Schwab, Fidelity, or Vanguard, to Countryside; the funds cannot pass through you before making your contribution.

So, rather than paying taxes on all your required minimum distribution or any other distribution you may take, you can donate all or a portion of your RMD or distribution to Countryside and not have to pay any taxes on that amount. For example, if your distribution for 2023 is \$2,000 and you have half of it, or \$1,000, sent directly to Countryside from your account, then rather than adding \$2,000 to your income to be taxed, you would only be taxed on the \$1,000 you keep. Thus, you may increase your contribution to Countryside for no additional expense to you when considering taxes. A benefit to both you and to Countryside Presbyterian Church of Ocala, Inc. (our official name for tax purposes).

This is just a quick summary and of course the IRS has certain requirements that must be met. Therefore, ***please contact your retirement plan administrator or financial advisor for specific information and requirements before making a QCD.*** And as always, thank you for your support of our Church.

Grace and peace,
Kate, Treasurer and Finance Committee Co-chair.

+++++



**Craft Faire
September 30, 2023**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



2023

1

10:00 Al Anon Mtg.
1:30 Bell Choir
3:00 Praise Team
3:30 Chancel Choir

All Saints' Day

2

3:30 Christian Ed Class
6:00 Girl Scouts

3

World Community Day

4

Daylight Saving
Time Ends
Set clocks back



5

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

6

7

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds
10:00 Fellowship Meeting
6:00 Master Choir

8

10:00 Al Anon Mtg.
10:00 Worship & Music Mtg.
10:00 PNC Meeting
12:00 Countryside Lunch
1:30 Bell Choir
3:00 Praise Team
3:30 Chancel Choir

9

2:00 Christian Ed Com.
3:30 Christian Ed Class
7:00 Southern Express Band

Line dance Instructions
1-3 p.m. Intermed.
3-4 p.m. Improver
4-5 p.m. Beginner

10

11

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds

Veterans Day

12

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

13

14

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds
1:00 Mission Committee
6:00 Master Choir

15

9:30 Membership Meeting
10:00 Al Anon Mtg.
11:30 Finance Mtg.
1:30 Bell Choir
3:00 Praise Team
3:30 Chancel Choir
5:45 JB Ranch

16

10:00 Session Mtg.
1:00 Crafty Christians
3:30 Christian Ed Class
6:00 Girl Scouts

Line dance Instructions
1-3 p.m. Intermed.
3-4 p.m. Improver
4-5 p.m. Beginner

17

18

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds
8:30 DAR Mtg.
10:00 Countryside Farms Mtg.
4:30 Thanksgiving/ Friendsgiving Dinner

19

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

Giving Tree Begins

20

21

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds
6:00 Master Choir

22

10:00 Al Anon Mtg.
1:30 Bell Choir
3:00 Praise Team
3:30 Chancel Choir

23

Thanksgiving Day
Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Office Closed

24

25

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds

26

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

BLOOD DRIVE
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
CHURCH DECORATING

27

28

9:00 Bldg. & Grounds
6:00 Master Choir

29

10:00 Al Anon Mtg.
10:00 PNC Meeting
1:30 Bell Choir
3:00 Praise Team
3:30 Chancel Choir
6:00 Line Dance Social

30

3:30 Christian Ed Class/
Advent Study
6:00 Girl Scouts

Line dance Instructions
1-3 p.m. Intermed.
3-4 p.m. Improver
4-5 p.m. Beginner

NOVEMBER 5



FELLOWSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship events are a great way to get to know your church family better and develop friendships. We know your holiday schedules fill up fast, so put these dates on your calendar **now**.

November 8, Wednesday, 12 noon, Lunch and Speaker

November 18, Saturday, 4:30 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner

December 6, Wednesday, 4 p.m., Annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Auction.

(Start thinking of a wrapped gift to bring. This can be something from around the house or a new item. You will be bidding on each item, not knowing what is inside. This is a major fundraiser for our church. More details in December Courier.)

December 13, Wednesday, 12 noon, Lunch and Entertainment by Raúl Ramírez.

Sign ups for all events are on the three Sundays prior to the event.

NOVEMBER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Since our monthly breakfast changed to a lunch, our attendance has been very good. Plan to join us.

Our next lunch will be November 8, Wednesday, 12 noon. Our speaker is TBA. Lunch cost is \$10 per person. Remaining sign up is Sunday, November 5.

We're excited to offer a Thanksgiving dinner for our Countryside family on November 18, Saturday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Remaining sign ups will be November 5 and 12. Even though we're not collecting money at sign up, we must know how many to prepare for. We'll be serving sliced turkey with all the trimmings. Invite friends that might be interested in our church. For this event, a LOVE offering will be collected, with a goal of at least \$500. Show your love of Countryside and be generous.

HELP WANTED

We can always use extra help in our Fellowship ministry, so please consider serving. We all love these events, but it takes many hands for them to be successful and fun for those attending.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is provided in The Founders Hall before and after 9 a.m. service and after 10:30 a.m. service every Sunday. It takes many folks to get this ready each week. There is a schedule on the bulletin board to the left of the beverage table for signing up to help or to bring treats. Please check your schedules and sign up to serve in this ministry. Call John or Tari with any questions.

John Berry and Tari Ambler, Co-Chairs

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins



- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.



**October 11, 2023
Sheriff Billy Woods is our luncheon guest speaker!**



**COUNTRYSIDE 2023 “GIVING TREE” MISSION BEGINS ON
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19**



We all have fond memories of Christmas time as children, parents, or grandparents. However, for many families in our area, Christmas is just an ordinary day and without a special meal or gifts for children. Over the years Countryside Presbyterian Church has made a difference for less fortunate local families by supporting the Sunrise School program, better known to Countryside as the “GIVING TREE” MISSION. It is time again for our congregation to show their wonderful support. This year we will give our support to five local families with children attending Sunrise Elementary School. We have faith that with your help and our Lord’s blessing, we will find a way to show our kindness and generosity. This year’s mission will kick-off on **Sunday November 19** in “The Hallway” with our beautiful Christmas tree decorated with special ornaments hand-made by our own Crafty

Christians. The Giving Tree will be available before and after our 9:00 am and 10:30 am worship services each Sunday **from November 19 until December 10**. Once again, Countryside has members and friends who cannot attend services in person. If you watch the Sunday Service online or cannot attend in person, we encourage you to please come by the church during regular office hours, (9 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday), and either choose an ornament or return your gift or donation as described on the ornament’s label.

Wrapped and labeled Christmas gifts for the children and money donations must be returned to the “Giving Tree” collection boxes by Sunday December 10.

Your support for the Giving Tree mission over the years has been outstanding and we know you will continue this support and show how Christians stand together to help those in need.

Thank-you and God Bless

Contacts: John Bain 804-677-5664 and John Berry 352-779-7408

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.