

# THE COUNTRYSIDE COURIER

May

2024

Countryside Presbyterian Church (USA)

7768 SW Hwy. 200, Ocala, FL 34476

Tel: 352 237-4633 Fax: 352 873-3974

Sunday Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service 9:00 a.m.

Pastor-Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings 352 875-3002

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

E-mail us at [connie@countrysideocala.org](mailto:connie@countrysideocala.org)



*May 2, 2024*

*Pray God's Glory  
Across the Earth*

## 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, John Goulet May 7, Bob Prince May 7, Carol Gardner May 9, Liz Wade May 18, Jim Heinrich May 26, Gloria Goulet May 28, Carol Schnorr May 29, Linda Martin May 31

LITURGIST FOR MAY—Melita McGrath

USHERS FOR MAY—Ann Brown, Sharon Janes, Bob Prince, Jim Porch, Sharon Ryer, Edie Loeffler

SANCTUARY PREPARATION FOR MAY—Sue Reed

COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR MAY—Peggy Adams

GREETERS FOR MAY—Sally Rickolt, Sally Zarnowiec



- **REMEMBER OR HONOR SOMEONE, OR MARK A SPECIAL OCCASION, BY PLACING FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY MORNING.**
- **SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH SPRING PICNIC (AT THE CHURCH) SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M. - PAGE 10**
- **RINA SAYS GOODBYE—PAGE 5**



# Craft Fair March 9, 2024



## MISSION COMMITTEE

“Spring has FINALLY sprung” and the Mission Committee is in full swing! April’s Mission was to bring in Canned Vegetables, and you did not disappoint! As of April 17, 130 cans were donated and greatly appreciated by those less fortunate. Your donations are not going unnoticed! We recently received a message from Interfaith confirming the great need for these food donations and thanking us for our generous contributions.

Summer is just around the corner which means the children in our community are going to be out of school! Students that once relied on the schools to provide their breakfast and lunch will often now be on their own for finding these meals. Therefore, our Backpack Program is **extra** important this time of year! Along with your kind donations of our monthly missions, as you are doing your weekly grocery shopping, keep a look out for deals on items that are needed to fill up our backpacks! Your compassion for the students of Marion County Public Schools will put smiles on their faces!

Are you ready for your next Mission Assignment? Drum Roll Please, Ms. Jones.... “Peanut... Peanut Butter!” (and Jelly!) To help out the parents that visit Interfaith, we’re going to fill our tables in the narthex with the popular childhood sandwich maker! That’s right, Folks! Our Mission is **PEANUT BUTTER!** Feel free to grab that **Jelly** as well to complete the perfect filling for a **PB&J!!** As always, keep those eyes of yours on the lookout for those BOGO great savings and fill up our tables in the narthex to overflowing!

As you read this article, think of the blessings God has bestowed on us. Now is the time to share the love of Christ by helping those less fortunate. Please help the important needs of our community. Countryside Presbyterian Church believes in missions and ministry, and we want to show our community what this means!

Thank You for continually making “Mission Possible” a success!  
Sue Jones and Kara Savage, Co-chairs Mission Committee.

## Kathie Paules and Crafty Christians

Kathie Paules has been Countryside’s coordinator of Crafty Christians since 2014. Due to health issues she must step down. If you look at the Crafty Christians table in the hallway, you will see an example of their remarkable work. This outstandingly skilled group donates to Hospice, Interfaith Emergency Services, the Marion County Public Schools, and more! They’re always asked to provide more pillow cases, lap quilts, and shawls for Hospice and Assisted Living patients.

Thank you, Kathie, for your excellent leadership and 10 years of faithful service. We know the good work will continue with the person who steps up to take on the group leadership. And, as you recover, we wish you continued good health and happiness.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

.....that May 19 is Mission Worker Sunday and that we can invite a mission co-worker to speak at our congregation?



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

As the earth awakens from its winter slumber, Spring is the season of renewal that fills our hearts with hope, faith, and the promise of a new beginning.

On May 12 we will be celebrating Mother's Day. Mothers with their selflessness, prayers, and love, embody Christ's longing to embrace His people under His protective wings. We should honor and cherish our mothers as they are precious gifts from God. As such, Pastor Rhonda will be celebrating our oldest mother by presenting her with a potted plant.

May 19 is Pentecost Sunday and is celebrated in the Presbyterian Church as it commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples. We wear red that Sunday to symbolize the flames of the Holy Spirit and to remind us of the significance of Pentecost in the life of the Church, and the call to witness and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

May 26 will be the last time the Chancel Choir will be performing as they break for the summer months. Please take the opportunity to thank them and the Bell Choir for sharing their musical talent with us.

Lastly, we would like to appeal to the congregation to answer the call when you are approached about serving as greeters or ushers. We can all smile and open a door and that small gesture is an important part of our ministry.

In 1 Corinthians 12 the Bible tells us that the body of Christ – the Church – functions best with diverse gifts. Each of us uniquely and together reflect God's grace and purpose. May you embrace your gifts by using them to bless others during this season of renewal.

Respectfully submitted by the Worship and Music Committee



**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**IS MAY 19TH.**

**WEAR RED!**

Time to say  
goodbye!



Sadly, it is time for me to say goodbye to CPC (last day in office May 9, 2024).

When I walked into the office that day in January, 2006, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would be here 18 years. I soon discovered that when you work for a church, it is like working with a “family.” I got caught up in those wonderful feelings. The kindness and spirituality of the congregation was powerful. Not a day went by when someone didn’t say to me, “Thank you for all you do.” That being said, I enjoyed most of my work, especially the desk top publishing, which I love.

I shall never forget the outpouring of caring when I broke my hip and fractured my knee. I didn’t just receive cards, I received warm and uplifting messages in them. I still have all the cards; they mean a lot to me.

Working in a church is exciting: who knew? Only it is sad that churches have to have locks on the doors these days.

We lost so many wonderful people over the years but they stay alive in our hearts and minds. At memorial services, I loved looking at the history in pictures of the life of the person who left us.

All the Session Elders I worked with: Most all were so caring and interested in doing the best for the church. I enjoyed knowing all of you and was very impressed by your service.

Building & Grounds—WOW! Thank you for all the help. I couldn’t have done it without you.

And my latest co-worker, Connie? We worked so well together, you are such a font of wisdom and knowledge—and you are fun! It was a pleasure to work with you. I will never forget my delicious meals!

I would like to end this letter by wishing our Pastor and congregation joy, love, and happiness. May the church thrive and flourish!

Vaya con Dios, Countryside!

*Rina*



5/12/24

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# Uplifting Scripture

## 2024 VBS

June 10-13—4-7 p.m.



*Countryside Presbyterian Church, The Founders Hall*

### “Game On! Gearing Up for Life’s Big Game”

Music!

Fun!

#### 2024 VBS Menu

\*Every Night: Salad Bar; Dessert; Beverages

**Monday (6/10) Theme: Horse Racing**

“Derby Day” Tea Sandwiches

**Tuesday (6/11) Theme: Golf**

Baked Potato Bar (w/ Fixings)

**Wednesday (6/12) Theme: Baseball**

Hot Dogs, Tater Tots, “Cracker Jack”

**Thursday (6/13) Theme: Football**

Nacho Bar (w/ Fixings)

Sign up in the narthex or

Call the Church Office: 352-237-4633

9:00-4:30 M—TH



# Crafts!



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



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

2  
 3:30 Christian Ed Class  
 6:00 Girl Scouts  
 \*\*\* Line Dance Instructions  
 National Day of Prayer

3  
 May Friendship Day

4  
 9:00 Bldg. & Grounds

5  
 9:00 Contemporary Service  
 10:30 Traditional Service  
 Online Service  
 3:00 Concert

*Peanut Butter Drive*

6  
 10:00 Genealogy  
 6:00 JB Ranch

7  
 9:00 Bldg & Grounds  
 10:00 Fellowship

8  
 10:00 AI Anon Mtg.  
 10:00 Worship & Music  
 3:00 Praise Team  
 3:30 Chancel Choir

9  
 2:00 Christian Ed Committee  
 3:30 Christian Ed Class  
 7:00 Southern Express  
 Ascension Day  
 \*\*\* Line Dance Instructions

10  
 Wedding Rehearsal

11  
 9:00 Bldg. & Grounds  
 Rebecca Seidel  
 Wedding in Sanctuary

12  
 9:00 Contemporary Service  
 10:30 Traditional Service  
 Online Service  
 Congregational Meeting  
 Mothers Day

13

14  
 9:00 Bldg & Grounds  
 1:00 Mission Com.  
 Meeting of the Presbytery at Silver Springs Shores

15  
 10:00 AI Anon Mtg.  
 9:30 Membership Mtg.  
 3:00 Praise Team  
 3:30 Chancel Choir

16  
 1:00 Crafty Christians  
 3:30 Christian Ed Class  
 \*\*\* Line Dance Instructions

17

18  
 8:30 DAR Mtg.  
 10:00 Countryside Farms  
 2:00 Countryside Picnic

19  
 9:00 Contemporary Service  
 10:30 Traditional Service  
 Online Service  
 Day of Pentecost  
 Wear Red  
 Blood Drive

20  
 2:00 Book Club

21  
 9:00 Bldg & Grounds

22  
 10:00 AI Anon Mtg.  
 1:00 Finance Mtg.  
 3:00 Praise Team  
 3:30 Chancel Choir

23  
 10:00 Session Meeting  
 3:30 Christian Ed Class  
 7:00 Southern Express  
 \*\*\* Line Dance Instructions

24

25  
 9:00 Bldg. & Grounds  
 12:00 Line Dance Social

26  
 9:00 Contemporary Service  
 10:30 Traditional Service  
 Online Service  
 Trinity Sunday

27  
 MEMORIAL DAY  
 Office Closed

28  
 9:00 Bldg & Grounds

29  
 10:00 AI Anon Mtg.  
 3:00 Praise Team  
 3:30 Chancel Choir

30  
 3:30 Christian Ed Class  
 \*\*\* Line Dance Instructions

31

\*\*\* Line Dance Instructions  
 1:00 Intermediate Plus  
 2:00 Intermediate  
 4:00 Improver

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

As I write this, Easter and Income tax filing are both in the rear-view mirror and May Day is just ahead. Our Snowbirds are flying or driving to the North and our year-round folks are planning their summer trips North to enjoy the summer in a "cooler" location.

Once again I would like to remind our Northern and Florida birds that Countryside Presbyterian does not get a break from our operating expenses nor does our mortgage holder give the church a summer vacation.

Session (especially the Stewardship and Membership committees) is always looking for ways to increase our church's income, but the largest means of income for Countryside remains the pledges that our membership makes each year.

Please keep your pledges up to date. If you have not signed up for giving electronically, now would be a great time to do so. Virginia and I signed up as soon as we were able to do so. We take at least one and often several RV trips each year. In the winter we go on five-day outings each month with our RV club. Electronic giving allows us to keep our pledge up to date regardless of whether we are at home or away.

I wish all of you travelers a safe trip home and a wonderful time with your family and friends. And as the song goes: "See you in September (or October)." I'd sing it for you but, if you heard my voice, you'd run for the hills.

Blessings to all,

John Redden  
Stewardship Co-Chair

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**SUNDAY AFTERNOON ARTS CONCERTS**



The Central Florida Master Choir was in top form for the concert on April 21. They just keep getting better. An audience of approximately 470 was exuberant in their response to the music. The first half of the concert was a very challenging composition from Franz Schubert, *Mass No. 3 in B-Flat Major*, sung in its original German. The New Moon String Ensemble added to the richness of voices to produce an impressive performance. Pianist GayLyn Capitano performed a moving, very difficult Bach composition to conclude the first half.

The second half presented whimsy and contemporary pieces, including Aaron Copland, Argentine tango, black spirituals, a Dr. McSwain arrangement of *Amazing Grace* that was unlike any other versions one may have heard, and concluded with Irving Berlin's *I'll Be Seeing You*.

We hope all will be at Countryside on May 5, 3:00 P.M. for a long-awaited concert from our Music Director, Raúl Ramírez Lugo, who will present a concert with member John Goulet. Raúl will play assorted numbers and John will entertain with easy listening music from such artists as Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, Engelbert and many more.

As always, a great big thanks to John Bain and John Berry who do set ups for concerts and ushers who hand out programs and greet people and also collect offerings. Special thanks to Sally Zarnowiec for taking care of press and other matters while I was away; she was unable to attend concert due to her milestone birthday celebration. Very special thanks go to Pastor Rhonda who is always with us and gives such a meaningful and moving invocation.

Grace Dunlevy, Concerts Chair



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—COUNTRYSIDE SHEPHERDING MNISTRY



The role of the Countryside Shepherds can be summarized in this simple mission statement:

***We will establish a communication network between the Church, the Pastor, and members of the congregation that is founded on small groups (flocks) each having a local area contact (a Shepherd). We are a welcoming, loving and caring ministry for each member of our congregation.***

A number of years ago Countryside members and affiliate members of the church were divided into neighborhoods or local areas. Members of each area became a flock and a shepherd living in or near that area was assigned to serve that flock. As membership and shepherds changed, flocks were merged and currently we have 21 flocks but only 18 shepherds. If you are interested in serving this ministry as a shepherd, please contact John Bain at this email address [jbgr8scot@gmail.com](mailto:jbgr8scot@gmail.com)

Your assigned shepherd will send you a card for introduction or a greeting card or your shepherd may call you. You should know your shepherds and how to contact them. If you are a new member or have forgotten who your assigned shepherd is, then please contact John Bain. Membership would like all members to get to know their shepherds better and discuss how your shepherds can continue to serve you and advance this church mission.

Through the Shepherd Ministry, we can update the church membership records. Some members have changed their address or changed their house phones in favor of cell phones only. Other members have changed their emergency contact person or have not provided one. If you need to change or add to your church profile, please contact your shepherd.

John Bain

804-677-5664

(for the Membership Committee)

## ANNUAL COUNTRYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPRING PICNIC

**SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024**

**2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. inside & outside The Founders Hall**



Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, games and fellowship at the Annual Spring Picnic on May 18.

Table Games, Bingo, Bean Bag Toss, Horseshoes, Frisbee Golf and maybe even a sing-along.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw and all the usual burger dog fixins,

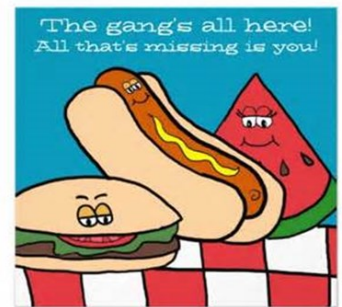
Cake, cookies, and of course watermelon,

Iced tea, Lemonade, water, coffee and hot tea.

Picnic food will be served around 3:00 p.m. but come earlier to enjoy the games and the company of friends.

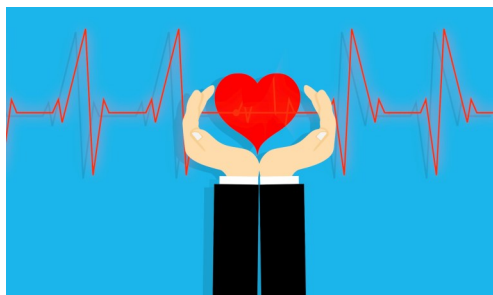
NEED more details? Visit the registration table in the narthex and SIGN UP for the picnic. The registration Table will be open on Sundays May 5 and May 12.

There is no charge for this event, (any "LOVE OFFERING" donations will be welcomed at the picnic).



## BLOOD DRIVE

**May 19, 2024 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



**Give blood. Help life bloom.**

