



The Joy Journal

Happy New Year from Countryside Presbyterian Church of Ocala! We hope you all have had a joyful Christmas, filled with the love of family and friends both old and new!

To all the volunteers that served in 2025 to include: the Elders, and members of Building and Grounds, Christian Education, Fellowship, Finance, Membership, Mission, Personnel, Worship and Music, Greeters, Ushers, Sanctuary Preparers and beyond. Your contribution and gifts are what make our Countryside Church a special place of worship and we extend our sincerest thanks!

We also want to take a moment to feature the “Giving Tree” Mission. There was an exceptional display of goodwill from CPC’s members and friends. There was a total of eight recipient families from New Ross Prairie and Sunrise Elementary School. A total of 31 children, (1-16 years of age). Each child received clothing, shoes, toys, and a full Christmas Stocking. In addition, every family received enough food for a full Christmas dinner and a \$50 gift certificate to be used for groceries in the new year.

Thank you to Building and Grounds and Missions, the congregation and friends of CPC, the Rainbow River Chapter of the US Daughters of the Revolution for wrapping many gifts, and to CPC’s Crafty Christians who made the Giving Tree ornaments and provided stockings and a pillow toy for each child. God Bless all of you for participating and supporting this traditional mission in the community.

Christmas Stockings Donated from the Crafty Christian Ladies



Upcoming Events:

The Countryside Faire (Rummage Sale) on February 14, 2026, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Preparations are already underway for CPC's largest fundraiser of the year.

Donations will be accepted from 1/19 – 2/6/26 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A guideline of what CPC will accept:

- **Men's and Woman's Clothing:** All clothing must be clean! Gently worn shoes, scarves, belts, hats and jewelry will be accepted in the "boutique section". Please no undergarments, sleepwear, swimwear or soiled/torn clothing.
- **Linens, towels, tablecloths, napkins, table runners, blankets and bedding:** (*Please mark the size of the item with your donation).
- **Holiday Decorations:** (Please make certain the lights work and there are no Broken Items).
- **Books, Games, Toys, Puzzles, Crafts and Pet items:** (Please make certain all parts included).
- **Tools, Sporting Goods, Garden and Electrical Items:** (Cleaned and in working order).
- **Home Décor and household goods:** Dishes, glasses, candlestick holders, cookware, knick-knacks, vases, lamps, pictures, and picture frames.
- **Please do not donate:** Used perfumes, body lotions or makeup, Tube (CRT) tv's, VHS tapes, magazines, encyclopedias, or Reader's Digest. No Large furniture (due to space constraints).

Sunday Afternoon Concert on January 11th at 3:00 pm:

The “Amazing” Steel Drums. The perfect antidote to winter with sounds from the islands offering joy and plenty of sunshine!

As we begin a new year, it is the perfect time to reflect and acknowledge all the good and perhaps challenging things you experienced in 2025.

Whatever goals or resolutions you may make, keeping Christ at the center of those endeavors is destined to bring you fulfillment and joy!

Scripture for new beginnings and changes:

Isaiah (43:18-19) *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

God Bless You and Remember to Share the Joy!

Membership Committee Chairperson

Countryside Presbyterians’ phone number: 352-237-4633