

Countryside Community Church

WORSHIP

JESUS SAID:

“PEACE

be with

YOU”

— JOHN 14:27

Peace Be With You, By Sarah Are. Hand-lettering in ink on paper.
SanctifiedArt.org

Confirmation Sunday
April 27, 2025

Order of Worship Sunday, April 27, 2025

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.
Text in **bold** indicates places where the congregation is invited to join in response.

Gathering

COMMUNITY TIME (9:55)

Confirmation Class

PRELUDE

My Favorite Things

Richard Rogers / Oscar Hammerstein II

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: We gather in the presence of God, who calls each of us by name.

Many: We come to celebrate new steps in faith and commitment.

One: The Spirit moves among us, guiding and inspiring our journey.

Many: We open our hearts to God's love, ready to be renewed and confirmed!

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you. I do not
give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be
troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #284 *Gather Us In*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

SUNG RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace x 2

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
Let the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere
you may go.

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON: Acts 5:27-32

Reader: Earl Cohen

One: Praise the Lord! Praise God in God's sanctuary;

Many: praise God in the mighty firmament! Praise God for mighty deeds;

One: praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

Many: Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lute and harp!

One: Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe!

Many: Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

One: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Many: Praise the Lord!

ANTHEM

A Future With Hope

Mark Burrows

SECOND LESSON: John 20:19-31

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. "When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

MESSAGE

Being the Resurrection

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE *Hymn #265 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (vs 1)*

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Promises

Pastor: Do you desire to affirm your baptism, to say “yes” to being God’s people and to continuing your spiritual journey?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you desire to seek God, to follow the challenging way of Jesus, and to live a life of meaning and purpose, as the Spirit shall lead you?

Confirmands: We put our faith in God’s love and Justice.

Pastor: Will you remember that God loves you as you are and that the humanity of Jesus welcomes your truth and authenticity?

Confirmands: We will remember God’s love for us.

Pastor: Will you devote yourself to the community of the church, praising God in worship, serving your neighbors in compassionate ministries of care, pursuing a just world for all, and reaching out to touch the world with the love of Christ?

Confirmands: We seek to love the world as God loves us.

Confirmation Blessings

Presentation of Gifts

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

A New Creed (see page 6)

†CONFIRMATION HYMN

The Summons (1, 2, 4, 5)

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated One World Health for the April Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Risen Christ, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to your renewing love—trusting that, through your resurrection, hope is alive in us and in the world. Use all we offer to bring light, healing, and joy wherever there is need. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the God of love.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Remembrance

Please prepare to partake of the Eucharist in your seats. The communion kits include whole wheat bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free bread is available. Raise your hand if you need assistance with your communion elements and an usher will assist you. Communion cups may be discarded in the baskets as you leave the sanctuary.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

†SENDING HYMN Hymn #265 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* (vs 2-4)

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Romance

Richard Rogers / Lorenz Hart

Countryside Community Church Choir - Adam Witte, director

Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Carlos Figueroa, drums - Matt Wallace, saxophone - Steve Gomez, bass

A New Creed

(r. 1995)

We are called to be the Church...
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

~United Church of Canada~

2025 Confirmands

Natalie A., Irish G.-G., Lexi J., Andrew P., Elsie R.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Don Sarton
in memory of Bev Sarton.

Joys & Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have someone who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list, and /or be included on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

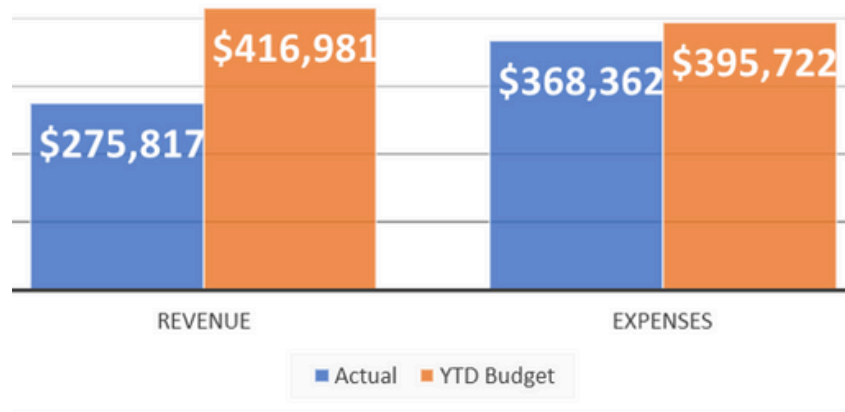
Sheila Christian fell and broke her femur and is now at Good Samaritan rehab. Please pray for her healing and full recovery.

Our Church by the Numbers

At the Annual Meeting on February 9, the congregation approved a 2025 operating budget of \$1,605,582. Each month, after the Finance and Operations Board reviews the Treasurer's report, we'll share an update on our financial progress. For March, member giving is on target, however overall revenue is behind projections mainly because of the stock market and net losses in Countryside's general investments. The overall expenses continue to come in lower than budgeted.

Each month, we'll also highlight how the budget is funded and where the money goes. This month, we're focusing on Spiritual Formation, which accounts for 15 percent (\$241,616) of total expenses.

March Financials Total Budget - \$1, 605,582



Discovering Faith, Finding Direction

Spiritual Formation at Countryside is about growing in faith through learning, connection, and community—at every stage of life. Your giving supports children's programs like Sunday's Discovery Kids, guided by Director of Director of Spiritual Formation Heather Moran. Midweek family fun nights, a nurturing Nursery, and creative faith experiences lay strong foundations for our youngest members.

Youth programs will thrive under Ryan Hunter, our Interim Youth Ministries Director, whose background as an educator and mentor brings energy and storytelling to each gathering. From Confirmation with Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones where teens are encouraged to explore faith in a safe and welcoming space.

For adults, small groups like The Village Houses, book studies, and thought-provoking Adult Ed sessions foster lifelong learning and spiritual growth.

Thank you for supporting these vibrant ministries—where questions are welcome, relationships grow, and faith comes alive.

Spiritual Formation \$241,616 , 15%

2025 EXPENSE BUDGET

