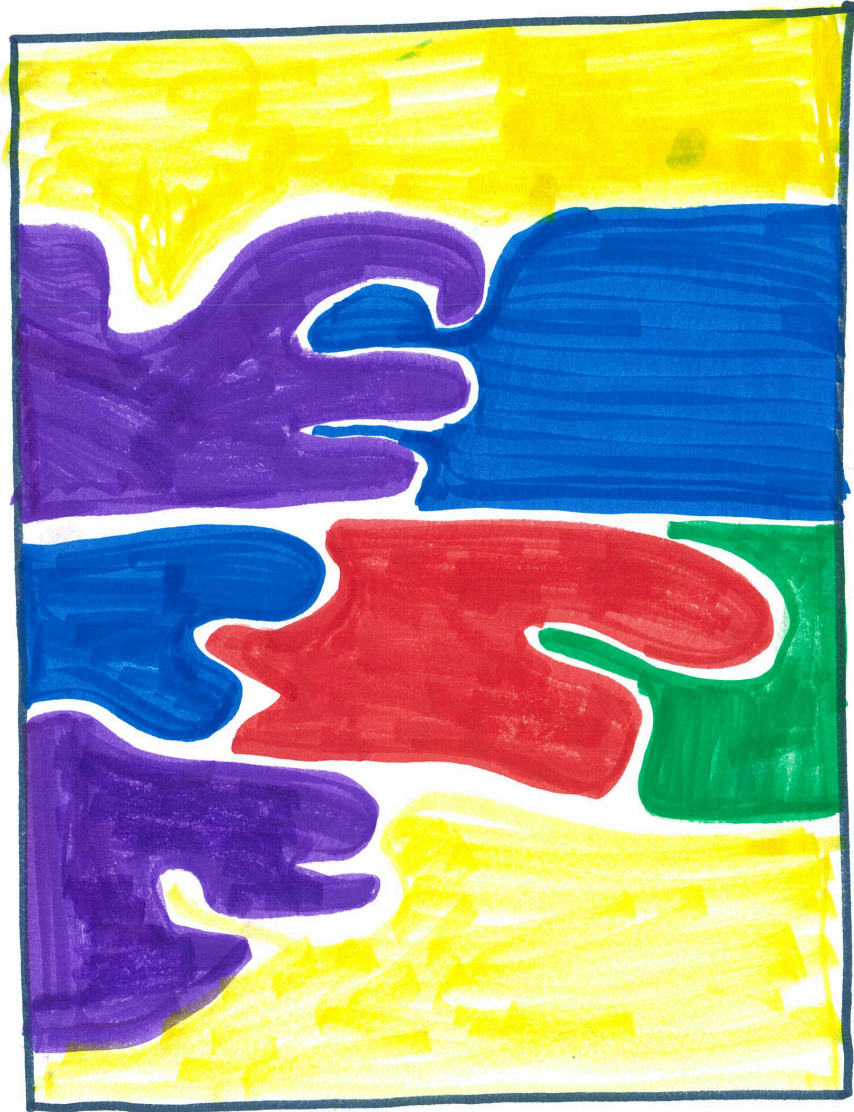


Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Untitled, Discovery Kids

June 1, 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)

Dan Loven-Crum

PRELUDE

All Blues

Miles Davis

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, all who are bound—by fear, by shame, by injustice.

Many: We gather to worship the God who breaks chains and shakes the earth.

One: Sing, even from the prison cell, for Christ is our freedom.

Many: Let the doors fling open—grace is here, and we are free.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #20 *I'll Praise My Maker* (vs. 1, 3, 4)

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,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere
you may go.

Hearing the Word

Reader: Molly Anderson

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 97:1-12

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.

All worshipers of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.

Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

MUSICAL REFLECTION

SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:16-34

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

MESSAGE

Chains Will Fall: When the Church Starts Singing

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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Dan Loven-Crum

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement for the June Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of freedom and fire,
we offer these gifts with open hands and open hearts.
Shake what must be shaken,
free what must be freed.
Use what we give to lift the lowly and loose the chains.
In Christ's name—Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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

As you are able, please come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you prefer to take communion in your seat, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to you. At Countryside, we serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice to support a diversity of needs. Communion cups may be discarded in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

HEALING PRAYER

Anyone is welcome to join Rev. Dr. Norman Pavey in the prayer corner in the rear of the sanctuary. You are invited to share a prayer request for yourself or others, and receive a prayer of blessing or anointing with oil as a reminder that God's presence with you.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Look to the Sky

Antônio Carlos Jobim

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

†SENDING HYMN

The Summons (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Molly Anderson

POSTLUDE

Freedom Jazz Dance

Eddie Harris

Matt Wallace, saxophone - Alex Ritter, organ and piano
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

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 am 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 the church office at 402.391.0350 or email office@countrysideucc.org.

Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:

Congratulations to Shari Garder on her retirement from Countryside after nearly 25 years as the church's Financial Secretary. Best wishes to her on the next phase of life.

June 2 is Cancer Survivors Day! **Chloe (Trevor) Spanel** wants to celebrate and pray for all the cancer warriors out there, including her father, Todd Worth, and sister-in-law, Lisa Lorraine. Continued prayers as well for those with recent diagnoses or those still undergoing treatment.

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

Jennifer (Tom) Pansing passed away last week. Her memorial service was held Saturday, May 31, at Countryside. Please keep Tom and his family in your prayers during this time of loss.

June Events

June 4

Children & Family Special Event, 6-7 pm

June 8

Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!!!

June 11

Tri-Faith RRSJ Conference, 8 am - 5:30 pm;
Premiere: Abraham's Bridge, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

June 15

Juneteenth, Guest Preacher Rev. Darryl Brown,
Jr.

June 25

Family Bowling Night, 6-7 pm

June 27

Ministry Architects, Open Session, 6-9 pm

June 29

Open & Affirming Sunday

July Events

July 6

Guest Speaker, Imam Ibrahim Ashour

July 6

Blood Drive, 8 am - 1:30 pm

July 12

Pride Parade and Festival, 9:30 am - 10 pm

July 13

Pride Sunday, Guest Speaker Rev. Juniper
Meadows

July 16

Family Movie Night, 6-7 pm

July 20

Guest Speaker Rabbi Ben Sharff

July 27

Guest Speaker Dr. Leah Georges

July Guest Speaker Series

July 6 – Imam Ibrahim Ashour, American Muslim Institute (AMI). Imam Ibrahim Ashour joined AMI in April 2024. A graduate of Al-Azhar University, he previously served as Imam of Masjid al-Noor in Cairo. Passionate about interfaith dialogue, he's taught, spoken, and hosted programs in Arabic and English. At AMI, he fosters community, spirituality, and respectful understanding.

July 13 – Rev. Juniper Meadows, Minister, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. Rev. Meadows is a passionate preacher, musician, and spiritual guide. She brings deep roots in Unitarian Universalism, a background in philosophy and theater, and a heartfelt commitment to justice, creativity, and community-centered faith.

July 20 – Rabbi Ben Sharff, Senior Rabbi, Temple Israel. Rabbi Sharff joined Temple Israel in 2023 and has served congregations in Arizona, Maryland, and New York. Ordained in 2004 by Hebrew Union College, he's a Brickner Fellow and passionate advocate for social justice, dedicated to helping others explore and deepen their unique Jewish journeys.

July 27 – Dr. Leah Georges, Creighton University / Countryside Vice-Moderator, Dr. Georges is an associate professor and program director in Creighton University's Interdisciplinary Leadership doctoral program. With a Ph.D. in social psychology, she researches leadership through a social psychological lens. She's an advocate for inclusive leadership and serves as Co-Moderator at Countryside.