

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*The Greatest of These* © Jan Richardson. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)

**July 13, 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**

*Lotus Blossom*

Billy Strayhorn

**WELCOME / CALL TO WORSHIP**

Adam Witte

One: Come, you who are weary and wounded, you who are radiant and rising--

**Many: We come as we are, beloved and becoming.**

One: Come, you who have been told you are too much or not enough--

**Many: We come with our stories, our scars, and our strength.**

One: Come, for you are sacred, you are seen, and you are called.

**All: We come to worship the One who made us in love and calls us to live in joy.**

**†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**

*For All The Children*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Heather Moran

Children are invited to come forward for a lesson at the chancel. Nursery care 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

**FIRST LESSON:** 1 Corinthians 13

Reader: Jodie Nichols

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

*The Greatest of These Is Love*

Stephen DiCesare

Alex Ritter, piano - Adam Witte, tenor

*The Task of the Religious Community*

Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.

It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

**MESSAGE***Pride Sunday: Love at the Center*

Rev. Juniper Meadows

*Responding to the Word***PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Don Sarton

**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 #494 They'll Know We Are Christians***SHARING OUR GIFTS**

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated OmahaForUs for the July Box donations.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy One, we dedicate these gifts to love without limits and justice without fear, created in community with each other. May they help build a world where every soul can shine freely. Amen.

# Sending

†SENDING HYMN

*Impartial, Compassionate, God of All Lives*

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Juniper Meadows

POSTLUDE

*Over The Rainbow* Harold Arlen / arr. Mancini/Meek  
Alex Ritter and Adam Witte, piano 4-hands

## 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](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org).*

### **Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:**

We thank God as we hear good reports back from **Johnna Roberts** who is recovering at home after shoulder replacement and from **Linda Grubb** whose son Curtis who is doing well after being hospitalized for a collapsed lung.

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

**Margaret (Tim Ekberg) Hayford** has requested continued prayers for her brother as he considers treatment plans for lung cancer that has spread to his brain. And prayers for her sister who is scheduled for a double mastectomy as part of her treatment plan for breast cancer. Prayers for fortitude, discernment and peace for Margaret's brother and sister, and the family while on this journey.

Continued prayers for **Jenny and Shannon Shultz-Thomas** and Quinn and Sage as they travel during Jenny's July sabbatical. May this sabbatical be a time of renewal for Jenny's body, mind, and spirit.

**UCC Disaster Ministries Team releases prayers for Texas flooding victims.** We lift our prayers for those impacted by the devastating floods in Texas and beyond. Grant them strength to grieve, pray, and rebuild together. (You can support the relief and long-term recovery of those affected by these severe storms, and other communities that have experienced similar events across the US by visiting [support.ucc.org/global-HOPE](http://support.ucc.org/global-HOPE). Select "Severe Storms" as the designation.)

Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Adam Witte, vocals and piano

## Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Kim and Ed Schwartz  
in honor of all who have ever felt left out or minimized. Know you belong here at Countryside.



July Guest Speaker Series

# Loving Our Neighbor (when the world seeks to divide us)



**Rev. Juniper Meadows, Minister**  
**Second Unitarian Church of Omaha**



The Rev. Juniper Meadows was born in Rockwood, TN, the only child of a nurse and a national guardsman. She felt a calling towards ministry early in life growing up in the Presbyterian church but found her true spiritual home in Unitarian Universalism when she reached young adulthood.

Since coming to this faith, Juniper has thrown herself into service, first as a Religious Education teacher and counselor at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, then as Youth Programs Coordinator of her home church of Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, and later as a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. While in seminary Juniper completed an intensive internship as a hospital chaplain at Johnson City Medical Center and a congregational internship at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church in the midst of Covid-19.

Juniper's service, passion for ministry, and leagues of friends, supporters, and colleagues have shaped her into a powerful preacher, a compassionate confidant, a spiritual guide, and a lifelong learner who sees questions as a sacred act. Beyond her ministry work, Juniper is a musician. Before entering seminary she played in several folk and bluegrass projects. The performing arts hold a holy place in Juniper's ministry; seeing them as a means by which the universe makes sparks of beauty and joy out of us.

Education has been a vital pillar in Juniper's life. In addition to her M. Div. from Meadville Lombard she holds a Bachelor's in Theater and Philosophy from East Tennessee State University. She's also received several academic awards, including recognition from the St. Lawrence Foundation and the Chautauqua Institution.