

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Untitled III, Aisha Wint*

**January 25, 2026**

† 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)**

Adam Witte

**PRELUDE**

*Toccata on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

Mark Miller

**†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, you weary and hopeful, for God meets us here.

**Many: Come, you doubting and bold, for Love still has the final word.**

One: Come, all who long for life made new—resurrection is not a rumor.

**Many: Come, let us worship the Living God!**

**†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**

*All Are Welcome (vs. 1)*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Heather Moran

Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery is available for children birth through pre-k.

**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: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Reader: Becky Knightly

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*For Hard Things*  
Countryside Choir

Jane Marshall

## SECOND LESSON: Mark 1:14-20

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## MESSAGE

*The Trouble with Grace*

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 REFLECTION

Hymn #583 *Lead Me, Guide Me*

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

Adam Witte

Please find the QR code on the back of your bulletin or at the Spotlight table in the narthex for more information about how to support our community partners this month: Community of Hope. You can also contribute to Countryside's annual mission spending plan (budget) by scanning the QR code on the back of your bulletin (also found at the spotlight table.) Countryside is 100% dependent on member giving to support the mission and ministries of our church. We are grateful for all the ways you give to sustain our vibrant and welcoming community!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God of steadfast love,**

**we bring these offerings as a shared act of trust— trusting that what is given in mercy will return as justice, healing, and hope. Bless these gifts, and bless the work they will do in ways we may never see but fully entrust to you. Amen.**

## *Sending*

## †SENDING HYMN

*The Summons*

## †BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata on "Great Day"*

Adolphus Hailstork

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director  
Alex Ritter, organ and piano

## *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:***

There is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in the days yet to be. We need a winter in our lives, like nature around us, a time of rest, a time to stand still, a time to reacquaint ourselves with the faith in which we live. It is only then that we can draw strength from the one in whom we are rooted, and take time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of your springtime.

We give thanks for everyone in our church and for the many ways you share your generosity—through finances, time, talents, and prayers. Each of you is an essential part of our community; without one another, we are all diminished. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:25b–26, “The parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy.”

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

**Tim Ekberg and Margaret Hayford**, prayers of thanksgiving for successful surgeries. They are now on the mend and doing well.

**Kris and Merv Olberding** request prayers for their son Connor and his wife Lizzie, and for all the people of Ukraine, as the country’s energy grid has been bombed, leaving many without heat, water, or electricity.

Prayers for **Derek Miller and his wife Sarah**. Derek was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer and will meet with an oncologist later this month.

**Rita Otis** requests prayers and loving thoughts as she navigates a breast cancer diagnosis. She is currently participating in a six-month drug trial with periodic evaluations to assess its effectiveness and is tolerating the treatment well.

Prayers of sympathy and condolences for **Rick and Shannon Avard** and their family following the death of Rick’s mother. A Celebration of Life service was held on Tuesday, January 20.

Prayers for **Reva Karstens**, who will undergo sinus surgery on Friday, Jan. 23.

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Article 6, Section 6.2.4. of the bylaws, that the Annual Meeting of Countryside Community Church will be held in person in the Sanctuary or by Zoom at 12 pm on Sunday, February 8, 2026. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect officers and new Board and Committee members, to receive the annual reports of the officers, organizations, departments, boards and committees, and transact business.

Join us!



So many members of our congregation have shared their time, gifts, and hearts in the life of the church throughout 2025. Join us at the Annual Meeting to hear how that faithful work has shaped and strengthened the mission of Countryside Community Church. What have the lay leaders on Church Council, our five boards, and three committees been focused on this year? Together, we'll celebrate what this community has accomplished—and how we *Imagined More* in 2025.



Annual Report

Join us for a soup lunch featuring award-winning soups, rolls and dessert immediately after the 10 am service, from 11:15 am to 11:45 am, before the Annual Meeting at noon. Don't miss this time of fellowship and great food! Scan the QR codes to register or access the Annual Report and nominations! [countrysideucc.org/annualmeeting](https://countrysideucc.org/annualmeeting)



Register

## Countryside Giving

Give a little, help a lot! Scan the QR code to support Countryside's mission. Your generosity keeps our community warm, welcoming and full of life!

