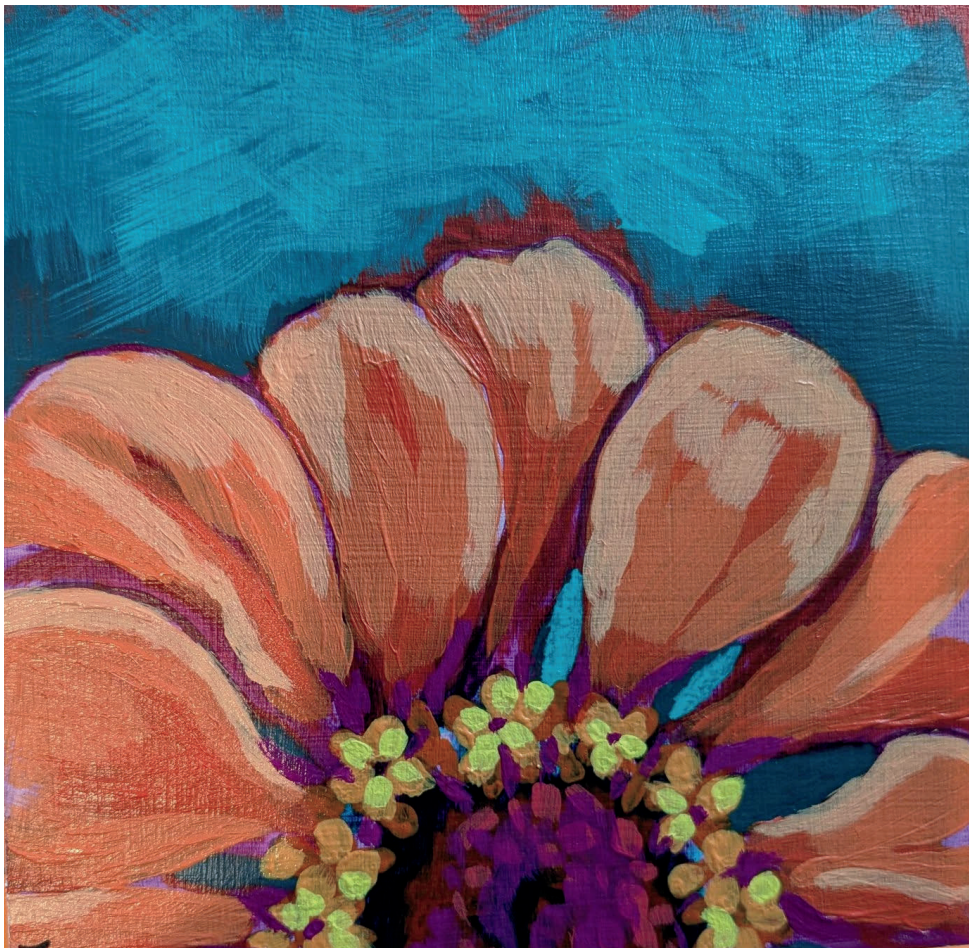
Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Zinnia Bloom, Renee Besancon

September 6, 2026

Order of Worship September 6, 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) Dan Loven-Crum

PRELUDE *Harlem Nocturne* Dick Rogers / Earle Hagen

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP David McGinness

One: From the stories we tell to the stories we live,
Many: We seek God's wisdom and grace.
One: Sometimes with fear and trembling,
Many: Most times with joy and adoration,
One: In all times, we call upon our God.
Many: Meet us here, God, in the very real stories of our lives.
Amen.

†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* (vs. 1)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT David McGinness

Children are invited to come forward for a time with David at the chancel, then exit the sancturary for Discovery Kids. **Caregivers: please pick up your children after worship downstairs from the activity center.** 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: Exodus 12:1-14 Reader: Rick MacInnes

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Improvisation*

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 18:15–20 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one.But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

MESSAGE *Hope in the Gathered* Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

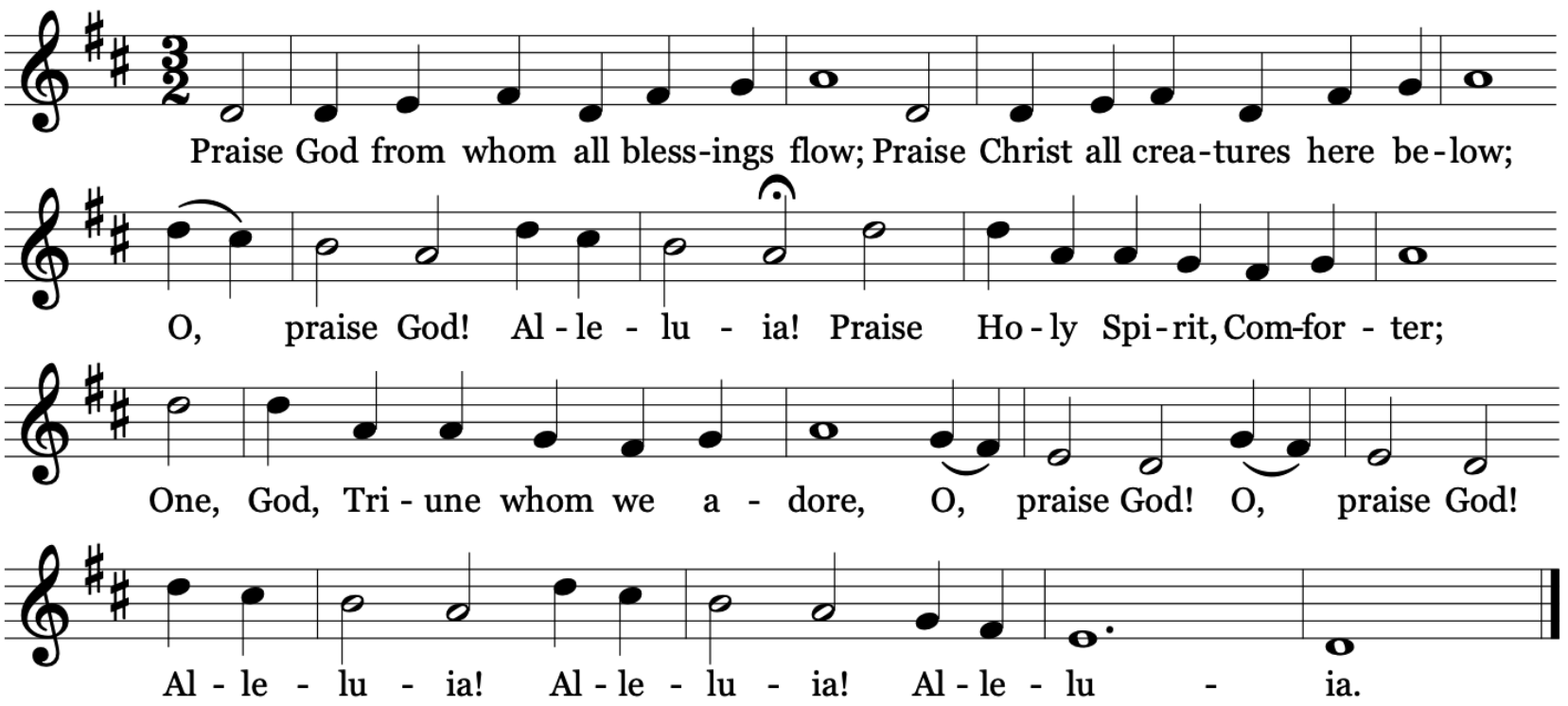
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS Dan Loven-Crum

Please find the QR code within the bulletin or at the Spotlight table in the narthex for more information about how to support our community partners this month through The Box and Fingerprints and also to contribute to Countryside's annual mission spending plan (budget). Countryside is 100 percent 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!

†DOXOLOGY



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of many names, we offer you our praise and our prayers. Receive with joy the overflow of our human hands, and receive with care the concerns of our humble hearts. With the bounty of your table as witness to the abundance of your grace, we gather, hope-filled to be your love and light in the world. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION Rev. Charlene Wozny

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 bins on the front pews after receiving the elements.

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 is with you.

Communion Meditation *In a Sentimental Mood* Duke Ellington

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us your presence. 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 Hymn #284 *Gather Us In* (vs. 2-4)

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING Rick MacInnes

POSTLUDE *Mr. P.C.* John Coltrane

Matt Wallace, sax - 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. 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 in Countryside's Thursday morning prayer group, contact Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey at maggiekm@countrysideucc.org or (402) 884-8025.

Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:

We celebrate with **Marcy** and **Joel Patton.** After treatments this summer, **Marcy** is cancer free.

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

We pray for the family and friends of **Nancy Deetz,** who died early September 3, may God's love and care surround them. Memorial service details will be shared as they are finalized.

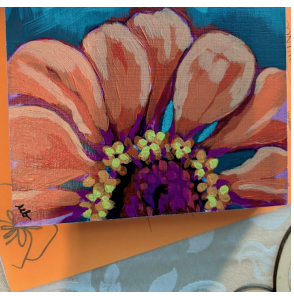
Our love and prayers surround **Jolene Hotovy** following the death of her beloved partner Michael. May she feel God's presence in the days and weeks ahead.

Prayers for **Laurie Sample** as she receives chemotherapy following her pancreatic cancer surgery.

We pray with **De Schmierer** for her niece Tami Jalapa, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

We pray for healing and comfort for **David (Amy) Worth** as **David** continues treatment for pneumonia in the hospital.

We pray with **Sheila Christian** for her son, Brian, who is dealing with ongoing health issues.



On the Cover ~ Renee Besancon

Perpetually curious, Renee follows her passion for art whenever she can. She fell in love with flameworking after taking her first class in 2000, finding peace at the torch and joy in transforming molten glass into handmade beads and small sculptural pieces. In 2023, a crochet class at an annual retreat sparked her second love: fiber arts.
She began experimenting with paint, gel plates, papers, and found objects in 2025, discovering a third love in mixed media. Inspired by color, texture, light, and the stories hidden within everyday objects, Renee finds joy in giving forgotten materials new life through art. Her work was recently included in the Cali Commons Gallery exhibit "Upcycled."

Countryside Giving

Imagine More - Build What You Believe. What does a young person learn when they see their community invest in what it believes? **Everything.**