Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Untitled, Maddalena Intravartolo

October 25, 2026

Order of Worship October 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 *Autumn Leaves* Joseph Kosma / Johnny Mercer

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 90)* Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

One: God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Many: Before the mountains were born, before the earth was formed, you are God.
One: A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.
Many: Our days are grass — in the morning they flourish, in the evening they fade.
One: So teach us to count our days.
Many: Teach us to count what you count.
One: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love.
All: And prosper the work of our hands — O prosper the work of our hands.

†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 *Welcome To This House* (vs. 1)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Charlene Wozny

Children are invited to come forward for a time with Pastor Charlene at the chancel, then return to their caregivers for the remainder of worship. **Caregivers pickup your child after the service in Priscilla** (Choir Room). 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: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Reader: Becky Knightly

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Dream God's Dream* Bryan Sirchio

Tyler Gruttemeyer, Adam Witte

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 22:34–46 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

MESSAGE *More Heart Than Head* 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 Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey
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 all generations, we have counted what we have and written down a number, and we know the number is not the whole of what you ask. Take these gifts, and take the rest of us with them — our attention, our proximity, our willingness to learn the names of neighbors we have only known about. Prosper the work of our hands, and make us a people who give the way you give: without a floor and without a ceiling. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN Hymn #526 *The Gift of Love*

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE *Four* Miles Davis

Diane Hill, organ - Adam Witte, piano and vocals - Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals
Ron Cooley, guitar - Doyle Tipler, trumpet - 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 are grateful for the work of the A2A team as we recognize a month of October as Accessible to All month in the UCC.

Today, we celebrate the joy of being an intergenerational community. We give thanks for laughter and games as we have our annual Trunk or Treat after church.

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

We pray with **Rich and Gloria Mannel** as Gloria undergoes a knee replacement on October 26.

Our prayers are with **Geoff and Pam Kregg** and their family, as they mourn the sudden passing of Geoff's brother, Mark, on Saturday, October 17.

We pray for **Nancy Cohen** as she recovers from surgery on October 16.

Marion Norman requests prayers for herself and her family. Her son Brian died unexpectedly in California on October 3. We pray they feel God's care and love in the days and weeks ahead.

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

We pray with **De Schmierer** for her niece Tami Jalapa, as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Jerry Sueper.

In loving memory of my dear wife Sandra Sueper.

On the Cover ~



Untitled, Maddalena Intravartolo

As October's focus on Accessibility to All (A2A) comes to a close, we're featuring the work of a young artist whose creativity and advocacy reflect the spirit of inclusion. Maddalena Intravartolo's art is featured on this Sunday's service bulletin. At just 17, she's already using her artistic talents and her voice to champion causes that help make the world more inclusive for all.

Through themed philanthropic art shows featuring her paintings and sketches, Intravartolo has raised significant proceeds for organizations working to address racial injustice, advance feminism, prevent gun violence, and promote disability rights.

Her charitable contributions have benefited organizations including Siena Francis House, Green Omaha Coalition, Nebraska Humane Society, Ruby Bridges Foundation, Inclusive Communities, Women's Fund of Omaha, and Students Demand Action and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. In 2022, Maddalena received the Necessary Trouble Award at Inclusive Communities' Humanitarian Awards.

Maddalena's advocacy extends beyond visual art. She has participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream event at the Holland Center for the Performing Arts for the past three years and looks forward to returning this Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She also served on Inclusive Communities' 2026 Youth Advisory Board, collaborated with Disability Rights Nebraska to make Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act more accessible through plain language, and is an active member of Elevate Omaha's Civic Engagement Committee. More recently, she has begun exploring spoken word and slam poetry as additional ways to share her voice.

Born prematurely, Maddalena has cerebral palsy and has worked hard to become the person she is today. She embraces her different abilities and channels her experiences into a commitment to building a more inclusive world. Whether through art, poetry, or civic engagement, Maddalena continues to look for ways to illuminate important causes and make the world a better place for all people.

2027 Stewardship Campaign Imagine More

To make a 2027 Pledge

- complete a pledge card
- visit countrysideucc.org/imaginemore
- scan the QR code
- text PLEDGE to 59409

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.**