

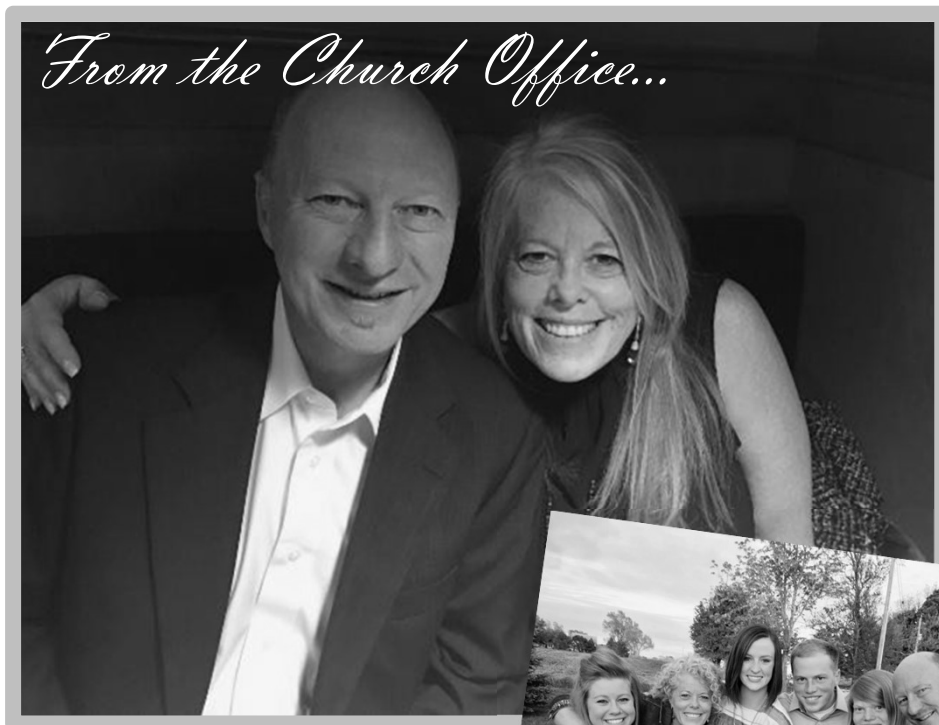
the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2020

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Exciting News!! Countryside Christian Church is happy to announce our new minister: Pastor Steve Allison!! Steve is originally from Rockford, Illinois. After living in Arizona and Colorado, he moved to Southern California in 1988. He graduated from Pacific Christian College in 1992. He married Karen in 1990 in Northern California near her hometown of Petaluma. Steve was the Associate Minister of Youth and Education at First Christian Church in Victorville, California for five years before moving to Earlham, Iowa in 1996. He has served as head minister at Earlham Church of Christ for the past almost 24 years. They have three grown children Tyler, (wife Emily) Katie, and Kristen. Steve will begin serving Countryside Christian Church on June 1, 2020. Welcome to our church Steve and Karen!! We are so excited you are going to be a part of our church and looking forward to what God has planned!



*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
1 Cor. 15:58*



"Hello. I'm here to install the new pastor."

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

On-line Service



These past few weeks have been unprecedented times in our church history. Due to the current restrictions of public gathering sizes and to be responsible of caring for each of you the best we can, we have moved our worship gatherings to ONLINE ONLY. We recognize this poses some new opportunities to learn how to navigate things on the internet for some who may have not had much exposure to it in the past. Each week, a bulletin is emailed out with these instructions below. As always, you may call the church office with questions and to help walk you through it.

Here are some ways that you can easily be part of Sunday worship still:

1. **Facebook.** (<https://www.facebook.com/countrysidecc.org>) at 10:45am on Sunday to watch it live. If you miss it, it will still be on the Facebook page for you to watch later.
2. **Youtube.** AFTER the sermon has been uploaded live (check around noon on Sunday), the sermon will also be available on the church's Youtube page. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR73Sgh3zkpFluJEtpP-A>)
3. **Website.** Around noon on Sunday, you will also be able to access the sermon on the church's website page – either the audio or video version. (<http://countrysidecc.org>)
4. **Other options.** If you are not able to access the internet at all on your computer or mobile device, we will be able to download it to a DVD for you to watch on your tv later in the week. Just contact the church office to obtain a copy (309-523-2834 or send an email: cccportbyron@gmail.com).

OUR SWEET KIDS



Easter Egg Hunt **POSTPONED**



Our Easter Egg Hunt has been postponed for right now but we sure are thankful for these sweet smiles in our congregation.

We pray for families home together during this time. Enjoy the blessing of your children and reach out to the congregation if you need help with anything. We are here to love and support one another as we are able.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1 Pet. 1:3

OUR GRADUATING SENIOR

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

Hi, my name is Hannah Herrman and I have been going to Countryside Christian Church for the past four years. Throughout high school I have been involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, National Honor Society, Interact, theater and softball. I have also had the privilege to serve on three mission trips with Countryside's youth group.

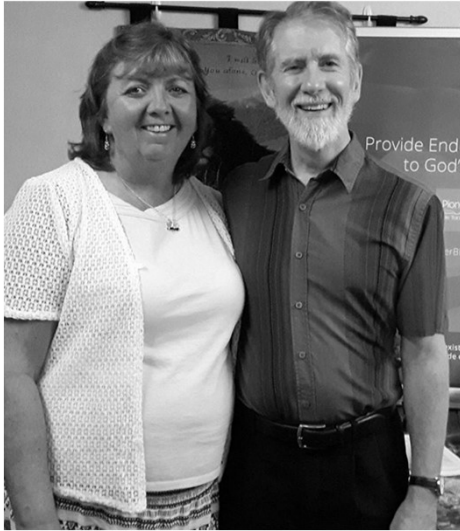
My favorite part about serving on missions is meeting new people who have so much wisdom and love to offer. Most of the time homeless people are ignored and considered a burden to people who pass by them every day on the streets; however, I have found through past experiences that homeless people are some of the most loving, faithful, and caring people I've ever met.

I have also loved serving on such diverse mission teams. Throughout the years, youth have left but also joined our youth group. Being part of each mission team has allowed me to build unbreakable bonds with many people and helped me learn how God works through everyone. I have also helped out around various church functions, like past car shows, youth fundraisers, I gave my testimony to the church, and I even helped out on the pastor search committee. I appreciate all of the opportunities all of the leadership of the church and the members have given me. Not many people get to see some of the "behind the scenes" work that is done at the church, but having seen all of the effort it takes to lead events and even services makes me appreciate every single person at Countryside (and everywhere) so much more! Although I will be going to college next year, I intend to remain at Countryside and help build a new youth group. I will be attending St. Ambrose University where I will major in Biology on the Pre-Med track, and I will also be in the honors program. Thank you to all of the elders, church leaders, and members who have guided me over the past four years and helped shape me into the young woman I am today. I love you all and thank you for your never-ending support!

"Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Pioneer Bible Translators

Pioneer Bible Translators exists to disciple the Bibleless, mobilizing God's people to provide enduring access to God's Word. Our vision is to see transformed lives through God's Word in every language. The work is not finished until there are networks of churches using Scripture to grow, mature and multiply in every language group on Earth.



Norm and Jill Weatherhead work with Pioneer Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea as Bible translators. They have been involved there for over 20+ years. They are from Calgary, Canada. Jill works a portion of the year as a registered nurse in Calgary and joins Norm when she can to work with the translation team in PNG. Norm is the Director of Language Affairs for his branch of Papua New Guinea in Bible translation and literacy.

Drawn by a vision to see God's Work changing lives in every language, Norm and his wife, Jill have devoted their lives to translation work.

In 2017 at the Faith/Promise event Norm presented the Countryside congregation a copy of the New Testament in Mborema Kam, one of the many languages of Papua New Guinea. The translation and printing of the New Testament represented 32 years of translation work. Norm and Jill have spent 20+ years of their work with this book and Countryside has been a financial supporter during those 20 years. It was a true pleasure to receive this gift and to learn the part that we at Countryside played in bringing the Bible to people who previously did not have access to the written word of God.

Currently Norm and the translation team are working on the book of 1Timothy. Norm has been able to evaluate the Akukem text and has prepared over 150 questions to ask the team about to make sure the meaning of the text matches the Greek New Testament. The other major work being done with the Akukem is to prepare all the materials which will be used in a Literacy Fluency Workshop to be held out in an Akukem village this July. This includes a Transfer Primer, a shellbook story books, a song book and a scripture portion booklet of Luke material. As you can see, this has been a very busy month and it has required Norm to be able to understand and communicate in English, Tok Pisin, Mborena Kam, Hebrew, Akukem and Greek. Praise God for the training and experience which Norm has to be able to communicate in all these languages.

(Feb 21, 2020 Newsletter)

Norm and Jill state that they are so grateful for our partnership with them in prayer and financial support. For more information refer to the booklet on the mission table in the foyer.



"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

~ 2 Timothy 1:7

MISSION SUNDAY 2020

FAITH PROMISE RALLY “Mission Not Impossible”



APRIL 26, 2020



To those who may not have noticed the Missions Department’s “Goal Pole” at the front of the sanctuary, we would like to give you an update. As you might remember, last April we, as a congregation, promised \$39,770 to go toward the expenses of the seven missions we support. With a few weeks to go until our ending date of April 26 (Faith Promise Sunday), we have already given about 90% of that money. It seems that the finish line is very close and we will surpass that total of nearly \$40,000! Let’s continue our faithfulness to God and surpass that number with joy and celebration! That Sunday will also be the beginning of the next “Missions Year.” We will be collecting our faith promises for the coming year during the worship service that Sunday.

As you remember, April 26th is not just the end of the current Faith Promise year, but it is also our “Mission, Not Impossible” Sunday. We will be sharing an update from each of our missionaries during the worship service that Sunday. Please mark your calendar for this very important day in the life of Countryside and our missionaries. We will look forward to the beginning of the next “Missions Year” with an even larger goal as we bring our Faith Promises forward during the worship service. Remember our missionaries can only continue the important work of sharing the good news of Jesus with the prayerful and monetary support of churches like Countryside!

Finally, watch for further news on the teens’ mission trip to Dallas this summer. There will be more opportunities for all of us to get involved, even if we don’t go on the trip!

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

...BUT SUNDAY IS COMING

God's Plan for the Resurrection

John 16:16-20



"A little while, and you will no longer see Me." Jesus repeated these words to His disciples several times. But He could tell by the blank stares on their faces that they did not understand what He had said.

At one point, He even overheard them debating what He meant by "You will not see me" (John

16:19). These men had been with the Lord for three years. They had laughed with Him, cried with Him, eaten with Him, and were willing to die with Him, or so they thought.

They had just entered the city of Jerusalem. And instead of being met by an angry legion of guards and protestors, they were met by palm-waving supporters shouting: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Yet as soon as they had settled into the upper room, Jesus broached the subject of His forthcoming death. Immediately, the mood of His followers went from one of celebration to shock and sorrow.

Often in difficult times, we cannot see beyond that moment. The resurrection was a few days away, but they could not fathom its wondrous coming.

God always provides the encouragement we need to stay the course, and Jesus did this for His disciples when He told them, "Your sorrow will be turned to joy" (v. 20). This also is God's message of hope and love for us today. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Palm Sunday

April 5th

Worship will be *ONLINE* only this week

Easter Sunday

April 12th (tentative plans)

Sonrise Service at 7:30am

Easter Breakfast at 8:30am

Sunday School at 9:30am

Worship Service at 10:45am



"Mom's really worried about being late for Easter Sonrise Service, isn't she?"

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," John 11:25

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

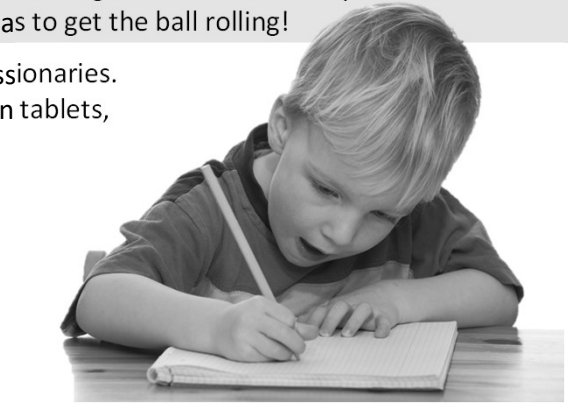
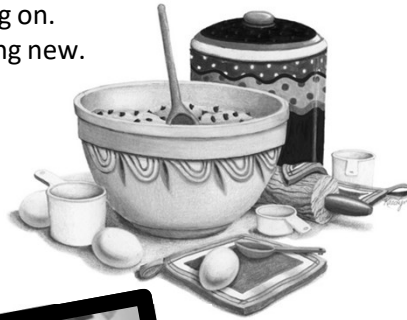
IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

As the church is asked to stay within their homes during this time, there are lots of activities to fellowship with one another and with our family members to fight boredom and stay connected with one another. Below are some ideas to get the ball rolling!

- Write encouraging letters to family members or missionaries.
- Facetime or Skype grandparents or grandchildren on tablets, phones, or computers.



- Make indoor forts and reading caves! (flashlights, snacks, books, and pillows)
- Organize a spot in your house you have been procrastinating on.
- Bake something new.



- Do board games, card games, or puzzles.
- Read a new book!
- Learn a new craft.



- Listen to music and have a dance party!
- Popcorn and movie marathon
- Find some new podcasts to listen to!

- PuppetMaster: an app where you can animate anything from a drawing to a stuffed animal.



- There are a few easy "kitchen chemistry" type science experiments that are easy to do, like making slime, baking soda and vinegar reaction, etc.
- Any and all art is fun at home: beading, painting, drawing, play dough or kinetic sand, sewing, etc.
- Draw some portraits of each other and be prepared for the giggles!



"I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears." ~ Psalm 34:4

OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

Dear Church Family,

Though we may be limited right now in our ability to be physically present to each other, there are still so many ways that each of us can be present – to one another, to what ourselves are going through, and to the God who made us, love us, and walks with us.

Our prayer is that you would be attentive to the Spirit’s leading in the coming weeks as you pray for each other, as you give to the church, and as you are sensitive to others’ needs around you.

We pray that the God who is always present, the same God who stilled the storm with just a word, who is able to soothe a frantic heart would bring you hope and courage – whether you wait or work in uncertainty. We pray hope would abound in coming weeks as we put our trust in Him. He is God; He is never-changing, He is the great I AM who always was, is, and is to come.

There are three ways to give while in-person services are suspended during this time:

1. You can drop off a check or cash to the church office during the hours of 9am-12:00pm every weekday.
2. You can mail a check to:
 Countryside Christian Church
 3817 230th Street N,
 Port Byron, IL 61275
3. You can set up an electronic bank transfer through your bank. Contact the church for more information about this.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity in support of our church. Together, we will continue to do God’s amazing work!



YTD Offering Income

Budget: \$52,500

Actual: \$46,110

YTD Faith Promises

\$34,956

MY FAITH PROMISE TO WORLD MISSIONS

After a period of much prayer and discernment, I/WE promise to support the worldwide missionary program of the Countryside Christian Church over the next year. In total dependence upon God for HIS provision, it is our promise that “As God Gives, So Shall We Give.” By faith, I/We promise the following amount of money:

\$ _____ Annual Total

Note: This is a faith promise, a covenant between myself and God. It is my voluntary offering for the evangelization of the world.

“Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.” ~ John 14:27

UPCOMING EVENTS

04/04

EASTER EGG HUNT

Postponed at this time. New date will be announced.



04/05

PALM SUNDAY

Worship will be ONLINE only this Sunday



04/06

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Postponed at this time. New date will be announced.

MONTHLY MEETING

Be Connected Be Heard Be Informed

04/09

ELDERS' MEETING

6:30pm



04/12

EASTER SUNDAY

Sonrise Service – 7:30am

Breakfast – 8:30am

Sunday School – 9:30am

Worship Service – 10:45am



04/19

ELDER/DEACON BIBLE STUDY

Monthly Bible Study at the church at 8am



04/26

MISSION SUNDAY

FAMILY SUNDAY/POTLUCK

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



04/28

SOUP SUPPER & FELLOWSHIP

Last Tuesday of each month from 5-7pm.

Soup, bread, crackers, cookies and drinks are provided.



04/29

WOMENS' CONFERENCE

Cancelled for this year.



"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

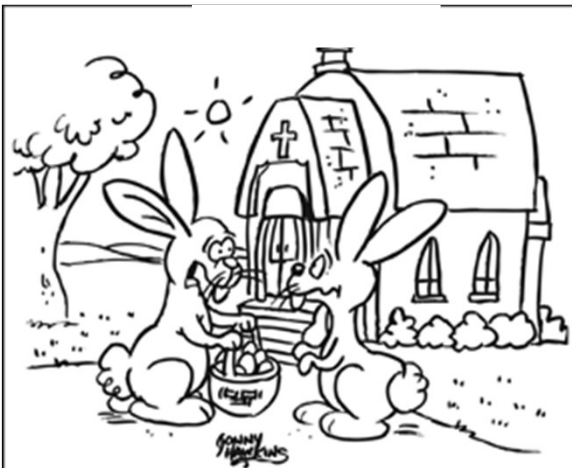
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL Birthdays

- 2 – Dana Larimer-Hergert
- 2 – Jason Collis
- 2 – Joe Heydeman
- 3 – Tim Smith
- 9 – Steve Rathburn
- 9 – BreeAnn Stoke
- 9 – Hannah Herrman
- 10 – Jeri Chasek
- 12 – Donald Bird Jr.
- 13 – Preston Short
- 14 – Becky Collis
- 20 – Jerry Dufur
- 27 – Roger Curry

APRIL Anniversaries

- 10 – Connie & Roger Curry
- 11 – Lisa & Doug Hoffman
- 14 – Dorothy & Doyle Newton
- 19 – Nancy & Jerry Dufur
- 28 – Callie & Logan Heydeman



“Here at the church, I only use Resurrection Eggs.”

April

1. Joshua 7-9
2. Joshua 10-12
3. Joshua 13-15
4. Joshua 16-18
5. Joshua 19-21
6. Joshua 22-24
7. Judges 1-4
8. Judges 5-8
9. Judges 9-12
10. Judges 13-15
11. Judges 16-18
12. Judges 19-21
13. Ruth 1-4
14. 1 Samuel 1-3
15. 1 Samuel 4-7
16. 1 Samuel 8-10
17. 1 Samuel 11-13
18. 1 Samuel 14-16
19. 1 Samuel 17-20
20. 1 Samuel 21-24
21. 1 Samuel 25-28
22. 1 Samuel 29-31
23. 2 Samuel 1-4
24. 2 Samuel 5-8
25. 2 Samuel 9-12
25. 2 Samuel 13-15
27. 2 Samuel 16-18
28. 2 Samuel 19-21
29. 2 Samuel 22-24
30. 1 Kings 1-7



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



NURSERY

Sunday School Hour:

- April 5th – Cathy Lotz
- April 12th – Becki Winger
- April 19th - Nancy Dufur
- April 26th – Kathy Kohrt

Worship Hour:

- April 5th – Mary Green
- April 12th – Nancy Dufur
- April 19th – Becki Winger
- April 26th – Holly Trout

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- April 5th – Connie Curry & Kathy Kohrt
- April 12th – Connie Curry & Cathy Lotz
- April 19th – Connie Curry & Ruth Coverdill
- April 26th – FAMILY SUNDAY



April 5th (Palm Sunday)

- Roger Curry (Meditation)
- Jim Kaecker (Communion Prayer)
- Teresa Garcia (Offering Prayer)

April 12th (Easter Sunday)

Sonrise Service

- Don Vickroy (Communion Prayer)
- Roger Curry (Offering Prayer)

Worship Service

- Wayne Lotz (Meditation)
- Teresa Garcia (Communion Prayer)
- Jim Kaecker (Offering Prayer)

April 19th

- Ryan Schmidt (Meditation)
- Jim Kaecker (Communion Prayer)
- Don Vickroy (Offering Prayer)

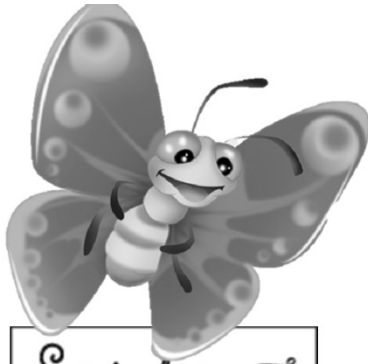
April 26th (Mission Sunday)

- Don Vickroy (Meditation)
- Teresa Garcia (Communion Prayer)
- Wayne Lotz (Offering Prayer)



Building Cleaners

- Jerry & Nancy Dufur
- Wayne & Cathy Lotz
- Randy & Sarah Denekas



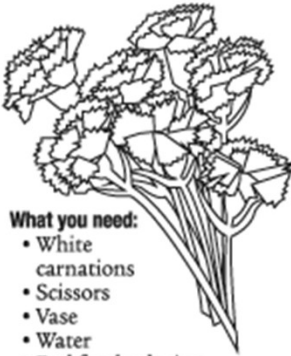
Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly.

It took her mother a while before she realized that the hymn Maria had been singing was really: "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."

KIDS CORNER

Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.




What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible


What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.



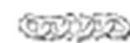


Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.




Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.







And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave


it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in



_____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he

took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my



blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV



"Tweet others as you would have them tweet you."

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." ~ Psalm 56:3

2020

April



REJOICE!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			01 	02	03	04
05 Worship ONLINE 10:45am	06	07	08	09 Elder Meeting 6:30pm Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	10 GOOD FRIDAY 	11
12 Sonrise Service 7:30am Breakfast 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am	13 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting Gym in Use Baseball League 6:30-8pm	14 Men's Study 9am	15 Worship Team 4:00pm Small Group Studies	16 Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	17	18
19 Elder/Deacon Study 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am	20 Gym in Use Baseball League 6:30-8pm	21 Men's Study 9am	22 Worship Team 4:00pm Small Group Studies	23 Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	24	25
26 Mission Sunday S.S. 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Family Sunday Potluck Lunch Food Pantry Collection	27 Gym in Use Baseball League 6:30-8pm	28 Men's Study 9am Soup Supper & Fellowship 5-7pm 	29 Women's Conference at LCU 8:30am-3pm Worship Team 4:00pm Small Group Studies	30 Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm		