

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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In times like these, it is easy to let fear grip our hearts. Fear of sickness. Fear of loss. Fear of the unknown. But when fear and anxiety try to invade our every thought, there is a C.A.L.M. that comes only from God. If you wonder about your ability to fight fear, remember there is a pathway out of the valley of worry. God used the pen of Paul to sketch the map with the most underlined verse in the Bible.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things (Phil. 4:4–8).



C = Celebrate God's goodness. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4). Turn your attention away from the problem, and for a few minutes celebrate God. It does you no good to obsess yourself with your trouble. The more you stare at it, the bigger it grows. Yet the more you look to God, the quicker the problem is reduced to its proper size.

A = Ask God for help. "Let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). Fear triggers either despair or prayer. Choose wisely. God said, "Call on me in the day of trouble" (Ps. 50:15). Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). There is no uncertainty in that promise. No "might," "perhaps," or "possibly will." Jesus states unflinchingly that when you ask, he listens.

L = Leave your concerns with God. Let him take charge. Let God do what he is so willing to do: "Guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). God does not need our help, counsel, or assistance. (Please repeat this phrase: I hereby resign as ruler of the universe.) When he is ready for us to reengage, he will let us know. Until then, replace anxious thoughts with grateful ones. God takes thanksgiving seriously.

M = Meditate on good things. "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Don't let anxious, negative thoughts take over your mind. You cannot control the circumstances, but you can always control what you think of them.

Celebrate. Ask. Leave. Meditate. C.A.L.M.

Could you use some calm? We could all use a word of comfort and God is ready to give it. It is not God's will that you lead a life of perpetual anxiety. He has made you for more than this season of breath-stealing angst and mind-splitting worry. With His help, you can sleep better tonight. You can reframe the way you face your fears. By His power, you can "be anxious for nothing" and discover the "peace ... which passes all understanding."

~Max Lucado, from "Anxious for Nothing"



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

National Day of Prayer



The National Day of Prayer is an annual holiday that serves to encourage Americans to pray, meditate and repent.

The origins of National Day of Prayer date back to 1787, when Benjamin Franklin asked President George Washington to open each day with prayer, and to realize that prayer is deeply intertwined in the fabric of the United States. However, it was not until February 1952 during the Korean War that Reverend Billy Graham petitioned support of Representative Percy Priest to observe a national day of prayer. On April 17, 1952 President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming National Day of Prayer, to encourage Americans to turn to God in prayer and meditation.

National Prayer Day is celebrated every year on the first Thursday of May.

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

God made a promise to the prophet Habakkuk during some very deep and troubling times in Israel's history. It was a time marked by darkness and disobedience from the culture and God's people. The prophet cries out to God for hope and help and God answers in a most unexpected way; to use a wicked, idol-worshiping nation's army to come and execute His judgment on His people. Habakkuk could not believe what he was hearing as God began to detail the "woes" that would come to pass,

but in the middle of the pronouncement of woes God pauses to make a profound promise that would eventually be seen in the face of Jesus Christ and spread by Christ-followers until Christ returns.

God's promise, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" echoes into the New Testament as the apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." It is this knowledge, the knowledge of Jesus, the knowledge of the gospel, that we pray will spread across the earth. It is through every follower of Jesus living a prayer-care-share lifestyle that His glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

PRAY GOD'S GLORY *Across the Earth*

**"FOR THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD
AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA."**

HABAKKUK 2:14 NIV

MAY 7, 2020



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

We pray that you will join us this year to pray and proclaim the knowledge of God's glory across the earth.



happy Mother's DAY

*A Mother's Hands...
Reach out to bless her children and
Reach up to praise the Lord.
They're always loving, often praying, and
Ever giving more than she keeps for herself.
A mother's hands may tire,
But they never expire in their efforts
To do good for those she loves.
A mother's hands may age,
But her influence lasts forever.*

**Mother's Day
is
May 10th**

*She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."
(Proverbs 31:26-29)*



SHARING JESUS DURING COVID-19

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Pray.

It all begins with prayer. Make a list of five people you are the most burdened to see come to Christ whether they be family, neighbors, friends, or business contacts. *Each day ask God to show them their need of the Savior and provide a door of opportunity to witness to them.* An exciting thing will most likely happen. You will begin a habit you will wish you had started years ago and one that will continue long after this pandemic is over.



Arrange a time to talk heart to heart

Whether you're texting, calling or using one of the myriad video sharing platforms, it's easier than ever to arrange a time to share with someone. While this doesn't always come naturally when things are "normal", we are in a time when it is important to check in on each other. As you're setting up a time to see how someone is doing, be looking for that opportunity to share how Covid-19 has reminded you of what is important in life and what isn't. Make it clear that *they* are what matters to you and you would love to share something spiritually important concerning the greatest decision you ever made.

We are hearing from people around the world that those they are reaching are more open than ever to conversations about spiritual things. Arrange a time to talk and be ready!



Use this time to build bridges

As has been said many times, people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Use this time to build bridges with people you can talk to later when the sheltering in place is removed. Some examples:

- An elderly couple that could use a grocery run on their behalf
- A neighbor who needs help with a repair job that does not demand their presence,
- A simple call to check on the welfare of a person you recently met
- Mowing the lawn of someone whose lawn service has been temporarily halted,
- Patiently helping someone who is not as technical as you are learn how to meet with others and take care of their needs online.

First John 3:18 contains an admonition that could be appropriately applied to our relationship with non-Christians, *"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."* Bridges built now may open up doors later.

While sheltering in place presents obstacles in evangelism and fellowship, it also presents opportunities. Ask God to use those opportunities to unify His church and populate His kingdom during a time when many will see their need of a Savior.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12





2020

Last month we featured Hannah Herrman and her upcoming graduation from Riverdale High School. The graduation ceremony will now be online on May 17th at Riverdale School. If you would like to shower Hannah with cards and well wishes, her address is listed below!

Hannah Herrman
409 7th Ave. S
Cordova, IL 61242



"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6



MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Rock River Christian Camp

Rock River Christian Camp is a ministry we support and one that our members enjoy being a part of each year. Please read the below letter for changes to this year's camp schedule.

April 28, 2020

Dear Camp Family,

As you know, we are living in crazy times. Many things have had to change, be postponed, and even canceled because of COVID-19. We have spent the last month-plus praying and having many meetings trying to figure out what we as a camp need to do each step of the way.

We and the Camp Board met Monday evening, April 27, and had a good discussion about what we need to do for the summer. The State of Illinois has put a "Stay-at-Home" Order in place now through May 31st and we know that most likely it will either be extended or will have major restrictions once lifted. We are also paying attention to bordering states' orders as we do have people coming to camp through the summer months from every state that we border. There are many factors in getting camp prepared and ready for the summer months that we had to consider and people that plan for months ahead to make camp happen in the summer for not only kids but the leaders as well.

It has been a difficult time trying to know what the right decision would be for the summer, but after our time with the Camp Board, we have decided that the best course of action is to keep camp closed through July 31st at this time. We did not take this decision lightly and are sad that we will not see the camp full of campers this summer, but for the safety of all who come to camp and their families, we feel this is the best choice for this summer.

When we are ready, if you or your family would like to volunteer a day at camp, we plan to organize days that you would be able to come to spend some time at camp. If this interests you, let the camp office know, and then we can schedule a day for you or your family.

Along with the Camp Board, we will continue to meet and have discussions on what this means for camp beyond July. Please know that a lot went into this decision and we plan to keep our camp family connected in new ways for this summer. We will be sending you meaningful, fun, and interactive videos for you and your family to enjoy throughout the summer.

Many of you have expressed concern for the camp's financial well-being without the summer flow of campers. We greatly appreciate that concern and yes, this will impact the camp's finances. There are many things that we will not spend finances on during this time that will save the camp money, but the camp's general fund will be affected. We have attached a link if you would like to bless the camp financially through this time. We know that the camp means so much to many and we certainly pray that the camp will be able to continue helping people grow in Christ for years to come with your help. We know that the ministry this camp has for so many lives is great each year and we are still here and available for anyone that would like to seek counsel or guidance during this time. I know many of our camp leaders would also be willing to be there for anyone needing help. You can contact the camp by email (rrccoffice@gmail.com), Facebook messenger, phone call, or texting (815-493-6622). If you have already registered your campers for camp, we will contact you individually about your refund.

Please know we will be praying for all of you and will miss you all greatly!

Love you all,
Dan and Leslie Augenstine (Camp Managers)
and the Camp Board



"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14

WORSHIPPING AT HOME



“Let me hear somebody say, ‘Amen!’”


(keyboard clacking...)
“Amen!”




LIVESTREAMING *info*

You Tube Youtube. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR73Sgh3zkzpFluJEtpP-A>)

f Facebook. (www.facebook.com/countrysidecc.org) at 10:45am.

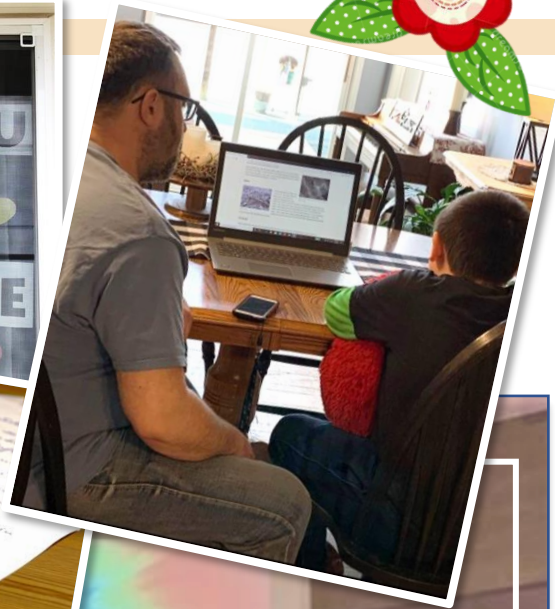
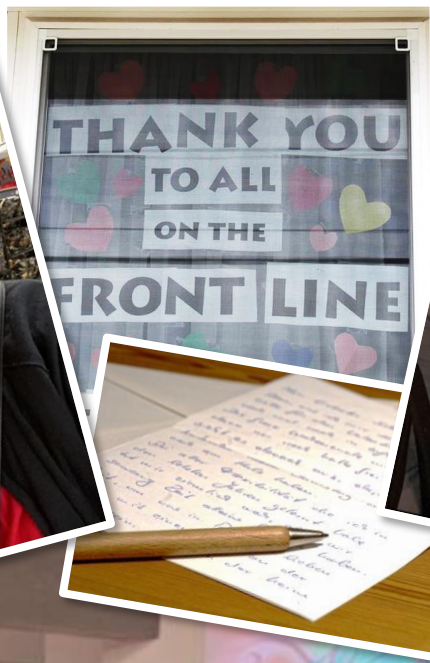
 Website. The sermon will be available in video or audio form on the church's website page (<http://countrysidecc.org>)

 If you are not able to access the internet on your computer or mobile device, we will be able to download it to a DVD for you. Just contact the church office to obtain a copy.



EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

SERVING OTHERS



THE CHURCH ISN'T EMPTY.
IT HAS BEEN DEPLOYED.

You are the...
working, teaching, sewing,
encouraging, praying, reading,
studying, care package delivering,
letter writing, phone calling, singing,
leading, giving, cleaning, cooking,
care-giving, worshipping
BODY OF CHRIST
Thank You!!



OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

5 WAYS TO GIVE

TO COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



IN PERSON



MAIL



ONLINE



MOBILE APP



TEXT

Countryside Christian Church
3817 230th St. N
Port Byron, IL 61275

Visit the "Giving" tab on our website:
countrysidecc.org
Or point your smartphone at the QR code below



Point your smartphone camera at the QR code to the right to be taken to the online giving site.



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

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.



YTD Offering Income

Budget: \$72,500

Actual: \$59,489

YTD Faith Promises**

\$41,713



**** Our Faith Promise goal for the year was \$37,770. The financial year ended April 30th at \$41,463!! Thank you so much for your generosity and commitment to giving to missions. We will be setting a new goal in May for the 2020-2021 year and encourage you to make new commitments. A Faith Promise is money we promise to give as we trust God to provide that extra this coming year. It goes directly to the missionaries we support at Countryside Christian Church.**

MAY

Birthdays

- 4 – Lena Holt
- 6 – Joanne Wiklund
- 11 – Doyle Newton
- 11 – Tena Knapp
- 12 – Logan Wheeler
- 14 – Tiffany Wheeler
- 17 – Jane Noyd
- 29 – Teagan Collis
- 24 – Jasper Denekas



MAY

Anniversaries

- 1 – Becki & Mike Winger
- 6 – Ruthie & Brock Coverdill
- 11 – Jill & Norm Weatherhead
- 30 – Katie Jo & Corey Chasek



“Gardens are nothing but trouble.
Ask Adam and Eve.”



May

1. 2 Chronicles 26-29
2. 2 Chronicles 30-32
3. 2 Chronicles 33-36
4. Ezra 1-4
5. Ezra 5-7
6. Ezra 8-10
7. Nehemiah 1-3
8. Nehemiah 4-6
9. Nehemiah 7-9
10. Nehemiah 10-13
11. Esther 1-4
12. Esther 5-7
13. Esther 8-10
14. Job 1-4
15. Job 5-7
16. Job 8-10
17. Job 11-13
18. Job 14-17
19. Job 18-20
20. Job 21-24
21. Job 25-27
22. Job 28-31
23. Job 32-34
24. Job 35-37
25. Job 38-43
25. Psalms 1-3
27. Psalms 4-6
28. Psalms 7-9
29. Psalms 10-12
30. Psalms 13-15
31. Psalms 16-18





CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



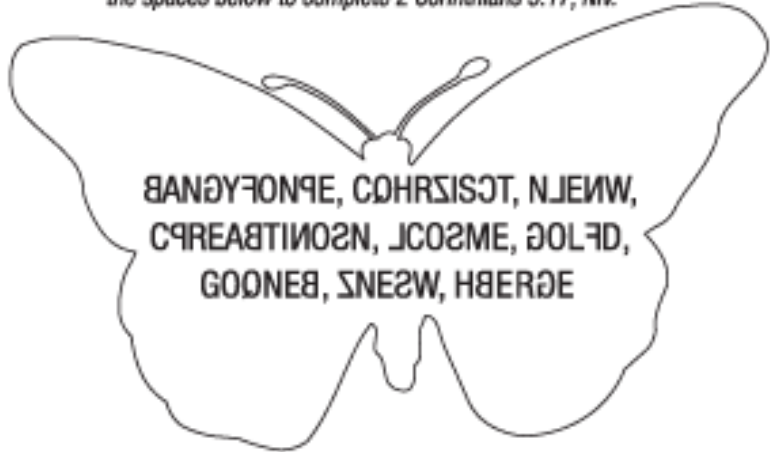
Transformation POWER



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,

the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,

the _____ is _____!






2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here



2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01	02
03 Worship ONLINE 10:45am	04	05	06 Online Bible Study (check Countryside Christian Church Facebook Group for discussion)	07 National Day of Prayer 	08	09
10 Happy Mother's Day! Worship ONLINE 10:45am	11	12	13 Online Bible Study (check Countryside Christian Church Facebook Group for discussion)	14	15	16
17 Worship ONLINE 10:45am Riverdale H.S. Graduation 	18	19	20 Online Bible Study (check Countryside Christian Church Facebook Group for discussion)	21	22	23
24 Worship ONLINE 10:45am	25 Memorial Day 	26	27 Online Bible Study (check Countryside Christian Church Facebook Group for discussion)	28	29	30
31 Pentecost Sunday  Worship ONLINE 10:45am Food Pantry Collection				 "YOU FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS OVER THE INTERNET AND YOU WANT TO DEDUCT YOUR MULTIMEDIA COMPUTER AS TRANSPORTATION. HAVE I GOT THAT RIGHT, SIR?" 