

the MESSENGER



COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020



From Steve's Desk...

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect over the past year and the blessings God has given us. When I look back over the past year, I can't think of a more unusual and challenging year. From the annual report, what I did during the 2020 Pandemic Lockdown: I sold my house "For Sale by Owner", moved across the state of Iowa, bought a new house, ended a nearly 24 year old ministry, left a school district bus driving job of 10 years, had a car totaled, replaced a car, learned how to do online and parking lot church while starting a new ministry, said goodbye to great friends, said hello to new friends, made changes to the church for social distance church, started a children's program, started a chapel service at a motocross track, took and passed all requirements for a Illinois bus driver's license, started driving in a new school district. . . 2020 might be the most productive year of my life, and I could not have done it without you!

YOU, Countryside, have been a warm, helpful, caring, kind, enthusiastic, encouraging, non-stop blessing. You literally moved me and helped with every part of this incredible year. THANK YOU!

In the past few months I have observed a congregation that is committed to one another, very much enjoys being in fellowship with one another, and enjoys the long history you share together. Countryside has the strongest commitment to missions of any church I have ever been a part of. In Wayne, Roger, and Don, you have Bible-loving men that are relentlessly committed to the ministry of C.C.C. John 13:35 lets us know that we will know our church family by one main characteristic... LOVE. Love defines this church. You have shown Karen and me love.

As to 2021, I can only say that I look forward to working with the elders and committees as we come together to explore new opportunities. There are hundreds upon hundreds of people within a few minutes of our church that need to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please be praying that God gives us a clear vision on how to best serve our community and be a beacon for those who are lost.

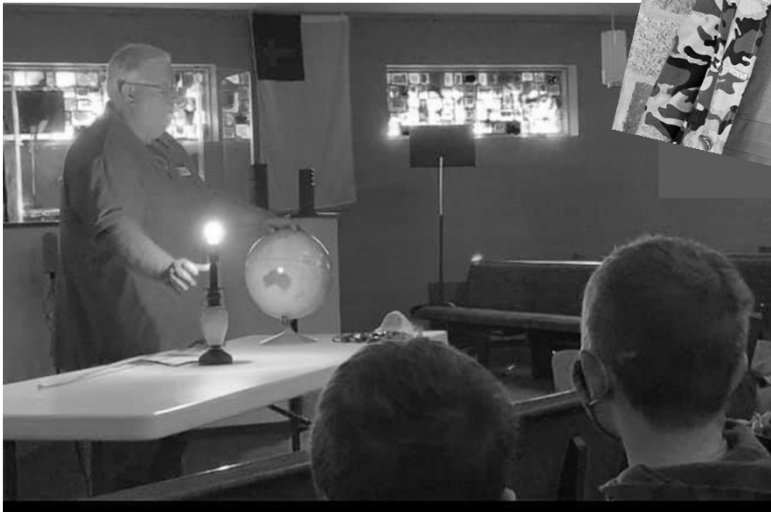
*In Christ,
Steve*



KIDS' CLUB

We started this month with another great group of kids for Kids' Club. In our second month, we have gone from our original 14 kids to 26 kids from the Riverdale School District, ages Kindergarten to 5th grade. We have had some new leaders join us and we are so grateful for their help! Our leaders now include: Wayne and Cathy Lotz, Becki Winger, Kathy Kohrt, Sandy Lawrence, Sarah Denekas (and Jasper!), Roger and Connie Curry, Teresa Garcia, Steve Allison, and Laura Schmidt, and sometimes Nathan, and Jacob, and Ellie Johnson as helpers.

We have also had others from the congregation step up to help with specific needs. Chris Evans comes in every Monday morning to get the rooms ready, the leaders' binders updated, copies made, and letters sent out. What a huge help she is!!



We also were privileged to have Bob Gipson come this month to do a Science Demonstration during the Life Lesson time. We so appreciated his expertise and the kids enjoyed it thoroughly!

Please pray for our Kids' Club program: for the leaders as they give their time and energy to help on Wednesday mornings, for the children attending that they would see Jesus in us, and most importantly, that we would be able to form relationships with families that they might come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

“Helping people to know God and to be obedient to him is perhaps the greatest gift we can bestow. Understood in this way, Christian education can be one of the most compassionate ministries of the church.”

— Perry G. Downs, *Teaching for Spiritual Growth: An Introduction to Christian Education*



Thanksgiving Food Baskets!

We are supporting **7 families** in need in our area by providing complete baskets containing all the makings of a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner.

We ask you to support our efforts by donating any of the following:

- ❖ 14 gravy packets/ 2 per basket
- ❖ Seven 5lb bags of potatoes
- ❖ 7 cans of corn
- ❖ 14 cans of green beans
- ❖ 7 packages of butter or margarine sticks
- ❖ 7 cans of cream of mushroom soup
- ❖ 7 cans of original French's Crispy Fried Onions
- ❖ 7 cans of sweet potatoes
- ❖ 7 packages of dinner rolls
- ❖ 7 loaves of bread
- ❖ 7 boxes of Stove-Top stuffing
- ❖ 7 cans of fruit
- ❖ 7 pumpkin pies
- ❖ 7 tubs of Cool-Whip topping
- ❖ 7 packages of cookies

If you wish to donate a turkey or money to purchase any of the above items... please contact the Church Office!

The Evangelism department will be providing 7 (15lb) turkeys and 7 gallons of milk, but we appreciate the donations above (or cash donations for the turkeys).

All donations due Sunday, Nov 15th

There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer for all donations. We thank you very, very much!

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11



CREATING TOGETHER

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Craft Day

Saturday, November 7th
10am-1pm
(Lunch is provided)

The Fellowship Department has planned a fun Craft Day at the church November 7th. Please make sure you are signed up so they can plan for lunch. Thank you to Becki Winger and Karen Allison for organizing this!

Upcoming!!

Next month, we can look forward to doing some Christmas Caroling together. Please watch the website or bulletin announcements for the date and time!



*"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."
1 Corinthians 1:4*

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: I.D.E.S.

IDES stands for International Disaster Emergency Service. IDES exists to bring glory to God by meeting physical and spiritual needs in our hurting world until Jesus returns. For the past 47 years IDES has served as a channel through which Christian Churches/Churches of Christ and individual Christians could meet the physical and spiritual needs of suffering people throughout the world. The vision statement: "IDES vision is to lead the independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in responding to disasters and emergencies in the United States and throughout the world by mobilizing financial and physical resources to and through their missionaries and congregations for the purpose of benevolent evangelism."

IDES has been the one source our churches and missionaries consistently turn to for help. In 2018, IDES celebrated 45 years of meeting physical and spiritual needs of suffering people throughout the world in the name of Jesus Christ. They have distributed millions of dollars over the years to help with disaster relief, development projects, medical needs, evangelism and hunger. Among independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, the work of IDES is unique.

"Many recognize that a white flag displayed on the battlefield means 'cease fire'. A request from one of the IDES' mission partners in Guatemala, points up a more recent meaning for the white flag. Many of the assistance requests IDES is receiving each week are related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been the case since March, and will likely continue for some time. Often these requests relate to medical needs, but an even larger number are focused on hunger relief.

Thus in Guatemala, white flags flown at the doorway have become a symbol, not of surrender, but of desperation. They are a cry for help. They indicate a home is without food, and its occupants urgently need assistance. IDES' mission partner in one Guatemalan village is Brother Joshua. He ministers to a congregation consisting of about 30 households. On the street where he lives, Brother Joshua recently counted 5 white flags. IDES is partnering with Brother Joshua's mission to feed the families in his church, and many more in the community around them (about 600 people total) for the next 6 weeks.



Through June, IDES has worked with 64 partners in 33 countries and 8 U.S. states to bring COVID-19 relief to hundreds of hard-hit communities like Brother Joshua's." (Newsletter of July 31, 2020)



Currently, Countryside Christian Church is planning a food bag packing event on Oct. 2, 2021. We will be working with the Erie Christian Church for this event. Details will be forth coming.

As you can see IDES is a very busy, global organization meeting a variety of physical and spiritual needs. For more information about their activities check the mission booklet on the mission table in the foyer.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT



It's already that time again!!

The Worship Department will be scheduling a day to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and order poinsettias. If you would like to purchase one of the poinsettias in memory of someone, or to help beautify our sanctuary, please sign up in the church foyer and let the office know. Thank you!!



Why Being Thankful Is a Powerful Way to Live Free

The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.” Psalms 28:7

We have so much to be grateful for in this life, every single day. But reality is that sometimes constant life demands, battles, and worries give more room to defeat than to a heart of thanks.

Sometimes it really is a sacrifice to offer praise and thanks. We may not feel like it. We're struggling. We're weary. Or maybe, we feel like He let us down. We think God seems distant, like he's far away, or doesn't really care about what's troubling us. Painful life blows and losses might have recently sent us spiraling.

But here's what can make a lasting difference. We have a choice, every day, to give him thanks. And with a heart of thanksgiving, we realize that no matter what we face, God doesn't just work to change our situations and help us through our problems. He does more. He changes our hearts. His power, through hearts of gratitude and focused minds on Him, releases the grip our struggles have over us. We're strengthened by His peace, refueled by His joy.

No matter what our current situation, or the struggles we may be facing, here's what choosing to be thankful does:

- *It gets our eyes off ourselves, and helps us to focus back on God.*
- *It reminds us we're not in control, but that we serve a Mighty God who is. It keeps us in a place of humility and dependency on Him, as we recognize how much we need Him.*
- *It helps us to recognize we have so much to be thankful for, even all the little things, which often we may forget to thank Him for. It takes our attention off our problems and helps us instead to reflect on the goodness of His many blessings.*
- *It reminds us that God is the Giver of all good gifts. We were never intended to be fully self-sufficient in this life. A grateful heart reminds us that ultimately God is our Provider, that all blessings and gifts are graciously given to us by His hand.*

"I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing His praises." (Psalm 7:17)

OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

Grateful to God

Our Giving

YTD Offering Budget: \$10,769.23

YTD Offering Actual: \$10,322.40

YTD Faith Promises: \$10,540.00

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.

5 WAYS TO GIVE

- IN PERSON
- MAIL
- ONLINE
- MOBILE APP
- TEXT

Point your smartphone camera at the QR code to the right to be taken to the online giving site. From here you can choose to give online or via text



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER *events*

11/1

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS** (Set back 1 hour)



11/2

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENT
MEETINGS**
Evangelism/Missions (6:30pm)
All Departments (7pm)



11/3

ELECTION DAY



11/7

CRAFT DAY
10:00am – 1pm (Lunch is provided)



11/7

KIDS CLUB SPAGHETTI DINNER
5:00pm



11/15

PIE ORDERS DUE
Proceeds to Youth Mission Trip



11/15

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS DUE
Please bring donations for the Thanksgiving baskets to church this Sunday.



11/26

THANKSGIVING DAY



11/20

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION
Items for the month are due this Sunday and will be delivered to the Food Pantry this week



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

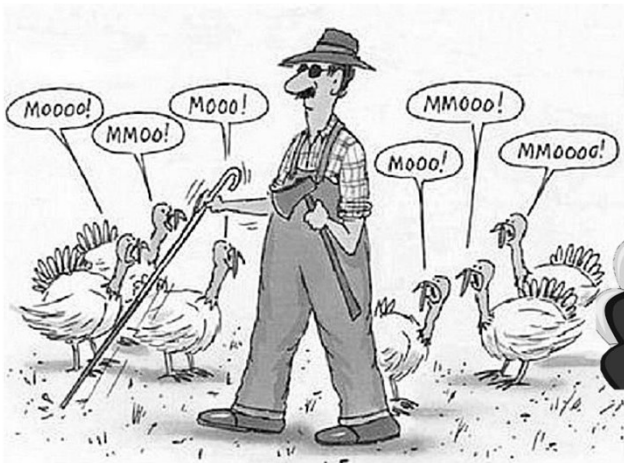
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER Birthdays

- 8 – Karen Allison
- 9 – Dottie Seitz
- 10 – Tim Trout
- 12 – Nathan Johnson
- 18 – Madison Schmidt
- 19 – Holly Trout
- 22 – Elmo Lawson
- 25 – Mary Lawson
- 26 – John McCoy
- 29 – Pat Ricketts

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

- 13 – Elmo & Mary Lawson
- 16 – Larry & Georgia Cullison
- 29 – Angela & Joe Heydeman



November

1. Luke 18-21
2. Luke 22-24
3. John 1-3
4. John 4-6
5. John 7-10
6. John 11-13
7. John 14-17
8. John 18-21
9. Acts 1-2
10. Acts 3-5
11. Acts 6-9
12. Acts 10-12
13. Acts 13-14
14. Acts 15-18
15. Acts 19-20
16. Acts 21-22
17. Acts 23-25
18. Acts 26-28
19. Romans 1-4
20. Romans 5-8
21. Romans 9-11
22. Romans 12-16
23. 1 Corinthians 1-4
24. 1 Corinthians 5-8
25. 1 Corinthians 9-12
25. 1 Corinthians 13-16
27. 2 Corinthians 1-3
28. 2 Corinthians 4-6
29. 2 Corinthians 7-9
30. 2 Corinthians 10-13



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Not JUST FOR KIDS

KIDS CORNER

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
			20		21					22				
	23	24					25		26					
27						28		29			30	31	32	33
34					35		36		37					
38			39	40		41		42		43				
44					45		46		47			48		
49						50		51		52	53			
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57	58	59	60			61		62						
63					64					65		66	67	68
69					70					71				
72					73					74				

Check back next month for the answers!

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15



Not JUST FOR KIDS

KIDS CORNER

ACROSS

- 1 Joyful
- 6 Former
- 10 Sweet potatoes
- 14 Love intensely
- 15 ___ of Plenty
- 16 Band instrument
- 17 Hotel's cousin
- 18 Healing plant
- 19 Serving
- 20 Designated
- 22 Legal claim
- 23 Don't ___ on me
- 25 Very large truck
- 27 Close up the windows
- 29 Adventurous
- 33 Pops
- 34 Fisherman's tool
- 36 Penzoil is this (2 wds.)
- 38 Bets
- 41 Favorite Thanksgiving dessert
- 43 Work as a waitress
- 44 Circumvents
- 46 Female parent
- 48 60 sec.
- 49 What an actor reads
- 51 Higher than alto
- 54 Extol
- 56 Hurt arm holder
- 57 Cranberry ___
- 61 Corroded
- 63 Too
- 64 Vegetable
- 65 Postpone
- 69 Canned meat brand
- 70 Seven days
- 71 Meat and potatoes covering
- 72 Couch
- 73 Greek stringed instrument
- 74 Sugar-free brand

DOWN

- 1 Turkey alternative
- 2 Much ___ about nothing
- 3 Pan's partner
- 4 Already adjusted
- 5 Berate (2 wds.)
- 6 Not this
- 7 Golf course "goals"
- 8 Weathered
- 9 Compass point
- 10 Bear or Berra
- 11 Qualified
- 12 Planet orbiter
- 13 Compass point
- 21 Cozy room (2 wds.)
- 22 Italian "dollars"
- 23 Polite word
- 24 Rural
- 26 McDonald's "Big ___"
- 27 Baths
- 28 Representative
- 30 Anger
- 31 Painter Rockwell
- 32 It follows 23 Down
- 35 Dickens' Tiny ___
- 37 Comedian Jay
- 39 Make a mistake
- 40 Steps for crossing a fence
- 42 Goddess
- 45 Software Publisher's Association
- 47 Max
- 50 Thanksgiving bird
- 52 "I ___ allegiance..."
- 53 Horseback travelers
- 55 German engraver Albrecht
- 57 Talk back
- 58 Dog food brand
- 59 Not the Army or Navy
- 60 Unconsciousness
- 62 Rice wine
- 64 Night bird
- 66 Cooking oil
- 67 Adam's wife
- 68 Seed bread

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



NURSERY

No Nursery at this time. Please utilize the gym during the worship service for a simulcast and child-friendly activities

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

No Children's Church at this time. Please utilize the gym during the worship service for a simulcast and child-friendly activities

Building Cleaners

Roger & Connie Curry
Mike & Becki Winger
Randy & Sarah Denekas



November 1

Ryan Schmidt (Communion Meditation)

November 8

Don Vickroy (Communion Meditation)

November 15

Hannah Herrman (Communion Meditation)

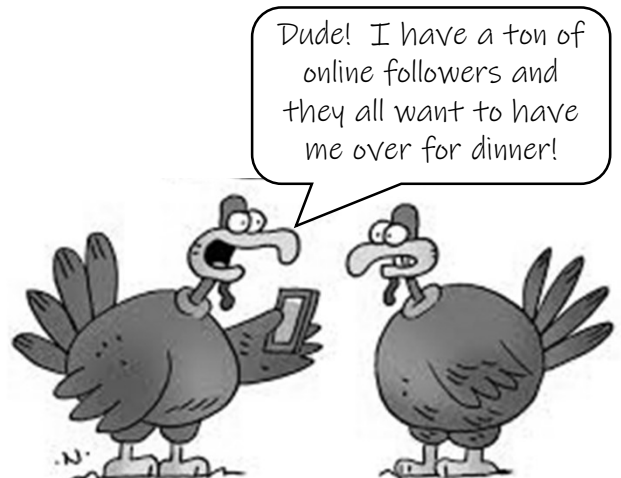
November 22

Teresa Garcia (Communion Meditation)

November 29

Jim Kaecker (Communion Meditation)








*At this time, there will be no offering or communion ushers needed.



2020

November



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
01 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS  COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	02 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm U of I Home Extension 7-9pm	03 Men's Study 9am ELECTION DAY  Girl Scouts 6-8pm	KIDS CLUB 7:45AM-11AM	04 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	05 Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	06 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm Cub Scouts 6pm-11pm	07 Craft Day 10am-1pm  Spaghetti Supper – Kids Club 5pm
08 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	09 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting Cub Scouts 6-7pm	10 Men's Study 9am Cub Scouts 6-7pm Girl Scouts 6-8pm		11 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm VETERANS DAY 	12 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	13	14
15 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM Pie Orders Due Thanksgiving Donations Due	16 Cub Scouts 5:45pm	17 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm		18 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	19 Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm >>Deliver Thanksgiving Baskets<<	20	21
22 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	23 Cub Scouts 6-7pm	24 Men's Study 9am Cub Scouts 6-7pm Girl Scouts 6-8pm	25 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27	28	
29 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM  Food Pantry Needs	30						

LIVESTREAMING *with*



Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR735qhzkzpfUjEtP-A>



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.



Countryside Christian Church

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Port Byron, IL 61275