



the
MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020

“One Solitary Life”

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college.

He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born.

He did none of these things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

When he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress.

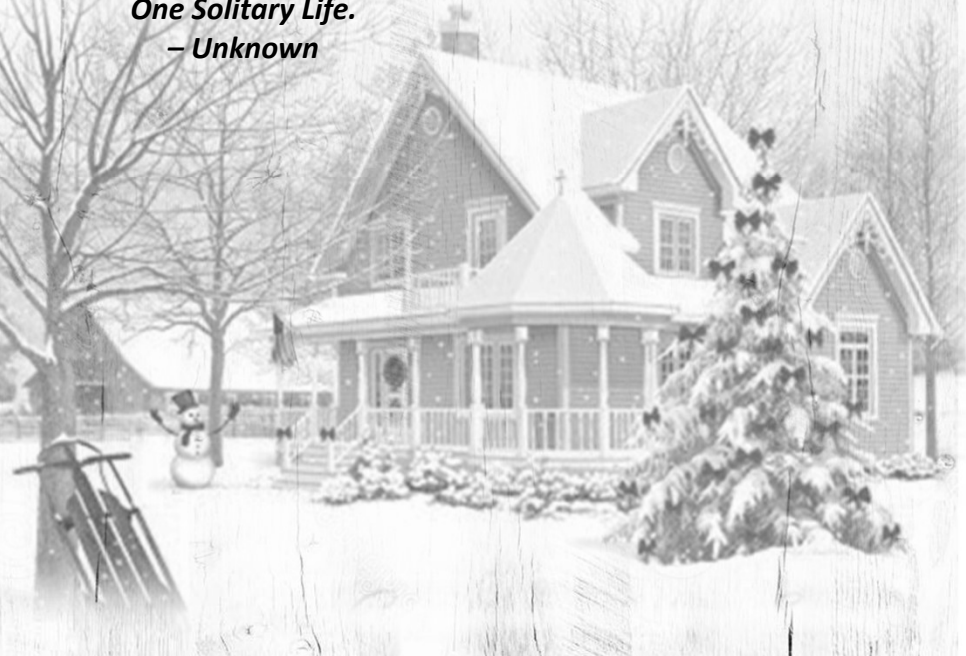
All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that

One Solitary Life.

— Unknown

“That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing.”

Martin Luther





From Steve's Desk...



A Very COVID Christmas

After over 400 years of waiting, John the Baptist shows up as a prophet wearing nothing but camel's hair and a belt, eating locust and honey...he is unorthodox and wild.

Luke 3:2-16 *the Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'"*

750 years earlier God informed Isaiah that this was all going to happen. It was all under control. God again is gracious sending John and a message of good news that any obstacle, twist, or turn that might keep Jesus from you will be removed. Now John goes on to tell us how to prepare for the arrival of Christ...

John said to the crowds (there were Sadducees and Pharisees in the crowd... the religious know it all's) coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

John the Baptist is telling them and us that calling yourself a Jew, being religious, wearing the label Christian, going to church does not make you right with God. Repentance is the key, SO... REPENT, make a U-Turn, go in the other direction. Move toward Jesus.

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

John says produce good fruit, for this is the evidence of repentance. Now here is the fruit...

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (Be generous toward others) Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. (Be interested in the wellbeing of others over your own greedy interests) Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay." (Be others oriented, don't take advantage of anyone).

These instructions have been important since John spoke them 2000 years ago. Then he says...

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

COVID has produced a lot of waiting! As we wait to celebrate the arrival of our Savior this Christmas, remember the Savior came. Nothing can stop Him. Repent and live for Him. Produce fruit for Him. Wait expectantly for Him. John was speaking to an audiences of "wait-ers". He told them what to do. This Christmas we should too.

In Christ,
Steve



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Education Highlight



NEW EDUCATION CHAIR!!

We are happy to announce Sarah Denekas will be our new

Director of Education

for 2021!!

Thank you so much Sarah for taking this on! We know you are going to do a fantastic job with this. Sarah has had a heart for children's ministry for a long time and directed Vacation Bible School many years at the church.

We are excited to see what you have planned for this next year!

KIDS CLUB NEWS

On Saturday, November 7th, the Kids Club hosted a Spaghetti Dinner for their families with the kids making the food and serving their parents. They were all so hardworking and polite. Such a great group of kids! We love Kids Club! Thank you to ALL who help with this amazing children's ministry at the church!



"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." —Neal A. Maxwell

ANGEL TREE

An Angel Tree has been set up in the church foyer to support IAG (Individual Advocacy Group), a nonprofit organization that helps those with special needs.

Please consider taking an angel from the tree and purchasing some Christmas gifts for those in need.

This is also a wonderful family activity to do with your children and demonstrate how we can help show the love of God this Christmas season.

All donations will be due to the church on **December 13th**. It is your choice whether you wrap them or not. Any questions, please see Amber Ramos or Georgia Cullison.
Thank you!



"Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts: the gift of God to man—his Son; and the gift of God to man – when we first give ourselves to God." – Vance Havner

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BLOOD DRIVE



1 PINT
can save
3 LIVES
GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE

GIVE BLOOD

DATE/TIME:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021 7:30AM – 11:30AM

LOCATION:

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (IN THE GYM)
3817 230TH ST N, PORT BYRON, IL 61275

Each year Countryside has an annual blood drive. To be eligible to donate you must not donate after November 14th. Appointments will be made after December 1st, but walk-ins are always welcome. Plan now to donate for the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.

*Please see Connie Curry to make your appointment or sign up online at:
https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/94062*

COVID REQUIREMENTS:

Every person must wear a mask. One will be provided to you if you do not have one. Also, reservations are required to maintain social distancing requirements.

*All presenting donors will receive a voucher for a gift card to Amazon.com, Casey's, Walmart, Subway, or a variety of other stores. Snacks are provided. If you have any questions, call the church office at 309.523.2834 or email:
cccportbyron@gmail.com.*



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER
How life flows through our community.®

MISSION HIGHLIGHT



MISSION HIGHLIGHT-'ME AND MY HOUSE'

Josh and Susan Sanchez are missionaries who established the church in Manzanillo, Mexico and are now working with the church in Colima, Mexico. They have worked in Mexico since January of 2006. Josh grew up in Mexico City, Mexico and attended Central Christian College in Moberly, MO 1999-2003. Susan grew up in Mexico, MO in the Christian Church. She attended CCCB in 1999-2003 also.



The year 2020 has been eventful for the Sanchez family. In December 2019 Scarlett, a teenager who had been living with them since July, went to visit her father and possibly live with him in Cozumel. This did not work out so Scarlett and Rafa, her brother, moved in with the Sanchezs after Christmas. As they are now packing things to move to their new ministry in Colima, Mexico Scarlett's father is revoking his permission for Scarlett to move with them. Rafa is now 18 and able to make his own decisions. Susan states that "foster parenting is incredibly hard work and heart work".

"From now until Christmas things may get a little wild in the Sanchez household. Besides having four large and rowdy kids, getting this family of 6 moved into a house that is not 100% finished, but very functional will be interesting. I said 6, and I pray for that number to remain, that Scarlett can live with us." (2020 October newsletter)

Current prayer requests include: Rafa and Scarlett, Mexico facing Covid 19, Millie and baptism, reaching those in need, all property and house details, details to get the church on the light grid, the church in Honduras is looking for a new preacher, Pokemon groups and for the church to be the church. (October 2020) More information is available in the booklet on the mission shelf.

Mission Highlight



O Holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

Fellowship Highlight



Craft & Day

cookie swap

Saturday, December 5th

1:30pm

(Wreath-Making Class
and Cookie Exchange)

Come create some beautiful Christmas decorations with evergreen boughs. Chris Evans will be teaching us how to make wreaths or mailbox covers with fresh evergreens. We also will be having a cookie exchange. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and trade with others to take home a delicious assortment of Christmas cookies. RSVP (309.523.2834) so we can plan for supplies!



Caroling

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear!"

Join us on **Saturday, December 19th** at **1:00pm** for Christmas Caroling followed by refreshments at the church.

*"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."
—Martin Luther*

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



Worship Highlight



Christmas
Eve

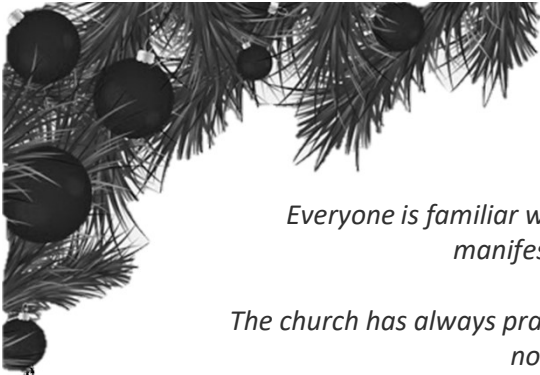
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE
5 PM

Please join us on Christmas Eve as the CCC Worship Team presents the Christmas Story written by Teresa Garcia along with traditional Christmas carols and a candlelight service.



*"Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind."
—Helen Steiner Rice*

Finance Highlight



OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

Everyone is familiar with "Christmas gifts." But there is a much richer history of the church manifesting and exemplifying generosity for and to the world.

The church has always practiced "almsgiving." The word "alm" meaning "mercy," indicating a free, no-strings-attached, charitable gift to those in need.

We respond with gratitude, this Christmas season, to the same God who has provided mercifully for his people throughout history. God's own generosity to the world in Christ, through the gospel, prompts a response toward those without hope, so that "Your heart shall not be grieved when you give" (Deut. 15:10).

==== Our Giving ====

YTD Offering Budget: \$10,769.23
*as of 10/31/20

YTD Offering Actual: \$10,322.40
*as of 10/31/20

YTD Faith Promises: \$19,875.00
CURRENT

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

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.



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





Upcoming Events



DECEMBER events

12/5

CRAFT DAY
1:30pm with Cookie Exchange



12/7

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



12/13

ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE
Please bring your Angel Tree gifts to the church by this Sunday.



12/17

ELDER MEETING
9:00am



12/19

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
1:00pm



12/24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
5pm



12/25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



12/27

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



12/31

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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


Birthdays & Anniversaries

December BIRTHDAYS

- 5 – Mary Green
- 10 – Dorothy Newton
- 23 – Kathy Kohrt
- 31 – Brock Coverdill

December ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 – Arlys & Curt Koepping
- 26 – Bill & JoAnn Courter

CONGRATULATIONS!!! If you kept up with the Bible bookmarks all year, you just finished reading through the Bible in a year!! 



“That’s right, son – just gold, frankincense, and myrrh. No video games.”

December

1. Galatians 1-3
2. Galatians 4-6
3. Ephesians 1-3
4. Ephesians 4-6
5. Philippians 1-4
6. Colossians 1-4
7. 1 Thessalonians 1-5
8. 2 Thessalonians 1-3
9. 1 Timothy 1-3
10. 1 Timothy 4-6
11. 2 Timothy 1-4
12. Titus Philemon
13. Hebrews 1-4
14. Hebrews 5-7
15. Hebrews 8-10
16. Hebrews 11-13
17. James 1-2
18. James 3-5
19. 1 Peter 1-2
20. 1 Peter 3-5
21. 2 Peter 1-3
22. 1 John 1-2
23. 1 John 3-5
24. 2 John, 3 John, Jude
25. Revelation 1-3
25. Revelation 4-5
27. Revelation 6-9
28. Revelation 10-13
29. Revelation 14-16
30. Revelation 17-18
31. Revelation 19-22

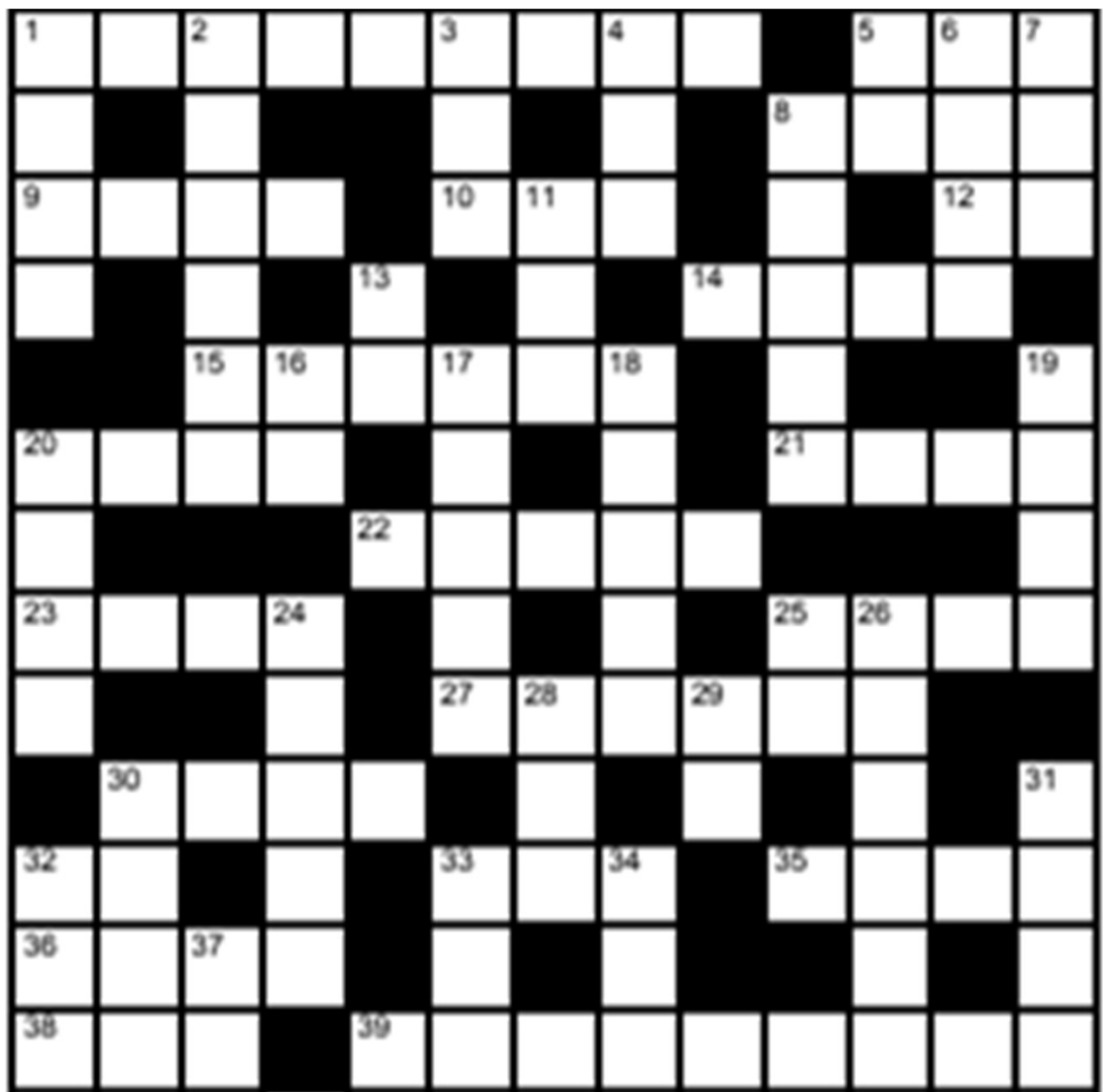


READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



Christmas Crossword

Kids Corner



"If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God's word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared." —Nancy Guthrie

Not JUST FOR KIDS

Kids Corner

Across

- 1 Jesus' birthplace (9)
- 5 Herod slew the children of this age and under (3)
- 8 Peter quoted his words on the day of Pentecost (4)
- 9 "A ___ shaken with the wind" (4)
- 10 "Ye shall find ___ babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" (3)
- 12 The year from Jesus' birth (2)
- 14 Anna was of this tribe (as recorded in Luke) (4)
- 15 "Behold, a ___ shall be with child" (6) 20 "Fruits ___ for repentance" (4)
- 21 The wise men came from here (4)
- 22 "He shall reign of the house of ___ for ever" (5)
- 23 A female ancestor of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1 (4)
- 25 The amount of manna to be gathered per person (4)
- 27 He multiplied the widow's oil (6)
- 30 "As soon as the voice of thy salvation sounded in mine ___" (4)
- 32 An altar meaning witness (Joshua 22) (2)
- 33 To increase (3)
- 35 Malarial fever (4)
- 36 To guide (4)
- 38 There was no room here (3)
- 39 These men went to see the baby Jesus (9)

Down

- 1 "Mary, of whom was ___ Jesus" (4)
- 2 Jesus' age when he was taken to Jerusalem (6)
- 3 Jesus did not do this in the wilderness (3) 4 Adam's wife (3)
- 5 "Mary was espoused ___ Joseph" (2)
- 6 "They that ___ soft clothing are in kings' houses" (4)
- 7 Zacharias said, "I am an ___ man" (3)
- 8 Grandson of 23 (5)
- 11 A place near Bethel (3)
- 13 "A pair of turtledoves ___ two young pigeons" (2)
- 16 "That ___ might be fulfilled" (2)
- 17 "The ___ of God was upon him" (5)
- 18 Mother-in-law of 23 (5)
- 19 This went before the wise men (4)
- 20 The mother of Jesus (4)
- 24 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth (5) 25 "___ that one would hear me!" (2)
- 26 Jesus was laid in this (6)
- 28 The spirit did this to Jesus in the wilderness (3)
- 29 Thus (2)
- 30 The first garden (4)
- 31 "Where is he that is born king of the ___?" (4)
- 32 A priest in the time of Samuel (3)
- 33 A tree of the olive family (3)
- 34 To put into water (3)
- 37 "___ angel of the Lord appeareth" (2)

November
Newsletter
Crossword Puzzle
Answers!

H	A	P	P	Y		T	H	E	N		Y	A	M	S	
A	D	O	R	E		H	O	R	N		O	B	O	E	
M	O	T	E	L		A	L	O	E		G	L	O	B	
			S	L	A	T	E	D			L	I	E	N	S
	T	R	E	A	D		S	E	M	I					
S	H	U	T	T	E	R		D	A	R	I	N	G		
P	A	S				N	E	T		C	A	R	O	I	L
A	N	T	E	S		P	I	E		S	E	R	V	E	
S	K	I	R	T	S		M	O	M				M	I	N
	S	C	R	I	P	T		S	O	P	R	A	N	O	
			L	A	U	D		S	L	I	N	G			
S	A	U	C	E		R	U	S	T	E	D				
A	L	S	O			O	K	R	A		D	E	F	E	R
S	P	A	M			W	E	E	K		G	R	A	V	Y
S	O	F	A			L	Y	R	E		E	S	T	E	E

"Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind."
—Helen Steiner Rice.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Volunteers this Month



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



Wayne & Cathy Lotz
Kathy Kohrt & Lisa Jones
Dottie Seitz & Georgia Cullison



December 6

Wayne Lotz (Communion Meditation)

December 13

Ryan Schmidt (Communion Meditation)

December 20

Don Vickroy (Communion Meditation)

December 27

Hannah Herrman (Communion Meditation)

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

Who can add to
Christmas?

The perfect motive is that
God so loved the world.

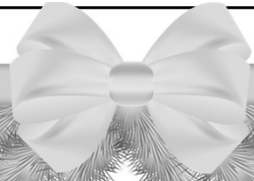
The perfect gift is that He
gave His only Son.

The only requirement is
to believe in Him.

The reward of faith
is that you shall have








Everlasting Life!

~Corrie Ten Boom



2020

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		01 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm	KIDS CLUB 7:45AM-11AM	02 Small Groups Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	03 Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	04 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm Cub Scouts 5:45pm	05 Craft Day 1:30pm 
06 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	07 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm U of I Home Extension 7-9pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm	08 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm		09 Small Groups Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	10 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	11	12
13  Angel Tree Gifts DUE TODAY COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	14 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting	15 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm		16 Small Groups Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	17 Elder Meeting 9am Gym in Use Basketball League 5:30-8:00pm	18	19 Christmas Caroling 1pm 
20 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	21	22 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm		23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 COFFEE TIME 10:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM 	28	29 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm		30	31 Happy New Year! 		

LIVESTREAMING *with*



Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR735qhzkzpFlujEtp-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 (<http://countrysidecc.org>) page



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
3817-230th Street North, Port Byron, IL 61275

