

# the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021

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## *From Steve's Desk...*

### 2021... A NEW WAY OF LIFE?

Can you imagine a world where Christians are considered outsiders and religious persecution is rampant? Can you imagine a world where the government is out to get you and the laws prohibit you from gathering in peaceful assembly to worship God? Can you imagine hiding in fear wondering if you will be called out for being a Christian and fearing an angry mob? Can you imagine the court's ruling against you and the lawmakers passing laws that oppose you? To live like this, with these fears, day after day, looking over your shoulder wondering if it could get any worse would be exhausting. In a situation like that one might be tempted to ask...

### What is this world coming to?

The paragraph above has in fact been lived out by thousands of Christians. We read about it in the New Testament. In Acts we see the government of Rome prompted by the Jews to squash efforts of a growing Christian church. Arresting, imprisoning, beating, and persecuting Christians was a daily event under later Roman rulers. For a Christian to publicly claim Christ as Savior was a willing choice to die for their faith. Mobs of people would gather together to laugh, drink, and party as Christians were burned at the stake or fed to lions. All of this is a part of a well-documented experience for the early Christian church.

There is another fact that is well-documented. There is no written record of any Christian in the first century church asking the question... What is this world coming to? However there are hundreds of documents recording hundreds of Christians boldly declaring... **Look who has come into this world.** Christ the Savior of the world has come to this world to redeem the sinner, rescue the lost, and give hope to the hopeless. Jesus taught that this world is not our home, our hope, or our future.

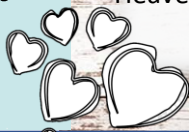
Today, if you find yourself asking the question what is this world coming to... STOP and reflect on who has come to this world. Jesus stands at the door of your heart and wants you to let Him in. Jesus says "Come to me and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28) Jesus came to this world, lived a perfect life, and died on a cross as an innocent man who paid the price for our sins. He is now in Heaven and wants to be a part of your life every day. Jesus loves you.

*Steve*



*"Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new."*

—Unknown







*Are you looking to upgrade your home TV? The church wants your old one!*

*After taking stock of classrooms, we realized we need two 40" flatscreen TV's for ministry and youth. If you have one you are looking to get rid of, would you contact the church office?*

*Thank you!!*



*I just got a text from a girl that said, "I bought you an awesome Valentine's Day gift! XOX" I really hope she spelled "XBox" wrong!*



# KIDS CLUB SLEDDING PARTY

Evangelism Highlight



## KIDS CLUB

We started January off with a Sledding Day! The kids had a blast riding the hill behind the church followed by some hot cocoa and cookies. The temperature was perfect and the kids kept talking about their leaders (ahem...Wayne and Steve) who were just as adventurous and daring as they were!!

We love Kids Club and truly enjoy spending time with this great group of kids.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
Romans 5:8*



# MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Christ to China Ministry-C2C

*In September 2018 the Mission department decided to add, Christ to China, (C2C) to the missions supported by Countryside. In April, 2018 Wing Wong came to the Faith/Promise rally and presented his mission work C2C, in New Hampshire and also in China. Wing Wong has worked over 50 years in China presenting the message of Christ to the people and also to the Chinese in New Hampshire. The work in New Hampshire is under the partnership of Restoration House Ministries.*



*"Most of you will agree with me that this was one of the most challenging years. It started out with our China coworkers being detained, questioned and threatened by Chinese officials for holding religious activities. The police also confiscated hundreds of our New Approach thumb drives. Soon after that, the pandemic broke out in Wuhan China and spread around the world. This had messed up our whole year of planning and schedules. However we know*

*that "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than our ways and God's thoughts than our thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9) (2020 Christmas newsletter)*

*In September Wing contracted the virus and ended up in ICU for 6 days. He said that the recovery process was long and challenging and he thought he might never be well but after 2 months he felt 90% recovered.*

*Last year a young boy, 13 years old, named Moses was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma and given a 20% chance of survival. He is now doing well having his last month of chemotherapy. During the course of fighting the disease he and his mother have accepted Jesus into their lives and were baptized in the name of Christ.*

*Many young people are being brainwashed into the communist philosophy and atheism and rejecting Christianity. Spreading the Gospel message is becoming more and more of a challenge.*

*The pandemic hit many people financially. C2C income dropped 32% and a 19% decrease in the number of supporting churches and 27% decrease in the number of individual supporters. At the same time the expenses increased 18%. However, God is good and the PPP government loan helped make ends meet. They were only a little short when they closed the books for 2020, but it was covered by the surplus we had in 2019. Praise the Lord!*

*Wing Wong is in his 51<sup>st</sup> year of service to our Lord. For more information about the work in China and the Chinese people in New Hampshire check the C2C booklet on the mission shelf.*



*Pray for Wing Wong as he brings the message of Jesus Christ to the Chinese people in New Hampshire and in China.*

*"What will the next generation of Christians in China be like if we sit back and take the easy road? Will God be pleased?"*

*Mission Highlight*

# SEEKING GOD

It's been said that it takes 21 days to establish a new habit. I would like to challenge you to create a habit of prayer in this new year. Beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup>, please join me in 21 days of seeking God as a congregation...for our own personal faith, for our families, for healing that may need to occur, for our congregation as we lift up our brothers and sisters, for our communities, and for our nation.

We believe that prayer can move mountains and that chains are broken as we unite together to agree in prayer!!

*"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that — it is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth"*  
(Charles Spurgeon).

Our God is a powerful God; there is nothing too difficult for Him! (Luke 1:37) As we set aside time each day to seek His face, we know that nothing we worry about is too large or too small for the King of the Universe. He LOVES you! And He is FOR YOU! We come with open hearts, filled with awe of who He is, and knowing that He is able to do anything.

When we ask for love for our co-workers, He gives it to us. When we ask for patience, He begins to change our hearts and make us more like Him. And, when we ask for more of His presence, He promises to draw near to us. (James 4:8)

Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons we have. It helps us find strength for today and hope for our future. **If you would like to join with me, please send me a text (815-325-8079) or an email (cccportbyron@gmail.com) and let me know. I will send out a daily text or email of something specific we can pray for together that day.**

*Blessings, Laura*



## 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

*Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. John 15:9*

Worship Highlight



Fellowship Highlight

Countryside's

Youth Group



Kids Club

present a

Valentine's Banquet

Saturday February  
13<sup>th</sup>

Beginning at 5:00pm

Pasta Bake, salad, bread, dessert and drinks

Please sign up in the church lobby.

Dine-In

or

Carry-Out

**Donations accepted at the door. All proceeds benefit the  
Countryside Christian Church Youth Programs**

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.

1 Corinthians 13:4

WORLD VISION PRESENTS

# WHEN THE LIGHT COMES TOUR

**BIG DADDY**  
*Weave*



**SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021**

**CORAM DEO BIBLE CHURCH**

3800 E 53rd St, Davenport, IA 52807

**7:00 PM**

Tickets - \$14.95 each for a group of 10 or more

Tickets go on sale to the public

the morning of March 13<sup>th</sup> – first come, first serve

**Sign-up Sheet in the Church Lobby or contact Becki Winger**



# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

YTD Offering Budget: \$35,000 YTD Offering Actual: \$37,586 YTD Faith Promises: \$22,576

## What's Love Got to Do With It?

When it comes to tithing and giving to the church, "what's love got to do with it?" I pray we all have someone we love. When we love that person, we want to spend time with them and we want to give them gifts.

God wants our hearts more than anything else. Does He need our money? No! But He tells us in Matthew 6:21, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When we give out of love to Him with our time, our skills, our resources, or our money, we are showing that our hearts belong to Him.

This month, there is much talk about love. We show love to our spouses, our friends, or our children by spending time with them, listening to them, and showing them we appreciate them. Those relationships are special....but NO ONE has ever loved you or sacrificed for you like Jesus! Only He has truly loved us unconditionally – let us give cheerfully and unreservedly back to Him because our hearts belong to Him! (John 3:16)

## For God

so loVed the world  
thAt He gave His  
only  
begottEN  
SoN so  
thaT whosoever  
believes  
iN Him shall not  
PErish but have  
eternal life.



John 3:16

## 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.*



### 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





# FEBRUARY events



Upcoming Events

2/1

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

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



2/13

## VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Dine-In or Carry-Out 5pm



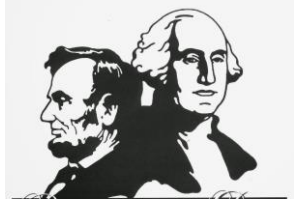
2/14

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



2/15

## PRESIDENT'S DAY



2/18

## ELDER MEETING

9:00AM



2/18

## LCU Virtual Leaders' Conference

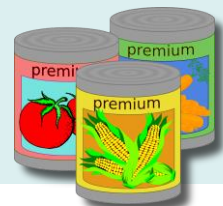
9:00AM-12:00PM



2/28

## 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*

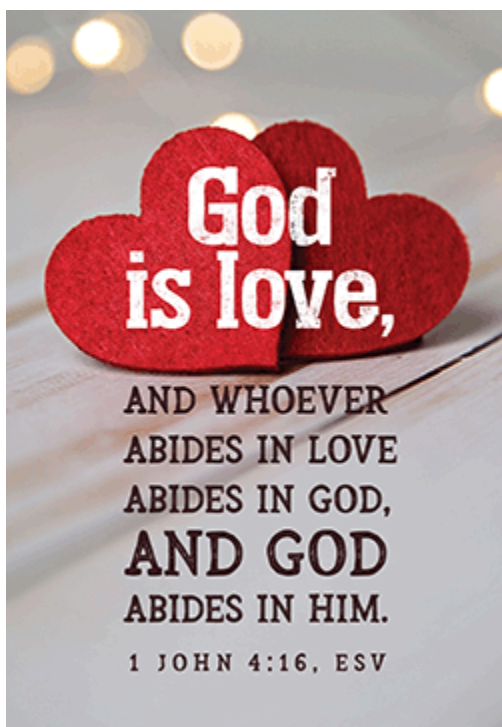
# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 6 – Liam Gonterman
- 6 – Alonzo Ramos
- 13 – Donna Vickroy
- 17 – Bailee Olesen
- 19 – Galvin Garcia
- 24 – JoAnn McCoy
- 28 – Carlie Collis

## FEBRUARY Anniversaries

- 9 – Gabe & Teresa Garcia
- 24 – JoAnn & John McCoy



## February

1. Leviticus 14-16
2. Leviticus 17-19
3. Leviticus 20-23
4. Leviticus 24-27
5. Numbers 1-3
6. Numbers 4-6
7. Numbers 7-10
8. Numbers 11-14
9. Numbers 15-17
10. Numbers 18-20
11. Numbers 21-24
12. Numbers 25-27
13. Numbers 28-30
14. Numbers 31-33
15. Numbers 34-36
16. Deuteronomy 1-3
17. Deuteronomy 4-6
18. Deuteronomy 7-9
19. Deuteronomy 10-12
20. Deuteronomy 13-16
21. Deuteronomy 17-19
22. Deuteronomy 20-22
23. Deuteronomy 23- 25
24. Deuteronomy 26-28
25. Deuteronomy 29-31
25. Deuteronomy 32-34
27. Joshua 1-3
28. Joshua 4-6







## Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

### What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

# PUZZLE

## A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

*Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.*

“

J Q U O W    B E O    E E    E

J E A A    E E '    U N O    J Q U O W

B E O    N L U O    E    J E A A

N L U O    B E O O    N W E N A W

J E A A    E U    F A

N W E N A W    U N O

B E O O    E E O

F A    E E O    •

”

RUTH 1:16, NIV

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

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV



Kids Corner

# VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

Volunteers this Month



## NURSERY

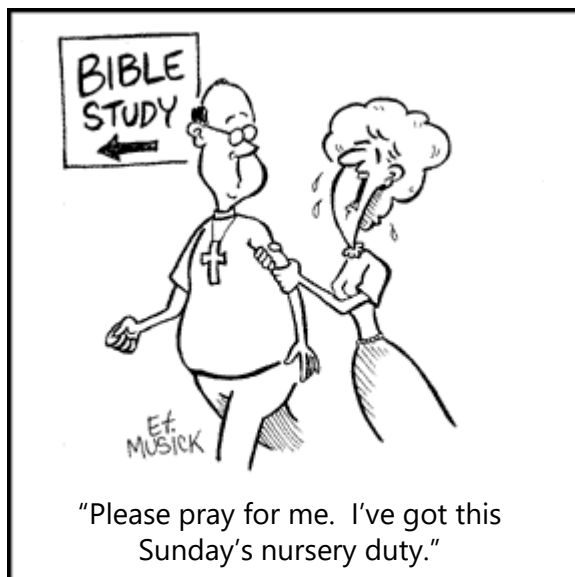
*Ages 0-3 years old*

*During the SERMON TIME only!*

- Feb 7 Georgia Cullison
- Feb 14 Becki Winger
- Feb 21 Kathy Kohrt
- Feb 28 Nancy Dufur

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*No Children's Church at this time. We are hoping to restart this as well sometime very soon!!*



## Communion Meditation

**February 7**  
Don Vickroy

**February 14**  
Hannah Herrman

**February 21**  
Ryan Schmidt

**February 28**  
Don Vickroy

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







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



2021

# February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01 <b>Evangelism/ Missions</b> 6:30pm <b>All Depts. 7pm</b>  U of I Home Extension 7-9pm	02 <b>Groundhog Day</b>  	03 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	04  Gym in Use Basketball League 6:00-8:00pm	05  Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	06
07 <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:00AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	08  Church in use Zuma Township Meeting  Cub Scouts 6-7pm	09 Men's Study 9am  Girl Scouts 6-8pm  Cub Scouts 6-7pm	<b>KIDS CLUB 7:45AM-11AM</b>	10 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	11  Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm  Gym in Use Basketball League 6:00-8:00pm	12
14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>   <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:00AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	15 <b>President's Day</b>  	16 Men's Study 9am  Girl Scouts 6-8pm		17 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	18  <b>Elder's Meeting 9am</b>  Gym in Use Basketball League 6:00-8:00pm	19
21 <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:00AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	22  Cub Scouts 6-7pm	23 Men's Study 9am  Girl Scouts 6-8pm  Cub Scouts 6-7pm		24 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron – 6pm Geneseo – 6pm	25  Gym in Use Basketball League 6:00-8:00pm	26
28 <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:00AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	 <p><i>Love</i> that you one another as I have loved you</p> <p>Greater love has no one than this: that someone lay down his life for his friends.</p>					





# Countryside Christian Church

3817 230<sup>th</sup> St. N  
Port Byron, IL 61275

## LIVESTREAMING *info*



[Youtube: \(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR735qhzkzpFlujtP-A\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR735qhzkzpFlujtP-A)



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



[Facebook: \(www.facebook.com/countrysidecc.org\)](https://www.facebook.com/countrysidecc.org) at 10:45am.



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.