

# the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2021

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**Steve Allison,  
Minister**

*"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

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

*Dear Countryside Church family,*

*I can't believe it's September. Because of Covid 19, I feel as though I started working at Countryside in March of 2020, doing some in person and many video sermons. A year and a half with Countryside has been such a blessing. When I think back to the first time that I ever walked in the building (Don and Donna Vickroy gave me a tour) and all of the changes that have been made to it since then, it's just amazing.*

*Think for a moment about these changes... The lobby was filled with original church pews, the communion table was at the front center of the stage, the choir loft wall projected across the front of the stage, the little preaching platform that I stand on did not exist. All of those changes were made to accommodate our indoor services after being outside for COVID. Then we started Kids Club and Construction Club which led to the remodeling of the lower lobby with the decorative wall that says "Welcome Home" and the replaced floor. We made our way up into the hall, changing the carpet, adding brighter lights, bulletin boards, and windows in the doors of the classrooms. And now the entryway in the main lobby has been opened up and new carpet is going in. That is a lot of transformation! That is a lot of change.*

*I often refer to the church building as a tool. It's good to have a good sharp tool to get the work done. But the church building is only a tool. A better question we should all ask ourselves is... in the last 18 months, has there been any change in your heart? We meet together for Sunday morning Worship, Tuesday morning Bible study, Wednesday evening Bible study, and Sunday School has started again. These are all designed to sharpen us spiritually. It's easy to look down the hall and see new carpet. Sometimes, personally, it's more difficult to look inside down the hallways of our heart and ask is anything new?*

*Please allow the changes to the building to be an example or even a motivation to rework the interior of your soul. Spend time in prayer, spend time reading your Bible, spend time reaching out, calling your church family, and being involved with one another's lives. Become more like Jesus in all that you do... be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2)*

*In Christ,  
Steve*

# FREE BIBLES

Hello,

*Thank you to everyone who has been coming on Sunday mornings to Sunday School! It has been great getting back together and getting back to normal. I would really like to thank Don Vickroy, Roger and Connie Curry for being dedicated teachers! If you haven't made it to Sunday School yet, please join us! If you know a little or a lot, we have room for you. We even offer nursery during that time, so there is a place for everyone in the family.*

## Bible

God is its author  
 Guidance: its beginning  
 Salvation: its end  
 Relationship: its preface  
 Truth: its content  
 The greatest blessing  
 It is all pure

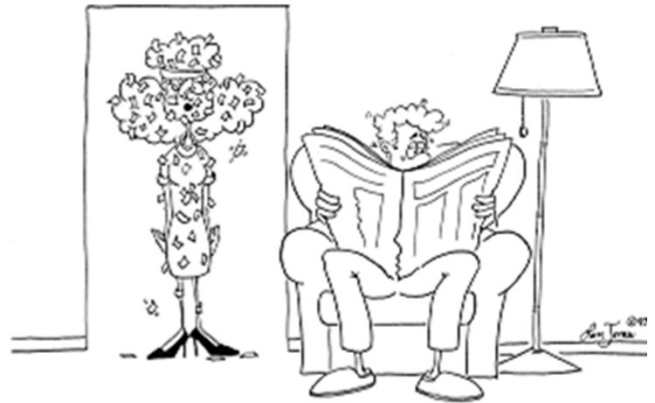
2 Timothy 3:16



*Also, I wanted to let everyone know about the Bible bookshelf in the front room. Education put together a bunch of different versions, types, and age levels of Bibles that are free for the taking! I want everyone to have a copy of a Bible that they will be excited to open and read from. If you have a Bible or would like to donate to this cause, please let me know. There is nothing more important than Jesus and we get to know Him better through the Word!*

*Sarah Denekas  
 Education Chair*

Sunday Mornings:  
 9:30 Sunday School for all ages  
 10:15 Coffee  
 10:45 Worship



*“How did your Sunday School class do with the collage?”*

*“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11*

CRUISE-IN AND TALENT SHOW



Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Cruise-In was held Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. So much work went into planning this great community event. We had about 30 cars “cruise in” and the yard was filled with kids playing games, touring the school bus and fire truck (thank you Port Byron Fire Department and Riverdale School!), playing games, and jumping in the bounce house. The gym was filled with tables and a delicious free lunch and more family games. We were able to raise over \$1000 for the Riverdale School Library for new library furniture. **THANK YOU EVERYONE** who had a part in this day!

*What's happening this month*

Have a rare talent? A unique hobby collection? Do you love to spend a Sunday night as a family being entertained, laughing, and enjoying some fellowship with others? **Our Talent Show & Hobby Night is September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm!!** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! It's going to be fun!



*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19*



## **IDES FOOD PACKING**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 9:00AM**

***"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35***

On Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Countryside will partner with the Erie Christian Church in preparing food bags for IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services). **The set up and unloading of the truck will occur at 8:00 A.M. At 9:00A.M. we will begin filling the bags and work until finished filling the bags (4-5 hours).** During the set-up we will need approximately 10 people who can lift boxes, move tables and take directions for set up and for being a crew leader. Each crew of 10 will need a leader who can give the crew instructions and oversee their line in bag filling. We are hoping to have six crews, three from Erie, and three from CCC. Thirty-five people from CCC will be needed to be crew members and will require extended periods of standing. We plan to be finished by early afternoon - that will be determined by the number of workers. Snacks and water will be provided. A sign up list is in the church lobby. Even if you can only work for a short period of time, sign up as workers will need rest periods.

IDES provides nutritious meals which are sent to countries that have experienced disasters. Each bag contains the equivalent of 6 meals which can be reconstituted with water. Each meal contains vitamins, minerals and rice. In Sept. of 2018 we prepared 4000 bags or 24000 meals. If you have any questions please see Connie Curry.

**On Saturday, October 2nd, Countryside and Erie Christian Church, along with volunteers from the community, are hoping to pack at least 24,000 GAP meals. Join us at Countryside, beginning at 9:00am. We'll package meals, helping to feed the hungry, and to transform lives around the world.**



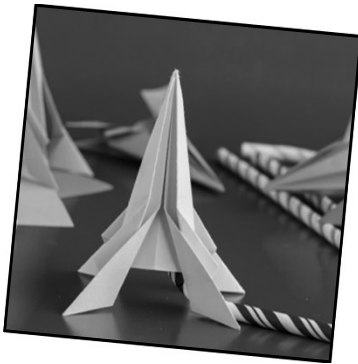
FALL KICKOFF IS SEPT 8TH!

KIDS CLUB



## WHAT WE ARE DOING IN CLUB THIS MONTH...

*KIDS CLUB KICK-OFF IS SEPT. 8TH!! We are so excited for this coming year!! During the month of September, we have a theme of "Careers". Each week this month, we are going to do projects inspired by a cool job the kids can dream of having when they grow up! Check out a little of what we are going to be doing...*

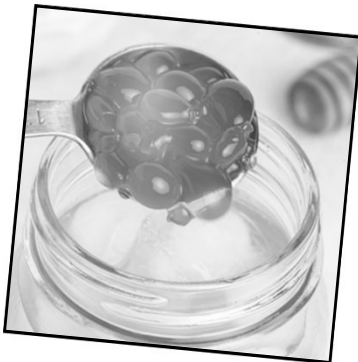


### Build Your Future

Get inspired by heart surgeons, astronauts, and innovative engineers who help the world work! This week we are talking about astronautical engineers who help design and test spacecraft with origami rockets. *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:3*

### Count It and Code It

Get inspired by the pros who use math to communicate and code art to entertain. This week, the kids are designing their own video game! *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. (Ps 111:10)*



### Explore Life

Get inspired by the people who use chemistry, microbiology, and engineering to study nutrition and its effect on humans. We are going to learn about a process called molecular gastronomy and pop some fun kitchen science! *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Ps 139:14)*

### Impact Design

Get inspired by the designers and architects who make our life functional and beautiful with some hands-on design projects. This week we are building a fun closed-circuit game and learning about electricity! *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)*



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

# FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



A couple of fun fellowship opportunities this month and next month!

- Men, mark your calendars for a breakfast at the church on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.
- Toby Mac (and a whole host of others) are coming back to the Taxslayer Center on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact the church office if you would like to go as a group!



*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17*



## MISSION HIGHLIGHT: C2C Ministry

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.



“Since our last communication, many things have happened in our ministries. Although the government in China has been working hard to close the doors and windows for true Christianity, the Lord continues to give us new opportunities and prospects. Last week, two church groups met for four days. The people were so hungry for the word, they met from 6:00a.m.- 10:00p.m. everyday. At the closing of the conference, three were baptized into Christ. Thank God for opening doors although Satan tries hard to fan us off through the communist authority and policy. Pray that God will bless our team to bless the lost and bring them to Christ. Pray for those who want to accept Christ will be baptized into Him soon. Pray for more workers for the harvest.” (July 2021 Newsletter)

“Let me start with praise and joy! In the last few weeks our Chinese teams have baptized three in one city, nine in another and last Sunday twenty-one in a beautiful river in China. God is good! Despite the Chinese government’s continued efforts in tightening up the screws for religion, the Lord continues to open doors and lead more people into His folds. Please pray for these new babies in Christ that they will get the proper spiritual nourishment and guidance so they may grow to the full measure of Christ.” (Newsletter Aug. 12, 2021)

Many young people are being brainwashed into the communist philosophy of 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.

***“What will the next generation of Christians in China be like if we sit back and take the easy road? Will God be pleased? Thank you for laboring with us in prayers and supports!”***

Pray for Wing Wong as he brings the message of Jesus Christ to the Chinese people in New Hampshire and in China. For more information regarding the activities of C2C refer to the mission booklet on the mission shelf outside the office.

*“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18*

# WOMEN'S WORSHIP CONFERENCE

# WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

# Aspire

Bible Teacher  
MELISSA SPOELSTRA



Comedy by  
KRISTIN WEBER



Music by  
MIA KOEHNE



*1 night – 3 hours  
Just for Women  
An evening full of laughter,  
learning, stories & music*

**FRIDAY  
SEPT. 17, 2021**

**BETTENDORF  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
3487 TOWNE POINTE DR.  
BETTENDORF, IA 52722

**7:00PM SHOW**

6:30PM GA DOORS OPEN

6:00PM VIP DOORS OPEN

#### ADVANCE TICKETS

\$25 Gen. Admission | \$35 VIP

\$20 Groups of 10 or more.

Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP ticket includes early entry for  
preferred seating and Q-n-A session  
with all the speakers

Contact the church  
office if you would like  
tickets! \$25 each or  
\$30 at the door

Abingdon Women

Compassion  
releasing children from poverty

Extreme Faith  
Productions

*"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."  
Psalm 73:26*



# RENOVATION CONTINUES

# PROPERTY HIGHLIGHT



*The work continues! It's amazing to look back on the progress in just a short month's time. Last month, we shared before/after pictures of the carpet. This month, we are sharing renovation pictures of the front entryway. Thank you so much to everyone who showed up to haul away bricks (and to Phil Gonterman for the use of your trailer), to clean up, and to put up the new walls. The doors are going in this week and the new carpet for the lobby is being delivered next week. Exciting!*

*"He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24*

# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

YTD Offering Budget: \$140,000  
 YTD Offering Actual: \$115,769  
 YTD Faith Promises: \$9,072

Giving impacts how effective a church will be in reaching out to the local community and into the world beyond. Our tithes and offerings can turn into rich blessings for others.

Paul urged his readers to make giving a natural and regular part of their Christian walk. He saw it as a way for believers to care for each other and to stay unified in purpose. Not only that, Paul understood the importance righteous giving has on a Christian's future. The teachings of Jesus, such as this one from Luke, were never far from his thoughts:

*'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'* (Luke 12:32-34)

Paul wanted his readers to see Jesus' motivations for giving:

- His love for God and for us
- His compassion for our needs
- His desire to share what He has

The Apostle hoped that by seeing this model, believers would feel inspired as he did to look at giving not as a burden, but an opportunity to become more Christlike. Paul's letters modeled what it looks like to "live to give."



**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.**

*"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# SEPTEMBER *events*

9/6

## LABOR DAY

*(Church Office Closed)*



9/7

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

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



9/8

## KIDS CLUB & IMPACT KICKOFF



9/9

## ELDERS' MEETING

9:00am



9/12

## TALENT SHOW & HOBBY NIGHT

6:30pm



9/17

## ASPIRE WOMENS CONFERENCE

7:00pm Bettendorf Christian Church



9/22

## SEE YOU AT THE POLE

7:00am at each area school



9/25

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:30am



9/27

## 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



## SEPTEMBER Birthdays

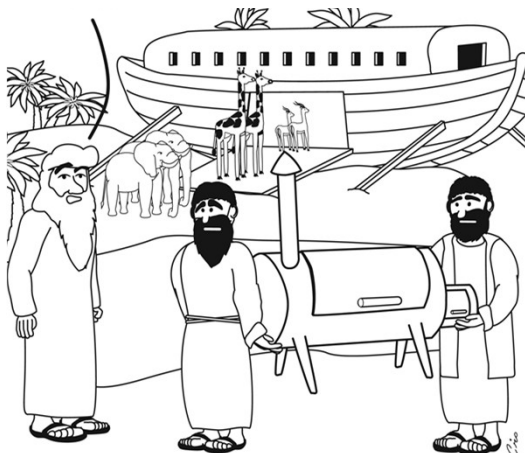
- 8 – Greg Jones
- 8 – Arlys Koepping
- 15 – Becki Winger
- 16 – Connor Kohrt
- 18 – Angela Heydeman
- 19 – Bill Courter
- 19 – Nancy Dufur
- 19 – Sydney Collis
- 20 – Gail Horst
- 27 – Cathy Lotz
- 27 – Larry Cullison
- 30 – Curt Koepping
- 30 – Alec Simms



## SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

- 1 – Al & Shirley Baxter
- 4 – Brandon & Alicia Simms
- 10 – Tim & Holly Trout

“Don’t even think about it!”



## September

1. Jeremiah 40-42
2. Jeremiah 43-46
3. Jeremiah 47-49
4. Jeremiah 50-52
5. Lamentations 1-5
6. Ezekiel 1-3
7. Ezekiel 4-7
8. Ezekiel 8-11
9. Ezekiel 12-14
10. Ezekiel 15-18
11. Ezekiel 19-21
12. Ezekiel 22-24
13. Ezekiel 25-27
14. Ezekiel 28-30
15. Ezekiel 31-33
16. Ezekiel 34-36
17. Ezekiel 37-39
18. Ezekiel 40-42
19. Ezekiel 43-45
20. Ezekiel 46-48
21. Daniel 1-3
22. Daniel 4-6
23. Daniel 7-9
24. Daniel 10-12
25. Hosea 1-4
25. Hosea 5-7
27. Hosea 8-10
28. Hosea 11-14
29. Joel 1-3
30. Amos 1-3



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

# VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



## NURSERY WORKERS

	During Sunday School	During Worship Service
Sept 5	Cathy Lotz	Georgia Cullison
Sept 12	Gail Horst	Sandy Lawrence
Sept 19	Becki Winger	Nancy Dufur
Sept 26	Kathy Kohrt	Cathy Lotz

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

	Teacher	Helper
Sept 5	Cathy Lotz	Karen Allison
Sept 12	Cathy Lotz	Cheryl Gipson
Sept 19	Cathy Lotz	Holly Trout
Sept 26		



COMMUNION  
MEDITATION

Sept 5 – Teresa Garcia  
 Sept 12 – Wayne Lotz  
 Sept 19 – Ryan Schmidt  
 Sept 26 – Don Vickroy



Sept 5 – Larry & Linda Griffin  
 Sept 12 – Criss Evans  
 Sept 19 – Criss Evans  
 Sept 26 – *Still need a volunteer*



Gail Horst & Georgia Cullison  
 Wayne & Cathy Lotz  
 Kathy Kohrt & Lisa Jones










Sept 5 –  
 Sept 12 – *Please sign up in the church lobby*  
 Sept 19 – *for one week if you are able to!*  
 Sept 26 – *Thank you!*

*"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12*

2021

# September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			01 <b>NO KIDS CLUB</b>  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 7pm	02	03	04
05 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	06  <b>Labor Day</b>	07 Men's Bible Study 9am  <b>Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm</b> <b>All Depts. 7pm</b>  Worship Team- 6pm	08 <b>KIDS CLUB &amp; IMPACT KICK-OFF!!</b>  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 7pm	09 Elder's Meeting 9am	10 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	11 
12 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM  <b>TALENT SHOW &amp; HOBBY NIGHT-6:30pm</b> 	13 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting  Cub Scouts 6-7pm	14 Men's Study 9am  Cub Scouts 6-7pm  Worship Team- 7pm	15 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 7pm	16 Zuma Home Extension 1-4pm	17 <b>Aspire Women's Conference – 7pm</b>	18
19 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	20 Cub Scouts 6-7pm	21 Men's Study 9am  Worship Team- 7pm	22 <b>SEE YOU AT THE POLE</b> 7:00am  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 7pm	23	24	25 <b>Men's Breakfast</b> 9:30am 
26 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM 	27 Cub Scouts 6-7pm	28 Men's Study 9am  Cub Scouts 6-7pm  Worship Team- 7pm	29 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 7pm	30 		

KIDS CLUB – 3:00-5:00PM



# LIVESTREAMING *info*



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



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/countrysidecc.org](http://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

3817 230<sup>th</sup> St. N

Port Byron, IL 61275