

the

MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2022

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From Steve's Desk...

Dear Church Family

If you have been a Christian for a while you are familiar with the great commission and the great commandment. The great commandment stems from when Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment in all of the Scriptures? And Jesus replied, "Luke 10:27 - Love the Lord your God with all of your heart soul mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus issued the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 when he tells us go and make disciples.

For me, fulfilling the great commandment has been boiled down to staying close to God and being kind to others. However the great commission has been a bit more of a challenge. I so deeply desire to see people come to know Christ. As a minister, ultimately that is my life's work. As I look back on my years in ministry, I often wish I had greater success in this.

Recently I was listening to apologist Greg Koukl and he gave me a new perspective. One that has put a lift in my step and helps me look back at my years of ministry as potentially being more successful than I had imagined? Greg presents the idea that as a Christian, every encounter that I have with unbelievers does not have to result in them being converted to Jesus. This has often been a frustration for me. I develop a relationship with someone, share Christ with them, and then expect that they will head straight to the baptistry. More times than not, I find that as I scatter the seeds of the gospel along the paths, there are plenty of birds and weeds to prevent the growth. Greg Koukl presents a different perspective. He challenges Christians to not think of every encounter with people as having the destination of converting them to Christ, but simply with every encounter with a nonbeliever - put a rock in their shoe. Put a small pebble of the gospel in their shoe so that when they leave you, they walk away with something to think about. Something that might cause them to reflect back on who they are in Christ, or without Christ.

This ministry approach is so simple, yet profound, for in fact the Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:6 that we are only responsible for a small part on someone coming to Christ. We are not responsible for their conversion, only responsible for giving them the word. As a Christian, I would love to be able to look back at my life and see all of the people that I baptized. I truly wish there were more. However in my heart, I am convinced that I have placed hundreds if not thousands of rocks in peoples shoes. These rocks have caused people to reflect on their relationship with Christ. Having this perspective is satisfying to my soul and takes a weight off of my heart. I will continue to place a Biblical rock whenever I can, and trust God will use it in His time.

Maybe this is an encouragement to you as it was to me? May God bless you as you go on life's journey delicately and strategically placing small parts of the rock of the gospel of Jesus Christ in people's shoes.

Steve



**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



The nursery had an update this month as new toys were donated by one of the Kids Club families. Thank you, thank you!!!

Also, thank you to all the volunteers who help each week in Nursery and Children's Church as a new year gets rolling. You are SO appreciated. Thank you for donating your time!

Next month.....check out what Sarah has planned NEW for Sunday School and Children's Church!



"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

Colossians 3:14

KIDS CLUB SLEDDING PARTY

KIDS CLUB HIGHLIGHT



KIDS CLUB

We held our annual Sledding Day this past month for Kids Club! Our snow had pretty much all melted and we wondered if we would have to postpone – but right on time God sent us a few inches of fresh snow the night before. It might have been the first time we ever prayed for snow! The kids had a blast riding the hill behind the church, racing their parents and leaders, and followed by some hot cocoa and smores.

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

Romans 5:8

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.



This past year the Sanchezes have moved from Manzanillo to Colima to establish a new church. The year has presented many challenges in moving as well as getting established in a new area and starting a new church. They have also taken in teenagers, Rafa and Scarlett who previously lived in Manzanillo.

(From the January 2022 newsletter) The Sanchezes needed a dependable car. For example the Equinox's brakes went out and clutch for the Dodge needed repair. With ministry, 4 kids in school, activities, and Rafa and Scarlett working and needing

transportation, we asked a church for help to make a down payment for a newer car, and they gave us money for a whole car. Now prayer is needed to finish the paper work on the car.

"Rafa and Scarlett had their mother, Lili and little sister come and spend Christmas in Colima. "It was quite a Christmas. Some topics have really been hitting home with Lili, and she broke down in tears a number of times. I wish I could say she ruined our plans, but we just found out today that a number of family members in Mexico City got Covid, and it looks like from the Christmas gatherings. So we are grateful we didn't go. We know God has His hand in every plan, and I can't thank Him enough."

Susan has been baking and selling bread for several months. This has given her an opportunity to present the Gospel message to many people. During the Christmas holiday it is a tradition in Mexico to receive a customer appreciation gift for being a regular. One day Susan went to the little store in a nearby village and the owner was giving away cherry tomatoes. Typically a regular customer would get a calendar, or a shopping bag. So Susan jumped at the idea and gave breads away to several families, places they shop and to a new neighbor. It was a hit with everyone, and started a number of conversations that never before would have come so easily. Josh even got to have a talk on marriage with a couple they love dearly, but are terrified of commitment. God is good.

Prayer needs: paperwork for the car, Covid on the rise, road to church getting cemented to fix constant was-outs from storms, kids in school, Rafa and Scarlett's family issues, bread and Jesus, and finishing the house.



You can read more about the mission in Colima and the Sanchez family in the mission booklet on the mission table.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

CHURCH APP

NEW

Have you tried our app yet? Point your phone camera at the QR code to the right to download it. It's free and convenient!



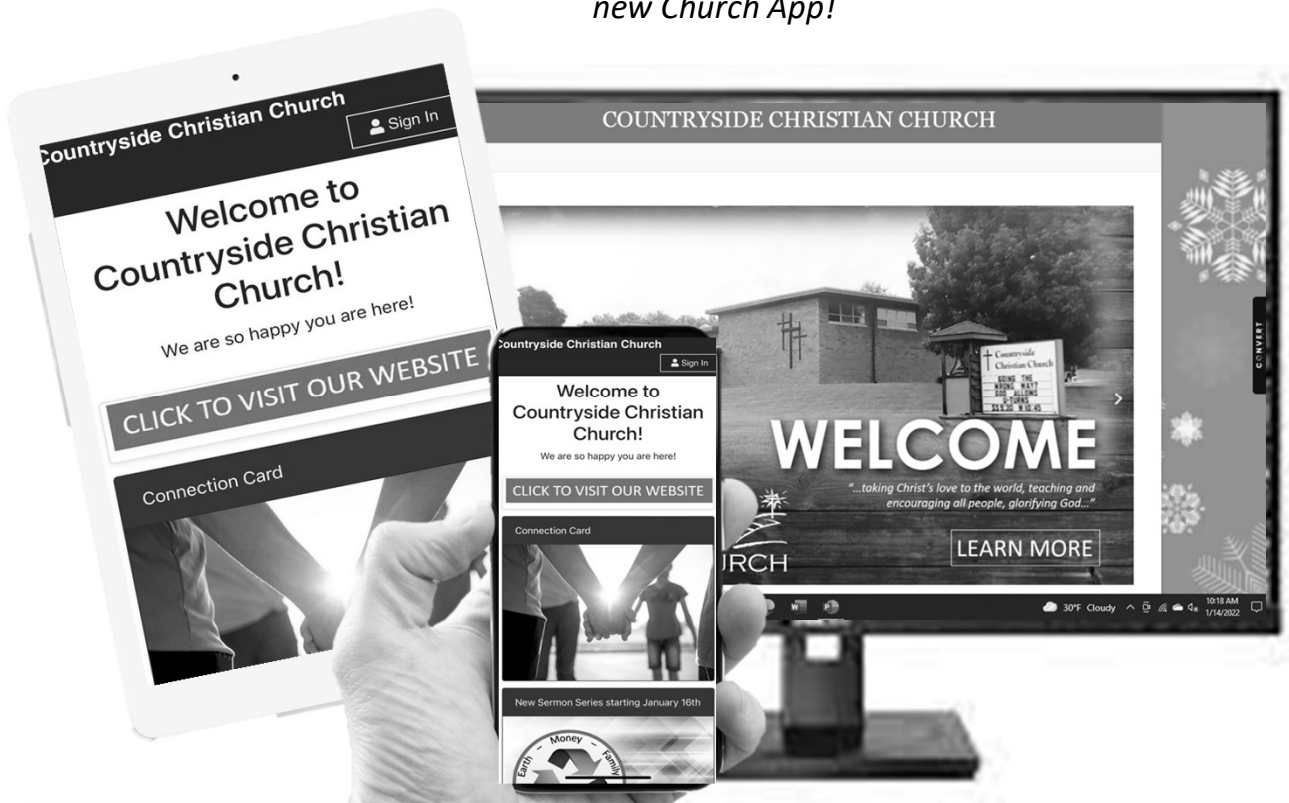
Includes:

- ✓ Church Directory (sign-in required)
- ✓ Upcoming Events
- ✓ Links to sermons, website, and newsletter
- ✓ Online Giving (coming soon!)

Why a Church App?

We use our mobile devices every day for activities such as keeping a calendar, banking, getting directions and even reading scripture. Smartphone apps are now the primary means for communication and accessing content. Churches who have a mobile app are better able to reach and engage their members and visitors using smartphone devices.

We would love your suggestions and feedback as we continue developing our new Church App!



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Sunday February
13th

After the Worship Service

Pasta Bake, salad, bread,
dessert and drinks

Valentine's
Luncheon

Dine-In

or

Carry-Out

THANK YOU
for donating

SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, January 15th we had our annual blood drive. ELEVEN units were donated in spite of lots of snow and cold. The ImpactLife blood center was very grateful for all who came out to donate that day. They are very much in need of blood donations because of the Covid 19 virus and the winter season. We are planning our blood drive for next January 2023, but don't wait until then to donate, the need is ongoing. Thank you again for your participation.

Connie Curry

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

1 Corinthians 13:4

OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

YTD Offering Budget: \$140,000 YTD Offering Actual: \$153,523 YTD Faith Promises: \$37,176



Roger Curry

Thank you



After many faithful years serving as our Church Treasurer, Roger Curry, has decided to pass on the reins to someone else. We sincerely THANK YOU Roger for all of the time and dedication you gave to the church, presenting budgets each month, writing checks, balancing the accounts, keeping records, and so much more! We appreciate everything so much!!

Also, thank you to Wayne Lotz who has agreed to take it on at this time. Wayne, we know that there is probably a lot to learn in a short amount of time and we are so thankful for your willingness to put in the time and effort for all of us. We know that you will do a GREAT job and we so appreciate you!



Wayne Lotz

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.

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

events



2/7

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

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



2/8

ELDER MEETING

9:30am



2/12

WOMEN'S COFFEE

9:30am



2/13

VALENTINE'S BANQUET

12pm following the Worship Service



2/19

LCU Leaders' Conference

9:00AM-12:00PM



2/21

PRESIDENT'S DAY



2/27

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

FEBRUARY

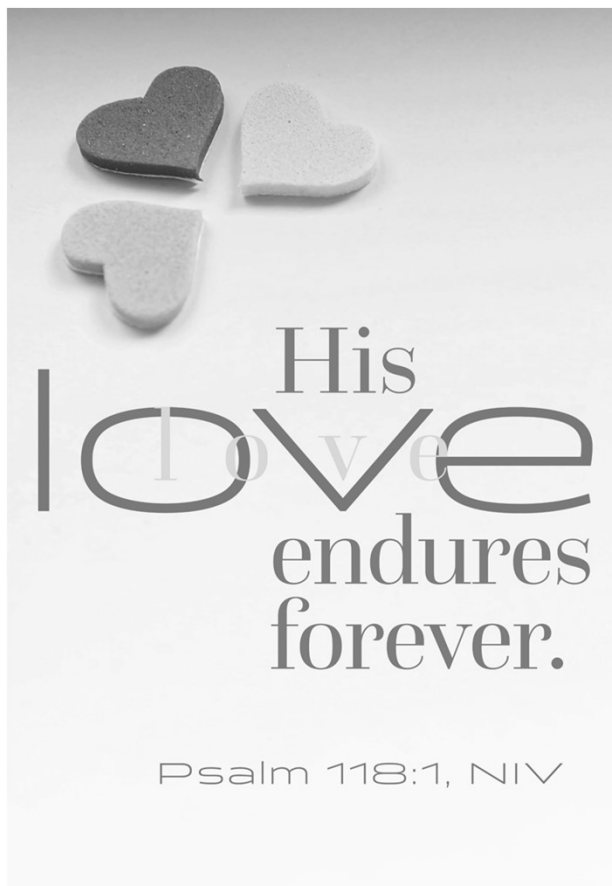
Birthdays

- 6 – Liam Gonterman
- 6 – Alonzo Ramos
- 7 – Melissa Meese
- 12 – Paul Mikles
- 12 – Stella Simms
- 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



THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



Nursery Schedule	
Sunday School Time (9:30-10:15)	
Date	Nursery
February	
6	Sarah Denekas
13	Cathy Lotz
20	Becki Winger
27	Kathy Kohrt

Children's Church and Nursery Schedule			
Worship Time* (10:45-12:00)			
Date	Teacher	Helper	Nursery
*Teacher/helper are dismissed after offering			
*Nursery is scheduled for entire worship time			
February			
6	Sarah Denekas	Cathy Lotz	Georgia Cullison
13	Sarah Denekas	Ruth Coverdill	Becki Winger
20	Sarah Denekas	Donna Vickroy	Kathy Kohrt
27	Sarah Denekas	Karen Allison	Nancy Dufur



COMMUNION
MEDITATION

Feb 6 – Wayne Lotz
Feb 13 – Steve Allison
Feb 20 – Teresa Garcia
Feb 27 – Don Vickroy



New Sign-Up Sheets are in the Lobby. Please sign up for a Sunday that works for your family! Welcome people, direct them to the sanctuary, nursery, or rest rooms if needed, and hand out bulletins.



BUILDING CLEANERS

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



New sign-up sheets are in the lobby. Please sign up for a Sunday that works best for you! Provide breakfast treats and help serve coffee and clean-up between Sunday School and Worship.

"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

February

2022

Sundays	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	2 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball 6-8pm	3 Gym in use Softball 5-9pm	4 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm Basketball 5-8pm	5
6 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	7 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm U of I Home Extension 7-9pm	8 Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	9 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball 6-8pm	10 Elder Meeting 9am Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Gym in use Softball 5-9pm	11 Basketball 5-8pm	12 Women's Coffee 9:30am 
13 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM Valentine's Banquet 12pm	14 Zuma Township Meeting Softball 5-9pm Valentine's Day	15 Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	16 Kids Club & Impact 11:30-1:30pm Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball 6-8pm	17 Gym in use Softball 5-9pm	18 Basketball 5-8pm	19 Gym in Use - Garcia's LCU Leader's Conference 9am-12pm 
20 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	21 Presidents Day 	22 Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	23 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball 6-8pm	24 Gym in use Softball 5-9pm	25 Basketball 5-8pm	26
27 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	28 Softball 5-9pm 	<p><i>"We love because He first loved us."</i> <i>1 John 1:9</i></p> 				



Countryside Christian Church

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Port Byron, IL 61275

LIVESTREAMING *info*



Youtube. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR735qhzkzppFluJtpp-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.