

the MESSENGER



COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday Morning Services:
9:30am Sunday School*
10:15am Breakfast
10:45am Worship*
*Nursery is provided
Children's Church (4yrs-4th
grade) during Sermon Time

Wednesday Activities:
3-5pm Kids Club (K-5th)
4-5pm Impact (Jr High)
6:30pm Small Groups

Church Office:
309-523-2834
Church Email:
cccportbyron@gmail.com
Church Website:
www.countrysidecc.org

Live Streaming Info:
Paste the links below into
your browser:



shorturl.at/CIM08



shorturl.at/wBVY4

From Steve's Desk...

January, the first month of the new year is already in the rearview mirror. 2023 only has 11 months left. How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? Did you make any? Were you going to exercise more? Eat better? Read your Bible more? Start a prayer list? I have good news for you.

You've never
gone too far
that God can't
redeem you,
restore you,
forgive you, and
give you a
second chance."

LYSA TERKEURST

When you read through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we continue to learn that God is a God of a second chances, and He never gives up. The very first couple, Adam and Eve, failed in the garden. God did not give up on mankind. Just weeks after Noah and his family left the ark after being saved from a worldwide flood, they fell into sin. God did not give up on them.

Generation after generation, after generation... the nation of Israel would make a strong commitment to God, only to watch it fade away again, and again. Even Peter, one of Jesus's most beloved disciples, made a strong commitment that he would never leave or abandon Jesus; yet hours later, he was trying to put as much distance as possible between himself and the Lord.

The good news is God doesn't give up. He longs for us to be right with Him. So welcome to February. Need to start over?

Do what God's calling you to do. Make it a great rest of the year.

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

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

NEW CHANGES IN CHRISTIAN ED

We have already made it through January! Thanks to all the participants that came to Sarah Harris' presentation! She had great advice to share about working with kids and gave great examples of why we behave the way we do. I plan on putting together a summary for those of you that missed it. We will also be putting up some new signage to help the kids gain some understanding of the basic rules and expectations. Most of all, we must be good role models and love each other like Jesus does.

We are also thankful for Shanie in the nursery and for all of you that volunteer in the Education Department. Your kind words and actions make a difference to these kids and makes them keep coming back to learn more about what makes us Christians different. If you haven't done so yet, please review the 2023 schedule and try to switch Sundays with another volunteer to avoid any last minute absences. I know it happens to everyone, so I appreciate the foresight and letting me know if you will not be able to make it on your Sunday.

We are also excited that we saw some new faces during Sunday school last week. We just started a new Sunday school series with Pastor Steve, so you are more than welcome to come and join in at any time. We also have Sunday school for the teens, little kids and nursery is provided for the babies, so the whole family is welcome! Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks again to everyone for the encouragement you provide in this Education journey. Let's learn and apply some new teachings in 2023!

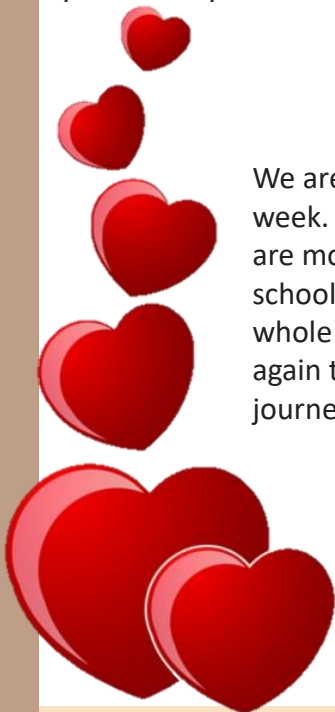
Sarah Denekas

Education Chair

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

Colossians 3:14

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT



KIDS CLUB/IMPACT BANQUET

KIDS CLUB & IMPACT

February 2023

Events

February 1- Weekly Meeting
February 8 - Weekly Meeting

February 11- Annual
Valentine's Banquet - 5pm

February 15 - NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT

February 18 - IMPACT Movie
Night - 5pm

February 22 - Weekly Meeting



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309-523-2834
Church Email:
cccportbyron@gmail.com



Kids need to be here
at 4:00pm to help with
food and set up.

Valentines Banquet!

Our annual Valentine's Banquet will be Saturday, February 11th at 5pm. This is a fun event for the whole family. Your child has a craft they've been working on to give you and will also be helping prepare the dinner.

We will be collecting the fish banks this night to support our IDES food-packing event. THANK YOU so much for your donation!



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

Romans 5:8

KIDS CLUB/IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Christ to China Ministry (C2C)

Wing Wong has worked for over 53 years in China presenting the message of Christ to the people and also to the Chinese people worshipping in New Hampshire. (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.

Yes, there are always ups and downs but all the downs turned out to be stepping stones for more ups. God is surely in control of all things and in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (newsletter April 2022)

“Praise God for our brothers and sisters in China who keep God’s words and have not denied His name! Please pray that they will continue to be faithful in our Lord and make more disciples for Him.” (Oct. 2022 newsletter)

Many young people are being brain-washed into the communist philosophy of atheism and rejecting Christianity. Spreading the Gospel message is becoming more and more of a challenge. Several small church groups are meeting in homes for their safety. A music center has opened and several students have signed up for lessons. Please pray that this center will make a good impact to the community and attract more people to Christ and pray for their safety as well. Another Bible study in a second-tier city has started. Pray that more disciples can be made and another new church will be planted. Most importantly please pray for all the Christians in China for their safety from Communist rule.



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.

“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 support!” (Wing Wong)

Ladies,

Come Join Us for Tea!

(there will be coffee too!)

Saturday, February 11th 9:30am

Treat yourself to a morning with friends. Come prepared to relax, for great conversation, and good food! Mark your calendars. Bring a friend! See you then!



A PERFECT LOVE

Do you clean the house before the maid gets there?

Well, I do not have a maid but if I did, FOR SURE I would clean the house before she got there! We can't let people see how we REALLY live!

Do you brush your teeth before you go to the dentist?

This was a recent discussion in our house before one of the kids went to the dentist and I was horrified that they didn't think it necessary to brush teeth before going and even thought nothing of eating a sandwich on the way! Apparently this is what we pay the dentist for – to clean our teeth!

These are silly questions but how often do we treat our relationship with God the same way: we feel the need to clean ourselves up before we come to God. We know we need Him, we know our sins and shortcomings, and we feel like we need to get those things worked out before we come to Him.

Isaiah 1:18 says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

God is saying He wants us to come to Him just as we are, with all of our ugliness and failures and He will exchange them for a brand new second chance (or 3rd or 4th...)

The Bible also says in Isaiah 55:3: "Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David."

Everything that Jesus did for you was because He loved you. God made us to LOVE US. The only reason we exist is because we were created to be LOVED by God!

And God didn't just say He loves us, He showed us. "While we were YET sinners, Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8) Before you even knew God or knew you needed Him in your life, Jesus thought about YOU as He died for your sins.

Perfect, all-consuming LOVE. May it fill your heart as you worship Him in your quiet times reading His word, as you sing songs to Him in the car or on Sunday morning, and as you hear the Word during sermon time.

P.S. How are you doing on your "Read through the Bible in a Year" plan? In case you missed it in last month's newsletter, I added it to the website here: <https://countrysidecc.org/read-through-the-bible-in-a-year/>

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant. 1 Cor 13:4



OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

ONLINE GIVING

Easy. Safe. Convenient.

**SIGN
UP
TODAY!**

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

1


Point your smartphone camera at the QR code to the right to be taken to the online giving site.

OR:
Type this URL address into your browser:
<https://countrysidecc.org/give/>



INSTRUCTIONS

2

 Login | Sign Up

Countryside Christian Church PORT BYRON, IL 61275-9780

Give: \$0.00 To: Tithe

Recurring Giving Every Week Thursday

First Name Last Name Email

Card Bank

Card number MM / YY CVC

Give \$0.00

On the next screen, input your tithe amount and fill in any required boxes. You will have the option of setting this up as a recurring amount weekly or monthly or as a one-time gift.

AND THAT'S IT!

Simple and easy!
If you have any questions, contact the church office:
309-523-2834

2022-2023 Offering Budget

(Starting 11/1/2022):
\$38,750

YTD Offering Actual

(Starting 11/1/2022):
\$43,818

Our Giving

2022-2023 Mission Year

(Starting 5/1/2022)

Faith Promises Goal: \$41,552

Faith Promises YTD: \$26,231

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

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

- 8 – Galvin & Teresa Garcia

*Beloved, let's love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
1 John 4:7*



VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

Childrens Ministry

Sunday School (9:30-10:15)			Worship* (10:45-12:00)				
			Children's Church			Nursery	
Date	Teacher's	Nursery	Date	Teacher	Helper	Leader	Helper
			*Children's Church Teacher & helper are dismissed from service after the worship communion / offering *Nursery workers are scheduled for the entire church service from 10:40-12:00				
February			February				
5	Connie Curry Judy Millies Wayne Lotz	Sarah Denekas	5	Criss Evans	Connie Curry	Shanie Bird	Becki Winger
12	Connie Curry Judy Millies Wayne Lotz	Ruthie Coverdill	12	Criss Evans	Alicia Simms	Shanie Bird	Sarah Denekas
19	Connie Curry Judy Millies Wayne Lotz	Becki Winger	19	Criss Evans	Kati Jo Chasek	Shanie Bird	Becky Collis
26	Connie Curry Judy Millies Wayne Lotz	Sarah Denekas	26	Criss Evans	Sarah Denekas	Shanie Bird	Georgia Cullison

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

February 5 – Jim Kaecker
 February 12 – Teresa Garcia
 February 19 – Ryan Schmidt
 February 26 – Steve Allison

GREETERS



Please sign up for a Sunday that works for your family! Welcome people, direct them to the sanctuary, nursery, or restrooms if needed, and hand out bulletins.

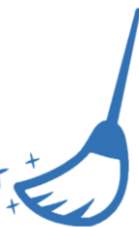
Breakfast



VOLUNTEERS

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.

Church BUILDING CLEANERS



Kenny & Debbie Collis
 Rock & Sandy Lawrence
 Ryan and Laura Schmidt

"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

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3			1	2	3	4
			Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Worship Team 6:30pm	Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	Gym in Use Ramos 12pm – 4pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm Softball 5:45-8:45pm	Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Worship Team 6:30pm		Women's Coffee 9:30am  Valentine's Banquet 5pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	Zuma Township Meeting Softball 5:45-8:45pm	Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Valentine's Day	NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Worship Team 6:30pm		Movie Night (Impact) 5pm 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	Softball 5:45-8:45pm Presidents Day 	Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Worship Team 6:30pm		
26	27	28	<i>We love because He first loved us.</i> 1 John 1:9			
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	Softball 5:45-8:45pm 	Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am				