

You are looking for Jesus...

# He has risen!

Mark 16:6

*the*

# MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2023

## Sunday Morning Services:

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

## Wednesday Activities:

3-5pm Kids Club (K-5<sup>th</sup>)  
4-5pm Impact (Jr High)  
6:30pm Small Groups

## Church Office:

309-523-2834

## Church Email:

cccportbyron@gmail.com

## Church Website:

www.countrysidecc.org

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

Tuesday after Bible study, I sat down at my desk and discovered the Internet was not working. Sometimes that happens with our satellite internet at church, so I worked from home. This has happened a few times and usually rectifies itself by the next day. On Wednesday I went into the office and discovered the Internet was still not working so after trying a few times to unplug and plug in the modem to reset it with no success, I called tech-support. Perhaps you have called tech-support before and you know at first you wait and then you get to talk to someone that will talk you through all of the different options and strategies as they work on their end to help find the best solution. After several minutes I put the call on speaker phone to free up my hands to start the process of unplugging and plugging in several wires that connect the modem to a first router and a second router and hard wiring a PC that is normally wireless etc. etc. etc. I am pleased to announce that tech-support helped me get our Internet back online.

The Wednesday that I called tech-support to fix the Internet is also the Wednesday I woke up and discovered our hot water heater was no longer working. Made some phone calls and a plumber was able to help me on Thursday. The plumber had me call tech support to diagnose the problem with my water heater. Day two of tech-support phone calls. After many hours of again on speaker phone to move freely checking parts, changing parts and punching in diagnostic codes once again, tech-support saved the day. And that night our hot water heater was working again.

The Thursday I worked on my water heater I was in my office for a short time when a good friend of many years that I had not talked to in a while gave me a call. He was telling me that he and his wife were going through a bumpy patch in their marriage. He was reaching out to me and other close friends in confidence and asking us to cover their marriage in prayer. Truth is he was calling tech-support, well a better way to see this is he was asking all of us to flood tech-support with phone calls on his behalf. He knew something was not working and was struggling to make it work. He knew that there IS an expert at the other end of the call for help that knows how to solve any problem we may encounter. It made me think we all would do well to call on God no matter what we face for He loves us.

I recently received a text from him, and he told me there had been a softening of hearts and spiritual breakthrough and healing had begun. This is proof that the best way to go through life is in-step with our Savior for He always knows what's best. We serve a God that **does not want us to only call Him when there is a problem**, but is doing life with Him on speaker phone! We move freely connected to our loving, knowing God. God is good.

*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*



Steve began a new series in Sunday School on March 26th at 9:30am.

**How do we overcome those battles in our lives that we always seem to be fighting? Learn to overcome the “giants” in your life—the fears and insecurities that keep you from reaching your full potential.**

It’s likely you have a threatening giant in your life: an adversary or stronghold that’s diminishing your ability to live a full and free life. Frozen in the grip of rejection, fear, anger, or addiction, we lose sight of the promise God has for our lives. Demoralized and defeated, we settle for far less than his best.

In *Goliath Must Fall*, pastor Louie Giglio uncovers a newfound twist in the classic story of David and Goliath. It is not God's plan for you to live with a giant standing in the middle of your life, demoralizing you day after day. Our freedom and God's glory are forever interwoven into one story. God *does* want us to live free. He wants us to recognize that He's already killed the giant.

***If you are not a part of a Sunday School class, please consider attending as a family!***

***Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Connie Curry, Teacher***

***Jr High/High School – Judy Millies, Teacher***

***Adult Sunday School Class (studying Romans) – Wayne Lotz, Teacher***

***Adult Sunday School Class (“Goliath Must Fall” Video) – Steve Allison, Teacher***

# EASTER CELEBRATION!

Our annual Beach Spring Break party was Saturday, Mar 25th!! We had so much fun with snacks and family games. There are only a few weeks left of Kids Club for this school year and we are hoping to make the most of them! See below for activities planned!

## KIDS CLUB & IMPACT

April 2023

April is the final month of Kids Club and Impact this 2022-2023 school year. The months have flown by and we have greatly enjoyed the chance to get to know your children better and spend time with your families at our monthly events. April 26<sup>th</sup> will be our final week. The leaders of Kids Club/Impact will serve an appreciation breakfast to the teachers and staff at Riverdale Schools the following week with notes from your children expressing their thanks also.

Please join us on Easter Sunday for our annual brunch and egg hunt followed by the Easter Worship service. Your child has been working on a special part in the service and we can't wait to share it with you.

Again thank you for your support of this program! We are thankful to have been part of your lives this past year.

## EASTER CELEBRATION!

APRIL 9, 2023

9:30am Breakfast  
10:30am Egg Hunt  
10:45am Worship Service

## Events

April 5 - Weekly Meeting

April 9 - Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Service

April 12 - Weekly Meeting

April 19 - Weekly Meeting

April 26 - LAST WEEK OF KIDS CLUB/IMPACT

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11:25-26

EASTER IS COMING!

## INVITE SOMEONE!

INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS & COWORKERS TO JOIN US THIS EASTER!  
GRAB A YARD SIGN IN THE CHURCH LOBBY ON SUNDAY!



BREAKFAST – 9:30AM  
EGG HUNT – 10:30AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45AM



A sign up sheet has been placed in the lobby for the Easter breakfast. Please see if there is something you might be able to bring. Thank you!

Please drop candy off in church office the next couple of weeks. We also probably need some more plastic eggs. The Kids Club kids are going to fill the eggs on Wednesday mornings.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Pet. 1:3*

Outreach International was founded in 1977. Since that time many people have been recruited for missionary work in several countries.

*"The operating philosophy of Outreach International since its beginning in 1977, is based on the fact that all mankind deserves the chance to hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ and that it is each Christian's responsibility to do all we can to reach the world with the Good News of Salvation found in Jesus Christ."*

Therefore Outreach International has acted as 'starters' for those new to worldwide missions and has helped start, by the grace of God, several new missions across the world." (Brochure of Sept. '10).



"In 1998 there were approximately 18 workers, in 9 projects and 9 countries. Currently there are 60+ workers, in 37 projects in 18 countries. By God's grace, OI has helped workers start and establish their own ministries as well as recruited workers to serve with other mission ministries. Because of supporters like you that continue to support the Outreach International General fund, we are able to have 100% of the funds each missionary raises go to their projects without worrying about funds being taken out for administrative costs and support services."

Dale and Sonja are enjoying their new office space with the inside plumbing and additional space. The new office in Shelbyville continues to bless them and works well as the hub for support services for our 60+ workers in cross-cultural work.



Sonja's mom Annette Hamilton passed away peacefully on June 14<sup>th</sup>. She had been in declining health for several years. For 6 ½ weeks she had been under the full time care of her family at Dale and Sonja's home. Al and Annette Hamilton, Sonja's parents, were instrumental in establishing Outreach International in 1977. Their faith and commitment to Christ has helped to take the message of salvation thru Christ to many countries around the world.

*"Thank you for praying for us and with us - you bless our lives and ministry over and over again and we thank God for you! We love you all. We too, pray for the Lord's Blessings on each of you! Because of Jesus and in His Love, Dale and Sonja."  
(Newsletter Feb. 2021)*

*One of the missions under the umbrella of OI is Me and My House in Colima, Mexico. Countryside Christian Church also financially supports that work as well as funding OI.*

# SUPPORT OUR MISSIONARIES

Our church supports Rock River Christian Camp and participates in their Pantry Days each year. Pantry Days is a time when churches help stock the camp with items for the upcoming year. This year they are asking for us to collect all-purpose flour. The goal amount is 500 lbs.

A box will be set up in the lobby to collect the donations. Ideally they would like to receive them by June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance for your help with this!



## Rock River Christian Camp PANTRY DAYS

Collect:

**All-Purpose Flour**

Goal Amount: 500 lbs.

## FAITH PROMISE RALLY

In April (2022) we, as a congregation, promised **\$41,552** to go toward the expenses of the seven missions we support.

**“Mission Not Impossible”**

**April 23, 2023**

It is time to set a new goal for 2023-2024! April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be our Annual “Mission NOT Impossible” Sunday. We will be watching videos our missionaries have sent with updates of what they are doing. We will also be collecting our faith promises for the coming year during the worship service that Sunday.

Please mark your calendar for this very important day in the life of Countryside and our missionaries. Remember our missionaries can only continue the important work of sharing the good news of Jesus with the prayerful and monetary support of churches like Countryside!

*“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10*



# SUNDAY IS COMING!

Phil Wickham released a new song this past month called “Sunday is Coming!” If you haven’t heard it yet, you should look it up on YouTube and listen to it. The words are powerful as we reflect on that last week of Jesus’ life – his triumphant entry on Palm Sunday, his death on Friday, and his glorious resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday morning!! We have probably all had our own lesser version of “Friday” in our lives where we wonder why we are experiencing this depth of sorrow or darkness and we can’t see anything good that could possibly come out of it. One of the verses says, *“Then He carried that cross to Calvary, and He shed His blood to set us free. As the nails went in and the sky went dark, the redemption of the world was on His heart.”* How can we fathom that kind of selfless love? The chorus changes the whole song into one of hope and joy because *“Hallelujah, He’s alive!! Hallelujah! Don’t lose hope ‘cause Sunday is comin’! Hallelujah!”* I remember once, my oldest son when he was about 12, noticing I was going through something hard and he said, “In the end, Mom, Jesus changes everything.” Yes he does!! Hallelujah!! There is hope because the tomb is empty!! Sunday is comin’ and we can hold on to that!

*Laura*

***“With this song we set out to tell the Easter story as best as we could in song. The story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is the greatest story ever told, and the best part about it is that it’s TRUE. This is Hope, this is Salvation, this is Love, this is the Gospel. And it’s not just a story of something that HAPPENED, it’s also a story of what is still HAPPENING! Every day people all over the world are calling on the name of Jesus and stepping into the resurrection victory that Jesus won!”***

***Phil went on to say, “I pray this song is used as a tool to point people’s eyes and hearts to Jesus. To move them to wonder and repentance and worship. As we near the beautiful Holy Week of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday may the reality and significance of it all hit you in big and profound ways. May you be reminded that Jesus is KING and forever will be. Amen. Hallelujah.”***



*“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.”*

Romans 6:8-11

# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

## FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

### four WAYS to GIVE at

Countryside  
Christian Church

Visit  
[www.countrysidecc.org](http://www.countrysidecc.org)  
for more information.



### Mail-In

Mail in your offering directly to our church office at the address below:  
Countryside Christian Church  
3817 230<sup>th</sup> St. N  
Port Byron, IL 61275



### Online Giving

Visit online at  
[www.countrysidecc.org](http://www.countrysidecc.org) to use our giving website directly.



### Mobile Giving

Use our Church App to give on your mobile device. Scan the QR code below to add to your phone.



### Drop Off or In-Person

Visit our church office and use our drop box located in the church lobby.





## April BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Morgan Rutledge
- 2 – Dana Larimer-Hergert
- 2 – Jason Collis
- 2 – Joe Heydeman
- 3 – Tim Smith
- 5 - Melissa Gonterman
- 9 - Hannah Langworthy (Hermann)
- 10 - Jeri Chasek
- 12 – Donald Bird Jr.
- 12 – Evan Schumpert
- 14 – Becky Collis
- 20 – Jerry Dufur
- 21 – Paul LaRoy Mikles
- 23 – Clara Jones
- 27 – Roger Curry
- 27 – Levi Olesen
- 29 – Criss Evans

*Your eyes saw my  
unformed substance; in  
your book were written,  
every one of them, the  
days that were formed for  
me, when as yet there  
was none of them.  
Psalm 139:16*

## April ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 – Brian & Dawn Tiesman
- 10 – Connie & Roger Curry
- 14 – Eric & Dawn Ryden
- 19 – Nancy & Jerry Dufur
- 27 – Phil & Melissa Gonterman
- 28 – Callie & Logan Heydeman

# VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

## Childrens Ministry

Sunday School (9:30-10:15)			Worship* (10:45-12:00)				
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				
April			April				
2	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Ruthie Coverdill	2	Karen Allison	Laura Schmidt	Shanie Bird	Sandy Lawrence
9	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Becki Winger	9	Karen Allison	Connie Curry	Shanie Bird	Judy Millies
16	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Cathy Lotz	16	Karen Allison	Kati Jo Chasek	Shanie Bird	Georgia Cullison
23	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Sarah Denekas	23	Karen Allison	Alicia Simms	Shanie Bird	Kathy Kohrt
30	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Kathy Kohrt	30	Family Sunday	Family Sunday	Shanie Bird	Addison Tiesman

## Worship Ministry



### COMMUNION MEDITATION

### GREETERS

- April 2 – Jim Kaecker
- April 9 – Wayne Lotz
- April 16 – Ryan Schmidt
- April 23 – Teresa Garcia
- April 30 – Steve Allison

*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



- Wayne & Cathy Lotz
- Criss Evans & Kati Jo Chasek
- LeRoy & Laura Byers




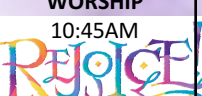

*"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38*

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

# April

# 2023

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

						1 <b>Work Day</b> 9am-12pm
2 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM 	3 <b>Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm</b> <b>All Depts. 7pm</b>	4 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am  Softball 6:30-8:30pm	5 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	6 Worship Team 6:30pm	7 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 	8 Women's Coffee 9:30am 
9 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>BREAKFAST</b> 9:30AM <b>EGG HUNT</b> 10:30AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM 	10 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting  Softball 6:30-8:30pm	11 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	12 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	13 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Gym in use  Worship Team 6:30pm	14	15
16 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM <b>Softball</b> 3:30-5:30pm	17	18 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	19 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	20 Worship Team 6:30pm	21	22
23 <b>Mission Sunday</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM  <b>Softball</b> 3:30-5:30pm	24	25 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	26 <b>Kids Club 3-5pm</b> <b>Impact 4-5pm</b> <b>LAST WEEK</b>  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	27 Worship Team 6:30pm	28	29

30  
**FAMILY SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:30AM  
**COFFEE TIME**  
10:15AM  
**WORSHIP**  
10:45AM  
**Potluck Lunch**



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Peter 1:3