

# the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH MAY 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

## Live Streaming Info:

Paste the links below into  
your browser:



[shorturl.at/CIM08](https://shorturl.at/CIM08)



[shorturl.at/wBVY4](https://shorturl.at/wBVY4)

Dear Church Family,

The school year is winding down, and Kids Club has already come to the end of the 2022-2023 school year. We started with a big party last September and had over 150 people on campus with 60 kids signing up for Kids Club. We averaged about 40 kids in attendance through November. December, January, and February averaged around 35. As the weather warmed up this spring, attendances declined and since spring break we ran about 28 kids. This pattern of attendance closely resembles other kids' programs in churches across the country.

Last fall we set out to teach the kids about Jesus and encourage them to memorize five Bible verses. A highlight for me this year is that most of the kids can tell you what Genesis 1:1, Psalm 119:105, John 3:16, Ephesians 4:32, and Proverbs 14:12 say. What makes this most exciting to me? The majority of the kids that attend do not have a church home. Countryside Christian Church Kids Club program is their church home, and they are learning.

As we look to starting Kids Club back up in the fall, will you please pray that God will lead in our planning? We have been blessed to have a Riverdale School bus deliver kids from the school to our church on Wednesday afternoons. Next year, some changes are coming to bus scheduling and this could affect our programming. At this point, this is an unknown variable that will be worked out over the summer. So, please be praying that God will reveal the perfect plan for His kingdom. Pray that God would allow us to continue to shine a light on his Son with the youth in our community.

One last thing: please prayerfully consider how you might be a part of the Kids Club staff in the fall. The workers are few, the harvest is ripe.

*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





**Lesley**

UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Education

BE TRULY  
*glad*  
THERE IS  
WONDERFUL  
*joy*  
AHEAD  
1 PETER 1:6



Teagan Collis will be graduating on May 20<sup>th</sup> from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She will graduate with her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Dance/Movement Therapy.

After she graduates, she has already been hired as a clinician at MAB (Massachusetts Association for the Blind). She will be helping people in residential homes that have developmental disabilities and have acquired brain injuries.

Congratulations Teagan! We are all so proud of you!

VBS 2023

# Game on



REGISTER  
ONLINE  
TODAY!

# VBS

*Giving God the Controller*

July 23-27

6:00-7:30PM

FOOD - CRAFTS - GAMES - MUSIC & MORE

Scan the QR code to register or  
visit [www.countrysidecc.org](http://www.countrysidecc.org)!



KIDS ENTERING GRADES K-5TH

*Matthew 19:14: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

# EASTER BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT

# EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT



Easter Sunday was April 9th and a HUGE thanks to the Evangelism Dept and Fellowship Dept for all the work they did in making this happen! We filled over 3,000 eggs and had over 200 people join us that Sunday. Praise God!



*Revelation 1:17b-18a: "Don't be afraid! I am the First and Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever!"*

# PLANT SWAP

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT



SATURDAY,  
MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>  
10AM

## PLANT SWAP

- ✓ BRING A PLANT TO SHARE
- ✓ TAKE A PLANT HOME
- ✓ SEED EXCHANGE
- ✓ INDOOR OR OUTDOOR PLANTS
- ✓ MEET FELLOW PLANT-LOVERS
- ✓ COFFEE & DONUTS PROVIDED

# Let's Play Ball!



Our Church Softball League will be starting soon! Make sure your name is on the list in the lobby if you would like to be part of the team. Someone will be getting a hold of you in the next week or two about practices.

*Psalms 66:4 All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."*

## KIDS CLUB & IMPACT

### May 2023

There are some fun events coming up this summer we would love for you and your family to be a part of!



May 3<sup>rd</sup> is our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for Riverdale School. Kids Club is writing notes of thanks to send that day also.



## Family Sunday!

Next Sunday is our Family Sunday at church (10:45am) where the kids get to have an active part of the service and we have a potluck lunch afterwards.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, we had our End of the Year party for Kids Club & Impact! Kids made crafts, played fun games with balloons, wrote a thank you note to their teachers, and had ice cream sandwiches. Thank you to all the Kids Club staff and parents who supported this program all year!

## Bible Camp!

Would your child like the chance to participate in a week long Bible Camp experience just for their age? Our church helps with costs for kids who decide to go. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.rockrivercc.com/elementary-camps/>

## End of Year Party!

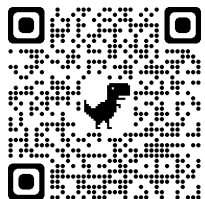
July 23-27  
6:00-7:30pm

## VBS! Game On VBS



*Giving God the Controller*

For kids entering K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Scan the QR code to register or visit [www.countrysidecc.org](http://www.countrysidecc.org)



*Psalms 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*

# MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Rock River Christian Camp

*Rock River Christian Camp is located near Polo, IL. It is our local Christian Camp and is supported by approximately 30 Christian churches.*

“Camp is an investment in the kingdom and God’s people, especially our children. What happens at camp? What comes from our children going to camp? Campers experience a week on their own, experiencing God in their own community in nature, helping them grow in their faith with other kids away from their everyday influences. Sometimes kids can grow up in the church with their family, which is excellent, but many times their parent’s faith is what they take on. Camp gives our children time away from their parents to help them grow their own faith and friendships outside their local church in Christ. I think kids that attend camp help grow their church. Camp is a unique experience. Giving our kids as many different experiences in Godly environments helps them figure out who they are as servants of Christ. None of us are the same and we grow in different environments. The more God-centered encounters they experience, the more well-rounded followers they will be.” (Newsletter Jan. 23)

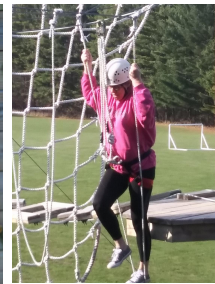


One of Countryside’s young people, Connor Kohrt, was a camper in 2022 and made the decision to be baptized. He came home and was baptized on July 24th. It is an example of the impact the camp has on young lives.

The camp theme for 2023 is REVERSE Matthew 5:1-12. Camp registrations for 2023 are currently being taken. Countryside Christian Church will pay up to \$100 of the registration fee. The S.A.W. (Servants at Work) has been reestablished this year. \$167.50 can be earned for each week working at camp. Positions for cook and other summer staff are also being taken. Spring work day at camp is scheduled for Saturday April 29. Many volunteers are needed to get the camp ready for this season.



There are many financial needs of the camp, including day to day expenses and long term maintenance projects. Roof are needed on the Fireside Hall, the Earth Lodge, the Old Chapel., the well house, the garage and the Office.



“We want to thank all of you that have prayed for the camp, have given financially, or volunteered your time at camp this year. We also thank our camp board members, the year round and summer staff, deans, and all the summer faculty. We also thank everyone that came as a camper this year. We greatly appreciate you. This camp would not be here without any of you. God has used each and every one of you to work in the lives of all who come here. Please know you are loved, appreciated and prayed for.” (Newsletter Jan. 23)

*For more information about Rock River Christian Camp check the booklet on the mission shelf in the foyer. Camp registration information is on a display in the entry way. Countryside will also financially help anyone who requests assistance.*

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

# Proverbs 31 Woman



For years, I held an unrealistic view of the model Christian woman. I grew up believing the ideal godly woman was an over-worked, exhausted wife and mother, whose kids were perfect, home was spotless, and who consistently maintained a selfless, subservient, and sacrificial attitude, — regardless of her circumstances or state-of-mind. Traits that, at the time, I thought were essential for any devoted, Bible-believing, woman of God. Attributes I tried tirelessly — without success I might add — to model for years.

After more than 20 years of striving to live up to my aggrandized view of Proverbs 31:10-31, I finally unearthed the truth. The real woman described in this passage, is a God-fearing, dedicated, and independent woman. She bravely dives into leadership roles and takes on challenging positions with courage and confidence. When I finally discovered the true attributes of this bold and driven woman, she won my heart and inspired my future. Granted, it's impossible for any woman to live up to the full description of the Proverbs 31 woman, but I believe, this passage is meant to inspire us to be the unique, persistent, fearless women God created us to be. Therefore, let's push past the boundaries our society sets, and those we set for ourselves, and embrace our God-given potential with God's ever-present help (Psalm 46:1).

Take a look at the attributes described in Proverb 31 and take note of traits you sense God is calling you to appropriate into your life.

The woman of Proverbs 31 embraces her value (v10,28) and is:

- Honest and trustworthy (v11)
- An entrepreneur (vv13,14,16,24)
- Wise and discerning (vv13,18,26,27)
- Hardworking and Resourceful (vv13,19,24,27)
- A loving provider (vv14,15,21,24)
- Generous and kind (vv15,20,26)
- A supervisor (vv15,27)
- Independent and successful (vv16,24)
- Courageous and strong (vv17,21,25)
- Well-spoken of (v23)
- Confident and optimistic (v25)
- Praised by others (v28,31)
- Dedicated and godly (vv18,30)

Today, this passage inspires me to use the gifts, talents, and abilities God has given me to their full potential. Today, I continually sense God urging me to break out of my comfort zone in order to pursue His calling. And — today, I spend less time worrying about who and what I'm not — and more time striving to be all I can be. Allow Proverbs 31 to inspire us to be the fearless, dedicated, faithful women of God He is calling us to be.

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*Proverbs 31:10 "A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman—who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls."*





# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of the next Missions Year. We collected our faith promises for the coming year during our "Mission Not Impossible" Sunday on April 23rd.

As of right now, our goal for the 2023-2024 Missions Year is:

**\$46,780.00!!**

Thank you for supporting the work of missions!

*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!*

## Countryside supports a wide variety of ministries including:

- Christian higher education
- Youth and adult camping experiences
- Global disaster relief and evangelism
- Ministry to the Chinese people in the U.S. & China
- Church plants in Mexico
- Bible translation in Papua, New Guinea
- Ministry to recruit and support missionaries around the world



### 2022-2023 Mission Year

*(Starting 5/1/2022)*

Faith Promises Goal: \$41,552

Faith Promises YTD: \$35,062

### 2023-2024 Mission Year

*(Starting 5/1/2023)*

Faith Promises Goal: \$46,780

Faith Promises YTD: \$0

## 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.*

*"So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." Matthew 6:8*

## May **BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 – Amber Ramos
- 6 – Joanne Wiklund
- 11 – Tena Knapp
- 12 – Logan Wheeler
- 14 – Tiffany Wheeler
- 14 – Mikah Mikles
- 15 – Dawn Ryden
- 22 – Steve Allison
- 24 – Jasper Denekas
- 26 – Dylan Trout
- 28 – Natalia Ramos
- 29 – Teagan Collis

## May **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 – Becki & Mike Winger
- 3 – Adam & Val Rutledge
- 6 – Ruthie & Brock Coverdill
- 11 – Jill & Norm Weatherhead
- 30 – Kati Jo & Corey Chasek
- 31 – Rock & Sandy Lawrence

# 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				
May			May				
7	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Cathy Lotz	7	Cathy Lotz	Connie Curry	Shanie Bird	Kristina Rogers
14	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Ruthie Coverdill	14	Cathy Lotz	Becky Collis	Shanie Bird	Ruthie Coverdill
21	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Gail Horst	21	Cathy Lotz	Kathy Kohrt	Shanie Bird	Becky Collis
28	Connie Curry Judy Millies Steve Allison	Kathy Kohrt	28	Cathy Lotz	Donna Vickroy	Shanie Bird	Becki Winger

## Worship Ministry



### COMMUNION MEDITATION

### GREETERS

- May 7 – Jim Kaecker
- May 14 – Ryan Schmidt
- May 21 – Wayne Lotz
- May 28 – Teresa Garcia

*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



- Georgia Cullison & Donna Vickroy
- Jeremiah & Shanie Bird
- Roger & Connie Curry

*"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*

# May

# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2 <b>Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm</b>  <b>MAY DAY</b> 	3 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	4 <b>TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST</b>  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	5 <b>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>   Worship Team 6:30pm	6 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	7 Plant Swap 10am 
7 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	8 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting	9 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	10 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	11 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm  Worship Team 6:30pm	12 Women's Coffee 9:30am 	
14 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM  <b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</b>	15	16 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	17 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	18 Worship Team 6:30pm	19	20
21 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	22	23 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	24 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	25 Worship Team 6:30pm	26	27
28 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:45AM	29   <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  	30 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	31	<i>"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:26</i>		