

the MESSENGER



COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

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)

3-5pm Impact (6th-12th)

6:00pm 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

I'm With You

When I was in high school, I met a guy named Randy. I heard that Randy was a Christian and worked with an outfit called Young Life. Randy never offered me a ride on his motorcycle, but he tried to engage me in discussions about Jesus. I kept him at arm's length, but that didn't seem to chill his interest in finding out who I was and what I was about.

Randy fed my soul with words of truth and perspective. "Bob, you can do this thing if you want. You have the stuff it takes to pull it off. Either way, I'm with you." His words gave me tremendous comfort.

What I learned from Randy changed my view permanently about what it meant to have a friendship with Jesus. I learned that faith isn't about knowing all of the right stuff or obeying a list of rules. It's something more, something more costly because it involves being present and making a sacrifice. Perhaps that's why Jesus is sometimes called Immanuel—"God with us." I think that's what God had in mind, for Jesus to be present, to just be with us. It's also what He has in mind for us when it comes to other people. The world can make you think that love can be picked up at a garage sale or enveloped in a Hallmark card. But the kind of love that God created and demonstrated is a costly one because it involves sacrifice and presence. It's a love that operates more like a sign language than being spoken outright. What I learned from Randy about the brand of love Jesus offers is that it's more about presence than undertaking a project. It's a brand of love that doesn't just think about good things, or agree with them, or talk about them.

*What I learned from Randy reinforced the simple truth that continues to weave itself into the tapestry of every great story:
Love does.*

Bob Goff

"Love Does", Experience a Life of Love in Action



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

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help in the nursery, children's church, and with Sunday School. We are starting a brand new year and we are excited about some changes ahead.

I will be meeting with all of the volunteers on the calendar this year to give you a packet of expectations and schedules for the year to help answer any questions you might have. Please be looking for that.

Education Department Guidelines and Expectations 2024

- Purpose:** of this document is to: outline the expectations for the nursery leader, children's church teacher position, nursery, helper and junior helper positions on the volunteer schedule.
- Absences:** We understand that absences are going to occur and that some will be due to sickness and other immediate circumstances. All helpers should try to notify the Education Department Head prior to missing their allotted time on the schedule.
- If possible, the helper on the schedule who is going to be absent should try and find their own replacement by switching Sundays with another volunteer on the schedule. Let the Department Head know of the switch. If a replacement is not found, the Department Head should be notified to establish coverage.
- Family Sunday:** There are a few instances of months throughout the year that have 5 Sundays. Our church recognizes the 5th Sunday in a month as "Family Sunday." On those special occasions, all of the children are allowed to stay in the sanctuary with their parents during church service that Pastor Steve prepares. This service is family friendly and includes information that the children understand. On Family Sundays, we do not offer children's church. We do offer the nursery for the babies and toddlers aged 3 and under every Sunday, including Family Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30-10:15 AM

- Each Sunday is structured as Sunday School time and worship time. Sunday School time is from 9:30 to 10:15 AM. During this time, we offer classes for children, teens, and adults as described in the Sunday School section of this document. Nursery is also provided to children who are too young to attend class (age newborn to 3 years)

COFFEE BREAK 10:15-10:45 AM

- Sunday school ends at 10:15 AM. After the classes are dismissed, parents are expected to pick up their children from the nursery/children's classes. During this time, breakfastvolunteers prepare coffee and small food items in the gym.

WORSHIP TIME 10:45-12:00 PM

- Children's Church:** Children that are age 4 through 4th grade are welcome to attend children's church.
- Nursery:** Children aged 3 and younger are welcome to attend nursery during the worship service.

We are happy to announce we have hired Mikah Mikles to be in the nursery each Sunday this year as well.

Lastly, we are looking forward to the possibility of a new adult Sunday School class possibly being added! Our classes have been filling up – a very good problem to have and we are excited to be able to offer additional opportunities. More information to come!

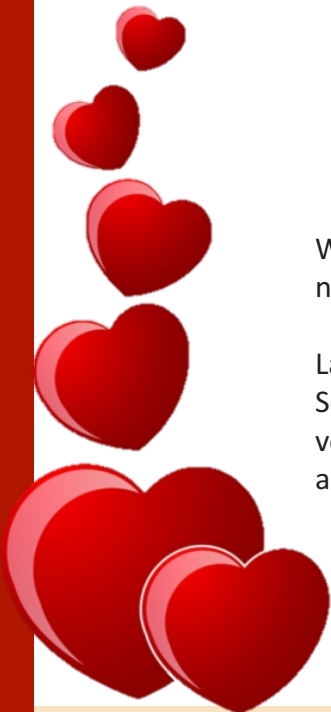
Sarah Denekas

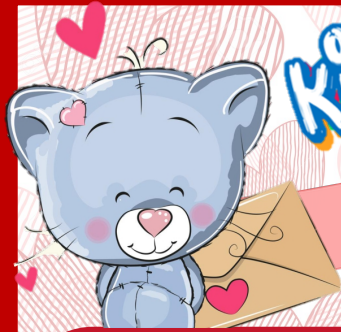
Education Chair

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

Colossians 3:14

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT





KIDS CLUB & IMPACT

February 2024

Events

- February 7 - Weekly Meeting
- February 14 - NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT
- February 17 - Annual Valentine's Banquet - 5pm
- February 21 - Weekly Meeting
- February 24 - IMPACT Movie Night - 5pm
- February 28 - NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT



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 17th 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.

The kids will also have a special Valentine's presentation this month TBA for their parents.



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

Romans 5:8

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2024

KIDS CLUB/IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

We're planning to travel to the Appalachian mountains in July 2024! We plan to participate in mission with Appalachia Service Project. It is a Christian organization that has been providing emergency home repairs for low income families in Central Appalachia since 1969. This trip is for any students who are 11 years old – adult.

- When:** July 28 – August 3 (1st preference)
July 21 – 27 (2nd preference)
- Where:** SE Kentucky or West Virginia (depending on week)
- Cost:** \$375/volunteer (includes lodging, meals, and building materials)

PLEASE ATTEND THE INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND AT 5PM TO FIND OUT MORE AND ASK QUESTIONS.



2024 ASP Theme: "Building Kindness"

Ephesians 4:32 says, *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."* The book of Ephesians is about God's love for all people and gives examples of how to live in unity with each other as members of the body of Christ. Our theme verse tells us that we are called to live by building kindness with each other. This is an intentional way of life where we give in love and give in compassion to others. We do this with a servant heart, in humility, and we offer kindness with no expectation of receiving anything in return.

At ASP, we build. We build new homes. We build relationships. We build community. We build on the foundation of God's love shared with all of us through Christ who modeled a life of service, compassion, and intentional kindness. Stories of kindness are woven through scripture as a way of guiding us in our relationships.

Working to eradicate substandard housing.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) believes that safe, sanitary housing is a basic human right. By participating in the youth mission trip, you will help eliminate substandard housing throughout central Appalachia. Learn more about ASP's organization and positive impact on their website:

[https://asphome.org/!](https://asphome.org/)

Mission builds community and faith.

ASP believes that all who come into contact with the ministry will have a transformative experience. This comes from powerful relationships with homeowners, communal time with other volunteers, and intentional programming. Attend the informational meeting to learn more!

International Disaster Emergency Service Responds to emergencies around the globe through Christian churches/ Churches of Christ. IDES is located in Noblesville, Indiana. "For 50 years IDES has been known for the help and hope we provide in the name of Jesus Christ. As we look ahead at our fifty-first year and beyond, God continues to lead us, and open opportunities for the Gospel to be shared through Disaster Response, Hunger Relief, Medical Care. Community development, and Disciple Making.



Just this year IDES has responded to tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires and floods in the United States as well as, typhoons, droughts, wars, coups, floods, fires, and earthquakes internationally. We have seen homes rebuilt, clean water wells drilled, medical needs met, food provided to the starving, and lives changed for eternity!

Throughout our 50 years of existence, IDES has responded quickly and efficiently to provide Help and Hope in times of need.

As I write this letter, the year is not yet over but IDES has already helped over 428,000 people! That means over 428,000 people also had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Our prayer is that through God's grace and providence, we will be able to make an impact on even more lives in 2024, and that's where you come in.

You can make a difference to those who are hurting by making sure resources are available and ready to be deployed immediately when a need arises.

The Global Impact Fund (GIF) is the lifeblood of IDES. There's no greater way to impact the work we do than by donating to the Global Impact Fund. Disasters strike often without warning, creating huge needs that are immediate and time-sensitive with no time for fundraising." (David Steine newsletter Dec. '23)



In October, Countryside and together with Erie Christian Church packed food bags for overseas distribution. If you would like more information about IDES refer to the booklet on the mission shelf by the office.

Women's Weekly Coffee
Tuesdays at 9:00am

Women's Breakfast – 2nd
Saturday each month

Treat yourself to a morning with friends. Come prepared to relax, for great conversation, and coffee! Mark your calendars. Bring a friend!



Men's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 9:00am

Men's Breakfast – 1st Saturday each month

*Each week, we spend an hour diving into God's word and getting to know one another better. All men are welcome!
Also, please mark your calendars for our monthly men's breakfast – always GREAT FOOD and fun!*



Senior Citizen Luncheons & Outings - Once a Month (dates TBA)

Also, we have started hosting monthly Senior lunches and outings. They have been well-attended and highly anticipated. Keep an eye on the announcements for the next one!

LOVE WINS!

Love is the answer to the broken home. Love is the answer to the addict. Love is the answer to fractured relationships. Love is the answer to being offended. Love is the answer to heartbreak. Love is a weapon that can shatter division and rebuild what has been broken.

What is happening in your life right now that tests you in the way you love?

Different dynamics and complexities characterize each situation. But they're real. They're hard. And they hurt.

I wonder what would happen if we decided that, with God's help and in His strength, we are going to love like we've never been hurt. Instead of withholding affection, staying bitter or seeking revenge, we love.

God will begin, little by little, to release you from the past if you will reach for a new day.

It takes a lot of love and forgiveness to hold a family together. Love never fails. Keep on forgiving. Keep on loving. Keep on reaching. Keep on talking.

The ones whom you love the most can hurt you the most. Love them anyway.

John 21:15-17 NIV

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

Jentezen Franklin

"Love Like You've Never Been Hurt"



OUR GIVING THIS MONTH



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

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

GIVING

2022-2023 Offering Budget
(Starting 11/1/2022):
\$201,602
YTD Offering Actual
\$209,042

FAITH PROMISE

2023-2024 Mission Year
(Starting 5/1/2023)
Faith Promises Goal:
\$52,390
YTD Actual: \$19,360

Our Giving

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 4 – Isabella McClintock
- 6 – Alonzo Ramos
- 7 – Melissa Meese
- 12 – Paul Mikles
- 12 – Stella Simms
- 13 – Donna Vickroy
- 16 – Annie Krogman
- 17 – Bailee Olesen
- 19 – Galvin Garcia
- 24 – Marc McClintock
- 24 – JoAnn McCoy
- 25 – Lauren Tiesman
- 28 – Carlie Collis
- 29 – Dean Krogman

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

- 8 – Galvin & Teresa Garcia
- 14 – Wally & Judy Hamm

*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

Children's Ministry

Sunday School (9:30-10:15)		Worship* (10:45-12:00)					
		Children's Church			Nursery		
Date	Nursery	Date	Teacher	Helper	Leader	Helper	Jr. 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					
4	Sarah Denekas	4	Sarah Denekas	Connie Curry	Mikah Mikles	Becki Winger	Natalia Ramos
11	Ruthie Coverdill	11	Sarah Denekas	Alicia Simms	Mikah Mikles	Sandy Lawrence	Gabby Krogman
18	Becki Winger	18	Sarah Denekas	Kati Jo Chasek	Mikah Mikles	Shanie Bird	Lauren Tiesman
25		25	Sarah Denekas	Donna Vickroy	Mikah Mikles	Vanessa Krogman	Fallen Byers

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

February 4, 2024	Ryan Schmidt
February 11, 2024	Teresa Garcia
February 18, 2024	Jim Kaecker
February 25, 2024	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

Georgia Cullison
Dawn & Brian Tiesman
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

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH





2024 FEBRUARY

Sunday3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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We love because He first loved us.

1 John 1:9

				1 Worship Team 6:30pm	2 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	3 Men's Breakfast 9:00am  Building in Use 12-4pm
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4 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM Girl Scouts 3-4:30 Disciple Group 5pm	5 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm Softball 5:30-8:00pm	6 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30	7 Kids Club/Impact 3-5pm Mission Trip Info Meeting - 5pm Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	8 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 6-7:30	9	10 Women's Coffee 9:30am  Gym in Use 1-4pm
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11 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM Girl Scouts 3-4:30 Disciple Group 5pm	12 Zuma Township Meeting Softball 5:30-8:00pm	13 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30	14 NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Valentine's Day 	15 Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 6-7:30	16	17  Valentine's Banquet 5pm
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18 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM Girl Scouts 3-4:30 Disciple Group 5pm	19 Softball 5:30-8:00pm Presidents Day 	20 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30	21 Kids Club/Impact 3-5pm Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	22 Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 6-7:30	23	24 Movie Night (Impact) 5pm 
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25 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM Girl Scouts 3-4:30 Disciple Group 5pm	26 Softball 5:30-8:00pm 	27 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30	28 NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	29 Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 6-7:30		
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