

the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 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:
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



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*

Elders: Wayne Lotz
Ryan Schmidt
Jim Kaecker

***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
(Isaiah 9:6)***

Christmas is a time to marvel in awe and gratitude at the lengths God has gone to show us His love and to save us. The Creator came to His creation. The God of Heaven came to earth. The infinite God became an infant son. The Lord, whose royal robe filled the temple of heaven (Isaiah 6:1), became a baby who was wrapped in swaddling cloths (Luke 2:7). The God of the universe, who is present everywhere, did not have a room to be born in. The Son of God left His throne in heaven, surrounded by the unceasing praise of angels, to come to earth where He would ultimately receive a crown of thorns and hear crowds shouting, "Crucify him!" (Mark 15:13).

At Christmas, we stand in awe at the majesty and humility of God. He came not in power to kings in a palace but in humility to ordinary shepherds in a small rural town of obscurity. The Lord comes to us not with an angry fist, shouting from heaven, but with an open hand and helpless cry from a manger.

"She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7 ESV).

***May the unfathomable love, unending peace,
and overwhelming joy of our Savior's birth be
yours this Christmas!***



We are so excited to be able to offer Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" next year FREE OF CHARGE for our church. You may have heard of this program before. Dave Ramsey is a Christian who has developed a Biblical model for getting control of your finances. We are going to be starting these classes in January so please keep this in mind! Here is a little more about this program...



It's easy to feel like you're the only one in your situation. But no matter where you are on your financial journey—sitting at rock bottom or just trying to do better—we've seen this class work for millions of people who:

- Have a huge amount of debt
- Have nothing saved for retirement
- Can't get on the same page with their spouse about money
- Are facing a financial crisis
- Are newly widowed or divorced
- Are living paycheck to paycheck
- Have a low to average income
- Can't keep up with their bills

**The fastest way
to beat debt and
build wealth.**

In fact, the average FPU graduate is debt-free in two years or less!

You'll go through the class with a group of people each week at church. Once a week for nine weeks, you'll watch a video lesson (each one is about an hour long) and then meet as a group for discussions and activities that drive each lesson home. (Aka, the most transformative part of FPU!)

And the results speak for themselves. FPU graduates pay off an average of \$5,300 in debt and save an average of \$2,700 in just 90 days. That's a financial turnaround of \$8,000—all for a few hours of your time over a few months. (Sounds like a no-brainer.)



THANK YOU FOR HELPING

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
&
VOLUNTEERS

2025 is right around the corner and with it...a NEW CALENDAR that needs to be filled with volunteers for Children's Church and Nursery Workers!!



Please prayerfully consider taking a few weeks this next year. The lessons for Children's Church are already planned and two people share the 20-30 minute time with the kids during the sermon time. Thank you!!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

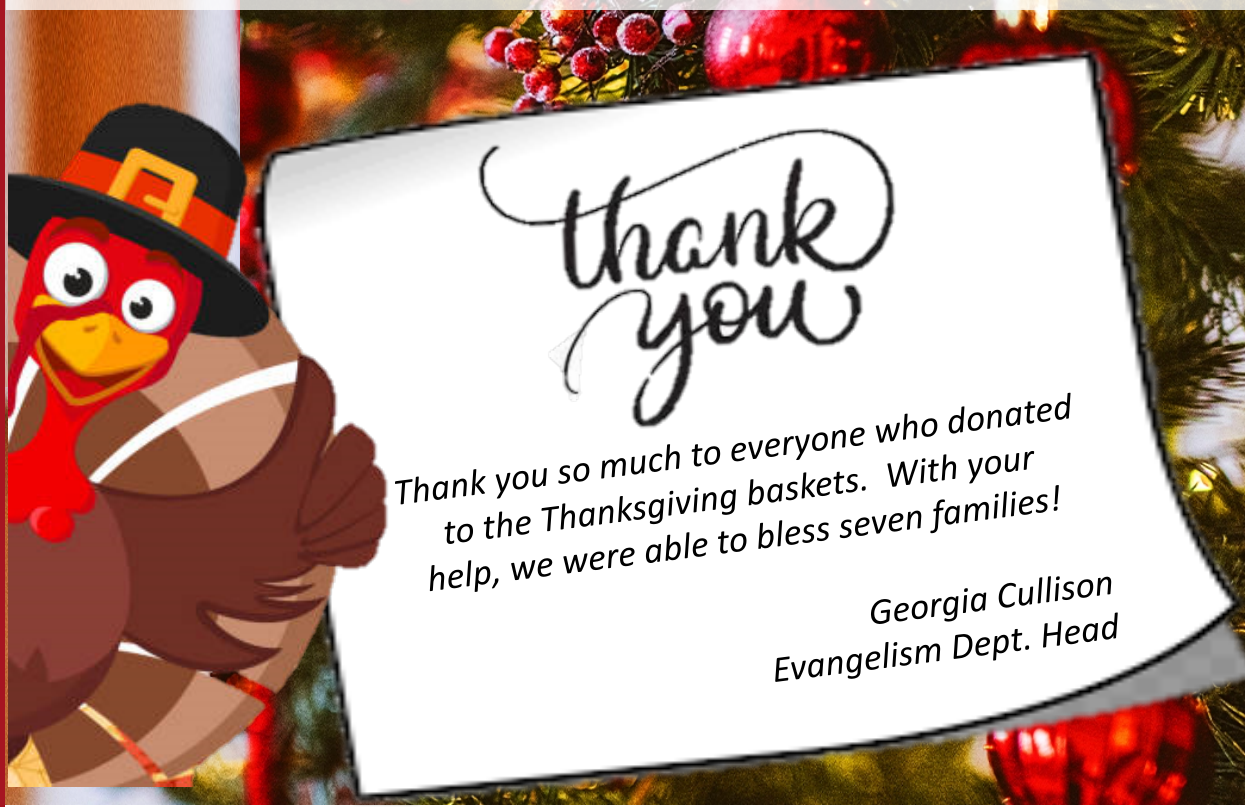
ANGEL TREE



An Angel Tree is set up in the church foyer to support IAG (Individual Advocacy Group), a nonprofit organization that helps those with special needs.

Thank you everyone who chose an angel from the tree and will be purchasing some Christmas gifts for those in need. All donations will be due to the church on December 15th. It is your choice whether you wrap them or not. Any questions, please see Amber Ramos or Georgia Cullison.

Thank you!



thank
you

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving baskets. With your help, we were able to bless seven families!

Georgia Cullison
Evangelism Dept. Head

HELPING OTHERS

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Countryside Church is made up of two very hard-working and kind women: Nancy Dufur and Joanne Wiklund (although I'm sure they would welcome anyone who would like to join them!) This month alone, they have given out many prayer shawls, lap quilts, crocheted hats and mittens, and dishcloths.



This year, they made almost 200 items for sick people in our congregation and to area shelters for battered women, foster children, veterans, and homeless. God sees your efforts, ladies, and you should be honored for the work you are doing for others. God bless you!



THANK YOU so much for participating in our semi-annual blood drive last month. We collected 19 pints of blood. Our goal was 14 so we hit a home run! Thanks to all who donated. Our next blood drive is scheduled for **Saturday April 12, 2025**. We hope to do that well or better.

Connie Curry



*"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."
—Martin Luther*

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: C2C Ministries

Wing Wong has worked for over 54 years in China presenting the message of Christ to the people and also to the Chinese people worshipping in New Hampshire.



"Yes, our mission is to proclaim the Good News of the abundant Life, True Liberty, and Happiness in Christ to all nations and help them do the same for others. Satan certainly dislikes our mission. First when I approached a missionary in Taiwan to help us find accommodations there for our summer retreat, I didn't receive a reply. But praise God, for he has a greater plan for us. We ended up hosting our own high school camp in Taiwan with 60 high school students. Financial support was slow in coming but God provided in full before we set foot on this journey through some of you, our faithful and generous supporters. Accommodations were provided by a family visiting America for the summer. They provided their apartment free of charge for the whole summer.



God is so good! He continues to lead us in making disciples in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China as He has done for the past years. Discipleship training in China: registered students 26, Audit students 22, Spiritual Formation groups 3, 5AM Bible study and prayer 33, 6AM Bible study and prayer 2. Music ministry; Music Instrument team 14, choir 12.



One of our brothers in China continues to work diligently making disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ and raising up more co-workers for C2C Ministries. As I write this he is training a group of Christians to become effective servants of God who not only know His Word but also how to share it. He continues to lead us in making disciples in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China, as He has done for the past 50 years. Yes, this year marks the 50th anniversary of our ministry, which began in Hong Kong." (Newsletter Oct. 2024)

Many young people are being brainwashed 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.



"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)



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.

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCHEON

Seniors, please join us for a

Christmas

LUNCHEON

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 21 | 12:00PM
COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Lunch will be catered by the
Seniors Ministry Department.

Please bring a white elephant gift
and ready to share some
Christmas fun!

RSVP: 309.523.2834
or sign up at the church

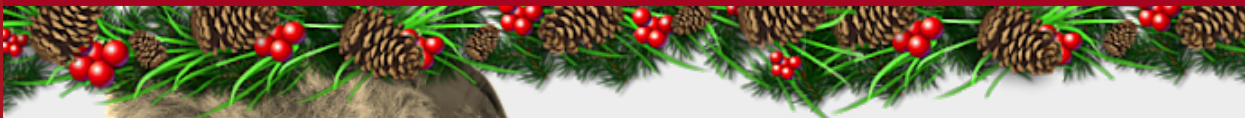
"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."

—Martin Luther

SENIORS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

WINTER COAT DRIVE

WOMENS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT



LET'S SHARE THE WARMTH

COAT DRIVE

DONATE YOUR UNWANTED COATS &
HELP OTHERS STAY WARM

DROP OFF AT CHURCH DURING THE
MONTH OF DECEMBER.

COATS WILL BE DONATED
TO AREA HOSPITALS AND
SHELTERS IN NEED



Christmas

COFFEE FOR WOMEN

Saturday, December 14th at 9:30am



"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."

—Martin Luther

CELEBRATING HIS BIRTH

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE



TUESDAY
DEC 24
5:00 PM

*Please join us on
Christmas Eve as we
celebrate our Savior's
birth with traditional
Christmas carols and a
candlelight service*



*You can take home your
poinsettias after this night.*

"Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind."

—Helen Steiner Rice

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

OUR GIVING



God's Gifts to Us

Here's the way Christmas is described in the most famous verse: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Then there's the simple, short, spectacular exultation of 2 Corinthians 9:15: "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" The very essence of Christmas includes a divine overflow of generosity, kindness, grace, giving — doing for us, giving to us, what we could never do for ourselves or get on our own.

The ultimate gift is God. God gives God, like it says in 1 Peter 3:18: "Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God." This was all so that we might have God as our supreme, all-satisfying gift or treasure. At the heart of Christmas is God giving God for the enjoyment of his people, whom he saves by giving his Son to suffer. That's breathtaking. It is the heart of Christmas.

Our Response

Hebrews 13:16 says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices" — that is, worship — "are pleasing to God." Even our giving to others is viewed as a sacrifice of worship to God.

Here's the sum of the matter. I think all of our gift giving should seek to form a mindset about giving at Christmas that helps the children and the adults to (1) rejoice in God as the great and first giver of the greatest gift, (2) seek the mindset that offers back to Christ the gift of trust, hope, admiration, joy, and affection, and then, finally, (3) seek the mindset that overflows with joy in giving to others — not primarily the mindset of getting, but the mindset of joyful overflow: giving.

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



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



December Anniversaries

- 6 – Kenny & Debbie Collis
- 20 – Chuck & Hetty Volk
- 26 – Bill & JoAnn Courter

December Birthdays

- 1 – Jamie Schumpert
- 5 – Mary Green
- 10 – Dorothy Newton
- 14 – Brandon Simms
- 15 – Emmett Jones
- 17 – Willy Biscontine
- 21 – Ellie Byam
- 23 – Kathy Kohrt
- 23 – Grant Rutledge
- 24 – Islay Miller
- 24 – Ben White
- 31 – Brock Coverdill

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

Children's 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				
November			November				
1	Connie Curry Judy Millies	Becki Winger	3		Cheryl Gipson	Sandy Lawrence	Lauren Tiesman
8	Connie Curry Judy Millies	Cathy Lotz	10		Connie Curry	Addison Tiesman	
15	Connie Curry Judy Millies	Ruthie Coverdill	17		Amber Harper	Becki Winger	Maddie Holderman
22	Connie Curry Judy Millies	Sarah Denekas	24		Georgia Cullison	Gail Horst	Fallen Byers
29	Connie Curry Judy Millies	Sarah Denekas	31	Family Sunday	Family Sunday	Shanie Bird	Maddie Holderman

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

December 1 – Ryan Schmidt
 December 8 – Jim Kaecker
 December 15 – Wayne Lotz
 December 22 – Teresa Garcia
 December 29 – Larry Van Oosten

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



Mike & Becki Winger
 Ryan & Laura Schmidt
 Kenny & Debbie Collis



"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 DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM</p> <p>BREAKFAST 10:15AM</p> <p>WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm</p> <p>All Depts. 7pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Study 9am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron –6pm</p> <p>Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 9:00am</p> 
<p>← DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS</p>						
<p>8</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM</p> <p>BREAKFAST 10:15AM</p> <p>WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Men's Study 9am</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron –6pm</p> <p>Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Women's Coffee 9:30am</p> <p>Christmas Party</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM</p> <p>BREAKFAST 10:15AM</p> <p>WORSHIP 10:45AM</p> <p>ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Study 9am</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron –6pm</p> <p>Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Seniors Christmas Party 12:00pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM</p> <p>BREAKFAST 10:15AM</p> <p>WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Men's Study 9am</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Service 5pm</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM</p> <p>BREAKFAST 10:15AM</p> <p>WORSHIP 10:45AM</p> <p>Potluck -12pm</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Men's Study 9am</p>  <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p><i>"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21</i></p>			