

# the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2025

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



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

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Steve will be starting a new sermon series called, "The 6 Secrets to a Lasting Love". This will take us throughout the month of February also.

Don't forget about Financial Peace University that starts on January 26<sup>th</sup> and runs 9 weeks with a different lesson each Sunday night at 5pm. If you have not signed up yet, call the church office today! (309-523-2834).

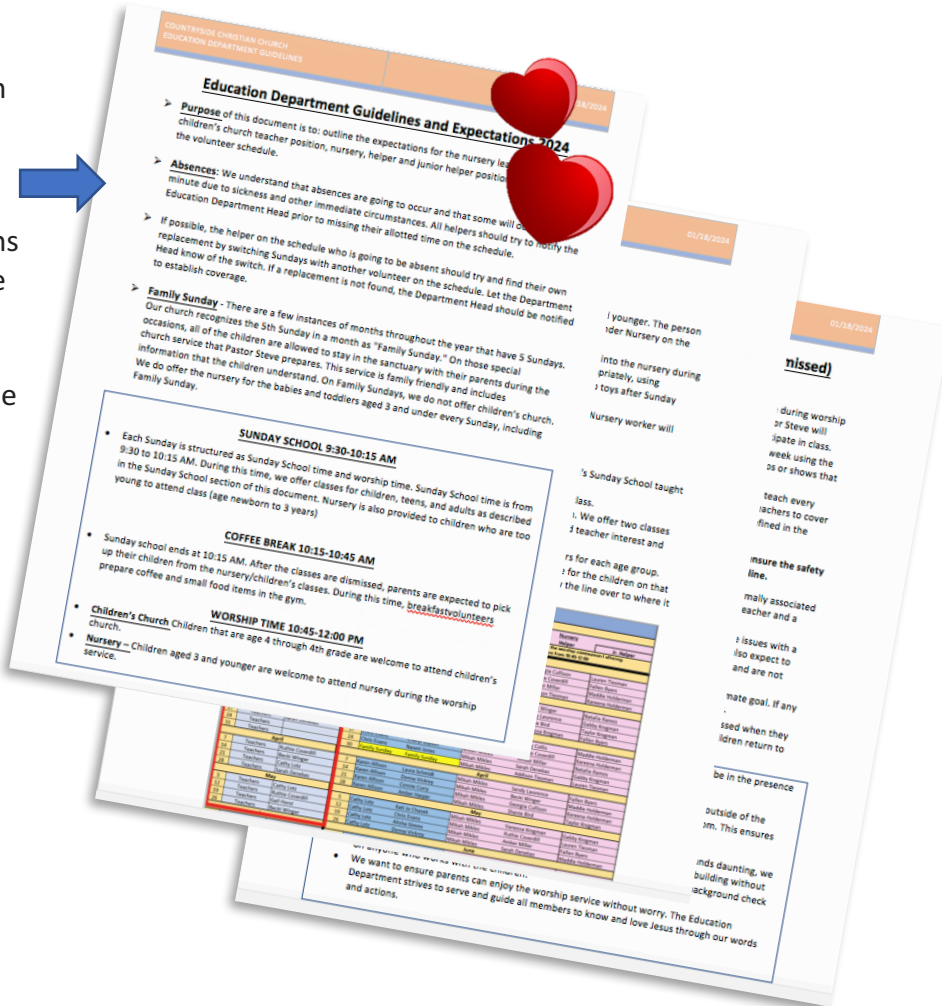
**THE 6 SECRETS TO A  
LASTING  
LOVE**

**NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS JAN 26TH**

*"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)*

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.



Lastly, we are still looking for someone to work every other week in the Nursery. This is a paid position and would involve being available every other Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:30am) and the Worship Service (10:45am). Please see Sarah if interested or call the church office: 309-523-2834.

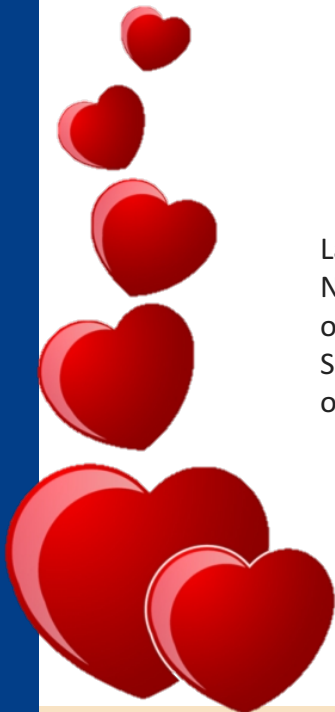
*Sarah Denekas*

Education Chair

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

*Colossians 3:14*

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT





# PAINTING PARTY

Georgia Cullison, Evangelism Chair

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

It's time for more painting fun! Amber will be helping us again with her paint-pour technique as we make beautiful vases this time. You don't have to be creative to take part! Please bring a vase you would like to re-purpose and a small snack to share.

Paint  
'n  
Pour

**Saturday,  
February 15<sup>th</sup>  
2:00pm**



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

# SKI OUTING

Criss Evans, Fellowship Chair



# SKI OUTING

**FEB 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**SUNDOWN SKI RESORT  
DUBUQUE, IA**

*register online: [countrysidecc.org](http://countrysidecc.org)*

Open from 9am – 9pm

**Group Rates (need a minimum of 15)**

Adult (12-99) Ski Rental: \$20

Adult (12-99) Snowboard Rental: \$25

Adult (12-99) Lift Ticket: \$55

Youth (6-11) Lift Ticket: \$55

5 & Under Lift (must purchase adult lift ticket): \$0

*Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. John 15:9*

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT



# KIDS CLUB STARTS IN FEBRUARY

Sandy Lawrence, Kids Club Director

## KIDS CLUB & **IMPACT**

February 2025

### Events

February 5 - Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm)

February 12 - Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm)

February 19 - Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm)

February 26- Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm) and Annual Spaghetti Dinner (5:30pm)

### Spaghetti Dinner

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. This is a fun event for the whole family. Your child will stay after Kids Club/Impact to help set up tables and finish meal preparations. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm



Norm and Jill Weatherhead work with Pioneer Bible Translators in Papua, New Guinea as Bible Translators. They have been involved there for over 20+ years. They are from Calgary, Canada. Drawn by a vision to see God's word changing lives in every language, Norm and his wife, Jill have devoted their lives to translation work. (Oct. 24, 2024 Newsletter)



"We arrived on Tuesday evening this week and were overwhelmed with the hugs and warm welcome we received by the students and residents here at the Guesthouse in Dallas. Some of the students are showing an interest in doing some data entry of some hand written Akukem translation work to assist the Weatherheads. It is so exciting for us to tell people that we now have Five New Testament books fully translated and checked and lined up now to start the process of being audio recorded. That will take our team quite awhile to do all those books. But you can see the excitement and momentum in the team now."

On November 2, a new building at the PBT Center in Dallas was dedicated as the "Global Sending and Sign Language Center." For years we have focused on the thousands of language groups which do not have any Scriptures written in their language. For the first time in history, many estimates of how many language groups need to have a translation project started is less than 1,000. Praise God!! However, on Nov. 2 we were told by our PBT President, that in recent surveys, it has been discovered that there are at least 400 Sign Languages in use around the world that have not received Scriptures in their sign language.



## *Our progress:*

What a great feeling to be able to tell people "there are now 5 completely checked and ready New Testament books available for the Akukem people. We have Mark, Luke, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus that are ready for recording and publishing. We are now entering a new stage in the Akukem Translation Project. Norm has begun his exegetical analysis of the Akukem draft of Genesis, our first major Old Testament book. Norm has finished writing his questions on chapters 1-11 of Genesis; there are only 240 flags so far in the text to ask the national team of translators when we see them in our Feb-April trip to PNG.

## *Prayer requests:*

Continue to pray for Norm's health to be strong so he can work on translation, Ask the Lord to raise up more workers who strive to bring God's Word to those who need it in their language, whether in print or audio form or in sign language. Pray for the equipment for the Akukem translators. Pray for God's wisdom and empowering for Norm and some DIU students to partner in meaningful ways to advance the Akukem project. A Special prayer request for Jill to get her PNG Entry Visa put onto her passport, then we don't need to worry about Jill not being able to return to Canada if any reason that would come up, and we can then purchase her airline tickets for our planned trip to PNG for Feb-April. Norm and Jill are so grateful for our partnership with them in prayer and financial support.



# GETTING CARPETS CLEANED

Steve Allison, Property Department Chair

This month we had One Way Carpet come and deep-clean all of the carpets and pews throughout the church. Everything looks so clean and new! We want to be thoughtful and faithful stewards of all God has blessed us with at Countryside. Our building is a tool to spread the news of the Gospel and we try to be intentional about keeping that tool sharp and well-maintained.

In the next couple of months, we will be organizing a work day and would love to see you there if you can spare a couple of hours to help with various spring projects!



*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3*

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHT



BRING YOUR CHOPSTICKS!

Dennis Ford, Seniors Ministry Department Chair

# Seniors Luncheon

This month's luncheon theme is...CHINESE! Bring your chopsticks! Or, Plan B: FORKS! If you are retired and want to join a fun group who gets together once a month for different events, please join us! Please RSVP through the sign-up at church!



SENIORS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

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

The command to “*love your neighbor as yourself*,” found in Galatians 5:14 (NIV), used to overwhelm me. I felt like Jesus was asking me to love everyone with the same level of intimacy and commitment as I love my husband or my best friend. It left me feeling like nothing I did to love others was ever good enough.

But I discovered a divine blueprint for relationships in Jesus’ life. Now, I have fresh eyes and the strength to love *all* my neighbors.

In a careful reading of the Gospels, it became clear to me that Jesus had five different types of relationships in His life: **a core, a circle, comrades, a community and crowds**. Jesus needed all these relationships, just like we do, for a thriving human life. He was not only fully God but also fully *man*, the ultimate example of God’s perfect design for the ecosystem of human connection.

How I love others changed when I saw what was at the center of this divine design: a connection to the Father. This connection to the Source held up every other relationship in Jesus’ life. It enabled Him to welcome others wherever He encountered them — never trying to meet His own needs at others’ expense or avoid connection — truly loving others in all spaces. We have the same invitation to be filled with the love of God through His Spirit! And we won’t be free enough to love others without Him.

*“And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).*

Jesus was free to embody love, in all its different forms, to anyone from a stranger to His best friend or mother. His love was patient and kind, not just seeking what was easiest in the moment. He freely gave and received, never holding grudges or becoming jealous. The love of Jesus looked all different ways. He always loved, but *He loved each person in their own unique way!*

And we can do the same! This truth is key to fulfilling the command to love our neighbors as ourselves. Depending upon the type of relationship, Jesus’ love looked different, sometimes leading with gentleness and intimacy, sometimes saying “no” and setting boundaries. He was free enough to act in any way that ascribed worth to another person, even if it cost Him something. The Source at His center was always renewing and overflowing with love.

Loving others isn’t a religious exercise; it’s the very heart of God on display. This could mean simply looking a stranger in the face with a warm smile instead of ignoring them ... telling the truth instead of making an excuse ... forfeiting your plans in order to help a friend. In Christ, you are free to love people the way you are uniquely able.

Come with me to start loving others in a better way.

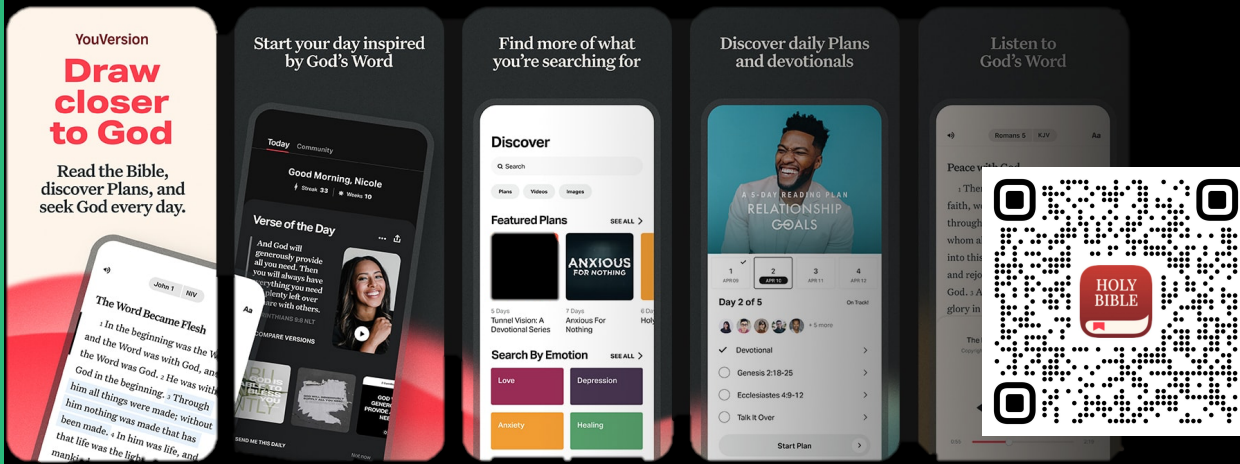
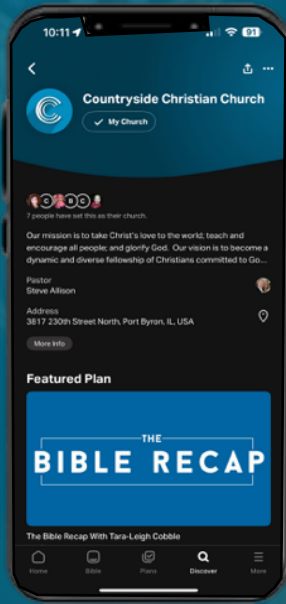
*Lord, wherever I go today, show me what love looks like for each person I encounter — help me be free to love in whatever way I can, knowing that’s enough. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



by Alli Patterson

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

## Our church is now on YouVersion!



- Start your day with a devotional with your friends at Countryside
- Follow along with notes from the sermon or attend live events
- Watch videos or listen to the Word of God

Scan me 

Here's how to join:

1. If you don't already have the Bible app, download it at [bible.com/app](https://www.bible.com/app)
2. Tap "Discover" and search for our church
3. Tap "Set As My Church"

An easy way to do all the above is just to point your camera at the QR code above or follow this link: <https://www.bible.com/organizations/57f3358f-f76b-4e7a-8ab7-3adc6a49367f>

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



# CHANGES TO FAITH PROMISE

In the January meeting of the Missions Department, some major changes were proposed and agreed upon. It was decided that it would make more sense for our "Missions Year" to match our fiscal year here at Countryside. For the past several years the "Missions Year" began on May 1 and ended on April 31, while for many, many years the church's fiscal year began on October 1 and ended on September 30. With the "Missions Year" now also beginning on October 1, there are some other necessary changes to be made.

First, it has always been the norm to hold our "Mission NOT Impossible" weekend near the end of the "Missions Year." That will still be the same so our "Mission NOT Impossible" weekend will be on **September 6-7** of this year. All our missionaries have been contacted regarding this change and nearly all have indicated that they will be able to attend that weekend in person. We are so pleased at that news!

Secondly, our Faith Promise Rally will also be held on that **Sunday, September 7** (five months later than our original "Faith Promise Rally" had been planned). In order to make this transition we are proposing to extend our current Faith Promises at the current rate for an addition five months. With \$42,000 promised last April, that makes an average of \$3,500 promised each month. By extending that an additional five months, that would make a new total of \$59,500 for the 17 months for May 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.

So, how does this affect us individually? First, put the weekend of September 6-7, 2025 on your calendars and make every effort to be in attendance then to show your support for our missionaries and to gain valuable information on their work. Second, continue giving your Faith Promise offerings as you have been since last May. These are two easy things to remember and two very important things to do!

The missions department and the seven missions we support thank you for your continued support.

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/>



## GIVING

**2024-2025 Offering Budget**  
(Starting 10/1/2024):  
\$57,512  
YTD Actual:  
\$76,758

## FAITH PROMISE

**2024-2025 Mission Year**  
(Starting 5/1/2024)  
Faith Promises Goal: \$42,000  
YTD Actual: \$30,291

Our  
Giving

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Isabella McClintock	2/4
Alonzo Ramos	2/6
Melissa Lee Meese	2/7
Todd Jackson	2/7
Paul Mikles	2/12
Stella Simms	2/12
Maverick Sedlock	2/13
Donna Vickroy	2/13
Bailee Olesen	2/17
Galvin Garcia	2/19
JoAnn McCoy	2/24
Marc McClintock	2/24
Lauren Tiesman	2/25
Carlie Collis	2/28

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						
2	Becki Winger	2	Mikah Mikles	Amber Miller	2	Karen Allison	Naomi Jones	Ruthie Coverdill
9	Sarah Denekas	9	Sarah Denekas	Becky Collis	9	Karen Allison	Kim Ford	Ruthie Coverdill
16	Mikah Mikles	16	Mikah Mikles	Rachael Creen	16	Karen Allison	Connie Van Oosten	Ruthie Coverdill
23	Sarah Denekas	23	Sarah Denekas	Gail Horst	23	Karen Allison	Linda Griffin	Ruthie Coverdill

## Worship Ministry

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

February 2nd	Larry Van Oosten
February 9th	Ryan Schmidt
February 16th	Jim Kaecker
February 23rd	Teresa Garcia

### 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

Brian & Dawn 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



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday



*We love because He first loved us.*

*1 John 1:9*

1  
Men's Breakfast  
9:00am  
 Gym in Use  
11am-4pm

2  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:30AM  
**BREAKFAST**  
10:15AM  
**WORSHIP**  
10:45AM  
  
Fin Peace Univ  
5pm

3  
**Evangelism/  
Missions 6:30pm  
All Depts. 7pm**

4  
Men's Study 9am  
Women's Study  
9am  
  
Pickleball 6-7:30

5  
**FIRST NIGHT OF  
SPRING SESSION:**  
Kids Club/Impact  
3-5pm  
  
**Small Groups**  
Port Byron -6pm  
Geneseo - 6pm

6

7  
**Stamping Club  
(Bev Skelton)  
9am-12pm**

8  
Women's Coffee  
9:30am

9  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:30AM  
**BREAKFAST**  
10:15AM  
**WORSHIP**  
10:45AM  
  
Fin Peace Univ  
5pm

10

11  
Men's Study 9am  
Women's Study  
9am  
  
Pickleball 6-7:30

12  
Kids Club/Impact  
3-5pm  
  
**Small Groups**  
Port Byron -6pm  
Geneseo - 6pm

13  
Zuma Home  
Extension  
1:00-4:00pm

14  
  
Valentine's Day

15  
**Paint 'n Pour  
Party  
2pm**

16  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:30AM  
**BREAKFAST**  
10:15AM  
**WORSHIP**  
10:45AM  
  
Fin Peace Univ  
5pm

17  
Presidents Day

18  
Men's Study 9am  
Women's Study  
9am  
  
Pickleball 6-7:30

19  
Kids Club/Impact  
3-5pm  
  
**Small Groups**  
Port Byron -6pm  
Geneseo - 6pm

20

21

22  
**Seniors  
Luncheon 12pm**  
  
**Sundown Ski Trip  
9am**

23  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:30AM  
**BREAKFAST**  
10:15AM  
**WORSHIP**  
10:45AM  
  
Fin Peace Univ  
5pm

24

25  
Men's Study  
9am  
Women's Study  
9am  
  
Pickleball 6-7:30

26  
Kids Club/Impact  
3-5pm  
  
Spaghetti Dinner  
5:30pm  
  
**Small Groups**  
Port Byron -6pm  
Geneseo - 6pm

27

28