

# the MESSENGER



COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JULY 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



shorturl.at/wBVY4

*What comes to your mind when you think of Independence Day?*

*For many Americans, the Fourth of July serves as a day to watch fireworks, barbeque and have a good time with friends and family. While there is nothing wrong with having these traditions, it is important to remember the reason behind why we celebrate this holiday.*

*Samuel Adams, the father of the American Revolution, was bold in proclaiming his faith. To him, signing the Declaration of Independence meant no longer submitting to Great Britain, but rather, submitting to the Lord (Crowe, 2008). As a result, America would be free from the power of man and able to serve Christ. What a significant day in history! It is important to remember what our duties are as Christians. We are called to serve Christ and Christ alone, and it is such a blessing that we can live in a country where we have the freedom to do so.*

*Oftentimes, the enemy will use distractions to keep us from fulfilling our duties as Christians. Being distracted by all that happens on the Fourth of July can cause us to lose sight of the true meaning of the holiday. This is dangerous, as it can ultimately cause us to stray away from Christ.*

*So, why is it important to acknowledge the significance of Independence Day, and how can we do so in today's world?*

*American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. It is important to recognize that in many other parts of the world, this is not the case. The cost of following Christ is much greater for our brothers and sisters across the globe.*

*With this in mind, I encourage you to not lose sight of why we celebrate Independence Day. Take time to reflect on the ways God has blessed you in your life, and make it a goal to not take the freedom we have for granted. As you spend this day with family and friends, I encourage you to celebrate the blessing of freedom that was given to us by Christ.*  
~Lauren Abraham, 2016



**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**



## Education Chair Needed!

*If you are looking for a way to serve, we have you covered! We are looking to fill an opening for our chair for the Education Department. Sarah Denekas has filled this position for the last several years and we are so appreciative and thankful of all her hard work. She has decided to take a step back at this time and, so we are looking for someone to fill this spot. If you are interested, please let one of the elders or Steve know. Thank you!*

*Get a load of these statistics! According to the Barna Group, almost half (43 percent) of Americans accept Jesus as their Savior before reaching 13 years old; 64 percent accept Jesus before they turn 18. You can have quite an impact! Think about it and let me know if you are interested in this opportunity or if you would like to volunteer in the Education Department. We would love to have you!*



# IDES FOOD PACKING EVENT COMING!

*Georgia Cullison, Evangelism Chair*



## FOOD PACKING EVENT

Join a team of 8-10 people and help us meet our goal of packing 40,000 meals!

**On Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**, Countryside and Erie Christian Church, along with volunteers from the community are hoping to pack 40,000 meals to provide nutritious meals for countries that have experienced disasters. Sign up for a shift (sign-up sheet will be available soon in the lobby) beginning around 8:00 am. We will package meals to help feed the hungry and transform lives around the world.

God Always Provides (GAP) is an opportunity for people of ALL ages to serve together and pack nutritious meals for those who are suffering from malnutrition and hunger around the world.

During the set-up we will need approximately 10 people who can lift boxes, move tables and take directions for set up and for being a crew leader. Each crew of 10 will need a leader who can give the crew instructions and oversee their line in bag filling.

We are hoping to have six crews, three from Erie, and three from CCC. Thirty-five people from CCC will be needed to be crew members and will require extended periods of standing. We plan to be finished by 11:30am - that will be determined by the number of workers. Snacks and water will be provided. A sign up list will be in the church lobby. Even if you can only work for a short period of time, sign up for a shift.

IDES provides nutritious meals which are sent to countries that have experienced disasters. Each bag contains the equivalent of 6 meals which can be reconstituted with water. Each meal contains vitamins, minerals and rice.

*Nehemiah 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is your strength."*

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

# NEXT MOVIE NIGHT!

Criss Evans, Fellowship Chair

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT



## MOVIE NIGHT!

## Christmas Jars

Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm

*Based on the bestselling novel by Jason F. Wright, it tells the story of reporter Hope Jensen, who uncovers the remarkable secret behind the "Christmas Jars" - glass jars filled with coins and bills anonymously left for people in need. Christmas Jars is a phenomenon with a reach far beyond that of a typical novel, as it created a new tradition that has changed the lives of many people in their time of need all over the country.*

Please join us for another great movie night at the church on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Popcorn and candy provided. Please bring your own beverage if you would like.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

## ONLINE GIVING

*Easy. Safe. Convenient.*

SIGN  
UP  
TODAY!

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/>



2

Countryside Christian Church PORT BYRON, IL 61275-9780 Login | Sign Up

Give:  To:

Recurring Giving

Card  Bank

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

**2024-2025**

**Offering Budget**

*(Starting 10/1/2024):*

\$117,692

YTD Actual:

\$139,548

## Our Giving

**2024-2025 Mission Year**

*(Starting 5/1/2024)*

Faith Promises Goal:

\$59,500

YTD Actual:

\$42,601

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

# MISSION HIGHLIGHT: C2C Ministries

Wing Wong has worked for over 55 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.***

***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.***

***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.***

***One time, the police confiscated everything from the church building, including benches and loaded them onto a truck. A few days later, we saw our church benches being used in the community hall! Yet, a few months later, most of the items were quietly returned without explanation. We do not know what may happen next but we do know God is in complete control. Amen!”***



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 spiritual, mental, and physical strength to carry out God’s work. Pray for our volunteers like Rebekah who is currently studying Mandarin in China. Pray that her language studies go well and that she can use her skills to bless the ministry in Taiwan. Pray for Corbin, a new volunteer who will join us in Tainwan on July 9. This will be his first overseas trip! He just graduated from high school and has enrolled in Ozark Christian College. He is a devoted young man who has already preached and shared his faith boldly. Please pray for his safe travel, adjustment, and fruitful service as a mission intern this summer.

We are still \$11,875 short of our summer mission fund. If the Lord moves your heart to help meet this need, you may send a gift through: <https://c2cministries.org/donate-online/>

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.

HELPING AREA SCHOOLS

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# BACK 2 SCHOOL

supply drive

Drop-off Location:  
3817 230th St. N, Port Byron



## WHAT WE NEED:

Book Bags, Glue Sticks, Wide & Narrow Lined Notebooks, Wide & Narrow Lined Loose Leaf Paper, Index Cards, Folders, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Highlighters, Dry Erase Markers, Crayola Colored Pencils, Crayola Crayons, Water Paints, Fiskar Scissors, No.2 Pencils, Erasers, etc.

The Mission's department is asking for your help in providing school supplies for students in the Riverdale School district. The first day of school is August 17th so we would like to collect supplies during the month of July. Thank you!

**COLLECTION PERIOD**  
**July 1 – Aug 9**

[www.countrysidecc.org](http://www.countrysidecc.org)

For a complete list of school supplies by grade, check scan the QR code with your phone.



MISSION HIGHLIGHT II

# PROPERTY UPDATES

Steve Allison, Property Chair

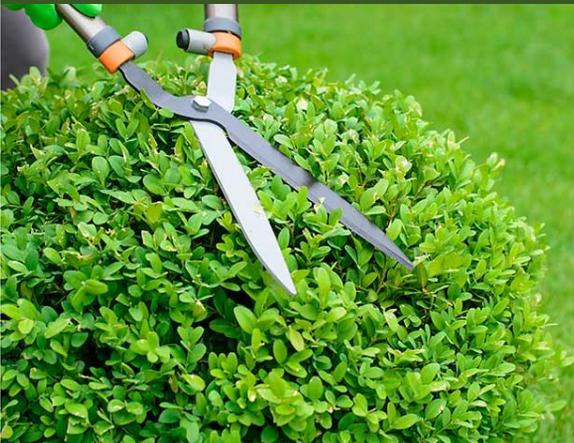
## PROPERTY HIGHLIGHT



This month was a busy one for our Property Department!

Thank you to the men's group who spent a couple days spreading mulch, trimming bushes, and cleaning the church.

Thank you also to Larry Van Oosten and Todd Jackson for taking care of the lawn while Noel Paxton was out this month!



*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ~ 1 Peter 4:10*

## Senior Luncheon

This month's luncheon for senior adults at Countryside will be July 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. More details will be coming about a possible outing depending on weather.



**SATURDAY**  
**July 25, 2025**



**TIME:**  
**12:00PM**



**ANY**  
**QUESTIONS:**  
**309-523-2834**





**JULY**  
Birthdays

- 1 – Ethan Cromie
- 4 – Camden Collis
- 4 – Brooke Heydeman
- 6 – Ruthie Coverdill
- 7 – Georgia Cullison
- 8 – Kameron Simms
- 12 – Leo Chasek
- 14 – Val Rutledge
- 14 – Dawn Tiesman
- 15 – Connie Curry
- 16 – Judy Millies
- 17 – Harry Kohrt
- 18 – Adam Rutledge
- 21 – Kellan Schmidt



**JULY**  
Anniversaries

- 7 – Paul & Mikah Mikles
- 16 – Wayne & Cathy Lotz
- 20 – Chris & Ana Biscontine



# VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

## Children's Ministry

Sunday School (9:30-10:15)		Worship* (10:45-12:00)					
		Nursery			Children's Church		
Date	Nursery	Date	Leader	Helper	Leader	Helper	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					
July							
6	Gail Horst	6	Mikah Mikles	Dawn Tiesman	No Kids' Church	No Kids' Church	No Kids' Church
13	Cathy Lotz	13	Mikah Mikles	Becki Winger	Karen Allison	Connie Curry	Kim Ford/Patti Stith
20	Becki Winger	20	Mikah Mikles	Chris Evans	Karen Allison	Cheryl Gipson	Kim Ford/Patti Stith
27	Dawn Tiesman	27	Mikah Mikles	Cathy Lotz	Karen Allison	Georgia Cullison	Kim Ford/Patti Stith

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

July 6 - Jim Kaecker  
 July 13- Ryan Schmidt  
 July 20 - Wayne Lotz  
 July 27 - Ryan Schmidt

### 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

Kathy Kohrt



*"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*



# 2025 JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	2 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	3	4 	5  8:00am
<b>VBS 6/29-7/3</b>						
6 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM	7 <b>Evangelism/ Missions 5:30pm</b> All Depts 6pm	8 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	9 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	10 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm	11 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	12 Women's Coffee 9:30am  Gym reserved afternoon/evening
13 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM	14 <b>5 Day Good News Club 6 - 8 pm</b>		15 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	16 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	17	18
20 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM	21	22 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	23 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	24	25 Movie Night - "Christmas in July" 6:30pm 	26 <b>Seniors Potluck Lunch 12pm</b> 
27 <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>COFFEE TIME</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM	28 	29 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	30 <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	31	It is for <b>freedom</b> That Christ has set us free. Galatians 5:1 	

## EMBARK (3<sup>RD</sup>-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE) CAMP (RRCC)