

# the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 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



**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

at Countryside Christian Church

**Hanging of the Greens**

Sunday, November 30 at 12pm – Potluck Lunch

**Men's Monthly Breakfast**

Saturday, December 6 at 8am

**Family Movie Night:  
"Christmas Jars"**

Sunday, December 7 at 5:30pm

**Women's Monthly Coffee**

Saturday, December 13 at 9:30am

**Children's Christmas Jubilee**

*(Angel Tree Gifts due this Sunday)*  
Sunday, December 14 at 10:45am

**Cookies & Carols**

Sunday, December 14 at 5pm

**Christmas Eve Service**

Wednesday, December 24 at 5pm



# CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

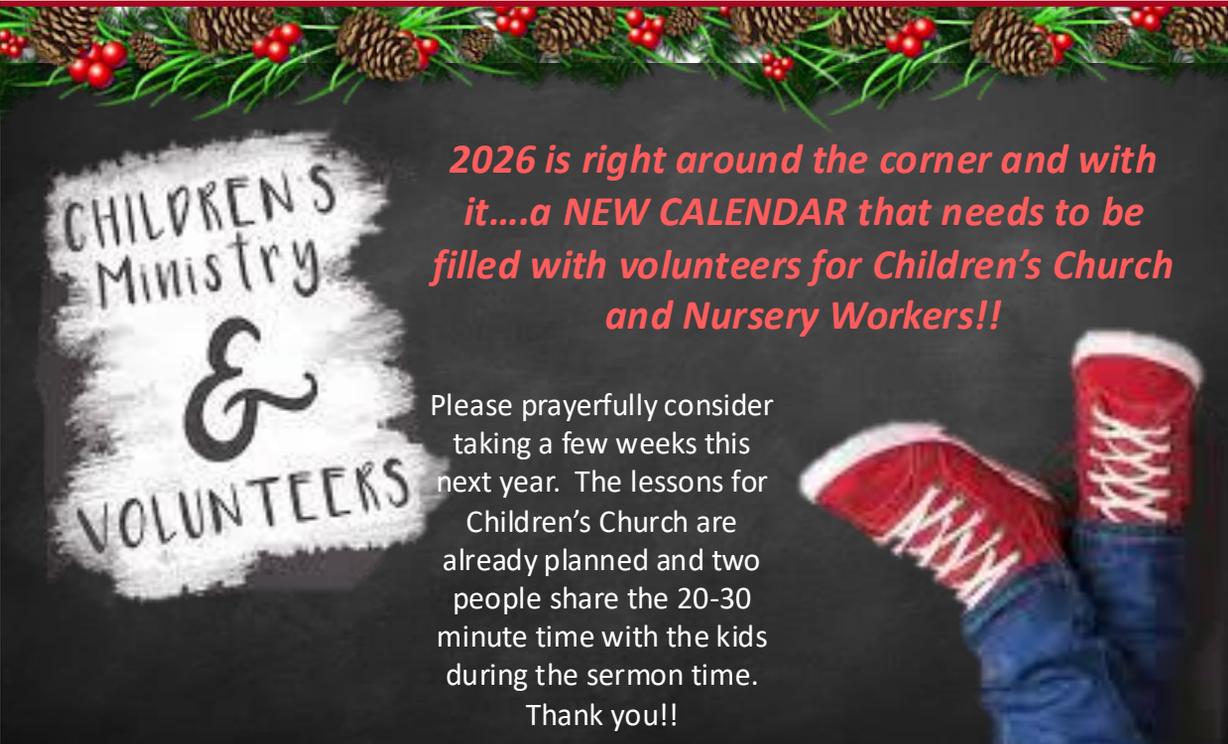
DEC 7<sup>TH</sup> @ 5:30PM  
showing "CHRISTMAS JARS"

*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 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30PM. Popcorn and candy provided. Please bring your own beverage if you would like.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT



CHILDREN'S  
Ministry  
&  
VOLUNTEERS

*2026 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!!



Christmas Jubilee

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:45AM

# ANGEL TREE

# EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

This year's Angel Tree is to benefit The Third Place QC (a drop-in center offering a welcoming, comforting space where people experiencing housing instability can gather, connect, and collaborate in an inclusive, accessible environment).

If you would like to sponsor someone this Christmas, we ask that you fill a backpack with these suggested items and bring it to the church on or before **December 14th**:

- warm gloves, hats, and scarves
- thick winter socks
- sleeping bags and blankets
- hygiene kits and lip balm
- non-perishable snacks
- hand warmers
- personal gift of your choice



*Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving baskets. With your help, we were able to bless fourteen individuals/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 16 pints of blood. Our goal was 14 so we hit a home run! Thanks to all who donated. Our next blood drive will be held next spring, 2026. 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: IDES

# MISSION HIGHLIGHT

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-second 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."

Last year IDES 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!

Phase 2 of their building project is progressing. This structure will be available for the storage of GAP food bags and shed pieces for quick dispersal. "As communities grapple with the devastation left by Hurricane Melissa, IDES is actively assessing needs and providing immediate relief. We are in constant communication with our mission partners and churches. Extending tangible hope as recovery efforts commence. Join us in supporting these efforts through prayer and financial contributions. Every donation directly aids those who have lost so much." (email Oct. 6)

Response can be quick 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 is 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.

On August 16, 2025, Countryside, along with the Erie Christian Church, had a food bag packing event here at Countryside Christian Church. Approximately 90 people packed 28000 (6 meals /bag) meals that day. If you would like more information about IDES, refer to the booklet on the mission shelf by the office.



# CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCHEON

SENIORS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

*Seniors, please join us for a*

# Christmas LUNCHEON

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 27 | 12:00PM  
COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Please bring a dish to pass.

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*

# COOKIES & CAROLS



SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
5:00pm

Join us for an old-fashioned singalong on Sunday evening at 5:00pm (December 14<sup>th</sup>) followed by refreshments of Christmas cookies and hot cocoa.

## Christmas

### COFFEE FOR WOMEN

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY  
**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*

# 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
- 13 – Pat Riley
- 14 – Brandon Simms
- 15 – Emmett Jones
- 17 – Willy Biscontine
- 17 – Noel Paxton
- 21 – Ellie Byam
- 21 – Cambree Byrd
- 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				
7	Mikah Mikles	Cathy Lotz	7	Cathy Lotz	Linda Griffin	Becki Winger	Patti Stith/Kim Ford
14	Mikah Mikles	Sarah Denekas	14	Cathy Lotz	Connie Van Oosten	Sioux Jackson	Patti Stith/Kim Ford
21	Mikah Mikles	Becki Winger	21	Cathy Lotz	Laura Schmidt	Shanie Bird	Patti Stith/Kim Ford
28	Mikah Mikles	Dawn Tiesman	28	Cathy Lotz	Amber Harper	Sarah Denekas	Patti Stith/Kim Ford

## Worship Ministry

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

- December 7 – Jim Kaecker
- December 14 – Wayne Lotz
- December 21 – Ryan Schmidt
- December 28 – Corey Chasek

### GREETERS

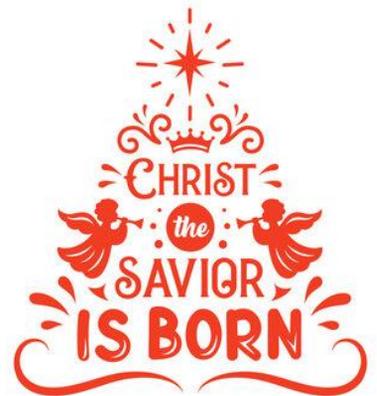
*Please sign up for a Sunday that works for your family! Welcome people, direct them to the sanctuary, nursery, or restrooms if needed, and hand out bulletins.*

## 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.*



*"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 DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm	2 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	3 Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	4	5 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	6  Men's Breakfast 8:00am
7 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM  Family Movie Night 5:30pm	8	9 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	10 Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	11 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm	12	13 Women's Coffee 9:30am   Church being used for wedding
14 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM COOKIES & CAROLS - 5PM  ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY 	15	16 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	17 Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm	18	19	20   Gym in Use
21 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	22	23 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	24  Christmas Eve Service 5pm	25   Christmas Day	26	27   Seniors Dinner 12pm
28 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM  	29	30 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	31 New Year's Eve  	"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 