

the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026

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:

3:30-5pm Kids Club/Impact
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

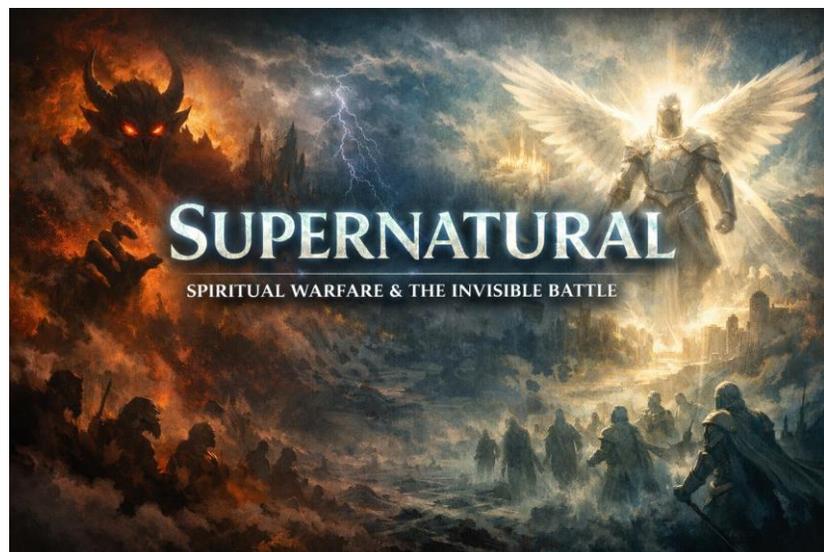
Elders: Wayne Lotz
Ryan Schmidt
Jim Kaecker

We're launching a new **three-week sermon series on Spiritual Warfare beginning February 1**, and it's an invitation to open our eyes to a reality Scripture makes clear: there is more going on around us than what we can see. The Bible reminds us, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness"* (Ephesians 6:12). This series will help us understand the unseen battles believers face and how God equips us to stand firm.

Spiritual warfare isn't about fear—it's about awareness and confidence in Christ. From temptation and discouragement to doubt and division, the enemy often works subtly. Yet Scripture assures us, *"The weapons of our warfare are not of the world, but have divine power to destroy strongholds"* (2 Corinthians 10:4). Over these three weeks, we'll explore how lies take root, how truth sets us free, and how God's power is greater than any opposition we face.

Most importantly, this series will anchor us in hope. God has not left His people unprotected or unprepared. *"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God"* (Ephesians 6:10–11). As we learn what it means to live spiritually alert and grounded in Christ, our prayer is that you would walk away strengthened, equipped, and reminded that the battle belongs to the Lord.

We invite you to join us each week starting February 1 as we step into this timely and practical study together—learning not just how to recognize the fight, but how to live in victory through Jesus.



"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

Kati Jo Chasek, Education Chair

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.

Thank you to Cathy Lotz who filled in as Education Chair in the interim this past year. We appreciate all of your efforts and time!

We are excited to announce we have a new head of Education for 2026: Kati Jo Chasek! Thank you for being willing to serve in this capacity! We are very thankful to you!

The children's classes have also been split into more age groups! Thank you Sarah Denekas for taking the 3rd-5th grade which will meet in the Kids Church room starting Sunday, February 1st. As a reminder, we have classes for ALL AGES starting at 9:30am every Sunday morning.

ADULT CLASSES:



Jim Kaecker



Steve Allison



Larry & Connie Van Oosten



CHILDREN:
(4yrs – 2nd grade)



Connie Curry

CHILDREN:
(3rd-5th grade)



Sarah Denekas

**JR. HIGH/HIGH
SCHOOL:**



Judy Millies



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

Colossians 3:14

WINTER CARNIVAL

Georgia Cullison, Evangelism Chair

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT



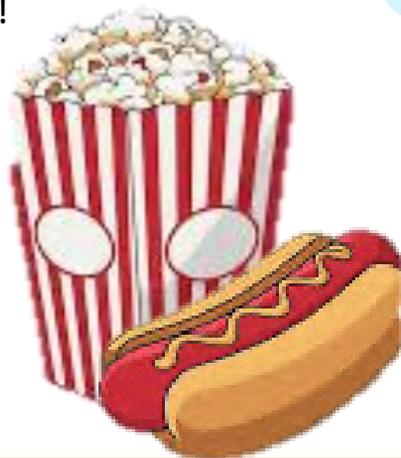
SATURDAY
28TH
2026
FEB

CARNIVAL GAMES, HOT DOGS, SNO-CONES,
POPCORN, AND PRIZES!

4 – 6pm

SATURDAY, FEB 28TH

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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

—Martin Luther

PICKLEBALL ON TUESDAY NIGHTS

Criss Evans, Fellowship Chair

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Grab a paddle and come play! 🍷

Join us for **Pickleball on Tuesday nights from 6:00–7:30 PM at the church.** Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, this is a fun, low-pressure way to get moving and connect with others. **All ages and skill levels are welcome,** so bring a friend, your family, or just yourself—we'd love to see you there!



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

KIDS CLUB STARTS IN FEBRUARY

Sandy Lawrence, Kids Club Director

KIDS CLUB

IMPACT

February 2026



REGISTRATION IS OPEN BELOW! Please keep in mind that enrollment is limited so sign up early!

If you would like to help with this six-week spring session of Kids Club, please let Sandy Lawrence know! There are many ways to be involved!



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)



"Thank you for praying for us and our Bible translation ministry work. For this brief update we want to catch you up on these last few weeks of family news.

After a month of frigidly cold weather in Calgary (brrr) we made the hop down to Dallas, Texas on Dec. 30 and were able to stand outside at midnight the next night in just a light sweater to bring in the New Year! How wonderful to leave -25C weather to enjoy +20C here on the Linguistic Center campus. Norm is able once again to fly like the wind across campus as the "Red Baron" on his electric scooter.

It was so good to be able to see Eric and his family while we were home in Calgary during the Christmas season. Glen and his family live in Manitoba and through modern technology were able to stay in constant contact with them. On Dec. 26 they welcomed a son, Nolen Norman Weatherhead, into the world. We think our "Tribe of 12" is now complete with three grandkids in each of our sons' families." (Newsletter Jan. 26)

Norm suffered from Malaria and a throat infection in the fall. In all his years of traveling this was his first time to get Malaria. Jill has had it numerous times and can tell you that it is not fun, especially the strong medicine you need to take to fight off the malaria. As of mid-November the team was busy translating Genesis.



Praise:

Praise: for letting us enjoy the climate and the company of friends and colleagues down here on the Dallas linguistic campus, for being able to spend time with family and friends in Calgary during the holidays, for bringing a beautiful baby boy into Glen and Stacy's life.

Prayer requests:

Prayer requests: for God's blessings to flow into the lives of our children and grandchildren, for progress in our translation preparation work while we are here in Dallas, for the logistics and final plans to fall into place for our upcoming Feb.-March trip to PNG.

Norm and Jill state that they are so grateful for our partnership with them in prayer and financial support. For more information refer to the booklet on the mission table in the foyer.



YOU ARE NEEDED

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

Countryside is sponsoring a blood drive with ImpactLife (formerly Mississippi Blood Center) on **Saturday April 11, 2026**. It will be held from 7:30-11:00 A.M. in Countryside gym.

Appointments can be made by contacting Connie Curry at 309-523-2504 or online at www.bloodcenter.org. Use Group Sponsor code 288 to schedule online.

Appointments are required, bring a photo ID and please eat before donation. To be eligible to donate the last day for donating is **February 14, 2026** and the last day for double red cells is **December 20, 2025**. Blood is always in short supply, but the need is greater during the holidays.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, DONATE.

Connie Curry



ImpactLife



FELLOWSHIPING TOGETHER!

Dennis Ford, Seniors Ministry Department Chair

Our Senior Adults Ministry at **Countryside Christian Church** is a beautiful reminder that fellowship is a gift from God and a vital part of our walk with Him. Scripture tells us, *“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts”* (Acts 2:46), and that spirit is exactly what defines our monthly gatherings. These times of food, laughter, prayer, and conversation strengthen relationships and encourage hearts—and everyone is always welcome.

Last month, our group gathered for breakfast at the I-80 Café in Colona, and we truly packed the place! It was a joy to see so many smiling faces around the tables, sharing stories and enjoying one another’s company. *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”* (Psalm 133:1). The morning was filled with warmth, connection, and gratitude for the community God is building among us.

This month, we look forward to meeting again on **Saturday, February 28th at noon**, right here at the church for a **potluck meal**. Bring a favorite dish to share, or simply bring yourself—there’s always plenty to go around. As Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us, *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another.”* We hope you’ll join us for food, fellowship, and encouragement as we continue growing together in faith and friendship.



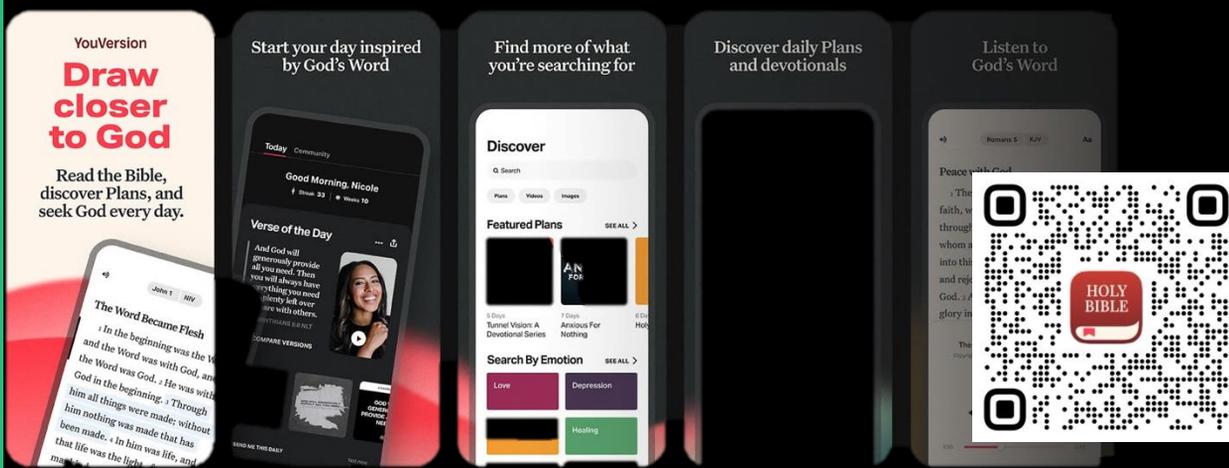
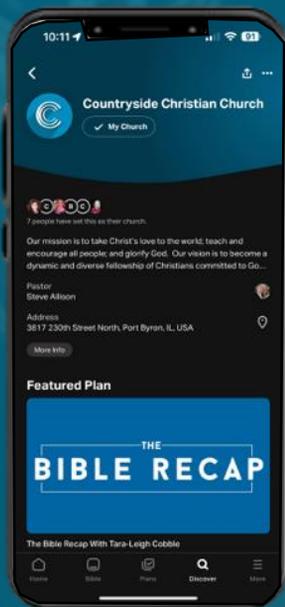
“That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing.”

—Martin Luther

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE WITH US!

Ryan Schmidt, Worship Chair

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

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

We want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your faithful giving of tithes and offerings. Your generosity is an act of worship that reflects your trust in God and your commitment to His work through our church. Scripture reminds us, *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7). Because of your obedience and willingness, ministry is happening and lives are being impacted.

Your giving allows the church to serve our community, support missions, disciple the next generation, and care for those in need. As God’s Word promises, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it”* (Malachi 3:10). We are deeply grateful for how God is using your generosity to advance His kingdom.

Thank you for partnering with us in faith. We pray that the Lord continues to bless you as you seek Him first, remembering His promise: *“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19).

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
2025-2026
Offering Budget
<i>(Starting 10/1/2025):</i>
\$48,037
YTD Actual: \$42,823

FAITH PROMISE
2025-2026 Mission Year
<i>(Starting 10/1/2025)</i>
Faith Promises Goal:
\$48,600
YTD Actual: \$14,923

Our Giving

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Alonzo Ramos	2/6
Todd Jackson	2/7
Paul Mikles	2/12
Stella Simms	2/12
Maverick Sedlock	2/13
Donna Vickroy	2/13
Galvin Garcia	2/19
Pat Gall	2/21
Irene Baltz	2/22
Lauren Tiesman	2/25
Carlie Collis	2/28

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

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*



Children's Ministry

	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery	Children's Church	Children's Church (Littles)
Date	9:30 - 10:15	10:45-12:00	2nd - 4th grades	4 yrs. - 1st grade
FEBRUARY				
1	Mikah Mikles Sarah Denekas	Mikah Mikles Natalia Ramos	Ana & Chris Biscontine	Kim Ford Patti Stith
8	Mikah Mikles Becki Winger	Mikah Mikles Sandy Lawrence	Ana & Chris Biscontine	Kim Ford Patti Stith
15	Mikah Mikles Dawn Tiesman	Mikah Mikles Sarah Denekas	Ana & Chris Biscontine	Kim Ford Patti Stith
22	Mikah Mikles Kathy Kohrt	Mikah Mikles	Ana & Chris Biscontine	Kim Ford Patti Stith

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

February 1st	Ryan Schmidt
February 8th	Jim Kaecker
February 15th	Cory Chasek
February 22nd	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



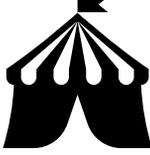
VOLUNTEERS

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.

"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

2026

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Gym in Use 9am-12pm</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>MEN'S BREAKFAST</p> <p>8:00am</p> <p>GYM IN USE - AFTERNOON</p>
<p>8</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron -6pm 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>Valentine's Day</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Presidents Day</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p>18</p> <p>FIRST NIGHT OF SPRING SESSION: Kids Club/Impact 3:30-5pm</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Kids Club/Impact 3:30-5pm</p> <p>Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Seniors Luncheon 12pm</p> <p>WINTER CARNIVAL 4-6PM</p> 

We love because
He first loved us.

1 John 1:9

