

# the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2026

**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**

As winter loosens its grip and the first hints of spring begin to show, we're reminded how faithful God is in the changing of seasons. The frost gives way to thawing ground. Bare branches begin to bud. What once looked lifeless slowly stirs with quiet, persistent hope.

Scripture tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Winter has its purpose. It strips away what is temporary. It slows us down. It reminds us of our need for warmth, for shelter, for life outside ourselves. But it does not last forever.

As we enter into this Easter season, we remember that Jesus entered into our winter. In the darkness of sin and the cold stillness of death, hope seemed buried. The cross looked like the end. The tomb felt like the final frost. But God is a God of spring. Through the resurrection, life broke through the ground of despair. What seemed dead was raised. What seemed finished was just the beginning. The empty tomb was heaven's declaration that winter does not win.

As we celebrate His resurrection, we remember His body given for us — planted like a seed in the earth. We remember His blood poured out — the price that made new life possible.

Spring does not arrive in one sudden moment. It begins quietly. Subtly. A little warmth here. A small green shoot there. In the same way, Christ's renewing work often begins gently in our hearts — softening what has been hardened, bringing hope where there was discouragement, stirring faith where there was weariness.

Maybe this past season has felt long. Maybe you've walked through a winter of loss, doubt, or waiting. Today, hear the promise of God: seasons change. Resurrection follows sacrifice. Life follows surrender. The seasons are a reminder that because of Jesus, no winter is permanent.

In Him, we are made new. In Him, hope rises again. Let us respond with gratitude, trusting the God who brings spring to the earth — and new life to our souls.



*"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)*

# RRCC REGISTRATION OPEN!

Kati Jo Chasek, Education Chair

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ROCK RIVER CHRISTIAN CAMPS IN 2026!

We are excited for the 2026 Camp season. Register now for your spot at camp! See you all soon! [www.rockrivercc.com](http://www.rockrivercc.com). CCC helps the children of our church with a tuition voucher. Please see Cathy Lotz for more information!

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT

Rock River Christian Camp

# REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



For Registration Visit  
[WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM](http://WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM)

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

**Our Location**  
16486 W IL Route 64, Polo, IL 61064

**More Information**  
rrccoffice@gmail.com  
815-493-6822

## 2026

# Camp Schedule

7-13 JUN	EDGE CAMP (9 <sup>th</sup> -Just Graduated) \$400.00
7-13 JUN	EQUESTRIAN CAMP (5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls) \$510.00
19-20 JUN	TEDDY BEAR CAMP (1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Grades) \$107.00
21-26 JUN	ELEVATE CAMP (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grades) \$380.00
1-4 JUL	FAMILY CAMP (All Ages) \$130.00/person; \$520.00/max./family
26-31 JUL	EMBARK CAMP (3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grades) \$380.00
12-15 NOV	LADIES CRAFTING RETREAT \$130.00

More sessions may be added after this publication.

- Website: [www.rockrivercc.com](http://www.rockrivercc.com)
- Phone: 815-493-6822
- Address: 16486 W IL Route 64, Polo, IL 61064



Each year we help support Rock River Christian Camp in many ways. One of these ways is through "Pantry Days". Please help us collect quart and gallon ziplock bags for camp this year! The goal is 75 boxes of bags and to have them collected by the end of May. You can bring them to church and set them on the table in the lobby.

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

Colossians 3:14

# GREETER MINISTRY FOR 2026

Georgia Cullison, Evangelism Chair

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

We are excited to officially share about our new **Greeter Ministry** here at church! Last month, Georgia Cullison and Kim Ford took the initiative to begin a welcome table on Sunday mornings, creating a friendly and inviting first point of contact for everyone walking through our doors. We are so thankful for their heart to serve and for laying the foundation for this ministry.

As we step into 2026, we are pleased to introduce **Larry and Connie Van Oosten**, who will be overseeing the Welcome Table and Greeter Ministry for the year. We are grateful for their willingness to lead and coordinate this important area of hospitality.

Greeting at church is about so much more than handing someone a bulletin or offering a handshake. It is about creating a spirit of warmth, belonging, and intentional connection. For many, the first few moments in a church building can determine whether they feel comfortable returning. A genuine smile, learning someone's name, offering to help them find a class or seat, or simply noticing someone who seems unsure—these small acts can make a lasting impact.

This ministry also extends beyond Sunday morning. Following up with visitors during the week—through a phone call, note, or message—lets them know they were truly seen and valued. Inviting them back and helping them take a next step can turn a first visit into a church home.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have committed to serving one month this year. Your willingness to give your time helps create a welcoming environment where people can encounter Christ and community from the moment they arrive.

## 2026 Greeter Ministry Schedule

March – Larry and Connie Van Oosten  
April – Roger and Connie Curry  
May – Becki Winger  
June – Jerry and Nancy Dufur  
July – Linda Griffin  
August – Pat and Shari Gall  
September – Roger and Connie Curry  
October – Joanne Riley  
November – Teresa Holt  
December – Georgia Cullison



If you would like to serve or have questions about the Welcome Table, please reach out to Larry & Connie. Thank you again to everyone helping make our church a place where all feel truly welcome!

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

—Martin Luther

## Family Movie Night



**Friday Night,  
March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Our next family movie night will be on Friday night, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring a beverage or a snack to share if you would like.

**Doors open:  
5:30pm  
Movie starts:  
6:00pm**

*MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN is based on the incredible true story of the Beam family. When Christy (Jennifer Garner) discovers her 10-year-old daughter Anna (Kylie Rogers) has a rare, incurable disease, she becomes a ferocious advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution. After Anna has a freak accident and falls three stories, a miracle unfolds in the wake of her dramatic rescue that leaves medical specialists mystified, her family restored and their community inspired. Based on the book by Christy Beam.*



# LAST MONTH FOR KIDS CLUB

Sandy Lawrence, Kids Club Director



## March 2026

- March 4 - Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm)
- March 11 - Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm)
- March 18 - NO KIDS CLUB - SPRING BREAK
- March 25 - Weekly Meeting (3:30-5pm)

Thank you for supporting Kids Club and Impact! It takes a lot of volunteers and helpers to make this happen! Thank you to Sandy Lawrence for leading Kids Club and all the work you've put into the planning! We appreciate you!



# MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Outreach International

by Connie Curry

## MISSION HIGHLIGHT



Outreach International was founded in 1977 by Al Hamilton (Sonja's father). Since that time, many people have been recruited for missionary work in several countries. "The operating philosophy of Outreach International since its beginning in 1977, is based on the fact that all mankind deserves the chance to hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ and that it is each Christian's responsibility to do all we can to reach the world with the Good News of Salvation found in Jesus Christ" Therefore Outreach International has acted as 'starters' for those new to worldwide missions and has helped start, by the grace of God, several new missions across the world." Dale and Sonja Hawkins currently handle the administrative work for Outreach International.

"In 1998, there were approximately 18 workers, in 9 projects and 9 countries. Currently, there are 58 workers. By God's grace, OI has helped workers start and establish their own ministries as well as recruited workers to serve with other mission ministries. Because of supporters like you that continue to support the Outreach International General fund, we are able to have 100% of the funds each missionary raises go to their projects without worrying about funds being taken out for administrative costs and support services."

"Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for us in the ministry of support services in Outreach International. Your love, prayers, and encouragement sustain us, and we are so very thankful for you!" (Newsletter Summer 2024)

*One of the missions under the umbrella of OI is Me and My House in Colima, Mexico, Josh and Susan Sanchez. Countryside Christian Church also financially supports that work as well as funding OI.*

# ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

Steve Allison, Property Department Chair

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHT



*Spring*  
**CLEANUP!**

THANK YOU!

On Saturday, March 7th, the men's fellowship is going to meet for the monthly men's breakfast and then stay after to rake the gravel out of the grass after the winter snow plows and also spread grass seed in other areas. Thank you men, for bringing your rakes and brooms to work together on the church yard!

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

# MONTHLY SENIORS LUNCHEON

Dennis Ford, Seniors Ministry Department Chair

SENIORS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT



## Seniors Ministry

### Potluck



## DINNER & FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY, MAR 28<sup>TH</sup> 12:00PM

BRING A DISH TO PASS

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

—Martin Luther

## Women's Breakfast

*Please mark your calendars for our monthly Women's Coffee! We will be serving breakfast and enjoying lots of great discussion and laughter!*



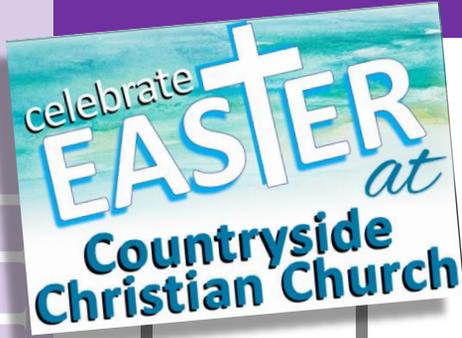
March 14th  
9:30am



*"Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." ~ Philippians 2:2*

# EASTER 2026 SERVICES NEXT MONTH

Ryan Schmidt, Worship Chair



*Next month, we celebrate Easter! This month we would like to start collecting candy for the eggs. You can bring them anytime to the church and there will be a basket in the lobby for collection. We will also start collecting orders this month for Easter lilies. Please check your bulletins on Sundays for details.*

## Easter SERVICES



**Good Friday**

URICMA Service 7:00pm at Church of the Cross

**Easter Brunch**

9:45am

**Egg Hunt**

10:20am

**Easter Worship**

10:45am



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

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

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

# OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

## FOUR WAYS TO GIVE



### 1

#### Mail-In

Mail in your offering directly to our church office at the address below:

Countryside Christian Church  
3817 230<sup>th</sup> St. N  
Port Byron, IL 61275

### 2

#### Online Giving

Visit online at: [www.countrysidecc.org](http://www.countrysidecc.org) to use our giving website directly.

### 3

#### Mobile Giving

Use our Church App to give on your mobile device. Scan the QR code below to add to your phone.

### 4

#### Drop Off or In Person

Visit our church office and use our drop box located in the church lobby.

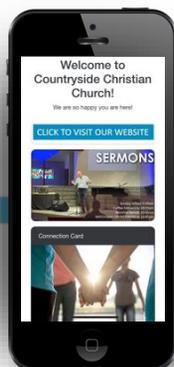
#### GIVING

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

#### FAITH PROMISE

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

FINANCE HIGHLIGHT



### DOWNLOAD THE APP

- ✓ Online Giving
- ✓ Member Directory
- ✓ Important Updates
- ✓ Upcoming Events
- ✓ Sermons
- ✓ Weekly Podcast

Scan the QR Code to download the app



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Johnson	3/2
Amber Miller	3/6
Madalyn Simms	3/7
Remington Sedlock	3/7
Kati Jo Chasek	3/8
Erin Trout	3/10
Megan Quinn	3/10
Mark Quinn	3/11
Shari Gall	3/14
Corey Chasek	3/15
Zoey Heydeman	3/17
Brody Oney	3/17
Teresa Holt	3/18
Ryan Schmidt	3/21
Linda Griffin	3/21
Braxton Denekas	3/23
Brayden Denekas	3/23
Lyndsey Adams	3/24
Jeff Wierenga	3/31

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Leo & Deb Geerts	3/14
Kevin & Cassy Byrd	3/18
Bob & Patti Stith	3/19
John & Criss Evans	3/22

# VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

## 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
MARCH				
1	Mikah Mikles Sarah Denekas	Mikah Mikles Shanie Bird	Karen Allison Cheryl Gipson	Kim Ford Patti Stith
8	Mikah Mikles Becki Winger	Mikah Mikles Becki Winger	Karen Allison Donna Vickroy	Kim Ford Patti Stith
15	Mikah Mikles Dawn Tiesman	Mikah Mikles	Karen Allison Kati Jo Chasek	Kim Ford Patti Stith
22	Mikah Mikles Kathy Kohrt	Mikah Mikles Sandy Lawrence	Karen Allison Connie Curry	Kim Ford Patti Stith
29	Mikah Mikles	Mikah Mikles	FAMILY SUNDAY	FAMILY SUNDAY

## Worship Ministry

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

March 1st	Ryan Schmidt
March 8th	Jim Kaecker
March 15th	Corey Chasek
March 22nd	Larry Van Oosten
March 29th	Steve Allison

### GREETERS FOR THE MONTH

Larry & Connie Van Oosten

## 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*

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

# 2026 MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm</b> <b>All Depts. 7pm</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am  Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Kids Club/Impact 3-5pm  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>Gym in Use 9am-12pm</b></p> <p></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Breakfast and Work Day 8:00am</p> <p></p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>Daylight Savings</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM Easter Lily orders due</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>Kids Club/Impact 3-5pm  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Gym in use</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>MOVIE NIGHT 6:00PM</b></p> <p></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Women's Coffee 9:30am</p> <p></p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am  Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>NO KIDS CLUB/IMPACT</b></p> <p><b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 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 3-5pm  <b>Small Groups</b> Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Senior Potluck 12:00pm</p> <p></p>
<p>29</p> <p><i>Pafi Sunday</i></p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30AM <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:15AM <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:45AM Potluck 12:00pm</p> <p></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am  Pickleball 6-7:30</p>	<p></p>			