

the MESSENGER



COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

APRIL 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:
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



JESUS LIVES! No matter what is going on around us, nothing can change what happened on Resurrection Sunday morning. The sadness of those mourning Jesus was transformed into joy as they witnessed the empty grave. Wonderful joy is ours—now and forever! Rejoice in the life of Jesus, and the new life that His death and resurrection made possible for us. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Jesus rose from the dead. Christ's resurrection means we can have life. He offers a new life. He offers a new beginning. The funeral is over. The funeral has already taken place. The mourning only lasted until Sunday morning. Then victory showed up. We celebrate the resurrection and the life that comes with it.

Nothing can change what happened on Resurrection Sunday. We can live in the peace that Jesus Christ offers us. Even before His resurrection, Jesus proclaimed, "I have told you these things, **so that in me you may have peace**. In this world you will have trouble. **But take heart! I have overcome the world.**" (John 16:33 NIV). Jesus overcame satan, sin, and death. Nothing in this world could stop Him. Whatever the world threw, Jesus overcame! As Christ-followers, we should take heart! Not only are we commanded to do so, but in Christ we overcome. We can succeed against difficult circumstances and overcome even in hard times.

HE IS RISEN!

YOU ARE NEEDED



GIVE BLOOD

Saturday, April 11th

7:30am – 11:30am

Appointments can be made online
or with Connie Curry at the church.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, DONATE.



BLOOD DRIVE



**GIVE THE
GIFT OF
*Life***

**DONATE TO SAVE
A LIFE TODAY!**

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**.*



ImpactLife

THANK YOU TO CONNIE CURRY!

Kati Jo Chasek, Education Chair

For more than four decades, Connie Curry has been a steady, faithful presence in the life of our church, shaping hearts, guiding minds, and sharing the love of God through her service as a Sunday School teacher. On March 29th, she taught her final class, closing a remarkable chapter of dedication that has left a lasting impact on generations.

It is difficult to measure the influence of a teacher like Connie. Week after week, year after year, she showed up with a servant's heart—prepared, patient, and passionate about helping others grow in their faith. Her classroom was more than just a place for lessons; it was a space filled with warmth, encouragement, and genuine care. Countless children, youth, and adults have been blessed by her wisdom, kindness, and unwavering commitment.



Teaching Sunday School for over 40 years is no small accomplishment. It represents thousands of hours spent studying, praying, planning, and investing in others. Through changing times and seasons, Connie remained faithful. Her consistency has been a powerful testimony of devotion—not only to teaching, but to God and to this church family.



As we reflect on her years of service, we are reminded that the seeds she planted will continue to grow. The lessons she taught and the love she shared will live on in the lives of those she reached. Her legacy is one of faithfulness, humility, and quiet strength.

Connie, we are deeply grateful for you. Thank you for every lesson taught, every encouraging word spoken, and every life touched. While your role in the classroom may have come to a close, the impact of your ministry will continue for years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation, we honor you and celebrate your incredible service.

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

Colossians 3:14

CARING & SHARING IN A FEW WEEKS

Georgia Cullison, Evangelism Chair

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

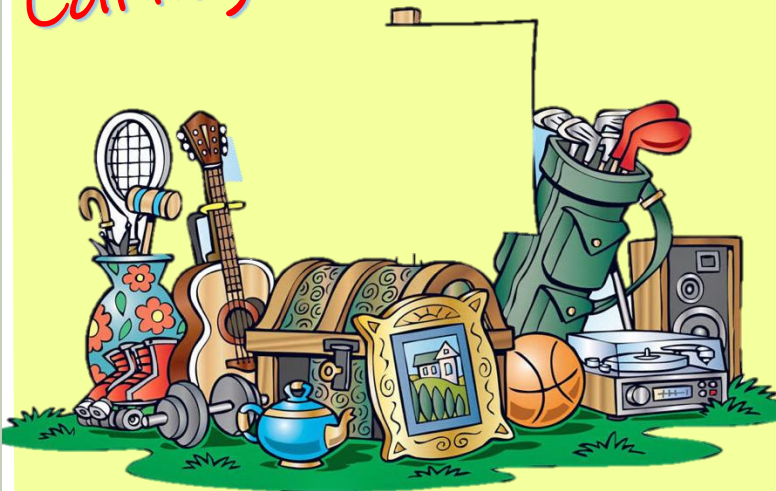


Free Community Giveaway Day

EVERYTHING
IS
FREE!

SATURDAY,
MAY 16TH
9AM-12PM

Caring & Sharing



3817 230TH ST.
PORT BYRON, IL
309-523-2834
www.countrysidecc.org

CLOTHING,
HOUSEWARE & TOY
DISTRIBUTION

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

—Martin Luther

EASTER MORNING

Criss Evans, Fellowship Chair

What a joyful and incredible Easter Sunday we shared together! Our hearts are full as we reflect on a morning made possible by the generosity, hard work, and servant spirit of so many in our church family.

We are especially thankful for everyone who helped make our Easter breakfast such a success. Serving more than 100 people is no small task, yet thanks to your efforts, everything ran smoothly. From the delicious biscuits and gravy to the bacon, sausage, donuts, and pastries, the food was abundant and appreciated by all. Thank you to everyone who donated items and to those who worked behind the scenes preparing and serving with such care.

The Easter egg hunt was another highlight of the morning, bringing smiles and excitement to so many children. With over 4,000 eggs hidden outside, it was truly a church-wide effort! We are so grateful to those who donated candy and small prizes, as well as the many hands who took the time to stuff each egg. Your contributions made the event extra special and memorable.

Our worship service was a beautiful celebration as well, with approximately 270 people in attendance. It was such a blessing to see the sanctuary filled to the point that extra chairs had to be brought in. What a powerful reminder of the hope and joy of Easter and the strength of our church family.

To everyone who helped set up, clean up, serve in the kitchen, provide food, and lend a hand in any way—thank you. Your willingness to serve made the entire morning possible. It is through acts like these that we truly reflect the love of Christ to one another and to our community.



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

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Me & My House

by Connie Curry

Josh and Susan Sanchez are missionaries who established the church in Manzanillo, Mexico, and are now working with the church in Colima, Mexico. They have worked in Mexico since January of 2006. Josh grew up in Mexico City, Mexico, and attended Central Christian College in Moberly, MO 1999-2003. Susan grew up in Mexico, MO in the Christian Church. She attended CCCB in 1999-2003 also.

Idol worship and cult practices are popular in Mexico even though the population is 90% Catholic. They know of God, but Animism, or folk religion, has crept in as a way of life. Over the past few months, the Sanchezes have tried to evangelize individuals about the depth of the sin and their desperate need of a Savior.

Prayer needs: Safety in the storm of this drug war, Isaac's schooling, Mexico's new president, new contacts, basketball league connections, Sam's new school year back home, Rafa's work hours, Oralia's house restoration after the fire. You can read more about the mission in Colima and the Sanchez family in the mission booklet on the mission table.



NEW MISSION DISPLAY

The mission department has updated our mission display. There is a large TV screen which shows a video of our financially supported missions. The video runs for approximately six minutes and repeats during Sunday school and worship. Be sure to take a look at our missionaries and their activities.

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

UPDATES THIS SPRING

Steve Allison, Property Department Chair

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHT

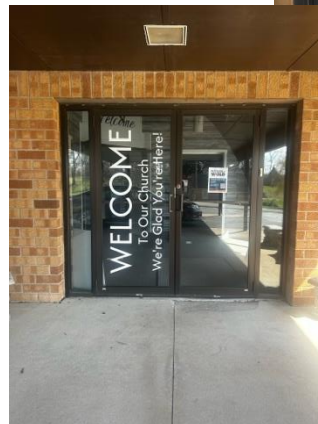
This spring brought several meaningful updates and improvements to the church, thanks to the dedication and hard work of many volunteers.

In the lower level, the girls' bathroom received a fresh new look as Dawn Tiesman completed a full paint update, brightening and refreshing the space. Additionally, Bob Stith contributed his craftsmanship by building new closet doors for both lower bathrooms, improving both function and appearance. A stall was removed in the girls' bathroom also to give more room. Steve also installed brighter lighting.

The lobby also saw some thoughtful enhancements. Steve Allison and Mike Winger installed wood paneling on two walls, adding warmth and character to the area. The Missions Wall was refreshed and updated by Laura Schmidt and Connie Curry, helping better highlight the church's outreach efforts. On another wall, Brian and Dawn Tiesman created and installed a beautiful lighted cross, providing a striking and meaningful focal point.

Special thanks also go to Larry and Connie Van Oosten for their contributions to the lobby and exterior spaces. They coordinated the ordering of new lobby furniture, enhancing both comfort and style, and updated the exterior doors with vinyl lettering and privacy scenes, improving both the appearance and functionality of the church's entrance.

This month, the men's breakfast group spent some time sprucing up the outside before Easter. Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to care for the church in so many ways this month!



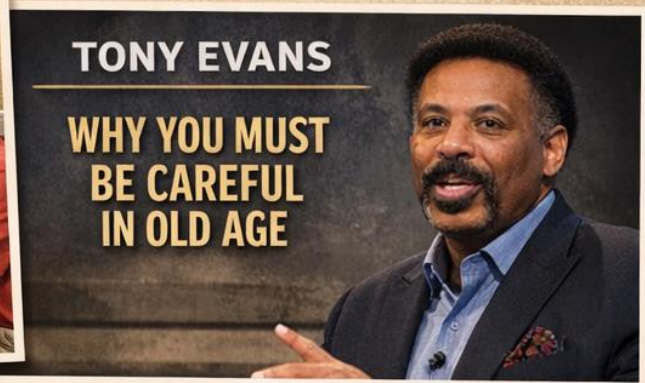
"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3

MONTHLY SENIORS LUNCHEON

Dennis Ford, Seniors Ministry Department Chair

The Seniors group continues to be a vibrant and growing part of our church community, gathering once a month for food, fellowship, and encouragement. Each get-together is filled with laughter, meaningful conversations, and the joy of connecting with one another. It's been exciting to see the group steadily grow as more people come and experience the warmth and friendship that define these gatherings.

This past month, the group enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal at the church, where everyone brought dishes to share. After the meal, they spent time together watching a teaching from Tony Evans titled *"Why You Must Be Careful in Old Age."* The video offered thoughtful encouragement and insight, reminding everyone of the importance of staying spiritually grounded and intentional in every stage of life.



Great Food • Fellowship • Inspiration

Times like these are more than just social gatherings—they are opportunities to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and support one another. As many have discovered, this season of life can be a meaningful time to deepen relationships and stay actively engaged in community and purpose.



Join Us For Our Next Gathering!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH • 12:00 PM

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

—Martin Luther

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE WORSHIP TEAM

Ryan Schmidt, Worship Chair

The CCC Worship Team continues to grow, and it's exciting to see how God is bringing together both talent and willing hearts to serve.

One area of growth has been in the sound booth, where the team is expanding to support the technical side of worship. We're thankful to welcome Bob Harrison and Terry Campbell as they join Kellan Schmidt as sound technicians. This past month, Cory Schneckloth spent a couple of Sundays and one rehearsal night conducting some training for the team, an encouraging step forward in strengthening this important ministry.



On the stage, the worship team is also flourishing. Bob Stith joined us most recently as a rhythm guitarist and bass guitarist. Occasionally, we are blessed to have all three of our guitarists together as schedules allow. It is always such a fun and powerful time of worship, and we are so grateful for these men and their hearts for the Lord.

As Scripture reminds us, worship is at the heart of what we do: *"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth"* (Psalm 96:1). And again, *"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31). These verses reflect the heart behind both the music on stage and the service behind the scenes.

God is clearly at work in the CCC Worship Team, continuing to build a group that serves with both skill and devotion, all for His glory.

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 230th St. N
Port Byron, IL 61275

2

Online Giving

Visit online at: 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

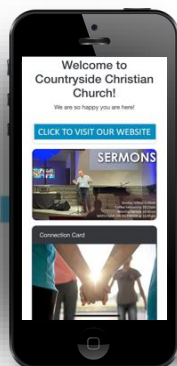
(Starting 10/1/2025)

Faith Promises Goal:

\$48,600

YTD Actual:

\$24,939



DOWNLOAD THE APP

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

Scan the QR Code to download the app



April

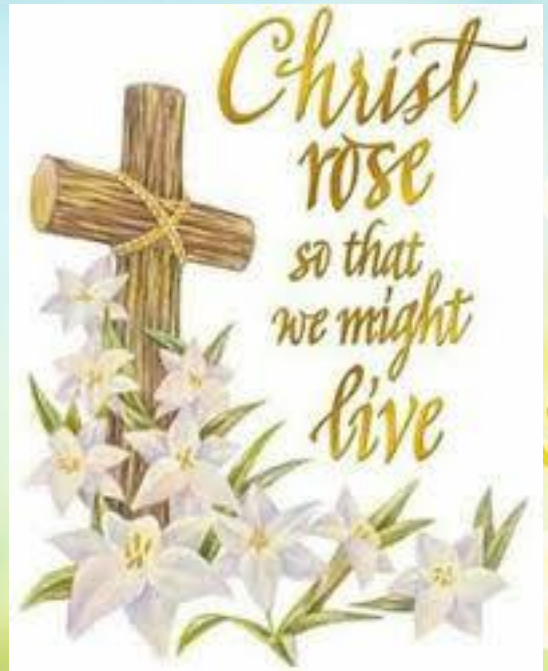
BIRTHDAYS

Morgan Rutledge	4/1
Jason Collis	4/2
Mason Quinn	4/2
Joe Heydeman	4/2
Tim Smith	4/3
Ken Wainwright	4/4
Jeri Chasek	4/10
Donald, J.R. Bird	4/12
Evan Schumpert	4/12
Deb Geerts	4/13
Becky Collis	4/14
Jerry Dufur	4/20
Paul LaRoy Mikles	4/21
Clara Jones	4/23
Michelle Paxton	4/24
Chris Biscontine	4/25
Roger Curry	4/27
Criss Evans	4/29
Makenna Quinn	4/30

April

ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Dawn Tiesman	4/8
Roger & Connie Curry	4/10
Jerry & Nancy Dufur	4/19
Landry & Rachel Creen	4/26
Logan & Callie Heydeman	4/28



VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

Children's Ministry

		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
April 5	Mikah Mikles Cathy Lotz	Mikah Mikles Dawn Tiesman	Cathy Lotz Ellie Johnson	Kim Ford Patti Stith
April 12	Mikah Mikles Becki Winger	Mikah Mikles Amber Miller	Cathy Lotz Naomi Jones	Kim Ford Patti Stith
April 19	Mikah Mikles Dawn Tiesman	Mikah Mikles Sarah Denekas	Cathy Lotz Linda Griffin	Kim Ford Patti Stith
April 26	Mikah Mikles Cathy Lotz	Mikah Mikles Maddie Simms	Cathy Lotz Alicia Simms	Kim Ford Patti Stith

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

April 5 – Core Chasek
April 12 – Wayne Lotz
April 19 – Jim Kaecker
April 26 – Ryan Schmidt

GREETERS

Roger & Connie Curry

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 APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." – Matthew 28:5-6</i></p> 			<p>1 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Building in Use 9am-12pm GOOD FRIDAY URICMA SERVICE @ Hampton United Methodist 6:00pm</p>  <p><i>Good Friday</i></p>	<p>4  MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:00am</p>
<p>5 EASTER SUNDAY  BREAKFAST 9:45AM EGG HUNT 10:20AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>6 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm</p>	<p>7 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am</p>	<p>8 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>9 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE 7:30-11:30 </p>
<p>12 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM Gym in Use 1- 3pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am</p>	<p>15 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am</p>	<p>22 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Senior Potluck 12:00pm  Potluck BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!</p>
<p>26 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am</p>	<p>29 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm</p>	<p>30</p>		