

Chronicle

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October, 2019

Newsletter of
Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

Scotts, Michigan
626-9733
www.countrychristinefc.org

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25th Annual HALLELUJAH PARTY Thursday, October 31st from 6-8 pm at the Scotts Community Center

Hosted by the Country Christian Evangelical Free Church (CCEFC), this year's **HALLELUJAH PARTY** will once again be held at the Scotts Community Center which is located on 36th Street. This fantastically fun and free party is happening on Thursday, October 31st, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Both children and adults can come dressed as themselves or as their favorite make-believe character.

This Trick or Treat Alternative will feature carnival-type game booths set up all through the Scotts Community Center offering prizes and lots and lots of candy and pop to win. There will also be other activities and snacks to enjoy.

Throughout the evening there will be multiple door prize drawings for many exciting prizes, including a boy's bike and a girl's bike!

The Gospel will be shared interactively in the front room of the community center. Pray that we will be able to share clearly and that God will work in the hearts and lives of children and parents in our community.

If you are interested in helping out, please sign up or see Colleen Clarey. We are in need of cans of pop and bags of individually wrapped candy! There are donation boxes at the end of the fellowship hall, near the mailboxes.

Please pray that God will be honored and His Name lifted high in the community during this event!!

Need more info? Contact the church office (269-626-9733) for questions .

Weekly Opportunities

Sunday

9:30 Worship
11:00 Sunday School for all ages
12:15 Bible Study
6:00 Bible Studies
Impact Youth
6:15 Bible Study

Monday:

8:00 Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday:

6:00 Cardio Drumming

Wednesday

9:00 Ladies Bible Study
6:15 AWANA
6:45 Bible Study

Thursday

Bi-weekly Bible Study- G. Wedel

Friday

5:45-7:30 AM Prayer

“Our purpose is to be ambassadors for Christ, helping people to become spiritually mature, filled with the fullness of God”

CNN published an article several years ago that featured an interview with a leading evangelist for atheism and evolution, Richard Dawkins. One of the questions Dawkins was asked had to do with his view of death. Dawkins response indicated his belief that death ends it all (which I expected). I found a follow-up question interesting however.

If there were a God that met you after death, what would you say?

If I met God, in the unlikely event, after I died? The first thing I would say is, well, which one are you? Are you Zeus? Are you Thor? Are you Baal? Are you Mithras? Are you Yahweh? Which God are you, and why did you take such great pains to conceal yourself and to hide away from us?

Dawkins response reveals a couple of things about himself. First, it shows his lack of understanding of various faiths. According to Greek mythology the dead are more likely to meet Hades (God of the underworld) than Zeus. In Norse mythology, Hal is the god of the dead, not Thor. In the Canaanite beliefs, one is more likely to meet Mot than Baal. To lump these with Judaism and Christianity belief in one God is silly. Jesus Christ is the one that I will meet. Paul writes a couple of things that support this. In Philippians 1:23 he writes, that he would prefer to depart this life to be with Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:8 he writes to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. These verses together lead us to understand that when believers pass from this life we will pass into the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A second issue with Dawkins statement is that God has failed to reveal himself. Romans 1:18-20 argues against Dawkins statement. God has revealed Himself through nature. Nature reveals that God exists; Dawkins has chosen to ignore this fact and rely on the improbability of evolutionary process to account for nature. Psalm 19 gives us a broader perspective of how creation reveals God's existence. As we discover more of the precision of the natural world the more in awe we become. To think that this just happened by chance defies logic. Theologians call this "general revelation" that is available to all mankind to draw man to God and man's need for God.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that God "has put eternity into man's heart". We inherently know of eternity. Dawkins refuses to recognize this. While Dawkins has studied nature, he has refused to recognize the origin of nature. He refuses to recognize the natural understanding of his heart.

The Psalmist wrote "The fool has said in his heart there is no God" (14:1). The logic of denial of God is foolish. The evidence of God is visible in nature and in life. Jeremiah recorded God's words "I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (29:11). There are things that happen in our lives that occur for no reason other than God decreed it for our benefit. Not by chance, or happenstance.

There are many who deny the truths of scripture. They fail to recognize the truths contained in the Bible. Many of the arguments that they raise are answered. We need to know the scriptures to respond to those who attack. In 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should always prepared to give a defense of the hope that is within you. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us that we should be studying the scriptures. This is how we can be prepared to answer the arguments that come at us from people like Dawkins.

Jim Hawkins—editor

?? Bible Quiz ??

Name the first three kings of Israel in the order of their reigns.

- A. Saul, David, Solomon
- B. Samuel, David, Saul
- C. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- D. Solomon, Jesse, David



Answer: A (See 1 Samuel 9:15-17; 16:1-13; 1 Kings 1:28-30.)

Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

9286 S. 36th St.
Scotts, MI 49088
Office Phone: 626-9733

Chronicle Editor:

Jim Hawkins 649-4394

Co-Editor

Esther Hawkins 649-4394

Staff

Many thanks to Diane Barton who runs the copies for each issue.

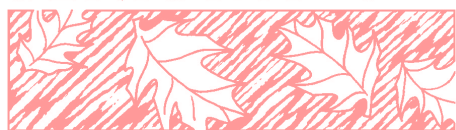
Submissions to the Chronicle are welcomed and are subject to editing for content, length or grammar. In addition submissions must be in keeping with the principles and teachings of CCEFC. Submissions may be made by electronic media or hand written article. Submit an article electronically to the following E-mail: CCChronicle@sbcglobal.net Fax: (610) 549-7184 or on disc: MSWord or Wordperfect formats for electronic submissions is preferred. Typed or hand written submissions are also accepted.

Deadline for submissions is the second to the last (usually the third) Sunday of the month prior to late morning service. Questions about the Chronicle should be directed to the editor or the board of elders.

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SENIOR ADULT



FOLIAGE TOUR

TNT activity for October.

This fun group for 60 and over or like-minded people will have a color tour and lunch on October 14th-Monday- leaving the church at 11:00. We plan to enjoy the beautiful fall color as we motor north through Richland to Delton for lunch. On the ride home, we plan to stop at Gull Meadow Farm where cider, fresh donuts, and apples, etc. are available to buy. Please sign up and join us.



...his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV

Nursery Help

November

6-Abbey Colvin & Kim Smith
13-Andra Truax & Charlize Gibbs
20-Donna Budden & Kourtney Klimp
27-Rosemary Goad, Jennifer McKelvey & Ruby McKelvey

Rural Bible Mission's Release Time Bible Class for Climax-Scotts Elementary meets at our church again beginning Friday, October 18, at 2:15 PM. Amy Wichterman will be teaching. Helpers are needed again. Please see Pat if you can help. All elementary aged kids are invited to attend. Info. to sign up your child is available at the table in back of the worship center.



Ladies Bible Study News



Ladies Bible Study

Ladies, we're getting a late start with Ladies Bible Study, but we are going to begin the first Wednesday in October from 9 to 12 in the church library. If you haven't joined us in the past, but you want to do a serious study of the Bible, you are invited to meet with us every Wednesday morning! We will continue our study in Genesis, but we are going to incorporate the Bible study methods recommended by Jen Wilkin in her book "Women of the

Word". See me for your copy of the book and watch the bulletin for the chapter we will be covering each week. Any questions? Feel free to contact me at 321-0132. I look forward to studying God's Word with you.

—Colleen Clarey



Beyond the building

The Christian does not go to the temple to worship. The Christian takes the temple with him or her. Jesus lifts us beyond the building and pays the human body the highest compliment by making it His dwelling place, the place where He meets with us.

—Ravi Zacharias



NURSERY WORKERS



Appreciate — and act

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God's work.

In User Friendly Churches (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church's ministry. "They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle," Barna writes. "They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers."

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. "They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands," Barna notes, "nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces."

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!

"I beseech Christ ... that he will enable me to endure all things courageously, and that he break me as a potter's vessel or make me strong, as it pleases him."

—Ulrich Zwingli



31st Annual Autumn Gala

Event Information:

Join us at the Radisson Plaza Hotel for our 31st Annual Autumn Gala, Thursday evening, October 17th!

The Annual Autumn Gala is the largest and most crucial fundraiser for Alternatives of Kalamazoo, a ministry committed to promoting the value of human life by serving the unborn and their families through the love of Jesus in the greater Kalamazoo community. As Alternatives of Kalamazoo continues to reach a record number of services being used, the needs of the ministry grow greater. **To put it simply, we can't do this without you!**

6:00 pm- Doors Open

6:00pm- Meet and Greet with Staff

6:30 pm- Dinner/Program Begin

Keynote Speaker: LaDonna Gatlin

LaDonna Gatlin has been WOWING audiences since she was five years old.

Born into "showbiz," LaDonna grew up onstage performing with her brothers, the legendary Gatlin Brothers. But in the mid 1970's, this gutsy Texas native chose to follow her heart and "sing a different song" apart from her famous family.

LaDonna has shared that "song" everywhere...from corporate powerhouses...to the prison cells of death row.

Her presentations resonate with audiences all over the country because, simply put, she makes people laugh, lightens their load, and leaves them with a song in their hearts. AND...they always learn something in the process.

LaDonna is one of only a handful of professional speakers who holds both the Certified Speaking Professional designation and the CPAE Speaker Hall of Fame Award, two of the most prestigious honors bestowed by the National Speakers Association.

She's written and recorded her own original songs and sung on both Grammy Award-winning and Dove Award-winning records.

She's the author of *The Song in You: Finding your Voice, Redefining Your Life*, a you-can-do-it guide that offers practical, emotional, and spiritual insights gleaned from her own life experiences. In addition, she's a contributing writer to the best-selling book series, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
Weekly: 9:30 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 6:00 Impact (Youth) 6:00 Bible Study 6:15 Bible Study	Weekly: 8:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study	1 Weekly: 6:00 Cardio Drumming	2 Weekly: 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:15 AWANA 6:45 Bible Study	3 Weekly: Bible Study	4 Weekly: 5:45 AM Prayer	5																																																	
6 Communion 12:15 Pastor Appreciation Potluck	7	8 Elders Mtg.	9	10 6:30 Christian Ed Mtg. 7:00 Deacon's Mtg.	11	12																																																	
13	14 Columbus Day Great Lakes Dist. Annual Conf. Trinity TNT color tour and Gull Meadow Farms	15 Great Lakes Dist. Annual Conf. Trinity	16 AWANA Hay Ride / Pumpkin Carving	17	18	19																																																	
20 Deadline November Chronicle	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																	
27 Reformation Sunday	28	29	30	31 Reformation Day 6:00 Hallelujah Party	November 1 Shoe Box Filling 3 DST Ends 13 Annual Meeting 24 Thanksgiving Service w/ Galesburg Baptist	<table> <tr> <th colspan="7">November 2019</th></tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	November 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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Who to contact**Country Christian Evangelical Free Church**

9286 S. 36th St.
 Scotts, MI 49088
 Office Phone: 626-9733

Pastor:

Pat Clarey 321-0132
 clarey7@sbcglobal.net

Elected boards:**Elders:**

Russ Bartholomew 626-8019
 *Walt Dubbeld 649-0656
 Dana Schwartz 929-6242
 George Wedel 626-4694

Deacons:

Eugene Clark 746-4923
 Lynn Coville 998-3144
 Daniel Fritz 626-0180
 Dave Goad 616 460-4596
 Roger Wedel 568-0540

Christian Education Board:

Colleen Clarey 321-0132
 Chris Dubbeld 649-0656
 Jo Johnson 649-3709
 Kay Landrum 568-0543
 Terrie Schwartz 303-4758
 Kim Smith 649-0461

* indicates board chair

Ministries**Children's Church**

Walt and Chris Dubbeld 649-0656

AWANA

Stacey Coville 720-3728

Jr. Hi Youth

Colleen Clarey 321-0132

Sr. Hi Youth

Gary Truax 377-5343

Missions Committee

Roger Wedel 626-8937

Worship Team

Dana Schwartz 929-6242

Men's Ministry**Hallelujah Party**

Christian Ed Board

VBS

Chris Dubbeld 649-0656

Sunday Bulletin

Betty Williams 626-8611
 grannyquilt2@att.net
 (Please have the subject line say "Bulletin Info")

Chronicle

Jim Hawkins 649-4394
 CCChronicle@sbcglobal.net

Nursery

Dawn Drallette 746-3345

Prayer Chain

Betty Kremble 649-3917

Threads of Hope

Laura Sandahl 324-3142
 LLSandahl@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jamie Morrison 806-9838

Financial Secretary

Christine Audette 626-8105

Webmaster

Larry Fleck webmaster @
 countrychristianefc.org

Website

https://country-christian.org

Event Photos

Facebook page: Country Christian
 Photos
 Laura Sandahl
 LLSandahl@gmail.com

Online Church Directory:

Members.instantchurchdirectory.com

Shopping Fundraisers

Office Depot: 111699341

Facebook Page

Stacey Coville

Weekly Bible Studies**Sundays:**

Pat Clarey's: 6-8 PM in the church
 library – Pat's phone – 321-0132
 or 626-4531 (every other week);
 Russ and Ruth Bartholomew's – 6:15
 – 8:15 PM at their house on T
 Ave, phone – 626-8019;

Mondays:

Young Adult Bible Study 8PM at the
 Fleck's led by Trenton Steele

Wednesdays:

Ladies Bible Study at the church 9:00
 AM

Thursdays:

George and Joyce Wedel – Every
 other Thursday night at their
 house – 11626 East R Ave., call
 – 626-9764.

Church Directory and On-line TV services:

There is a flyer under the TV mon-
 itor in the back of auditorium



3-Aiden Drallette
 5-Larry Bryan
 5-Joy Zylstra
 7-Sally Wedel
 7-Jon & Sue Henker
 8-Carl Dunlap
 8-Hal Forward
 10-Katie Drallette
 12-Jacob Christiansen
 14-Linda Landry
 14-Sheryl Peck
 14-Mike Weinberg
 15-Grace Walker
 17-Abbie Johnson
 20-Herb & Bev Goodwin
 21-Joyce Wedel
 24-Kim Drallette
 25-Bert & Jayna VanDellen
 26-Alaina Truax
 27-Katie Rose Clarey

**Inclement Weather Policy:**

If it is a school day, and Climax-Scotts schools are closed for weather, all church activities for that day are automatically cancelled. For non-school days, check local television stations or with the event organizer. If the weather or roads are questionable, and the event is still held, you are encouraged to use your best judgement before venturing out.

HARVEST

Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

PUZZLE

Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.

caepe reway delfis

Galatians 6:9 James 3:18 John 4:35

Peacemakers who sow in _ _ _ _ _ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _ _ _ _ _ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _ _ _ _ _!
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

Aw-fall!

Share some laughs — or groans — with these autumn-themed jokes:

- What did the tree say to autumn? "Leaf me alone!"
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? "I'm falling for you."
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they "let it go" and in the spring they "turn over a new leaf."
- How do leaves get from place to place? With autumn-mobiles.
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.

Pat Answers

Should We Still Beware the Teaching of the Pharisees?

A short answer is a resounding YES! In Matthew 16:6 Jesus tells His disciples to beware the leaven of the Pharisees (and the Sadducees too). In Matthew 16:12 leaven is defined as the bad teaching of the Pharisees, which will work its way through everything and affect our lives. What is the bad teaching of the Pharisees? It includes their self-righteousness and pride. It is the belief that they somehow deserve or earn God's favor BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN GOODNESS AND OBEDIENCE. This is best seen in Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in Luke 18:9-14. Jesus tells this parable *"to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt."* This is a good definition of a Pharisee. The Pharisee in the parable prays in self-righteous pride *"God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all I get."*

Is this self-righteous pride still seen today? Yes! I was told an elder of another church in Kansas actually said "Jesus doesn't have a lot to forgive me for." This is a lack of spiritual self-awareness as well as a total failure to see sin as sin, and a denial of the gospel of God's grace. A modern day Pharisee is anyone who thinks they are better than others, or that they don't sin as much as most people, or that they are okay with God because of what they DO or DON'T DO. Such people may not have a real grasp of salvation which begins with a realization of our total sinfulness – Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3. We are all

born desperately lost sinners before God. The worst sins of all as condemned by Jesus are the sins of pride and self-righteousness. The strongest rebukes by Jesus are given to the religious Pharisees – see Matthew 23. Beware the leaven and legalism of the Pharisees!

Instead of pride, arrogance, and complacent self-righteousness, let us remind ourselves daily that we are alive unto God only through faith alone in Christ alone ONLY BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE ALONE! – see Ephesians 2:8,9. Let us remind ourselves that the prayer God accepted was the sinful tax collector crying out "Lord, be merciful to me, the sinner" - Luke 18:13. We owe everything we are and do in Jesus Christ to God's grace alone.

A good prayer is the Puritans prayer of the 1600's: *"I can of myself do nothing to glorify Thy blessed name, but I can though grace cheerfully surrender soul and body to Thee. I know that Thou art the author and finisher of faith, that the whole work of redemption is Thine alone, that every good work or thought found in me is the effect of Thy power and grace, that Thy sole motive in working in me to will and to do is for Thy good pleasure. O God, it is amazing that men can talk so much about man's creaturely power and goodness, when, if Thou didst not hold us back every moment, we should be devils incarnate. This, by bitter experience, Thou hast taught me concerning myself."* Amen and Amen,

Pastor Pat

Dated material—Please do not delay

If you would like to be included for the mailing list please contact the church office at 269.626.9733 and provide your name and address.

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9286 S 36th St.
Scotts, MI 49088