

Chronicle

Newsletter of
Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

Scotts, Michigan
626-9733

www.countrychristinefc.org

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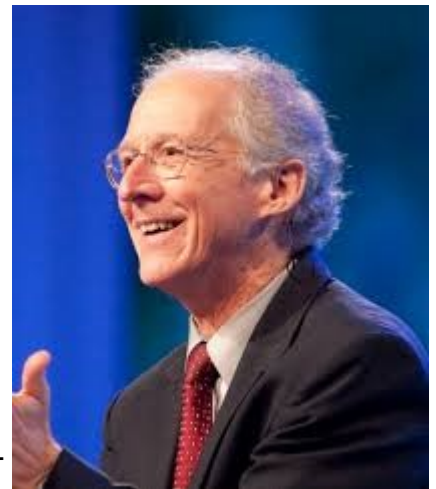
It matters little what we think about the coronavirus. But it matters forever what God thinks. He is not silent about what He thinks. Scarcely a page in the Bible is irrelevant for this crisis.

Our voice is grass. His is granite. "The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever" (1 Peter 1:24–25). His words in Scripture "cannot be broken" (John 10:35). What He says is "true, and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9). Listening to God, and believing Him, is like building your house on a rock, not sand (Matthew 7:24).

His voice is not only true; it is perfectly wise for every situation. "He is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom" (Isaiah 28:29). "His understanding is beyond measure" (Psalm 147:5). When He gives counsel about the coronavirus, it is firm, unshakable, lasting. "The counsel of the Lord stands forever" (Psalm 33:11). "His way is perfect" (2 Samuel 22:31).

God's words in these times are not only true and wise; they are also precious and sweet. "More to be desired are they than gold . . . sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:10). They are the sweetness of life: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). And with indestructible life come words of unshakable peace and joy: "Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16).

And the sweetness is not lost in this moment of bitter providence — not if we have learned the secret of "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Corinthians 6:10). The secret is this: Knowing that the same sovereignty that could stop the coronavirus and doesn't, is the very sovereignty that sustains the soul in it. Indeed, more than sustains — sweetens with hope that, for those who trust Him, His purposes are kind, even in



Weekly Opportunities

Sunday

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

Monday:

- Grief Share Study
- 8:00 Young Adult Bible Study
- Tuesday
- Cardio Drumming

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- Bi-weekly Bible Study– G. Wedel

Friday

- 5:30-7:30 AM Prayer

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

As I write this, it is about a week after the World Health Organization has proclaimed the Coronavirus a Pandemic situation. We have watched the news as people have responded with fear and panic. Hoarding of certain items has become common, grocery shelves are bare, restaurants are closed to seating customers, schools are closed for several weeks and rumors that many may not hold in person classes for the rest of the year, at least one college in the area has cancelled commencement and another is postponing it. I know individuals who are impacted by the cancellation or postponing of conferences. Weddings and funerals are being delayed. Organizers of events are losing significant amounts of money, while the stock market appears to be in a tailspin.

Every day we are hearing of more cases of the coronavirus and the loss of life of those infected. Health officials seem to be a loss for how to slow down the spread of this virus. Several cities and even some states have effectively imposed a lock down on citizens. There are travel and quarantine restriction on those that travel out of the country. Airplanes are traveling nearly empty. One airline reports they have cut seventy percent of their flights. We are being told to keep gatherings to less than 10 people which has caused many churches (including ours) to cancel services.

Is it any wonder that people without hope feel helpless? We need to open our Bibles to see what God has to say to us during perilous times.

1 Timothy 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope," Our hope is in Jesus Christ and Him alone. While God may use human means to supply our needs, our hope is in Christ. Our time on earth is short; our eternal hope is Christ alone.

Psalm 118:6 "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear." If God is by my side, I have no reason to fear. God is always with those who believe and nothing can harm that is not God's will for us.

Isaiah 41:13-14 "For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you. Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel." God is holding us, guiding us and protecting us; why be fearful?

Psalm 39:7 "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You." We sing, "My hope is in you Lord, My hope is in you", but it is one thing to sing it, another to practice it. If God really is our hope, why do we fear? Why do we worry?

Psalm 56: 3-4 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" The things of this world cannot add or take away from the eternally glory that belongs to all who believe. Sing and praise God as means of expressing our trust in Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." Trust God, not what we understand, not what we see, not what others tell us, but trust God and He will guide us.

Bible Quiz

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19).

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world."

—Virgil A. Kraft

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

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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Unless noted otherwise, graphics are provided courtesy of Communication Resources.

(Continued on page 3)

Editor's Note: Please note that many of the calendar and other items are included as if things were normal. With the pandemic shutdown ordered by the governor, all face to face meetings are cancelled through at least April 14. Please keep that in mind when planning. If you are expected to be somewhere for a ministry after the shutdown is lifted and cannot fulfill that expectation, please contact the ministry leaders so that arrangements can be made in advance to

(Continued from page 2)

2Timothy 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." Fear does not come from God but from Satan, we need to let go of fear and claim the power we already have from God.

There are many more passages that could be included (actually there is an entire book of books that I can introduce you to), but for the purpose of space, we will limit to this handful. The point is that no matter what is going on around us, we need to not panic or be in fear. Rather, we need to trust God and look to Him for guidance.

I am told that some translations contain 365 verses with the phrases "Fear not" or "Do not be afraid", that is one for every day of the year. For those that live in fear, it might be a good practice to make one of these the verse of the day. We are constantly told in scripture to trust God. Do we? This is a time that we should take the opportunity to turn our fears into trust.

God has given us a mind to reason, so we need to make reasonable precautions, but God is our trust. As the Psalmist penned "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm20:7)

I am reminded in times like these of a hymn we used to sing:

My Hope is built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote (1834)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

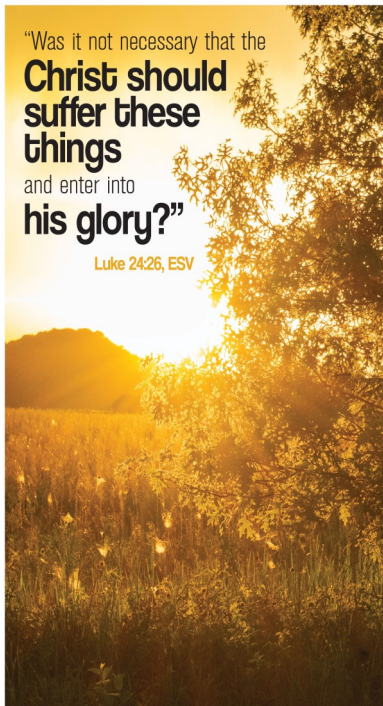
When darkness seems to hide His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

(Chorus) On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

In this time of uncertainty, we know that God holds the future. This is not to say that friends, family, or we ourselves will not suffer or even die from this virus, we can be certain of one thing, it is within God's perfect will for lives. We still need to make reasonable precautions.

Do you trust in God during this time? Or, are you being fearful? This is a time to show our faith in action, are you doing so? This is a time to put aside fear, let us put our trust in God.

Jim Hawkins—editor



Nursery Help

April

5 Donna Budden & Kourtney Klimp

12 Beth DeWaal & LeAnn Fritz

19 Adrienne Burnsed & Lyndsay Juday

26 Kim Smith & Jamie Morrison

May



NURSERY WORKERS



Awana News

I want to encourage parents to make Awana verse memorization part of your child's daily routine. When your child has finished a section they can video chat with me via Facebook Messenger and I'll virtually sign their card. They can also contact their leader for verification. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Awana leadership team. We are here for you! "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." Isaiah 26:3

Stacey Coville and the Awana Leadership Team

You got Cereal Boxes?

VBS is looking for 100 cereal boxes to use for crafts during the week. Hang on to them until further notice. If you have questions, contact Chris Dubbeld.



New Church Facebook Page

In response to COVID-19, we have to find new ways of staying in touch. With that thought in mind, Freda Branch has begun a new Facebook Group page titled, **Country Christian Family**. (This group is a closed group. Closed groups are more exclusive. Like public groups, everyone can search for and view the name, description and member list of a closed group. But users can't view the group's content until they become a member. To join a closed group you have to be approved by an administrator or invited by a current member.) This Facebook page is a way for all those who attend Country Christian Evangelical Free Church to stay connected. During this time when we are unable to meet physically, we will use this page to encourage and help each other to grow stronger in our faith and love of the Lord. We ask that you do not share anything negative, but use this platform to build each other up. Post photos of your families with what you are doing during this time of social isolation. Post scripture verses. And let us know if you need anything. We pledge to love and pray for each other. May we come out of this trying time a stronger body of believers.

We encourage everyone to join this group! If you don't have a Facebook account, please consider signing up. You'll then be able to join us, at least virtually, until we can safely meet together again. You can always delete your account after we have come through this crisis. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Yours in Christ,

Freda Branch and Stacey Coville

Romans 15: 5-7 "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."



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:
 7:00 Grief Share
 8:00 College and Career
 Bible Study

Weekly:
 6:30 Cardio Drumming

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

Weekly:
 7:00 Elders Meeting
 Bible Study

Weekly:
 5:45 Prayer

4

5
 Palm Sunday
 Communion

6
 Spring Break for area
 schools begins

7

8
 No AWANA

9
 6:30 Christian Ed Mtg
 7:00 Deacons Mtg
 Anniversary of martyr-
 dom of Dietrich
 Bonhoeffer

10
 Good Friday
 7:00 Good Friday Ser-
 vice at Galesburg
 Baptist

11

12
 Resurrection Remem-
 brance Day
 8:30 Worship
 9:30 Brunch
 11:00 Worship

13

14
 Gospel Conference in
 Kentucky

15
 Gospel Conference in
 Kentucky

16
 Gospel Conference in
 Kentucky

17
 Release Time Bible
 Study

18

19
 Deadline-May Chronicle

20

21

22

23

24

25

Please Note: This calendar was put together based on normal activities. With the Corona-virus many events are being postponed or cancelled. Schools are closed through at least April 12, which is reflected in many other events being cancelled. Please check the church website, facebook sites or with the event leader to confirm events are still being held.

26
 Fire in the Woods

27

28

29

30

May
 6-AWANA-Jungle Joes
 Z-National Day of
 Prayer
 10-Mother's Day
 13-AWANA-Awards
 Night
 17-Graduation Sunday
 25-Memorial Day

May 2020						
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
31						

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@sbcgloal.net

Elected boards:**Elders:**

Russ Bartholomew 626-8019
 Russ Drallette
 *Walt Dubbeld 649-0656
 Daniel Fritz 626-0180
 Rob Smith

Deacons:

Lynn Coville 998-3144
 Larry Fleck 203-5458
 Dave Goad 616 460-4596
 *Roger Wedel 568-0540

Christian Education Board:

Colleen Clarey 321-0132
 Stacey Coville 720-3728
 *Chris Dubbeld 649-0656
 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

Hallelujah Party

Christian Ed Board

VBS

Chris Dubbeld 649-0656

Sunday Bulletin

Pamela VanDongen 317-997-1717
 spvanmom@msn.com

(Please have the subject line say "Bulletin Info")

Chronicle

Jim Hawkins 649-4394
 Chronicle@Country-Crhistian.org

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

Dawn Drallette 746-3345
 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



- 2 Nikki Willis
- 3 Lynn & Stacey Coville
- 4 Bill Sandahl
- 10 Logan Clarey
- 10 Ellen Smith
- 11 Grace Fleck
- 12 Michael & Linda Landry
- 13 Sarah Hartmann
- 16 Desiree Hiatt
- 17 Blake Morrison
- 21 Bev Goodwin
- 22 Eugene Clark
- 22 Adam & Amy Drallette
- 22 Neil & Sarah Hartmann
- 23 Khloe Fritz
- 24 Sara Steele
- 26 Dana & Terrie Schwartz
- 28 Nolan Audette
- 28 Debbie Johnson
- 28 Rob Smith
- 28 Michael & Freda Branch
- 30 Tom & Elly Kuiper

**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.

FIRE IN THE WOODS TIME

It is Fire in the Woods Time! April 26th at 5:00. Hot dogs and buns provided along with condiments. Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs and something to drink. Table service provided.



Worship and Fellowship

New Content on Web Site

There is a new page for kids on our churches web site. This page contains a number of direct links to things to help keep your kids growing spiritually during the weeks we are not meeting. Some of these links go to other ministries (Answers in Genesis, Children's Bible Hour, etc.) with free kids' specific content. Our own children's ministry staff put other links together.

Encourage your kids to visit these pages on a daily basis to grow their spiritual mind. It is important to encourage spiritual growth in children, and it is never too early to start. The page can be found at:

<https://country-christian.org/for-kids>



WEBUPDATES

(Continued from page 1)

death.

“Behold the kindness and severity of God” (Romans 11:22). His providence is sweet and bitter. Naomi did not sin when she said, “The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me” (Ruth 1:20). That was true. And it was spoken at the very moment when all her fortunes were about to change.

This is not a season for sentimental views of God. It is a bitter season. And God sent it. We know this, because He “works all things according to the counsel of his will” (Ephesians 1:11). All things. Not a sparrow falls to the ground apart from our heavenly Father (Matthew 10:29).

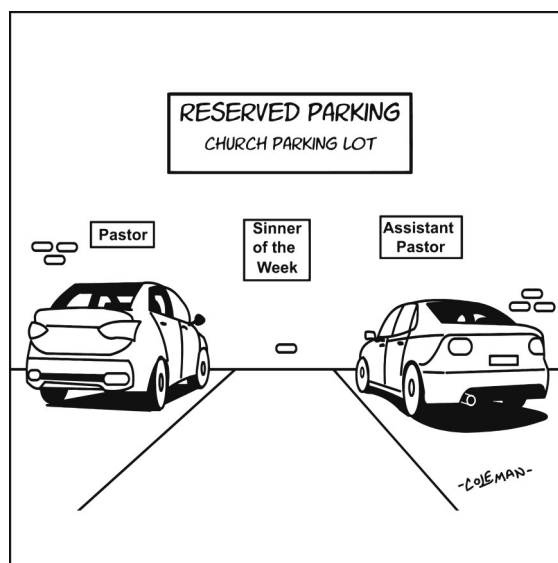
Nature is not sovereign. Satan is not sovereign. Sinful man is not sovereign. God rules them all (Luke 8:25; Job 1:12; 2:6; Acts 4:27–28). So, we say with Job, “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted” (Job 42:2).

Therefore, God not only comprehends the coronavirus; he has purposes for it. God does nothing, and permits nothing, without wise purposes. Nothing *just happens*. Everything flows from the eternal counsels of God (Ephesians 1:11). All of it is wisdom. All of it is purposeful. For those who trust Jesus Christ, all of it is kindness. For others, it is a merciful wake-up call: “Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price” (Revelation 22:17).

Our hope and prayer in the resources below, which we plan to supplement weekly, is that we might be of some help in anchoring your soul in the word of God. That you might see the greatness and beauty and worth of Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:8). That you might treasure him above health and life (Psalm 63:3). And that God would be glorified in you, as you are satisfied in Him.

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in Him.” (Lamentations 3:21-24.



Pat Answers

What Happens When You Die?

In January this question came up at an ordination hearing and more recently at a middle school youth group meeting. Many today think that when you die, that is it, you are dead, meaning you cease to exist. This is even the view of Bart Ehrman, chairman of the department of religion at the University of North Carolina, who has authored many recent books attacking “traditional” Christianity. New Age and Eastern religions teach that there is a process of purification of the soul that happens through many lifetimes called reincarnation. In the last couple weeks Grandville, MI pastor Rob Bell has a new book out called “Love Wins.” Rob Bell (of Nooma DVD fame) embraces the teaching that all humans will eventually be taken into heaven because God is love and “love wins.” This is an increasingly popular view in our world today. But as Jesus asked: “what saith the Scriptures?”

The Bible teaches “it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment.” – Hebrews 9:27. This clearly rules out any kind of reincarnation system and emphasizes the importance of our life now to really come to know Christ! The Bible also teaches that there is big difference between the one who dies “in Christ” (linked to Jesus as Savior by faith alone) and those who die without Christ. This life is not all there is. We will live on after death in one of two places – Matthew 7:13,14; 25:46. For those who are trusting Christ they will never be separated from their Savior, not even in death – “he who dies, yet shall he live” – John 11:25, 26. To die “is to be with Christ, which is far better” – Philippians 1:23. “To be absent from the body is to present with the Lord!” – 2 Corinthians 5:8. The Christian who dies will live on with Christ and will be part of the coming resurrection unto glory – 1 Thessaloni-

ans 4:13-18.

But for the unbeliever, those not trusting in Jesus, there will be “wailing and gnashing of teeth”, “outer darkness”, and suffering – Matthew 13:40-42, 49-50; 22:13; Luke 16:23. The unbeliever’s soul/spirit lives on and awaits the final judgment and the “second death” – a body fit for eternal damnation in Hell – Revelation 14:9-11; 20:14, 15. There is no second chance after death. This is not “happy” or popular teaching but it is the clear teaching of the Bible and of our loving Lord Jesus. Jesus loves us enough to warn us to flee from the wrath to come. The only refuge is HIMSELF! It truly is not what you know, but WHO you know. You don’t want to die without Jesus. The only question that really matters then is “are you trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior?” If not, run to Him now by faith and call on Him to save you through His death for your sins on the cross, and His resurrection unto eternal life.

As we come afresh to celebrate Easter and the empty tomb of Jesus, let us rejoice that because of Jesus, those who are trusting in Him will live now and forever. Jesus conquered death once for all. Because He arose, we will too. Let us now live and share the good news of life in Jesus. We look forward to His second coming when He brings the time of no more death, sorrow, pain, suffering, and tears! Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Pastor Pat

(This classic Pat Answers is from 2011)

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.

Country Christian Evangelical Free Church
9286 S 36th St.
Scotts, MI 49088