

Volume 20 Number 5

May, 2020

#### Newsletter of Country Christian Evangelical Free Church Scotts, Michigan 626-9733 www.countrychristinefc.org

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## 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

5:45-7:30 AM Prayer

# **Our Church Under Quarantine**

"But the Word of God is not bound..." -2 Timothy 2:9

While we are not meeting publicly together for church services, we are still trying to stay connected as Christ's Body and God's family. Christ's church is people. We are to pray for one another, seek to encourage one another, and help one another as we have opportunity. The elders are contacting our people regularly. If you have a special need please tell an elder or Pastor Pat.

On Sunday mornings, Dana Schwartz is leading us in worship songs and praise at 9 AM on Facebook Live on the Country Christian Evangelical Free Church Facebook site. Pastor Pat is preaching a sermon each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM on Facebook Live on this same site. These are posted so they can be watched later. Pastor Pat's sermon notes are posted each week ahead of time on our church website: www.countrychristinefc.org

Walter and Chris Dubbeld have offered families with children some materials and a DVD to use while there is no Sunday School or AWANA. We also encourage each family at this time to continue to have family devotions or begin to have them if you haven't been. Family devotions can be as simple as reading a passage of the Bible (like from the Gospel of John, or from Psalms), and praying together. You can also sing a song, or have each one share something they are learning or reading, etc.

During the lockdown, don't neglect your own time in and study of God's Word. If you are reading the Bible through, keep on. If you don't know where to start you can begin with a gospel on the life of Jesus – like Mark or Matthew. Prayer and the Word are essential. We all need to be setting aside time to pray. You can pray for your family and extended family, your church, our community, our country, and our world – especially Missions and what God is doing in bringing people to Himself.

There are special opportunities available for learning and growing during this lockdown including Ligonier Ministries offering all their

(Continued on page 5)

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

As we sit in the second month of the state's stay-athome order, I trust you and your family are staying healthy, doing your best to practice social distancing. We have missed several weeks of meeting together, and it appears that it will be several more before we are able to meet together for corporate worship. I trust you and your family have been joining Dana and Pastor Pat on Facebook Sunday mornings. While I appreciate what they have been doing, it just isn't the same as meeting together. One of the things I realize that I am really looking forward to is being a part of congregational singing.

Many people have been feeling emotionally isolated during this time of physical isolation. We are fortunate that we have technology that allows us to stay in touch in ways that we could never have done 20 years ago. We can get together with family members using our devices that we can actually see one another; we can get many together with a ZOOM meeting. Many

 Bible Quiz

 While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following "proper" protocols.

 Who defended them?

 A. Moses

 B. Joshua

 C. Jethro

 D. The Lord

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

however sit isolated for weeks, months, or even years. These people often are forgotten and may not have access to or even understand how to use modern technology. They are often reliant on others to reach out to them: far too often, others never reach out to them. These are the shut-

ins of our community. In Mathew 25, lesus was talking about the final judgement and He

In Mathew 25 Jesus was talking about the final judgement and He states "I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Jesus goes on to explain that what we do onto the least, those unable to do for themselves, we do it as a ministry to Jesus Himself. We have experienced a few weeks of being shut-in. Yet, many have still been able to make trips to the store, or similar activities. We also have hope that this will not last forever. Imagine not begin able to get out except to go to the doctor (unless the doctor comes to you) and there being no hope in this life of being able to get out again. Imagine what a phone call, card, or short note might mean. Imagine what a visit might mean. Would you like to sit day after day, watching the world go by without participating in it?

When the restrictions are lifted, is there someone you can cheer up with a visit, call or card? To do so, is to do it for Jesus.

Gim Hawkins-editor

## A prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### 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.

	1	1				
	31	<b>24</b> Deadline: June Chroni- cle	<b>17</b> Graduation Sunday	<b>10</b> Mother's Day	Communion	Weekly: 9:30 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 6:00 Impact (Youth) 6:15 Bible Study
<b>Please Note:</b> At the tim Coronavirus Pandemic v modified. Even a full lif Please check with your op pages to confirm events		<b>25</b> Memorial Day	18	11	4	Weekly: 8:00 Young Adult Bible Study
Please Note: At the time this calendar was put together, the stay at home order for the Coronavirus Pandemic was scheduled to be lifted on April 30. This order may be extended or modified. Even a full lifting of this order may affect the communal events on this calendar. Please check with your event leader, the church website, church bulletin, or church Facebook pages to confirm events will be held as scheduled.		26	19	<b>12</b> 7:00 Elders Mtg.	State and local elections	Weekly: 6:00 Cardio Drumming
		27	20	<b>13</b> AWANA: Awards Night	<b>6</b> AWANA: Jungle Joes	<b>Weekly:</b> 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:15 AWANA 6:45 Bible Study
		28	21	<b>14</b> 6:30 Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:00 Deacons Mtg.	<b>7</b> National Day of Prayer	Weekly: Bible Study
	June: 21 Fathers Day	29	22	15	œ	<b>1</b> Weekly: 5:45 AM Prayer
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	June 2020 S M T W T F S	30	23	<b>16</b> Armed Forces Day	Q	

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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@sbcgloal.net

#### Elected boards:

**Elders:** Russ Bartholomew 626-8019 **Russ Drallette** \*Walt Dubbeld 649-0656 Daniel Fritz 626-0180 Rob Smith Deacons: 998-3144 Lynn Coville Larry Fleck 203-5458 616 460-4596 Dave Goad \*Roger Wedel 568-0540 **Christian Education Board:** 321-0132 Colleen Clarey Stacey Coville 720-3728 \*Chris Dubbeld 649-0656 Kav 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 649-4394 Jim Hawkins Chronicle@Country-Crhistian.org

Nursery	
Dawn Drallette	746-3345
Prayer Chain	
Betty Kremble	649-3917

Threads of Hope 324-3142 Laura Sandahl LLSandahl@gmail.com Treasurer 806-9838 Jamie Morrison **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 11--Marcia Duffin **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 Wednesdavs: Ladies Bible Study at the church 9:00 AM Thursdays: George and Joyce Wedel - Every other Thursday night at their

### **Church Directory and On-line TV** services:

house - 11626 East R Ave., call

- 626-9764.

There is a flyer under the TV mon-17 itor in the back of auditorium

### Country Christian Chronicle



4--Beth DeWaal 5--Al Johnson 5--Andy Wedel 7--Abbey Colvin 7--Andrea Truax 8--Rosemary Goad 10--Win & Margaret Larsen 11--Pat Colvin 13--Paul Meyers 14--Adelvn Burnsed 15--Trenton Steele 16--Brad Gibbs 16--Bert VanDellen 17--Dave & Rosemary Goad 21--Vicky Dunlap 22--Don & Ruth Hiskes 22--Dick & Betty Williams 26--Barb Smith 26--Elijah Wedel 28--Deb Weinberg 29--Dick & Donna Budden 29--Bonnie Russell 30--Shae Willis

31--Tom 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.

#### (Continued from page 1)

teaching series for FREE – see Ligonier.org. John Piper has a new book on Christ and the Coronavirus Virus available as an ebook or audio book for FREE from Crossway Publishers on their site. The Evangelical Free Church has articles available on their site: EFCA.org. Chosen People Ministries recently hosted a discussion on the Pandemic and Prophecy. Other ministries have special offers too.

You can give online at our church at our church website: www.countrychristinefc.org. If you want to give for benevolence you could designate that online. Or you can mail checks to the church address and they will be put in the safe and deposited on a regular basis.

When we are able, the elders will notify you of a reopening of our church building for Sunday services. There may be new guidelines and we will let you know. Please pray this day will come soon! Thank God the gospel and the Word are not quarantined.

## Origin Of Mother's Day

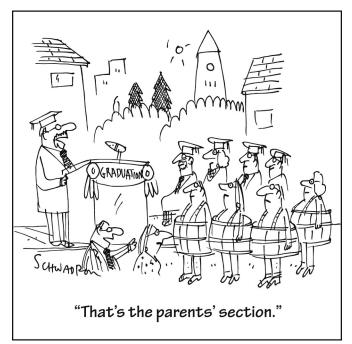
The "Mother's Day" concept has a long history of religious connections which in modern times seem to have been predominantly Christian.

In ancient Greece, the idea of paying tribute to motherhood was given expression with a regular festival tantamount to mother-worship. Formal ceremonies to Cybele, or Rhea, the "Great Mother of the Gods," were performed on the Ides of March throughout Asia Minor.

For Christianity, the concept seems to date back to establishment of England's "Mothering Sunday," a custom of the people which provided that one attend the mother church in which he was baptized on Mid-Lent Sunday. Gifts were to be offered at the altar to the church and to worshippers' mothers. The concept was divorced of any "mother worship," but nevertheless perpetuated its religious association.

U. S. observance of Mother's Day, too, has been characterized by church ties from the start. The first general observance of the occasion was in the churches of Philadelphia after Miss Anne Jarvis campaigned for a holiday for mothers more than 50 years ago.

-Christianity Today



## 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

### **Trust the Artist**

We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor's chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor. ... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade

## Pat Answers How Precious is the Church?

Two things recently have impressed on me personally the preciousness of the Church. One is obviously the coronavirus pandemic lockdown so that we cannot meet as a church family. Like you, I am missing the gathering together of the saints for worship, prayer, encouragement, and instruction in the Word. I MISS ALL OF YOU AND SEEING ALL OF YOU ON SUN-DAYS! As the old adage says, we don't realize what we have until it is taken from us. One future result of being kept from gathering together is that we will treasure our time together as a local body of Christ much more than we ever did before! When we get back together (hopefully soon!) let us rejoice in being part of Christ's family and worship Him with even more zeal!

The second thing that has impressed on me the preciousness of the church is my next older brother in Colorado having a stroke on April 13. He and his wife do not have children or family nearby. Even though they both confess Christ, they do not have a local church connection. They only watch church services on TV. But now they are really all alone. This has made me sad for them, and reminded me of the preciousness of a church family that you can actually call for prayer, support, travel, etc.

When speaking of the preciousness of the church, we must not only think of ourselves. We must also consider the preciousness of the church to God Himself. God considers the Church (meaning the people

not the building!) so precious that He planned to save them before He created the world. He planned in His love to send His Son to redeem us for Himself – Ephesians 1:4.5. Jesus is the Lamb slain from "the foundation of the world" - 1 Peter 1:20. The Apostle Paul tells the elders of the church at Ephesus: "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, WHICH HE OBTAINED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD." (emphasis added) - Acts 20:28. The church is so precious God the Son purchased it with His own blood. God's people cost the life of Jesus. Jesus came to earth to save His church. The church of Jesus is the delight of God's heart, the Bride of His Son, the Body of His Son, the household and family of God. We are so precious to Him that Jesus went to the cross to gather us together for His glory. He will never let us go, forsake us, or leave us alone. By faith in Christ Jesus we are God's precious children. The Church is so precious to Jesus that He says "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." – Matthew 16:18.

May we not waste this crisis, and may the church become even more precious to us even as we are precious to God! May we live daily for His glory, praying for one another, and reaching out even by phone or text in love for one another,

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.