

# Chronicle

Newsletter of  
**Country Christian Evangelical Free Church**

Scotts, Michigan  
626-9733  
[www.countrychristinefc.org](http://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

5:30-7:30 AM Prayer



## Prayer around the world

Travel writer Rick Steves, who's a Christian, believes travel can help us see God. He writes of gaining new insights into prayer from a so-called "whirling dervish" (a sort of Muslim monk) in Turkey. Before demonstrating how he prays, the man explained to Steves: "When we pray, we keep one foot in our community, anchored in our home. The other foot steps around and around, acknowledging the beautiful variety of God's creation ... touching all corners of this great world. I raise one hand up to acknowledge the love of God, and the other hand goes down like the spout of a teapot. As I spin around, my hand above receives the love from our Creator, and my hand below showers it onto all of his creation."

Most of us probably won't add whirling to our prayer practices! And we likely already pray for people near and far. But what if we pictured ourselves both anchored at home and stepping out among God's whole creation? What if we imagined God's love pouring into us, then out of us onto all the world? How might such an approach to prayer influence how we live?

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

Some time ago I read the book "The Minister's Charge" by William Dean Howells. At one point in book, one of the characters made the observation "how much easier it was to make ones peace with one's God than with one's wife". My thought was to question if that could be said of me? Am I easy to make peace with?

It says in several portions of scripture to forgive others as we are forgiven; forgiveness results in having peace with one another. The so called Lord's Prayer contains a reference of this nature (Matthew 6:12 with commentary Mathew 6:14-15). Paul repeats this instruction in Ephesians "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (4:32). Clearly, God's instructs us to forgive others as God has forgiven us. A higher standard than most of us live by. The gospels tell us about the suffering that Jesus endured in our place.

How often do we spit on Christ by continuing to violate God's laws? Still, if we have trusted in Christ's atonement for our sins, we stand before God forgiven. Do we forgive others to that extent? When we stand before Christ forgiven we have peace with Him.

When someone offends us, do we forgive as easily as God does? Do we forgive as easily as Jesus Christ does? Or do we make the offender work to be forgiven? One of the things that separates true Christianity from false religions is that because of what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross, we don't have to work for our forgiveness to achieve peace with God (Eph 1:7). In 1 John, we learn that if we confess our sins, God is willing and anxious to forgive us (1:9).

The apostle Paul wrote to his young protégé that the law is for the lawless, not the obedient. Its purpose is to show us that we cannot live by God's standard in our own strength. The more we know of the law, the more it condemns us (1 Tim. 1:8ff). Consequently we are in conflict with God and we must be reconciled to God to avoid His condemnation. As undeserving as we are, God reaches down to us extending forgiveness and peace to us.

When we are offended, do we reach out offering forgiveness as God demonstrated? Are we ready to forgive when forgiveness is sought by the one who offends us? God is our example of forgiving, may it be our goal to be as forgiving to others as God is to us. May we establish peace with others as God has desired peace with us.

*Jim Hawkins*—editor

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

—Anne Lamott

## Nursery Help

Feb 23: Donna Budden/Kortney Klimp  
 Mar 1: Beth DeWaal/LeAnn Fritz  
 Mar 8: Adrienne Burnsed/Kim Smith  
 Mar 15: Lyndsay Juday/Jamie Morrison  
 Mar 22: Abbey Colvin/Andrea Truax/ Charlize Gibbs  
 Mar 29: Rosemary Goad/Jennifer McKelvey/Ruby McKelvey  
 Apr 5: Donna Budden/Kortney Klimp



Bible Quiz

Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

Answer: D (See John 3:1-16.)

## Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

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 Scotts, MI 49088  
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 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](mailto: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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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Comunion 12:15 Providence Dinner <b>Weekly</b> 9:30 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 6:00 Impact (Youth) 6:00 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Weekly</b> Grief Support Group 8:00 Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:00 Elders <b>Weekly</b> Cardio Drumming</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Weekly</b> 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6-15 AWANA 6:45 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Weekly</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Church Ministries Conference in Grand Rapids <b>Weekly</b> 5:45 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Church Ministries Conference in Grand Rapids</p>																																																	
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Begin Daylight Saving Time</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30 Christian Ed Board Mtg. 7:00 Deacon Mtg.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Theology Conference</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Theology Conference</p>																																																	
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<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Deadline-April Chronicle</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>																																																	
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2020</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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							April 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		
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<p>April 5-Palm Sunday Service 10-Good Friday Service @ Galesburg Baptist 12-Easter/2 services 14-16 Conference in Louisville, KY 26 Fire in the Woods</p>																																																							

**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

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

**Deacons:**

Lynn Coville  
 Larry Fleck  
 Dave Goad 616 460-4596  
 Roger Wedel 568-0540

**Christian Education Board:**

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 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**

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**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**

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**Sunday Bulletin**

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**Chronicle**

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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.



- BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**
- 1 Micayla DeWaal
  - 1 Natalie McKelvey
  - 2 Denny Johnson
  - 4 Jim Hawkins
  - 5 Rick Landrum
  - 5 Scott & Pam VanDongen
  - 6 Bev VanDyken
  - 10 Callen Truax
  - 11 Pat Clarey
  - 11 Don Hiskes
  - 12 Brian Ramstrom
  - 13 Nathan Hartmann
  - 18 Adrienne Burnsed
  - 19 Caleb Steele
  - 21 Benita Hayward
  - 21 Michael Landry
  - 21 Margaret Larsen
  - 22 Ruth Bartholomew
  - 22 Luke Drallette
  - 23 Brynn Fritz
  - 25 Ben Hartmann
  - 25 Paul & Mary Meyers
  - 26 Doug Case
  - 28 Russ Drallette
  - 28 Al & Jo Johnson
  - 29 Tyler Fleck
  - 30 Bradley Thrasher

**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.

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

There is a flyer under the TV monitor in the back of auditorium

## Your Help Needed

You may have noticed that there is not much in this month's issue of the Chronicle. The Chronicle relies on your help to fill its pages.

Articles about ministries in the church are helpful to those who are not active in your ministry so that they know what is happening and maybe be able to invite someone. Don't hide your light under a bushel. This also helps people to know how to pray for your ministry.

Have you read an inspirational book recently? Share about that book and what it meant to you.

Has God blessed you and you want to share about it, but too timid to stand in front of group, share it here. Give a testimony to what God is doing in your life.

It is not necessary for you to write a book, even a short paragraph can inspire someone else in their walk.

Resources for filler material is plentiful, but people would rather read something from someone they know personally.

It is preferred that items be submitted electronically and they can be edited if necessary. Don't worry about format, that will be taken care of. Send article to the newsletter e-mail address available on page 4 or through the church website. Most months, the deadline is the first Sunday on or after the 17th for the next issue.



## What Hell shows

According to a Pew Research survey, only 60 percent of mainline Protestant Christians believe in Hell. Even some theologians have moved away from the concept of everlasting torment, saying it's morally incompatible with a loving God.

Admittedly, Hell is a tough topic, but we can't afford to ignore it. Jesus didn't; in fact, he talked more about Hell than heaven. Why? He doesn't want us to experience total separation from God the Father. After taking our place on the cross, Jesus proclaimed ultimate victory over death, Satan and Hell.

Rather than being incompatible with love, Hell magnifies God's love by showing what he was willing to endure for us. Hell, which is utter darkness, allows us to realize what Jesus, our true Light, has rescued us *from*. It also motivates us to share the good news of the gospel — that "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people" (Titus 2:11, ESV)!

## Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*



## Pat Answers

# What did D.A. Carson Teach on Eternal Conscious Punishment in Hell?

Most of you know I attended the Evangelical Free Church Ministerial Association annual conference on Theology February 4-7 at our Trinity Seminary, Deerfield, IL. The main conference featured seven speakers on seven key doctrines where our denomination wants to clarify our stand on Biblical Truth. The last speaker was D.A. Carson, one of my former professors, on Hell. Here is a summary of his main teaching points. He began by saying since 1800 the doctrine of Hell has been abandoned more than any other doctrine. Hell stands for everything the world rejects. Here are his main points:

1. The Bible describes Hell in a variety of images: being beaten; chained; outer darkness; destruction; thrown into the lake of fire, banishment, etc. You cannot imagine it BAD enough!
2. The Old Testament images of judgment are largely temporal – war, plague, death, famine – because the people of God are a national people. But the New Testament images are FAR WORSE THAN THE OLD TESTAMENT! BOTH GOD'S LOVE AND GOD'S WRATH ARE "RATCHETED UP" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – Romans 3:25, 25 – God's wrath is poured out on His Son in His great love on the cross. Revelation 14:11 speaks of the smoke of God's wrath arising forever and ever.
3. There are degrees of punishment – Matthew 11:20-24. But this does not mean people will escape Hell for ignorance.
4. Don't think of judgment in mechanistic or impersonal terms. God's wrath is personal because sin is personal – against a Holy God. Isaiah 10:5-10.
5. Is there anything convincing to be said in defense of annihilation? (the modern view that God will simply

vaporize the unbelievers and they will cease to exist rather than spend eternity in Hell). NO! The same word for "eternal" is used both of eternal punishment and eternal life in Matthew 25:46. Revelation 20:10 teaches those in the lake of fire will be tormented day and night forever and ever. How can a sin committed by a finite human be worthy of eternal punishment? It is determined by the Infinity of the One sinned against. There are no Scriptures depicting people in Hell repenting or longing for a second chance – Luke 16:19-30 – the rich man still treats Lazarus as a servant, addresses only Abraham, and is self-focused. Hell is full of people who still sin and want to argue with God.

6. Never apologize for the Doctrine of Hell. We are not more compassionate than Jesus and He clearly and repeatedly spoke of Hell.

Here are Dr. Carson's summary points:

1. The doctrine of Hell is tied completely to the doctrine of sin and God's Holiness – see Isaiah 6. Those who have a light doctrine of Hell have a light doctrine of sin and God's holiness.
2. The doctrine of Hell is tied to Christ's death – the Son of God took God's wrath for us on the cross – 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:25; 2 Peter 2:24.
3. The doctrine of Hell has the power to define our mission. The gospel is the only way!
4. Be very careful of jokes about Hell.
5. Rightly taught and rightly preached the doctrine of Hell should lead us to ineffable (unspeakable) praise for "so great salvation" in being delivered from Hell in Christ.

For the Glory of God,

*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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