

Newsletter of
Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

Scotts, Michigan
626-9733
www.countrychristinefc.org

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This month**

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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

Wednesday

9:00 Ladies Bible Study
6:15 AWANA

Thursday

Bi-weekly Bible Study- G. Wedel

Friday

5:30-7:30 AM Prayer

Annual All Church Picnic

You are invited to come to the annual church picnic on Sunday, August 11th at 12:30p.m. We will again be at Ramona Park on Sprinkle Road and gathering at the pavilion next to the playground.

Please tell the person at the gate you are with the church so it will be \$5 per car (otherwise it is \$10 for non-Portage residents). Portage residents show your ID at the gate. You should be able to get in for free.

Please bring your own table service, drinks and a dish to pass. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Anyone inquiring about or seeking baptism, please see Pastor Pat by August 4th.

Hope to see you there.



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

A couple of months ago I broke my general glasses. To complicate matters, I was unable to locate my previous pair of glasses that had been on the dresser just a few week prior. Fortunately, I had a new prescription that I simply had not filled yet. Still it took nearly 3 weeks, much correspondence, and a factory delay before my new glasses arrived. In the meantime, I made do using a combination of some older prescription sunglasses, my computer glasses, and a pair of prescription safety glasses that I have at work. My prescription is not nearly as strong as many people have, mine is mostly to correct for astigmatism; still I missed having glasses that actually worked for me and was greatly relieved when my new glasses with a prescription that would work for my day to day needs arrived. Things that I had struggled with to see over the previous few weeks suddenly became clear.

In talking with people, we often hear that they don't read the Bible because it is so hard to understand. In Acts 8 we read the encounter of the Philip and the Ethiopian Official. The Ethiopian was reading from Isaiah when Philip approached him and asked if the Ethiopian understood what he was reading, when the Ethiopian responded no, he needed someone to teach him, Philip proceeded to teach Jesus to him from the text where he was reading.

In John 14, Jesus is teaching the disciples about the coming Holy Spirit He states that the Holy Spirit will "teach you all things" (v. 26). Again, in chapter 26, Jesus is again teaching about the Holy Spirit and states that the Spirit will "guide you into all truth". Clearly, we cannot understand spiritual things without the Holy Spirit to teach us. However, the Holy Spirit can only guide those who are listening to His still small voice. We only begin to listen when God is calling us. When we have the Holy Spirit to guide us, reading the Bible becomes much clearer, like having glasses with the correct prescription makes things clearer.

The apostle Paul echoes this thought in Ephesians 1:17ff when he writes of the Holy Spirit guiding in our understanding and knowledge of God. In 1 Corinthians 2:14 Paul writes "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." The natural man is the unbeliever. The natural man does not have an ear to listen to the Holy Spirit. Only believers can clearly understand Biblical and Godly truth revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Are you struggling to read and understand scripture? Are you a true believer in Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit can speak to? Are you listening for the Holy Spirit to speak to you? Have you connected to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit wants to help us understand the Bible, are you letting Him help you?

Jim Hawkins—editor

Bound by grace

Grace binds you with far stronger cords than the cords of duty or obligation can bind you. Grace is free, but when once you take it you are bound forever to the Giver, and bound to catch the spirit of the Giver. Like produces like, Grace makes you gracious, the Giver makes you give.

—E. Stanley Jones


?? ?

Bible Quiz

? ?

During the dramatic experience when God called Isaiah to be a prophet, who or what filled the temple?

- A. 144,000 worshipers
- B. The bottom of God's robe
- C. Smoke
- D. Priests offering sacrifices



Answer: B and C (See Isaiah 6:1-8.)

Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

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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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AWANA Training Event

There is an AWANA Equip regional training in Jackson on Saturday, August 17. Hours are from 9:00-3:00. I encourage all AWANA leaders, or those who would like to become leaders, to attend. Call or text Stacey Coville at (269) 720-3728 no later than Wednesday, August 14.

Book Recommendation

One of my favorite sections of WORLD magazine is the book reviews. A few months ago, a new book of historical fiction was recommended so I bought a copy. "Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patti Callahan, an account of the relationship and ultimate marriage between C.S. Lewis and the American woman, Joy Davidman.

She was very different from the English scholar-writer so it makes an interesting book. Let me know if you want to borrow this novel, or I can put it in the church library. *Donna Budden*

Nursery Help

August

4-Leann Fritz & Jamie Morrison
11- Ellie Kuiper & Lyndsay Juday
18-Abbey Colvin & Kim Smith
25-Andra Truax & Charlize Gibbs

Have You Noticed the Back to School Sales have Started?



Back to School Sales are in full force; August and early September are the best discounts on many back to school items.

These items get used for many church ministry programs, so this is a good time to stock to support these ministries. The annual Hallelujah Party (250-300 bags are prepared each year), Shoe Box ministry (well over 100 boxes), sometimes mission trips, needy families in the congregation, VBS, and other ministries all benefit from the donation of school items. As you can tell, various ministries will use at least 400 of these items over the next year, and possibly over 500.

What to buy:

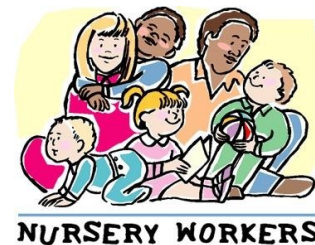
- Crayons (24 count)
- Pencils
- Pens
- Erasers
- Paper (plain and lined)
- Markers
- Scissors
- Spiral notebook
- Colored pencils
- If your kids need it for school, there is a ministry opportunity to use it

So buy some extras when they are on sale and there will be a box in the large fellowship room under the mailboxes for you to donate these items. If one ministry is unable to use donations, they are shared with other ministries that can benefit from the items.

Watch for more information and for requests for donations for candy and other items in October for the Hallelujah Party on October 31.

"Try not to become a [person] of success, but rather try to become a [person] of value."

—Albert Einstein



The Incredible Race at Country Christian

July 22-26 was an exciting time for kids and adults alike at our church as we explored the Answers in Genesis' VBS program, "The Incredible Race." The Incredible Race VBS shows how the events of the Tower of Babel impact all of us today.

We discovered that, no matter where we live, or what shade of skin we have, or what language we speak, we are all part of the same race—the human race—and all part of the same family. Every night you could hear the kids shouting out, "God loves every tribe, every tongue, every nation!" We learned that God is calling people from all around the world to come to Him through his Son, Jesus Christ. And God wants us to share the good news of the Savior of the World to everyone, and to treat them all with love instead of with distrust.

The evenings started with our leader, Andy Zylstra, and his sidekick Katie Clarey, introducing the message and daily Bible verse. Kids eagerly ran on the stage to help with the motions to songs such as "Gonna Lift You Up" and "One Way, Jesus!" Next a movie skit installment was shown, which kept us on edge waiting to see what was going to happen to the passengers in a plane crash in the jungle.

After the opening, the groups went either to crafts, games, story time or to snack/verse time, where their leaders reinforced the Bible story and helped with learning the Bible verse. Free time was spent crawling through one of two mazes or climbing on our outdoor playground.

We also collected money throughout the week for Compassion Animals. \$40 would buy chickens for a poor family, and \$450 a cow. Giving livestock to families gives them a means to support themselves and a sense of worth. To make it more fun, some of our leaders volunteered to eat crickets if enough money were raised. Over the course of the week, over \$1800 was donated, enough to buy chickens and 4 cows. Hannah Houseman, Gary Truax, Andy Zylstra, Katie Clarey and Dave Goad all had the privilege to eat crickets or other bugs on Friday night, much to the kids' delight and disgust.

The best news is that through all of the fun and the play and the noise, 74 children got to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, and at least one child became a Christian as a result of this week. We praise God!

We also thank Walt and Chris Dubbeld, who worked for months getting everything ready, as well as scores of volunteer helpers. Thank you to everyone who helped, to the people who lead songs, to the group teachers, to the craft room workers, to the women who prepared dinner and snacks, to the patient people who listened to kids reciting verses, to those doing technical support, to those that helped prepare crafts in advance, to those who stayed outside running the games, to those that helped in so many unsung ways, and to all who prayed for the success of this VBS and for God to be glorified.

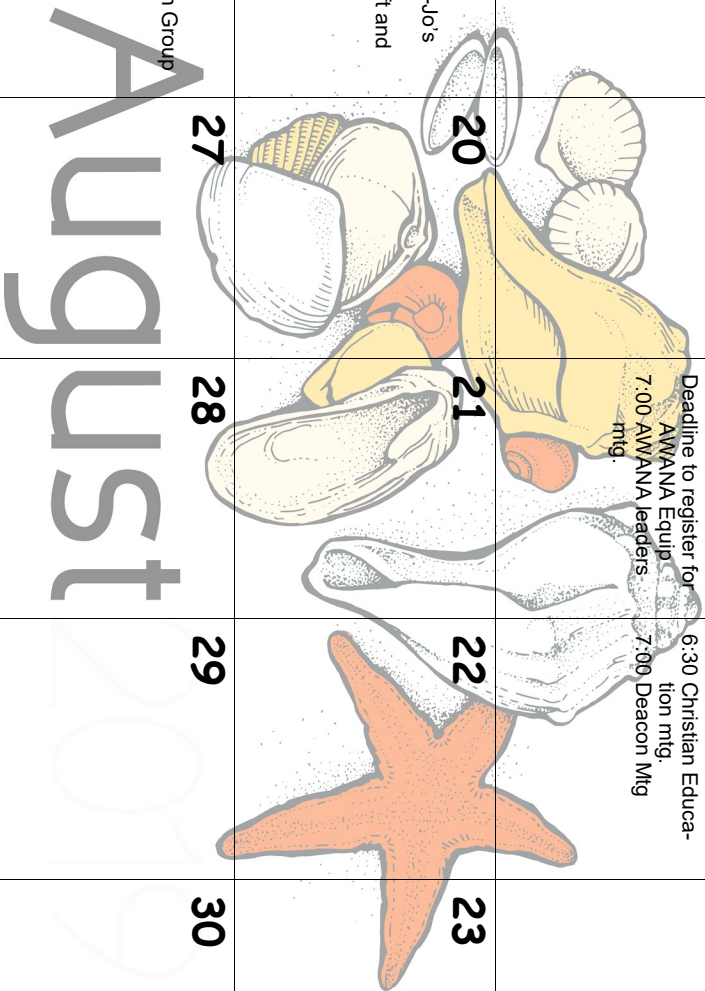
At the end of the week one mom wrote, "I'm forever grateful that my children were invited to Vacation Bible School this week! These kids have had the best time ever this week and have learned so much! We've had to count down the hours and minutes each day and set alarms to make sure we're not late. You'll never know how much it means...hoping this is a great first step to getting my kids more involved with church."

See you next year for more fun at "Mystery Island!"



See more on page 7

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Weekly: 9:30 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 6:00 Impact (youth) 6:15 Bible Study	Weekly: 8:00PM Young Adult Bible Study	Weekly: 6:30 PM Cardio Drumming Class	Deadline to let Pastor know of baptism interest is August 4	1	Weekly: 5:45 Prayer	3
4 Nomination ballots available Communion Bethany Branch Birthday celebration 12:15 Potluck	5 Kalamazoo County Fair through Saturday	6 7:00PM Elders Mtg.	7	8	9	10 1:30 Ken Sonnenburg Memorial Service @ Kalamazoo1st Assembly AWANA Kick-off event @ Kalamazoo Growlers
11 12:30 Annual Church Picnic/Baptism at Ramona Park	12	13	14 Deadline to register for AWANA Equip 7:00 AWANA leaders mtg.	15 6:30 Christian Education mtg. 7:00 Deacon Mtg	16	17 AWANA Equip regional training in Jackson
18 Deadline: September Chronicle	19 11:30 TNT-Mar-Jo's West in Schoolcraft and B&G	20	21	22	23	24 Civil War Muster in Jackson
25 Nomination's Ballots Due	26 Meeting—Youth Group 2019-20	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@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

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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

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 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

Dawn Drallette 746-3345

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



4-Patrick & Colleen Clarey
 7-Russ Bartholomew
 8-Bill & Diane Barton
 8-Bethany Branch
 11-Dawn Drallette
 11-Ethan Willis
 14-Lisa Gibbs
 15-Danielle Wedel
 16-Ken & Lee Evensen
 19-Freda Branch
 19-Addisyn Juday
 20-Russ Audette
 20-Roger & Sally Wedel
 24-Kyle Smith
 25-Betty Kremble
 26-Terrie Schwartz
 26-Kim Smith
 30-Sarah Pouliot

"Sacred writings are bound in two
 volumes — that of creation and that
 of Holy Scripture."

—Thomas Aquinas

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 can-
 celled. 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 encour-
 aged to use your best judgement
 before venturing out.



VBS 2019



Pass the crickets



Pat Answers

Should a Christian be Tolerant?

A short answer is yes, if you use the word tolerant in the way it used to be used! Tolerant used to mean (back 40-50 years ago!) that you accepted the right of other people to hold other views that disagreed with yours. You did not have to apologize for your views or compromise your own beliefs, but you realized other people had the freedom to hold other views. The old kind of tolerance was a Christian virtue. It included patience with others. The old kind of tolerance realized you could not force other people to hold your views. The old kind of tolerance meant that as a Christian who believes in absolute truth in the Bible and that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation (John 14:6), you had to let people choose to not believe in the Bible or Jesus Christ. The Church was at its worst in Church History when it tried to force people to all believe the same things with the power of the sword or punishment, for example the Spanish Inquisition. The freedom to believe what someone wants to believe even if it is wrong is part of respecting human dignity. We see this in 1 Peter 3:15 – *“always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”* This gentleness and respect is part of this old school tolerance of not

forcing others to believe what you believe. We win people by speaking truth in love and living a life of love.

But, the answer is NO, if you mean the new kind of 21st century tolerance. Today, tolerance for many means that you HAVE TO AGREE WITH THEIR VIEWS, no matter how unbiblical, sinful, or weird. It is no longer just letting them have their own views, but NOT DISAGREEING WITH THEM OR EVEN SUGGESTING THEY ARE WRONG! To say you believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to God or that sins like homosexual sin are still sin is unacceptable to many in our world today. Not only do they accuse Christians of intolerance, MANY ARE NOW INTOLERANT OF CHRISTIANS! But this should not surprise us – see Matthew 5:11,12; 1 Peter 4:14 – *“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed...”* They want everyone to accept their views and if you disagree, they are intolerant of you. This new kind of tolerance is unacceptable and harmful for discussions of Real Truth.

Above all. Let us remain firm and steadfast in the Truth of Jesus for His glory and our own good,

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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