Volume 19 Number 2 February, 2019

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 6:00 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

Friday

5:30-7:30 AM Prayer

Valentine Dinner

This year the Valentine Dinner will be on February 9 at 6:00. The dinner is a fundraiser for the youth group. Our young people will help prepare the food (under the guidance of experienced adults). They will also serve and take care of cleanup. The proceeds after expenses are used by those who participate to offset the cost of various activities throughout the year. Come by yourself or grab your valentine and join the fun. After dinner there will be entertainment by Trenton Steele.

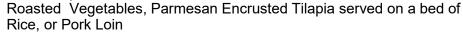
Please register by February 3 so the correct amount of food can be

prepared. The menu:

Appetizers: Mini Reuben Sandwiches and Mexican Dip with Tortilla Chips

Salad: choice of Diane's Salad with Homemade Poppy Seed Dressing or Caesar Salad.

Main Course: Homemade Alfredo with Chicken, Shrimp, or



Cap off your dinner with a choice selection from many desserts made by Diane Barton.

See Gary Truax for more information



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

February is the month most associated with love for many people. Valentine's Day is one of the top days annually for couples becoming engaged. Valentines treats have been in stores since Christmas. Cherub faced Cupids decorate many businesses, schools and homes. Many will exchange greeting cards, flowers, candy and gifts on Valentine's Day. All these things are in the name of romantic love.

As I study the Bible, one of things that I am becoming increasing aware of is how much the Bible talks about true love. We often talk about loving pizza, a sports team, family members, popular shows, music, celebrities and even Chia pets. Often using the same emotional energy and as we love one thing or another.

I am of the opinion that God's Word makes the case that one of the clearest signs of spiritual maturity is how we love others. Not loving others like we love pizza, but

loving as God loves. One of the best-known verses states that "God so loved the world that He gave" (John 3:16). Jesus exemplified unconditional love. God exhibited this love toward Israel (Deuteronomy 7:7-11). Before going to the cross Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment in John 13:24-35 "³⁴ A new com-

mandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The New Testament writers seem to indicate that a mark of spiritual maturity is unconditional love for others. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 outlining what love looks like. He Concludes the chapter that the greatest is love. There are other passages that Paul wrote like Ephesians 5 where he tells believers to walk in love. Peter seems to echo this in 2 Peter 1:5-7. 1 John reminds us that we cannot have this kind of love apart from experiencing God's love ourselves and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

This is an area that I am still working on, but the goal is to be like Christ and that means loving as Jesus loves. Hopefully, I am growing closer to loving as Jesus loves each day. How about you? Are you growing in your love for others on a daily basis? We cannot love as Jesus loves unless we have experienced God's love ourselves. Have you experienced God's love for yourself? Look for ways to grow in your love of others.

Gim Hawkins—editor



February



- 3 Donna Budden and Kourtney Klimp
- 10 Rosemary Goad, Jennifer McKelvey, and Ruby McKelvey
- 17 Dawn Drallette and Jamie Morrison
- 24 Ellie Kuiper and Lyndsay Juday

Bible Quiz In Luke's account of Jesus calling

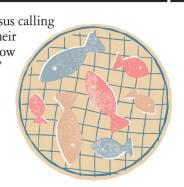
the first disciples from their work as fishermen to follow him and "fish for people" (NIV), which disciple is not named?

A. James

B. John

C. Simon

D. Andrew



Answer: D (See Luke 5:1-11.)

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 (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.

Country Christian Ch					<i>p.</i> 3
24	17 Deadline: March Chronocle	10	Communion 12:15 Potluck	Weekly 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 6:00 Impact (Youth) 6:00 Bible Study 6:15 Bible Study	Sun
25	18 Presidents Day	11	4	Weekly 8:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study	Mon
26	19	12	7:00 Elders Meeting		Tue
27	20	13 AWANA Valentine Party	6 EFCA Theology Conference through Friday	Weekly 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:15 AWANA 6:45 Bible Study	Wed
Ch3M	12	14 Valentines Day	7 6:30 Christian Ed Board Mtg.	Weekly 6:00 Bible Study	Thu
March 1-3.Retreat at Barakel	22	15	©	Weekly 5:45 Prayer	Fri
March 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 31	23	16	9 6:00 Valentine Dinner	2	Sat

Who to contact

Country Christian Evangelical Free Church

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

Pastor: 321-0132 Pat Clarey

clarey7@sbcgloal.net Prayer Chain

Elected boards:

Elders:	
Russ Bartholomew	626-8019
Derrick Drallette	746-3345
*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 Educa	tion Board:
Colleen Clarey	321-0132
Chris Dubbeld	649-0656
Dawn Drallette	746-3345
Jo Johnson	649-3709
Kay Landrum	568-0543
Terrie Schwartz	303-4758
Kim Smith	649-0461

* indicates board chair

Mini<u>stries</u>

Chil	idren [*]	s Chu	rch
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7
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Hallelujah Party

Men's Ministry

Christian Ed Board

VBS

Chris Dubbeld 649-0656

Sunday Bulletin

Betty Williams 626-8611

> grannyquilt2@att.net services: (Please have the subject line say "Bulletin Info")

Chronicle

Jim Hawkins 649-4394 CCChronicle@sbcglobal.net

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355-5170 Financial Secretary

626-8105 Christine Audette

Webmaster

Larry Fleck webmaster @

countrychristianefc.org

Website

https://country-christian.org

Event Photos

Facebook page: Country Christian **Photos**

Laura Sandahl

LLSandahl@gmail.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;

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

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



THIS MONTH

5-Jonah Fleck 6-Chase Audette 8-Kaylyn Bartholomew 8-Brendan Clarey 8-Reed Steele 9-Amy Drallette 9-Kris Fleck 11-MacKenzie Vincent 13-Rick & Kay Landrum 14-Will Burnsed 18-Kevin Dunlap 21-Derrick Drallette 23-Walter Dubbeld 23-Payge Steele 26-Troy Gray 28-Madison Vincent

Online Church Directory:

bers.intantchurchdirectory.com

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.

A MESSAGE OF

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.

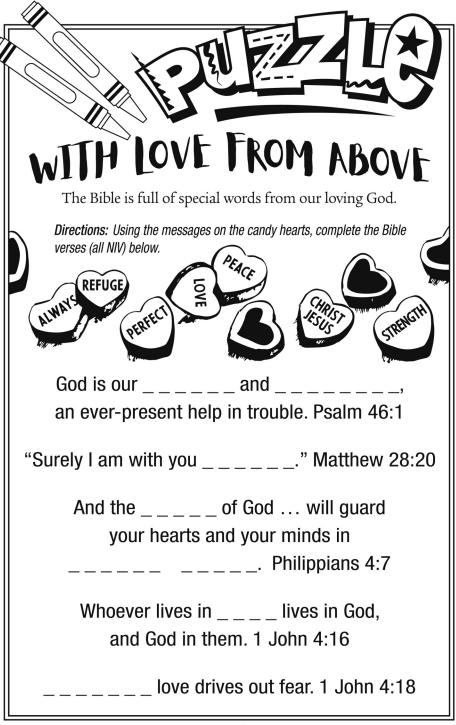


What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

- 1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
- 2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
- 3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
- 4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
- 5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

A heavenly focus

"Why are not our hearts continually set on heaven?" asks 17th-century pastor and author Richard Baxter. Focusing on heaven stirs our faith, guards against temptation, eases suffering and makes us an encouragement to others, Baxter says. He urges: "Bend thy soul to study eternity, busy thyself about the life to come ... and let not those thoughts be seldom and cursory, but bathe thyself in heaven's delights."

Pat Answers

Should We Focus on Our Own Community and Not Missions?

Recently someone in our church mentioned our El Salvador Mission Trip only to hear another person say, "Why would your church do that when there are so many needs right here?" But a quick answer to that is if every church only focused on their own community, how would the world be reached? How would churches be planted where there are no churches? So the best answer is that it is not reach our community OR do missions, but instead it should be BOTH/AND. We are called to reach our own communities AND reach out as God enables us to the world.

A more Biblical answer is to refer to Jesus' own Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Jesus does not say to make disciples only where you already live. We must as followers of Jesus have a heart for what God is doing among the nations. As God opens up doors and gives opportunities, let us reach out to the nations through supporting and praying for missionaries going to the nations, as well as considering opportunities to go ourselves.

Another helpful Bible passage is Acts 1:8 where Jesus tells His disciples – "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." This has been called an inspired outline of the book of Acts, as the church began in Jerusalem, then had to be scattered by persecution to get them out of Jerusalem, spread-

ing the Word in outlying regions, and then finally to the ends of the earth, including Rome itself. But an application from this passage is that every church has a Jerusalem – our local community; and then a larger region, and then finally "the ends of the earth." This means we do reach out to our own area of CCEFC – Scotts, Vicksburg, Climax, Portage, etc. We want to impact Kalamazoo County and Michigan for Jesus. But we also want to see the name of Jesus exalted to the end of the earth. Again, it is both local and global.

But what about short term mission trips like the one to El Salvador? Some question the value of these trips, but there are two important reasons for such trips. First, a short-term mission trip can be an encouragement and help to those serving Christ in another nation. It is not that we are the experts, but we can serve alongside those already serving and together see a harvest in the name of Jesus. Secondly, these short-term trips can tremendously impact those who go for Jesus. Not only do many of the team members have a new heart for God's worldwide mission, the local church which sends these teams receives back people often more devoted to serve and live for Jesus even here locally! They will help reach their own community too.

For the glory of Jesus among the nations,

Pastor Pat

Dated material—Please do not delay

It 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.