



At Countryside Covenant Church, we are a Community growing in the Grace and the Truth of Jesus Christ as we ...

- Worship
  - Disciple
    - Serve
      - Multiply



Christ THE LORD is Risen

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4

April 2026

## Atomic Habits

- Pastor Lynn Black

Ever tried to make headway on breaking a bad habit, or tried unsuccessfully to develop a good one? What if we could just “wish” it into existence? Or “pray it away?” Sometimes I try to do that by asking Jesus to just “change me” by His Holy Spirit without acknowledging that there is some cooperation on my part that needs to happen!

At our recent staff and leadership retreat we discussed some salient points in James Clear’s book, *Atomic Habits*. Clear draws on research from biology, psychology, and neuroscience to provide practical strategies for forming good habits and breaking bad ones. While it’s a secular book, Clear’s principles can work well when applied to the area of creating good spiritual habits.

Spiritual growth is often slow. Sure, you might experience a boost in your love of God after a great week at camp. But most often, growth in the Spirit takes place in small, incremental steps where we focus on being consistently faithful in the small things. Daily. Over time. Mysteriously, God partners with us over the long haul to grow His fruit of His Holy Spirit in us. And we’re never sure exactly what kind of fruit that will be until it’s harvest time!

I’d like to encourage you to think about your good habits. What’s one small, incremental change in that habit, that over time, would create compounded interest in your own personal growth? Consider the good habit of faithful Bible study. Perhaps this time around you’ll choose to memorize a key verse each week. Every day you say it out loud over and over as you do the dishes or drive to work. Each week you re-

view and work on the next one. After a semester of Bible study, you have an entire chapter of the Bible down for memory! Now watch how the Holy Spirit uses what you’ve memorized in conversations with others! What joy! What a boost to your witnessing confidence!

Or consider adding the habit of inviting a friend to have lunch with you each week to discuss what you learned in the previous week’s Bible class. Over time, how might that small change create a deeper friendship with that person? What new insights did you gain from her? How might the lesson stick with you longer because you had that weekly discussion over lunch? Now how might that impact your interactions with non-believers?

Because you chose to add one small, incremental step to an already good habit, you have compounded your effectiveness for the kingdom of God! Well done, good and faithful servant! What made the difference? Was it God only? Or did I have to *participate* in the good work that He already started in me? What if I prayed for my family whenever I folded laundry? What if I made twice as much casserole each time and froze it for a family in need? What if I started to give one percent more in the offering box? You get the idea.

Think about the good habits you already have. What tiny atomic habit is God calling you to consider adding to be more effective for His kingdom?



COUNTRYSIDE COVENANT CHURCH  
PO BOX 765, 940 E. NORTHVIEW AVENUE, MCPHERSON KS 67460

# THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

• We can officially welcome and celebrate Bobbie Kaufman on to the Countryside Staff. She is no longer our interim Director for Worship Arts but has been confirmed as our permanent director by our Leadership Team.



• Bobbie has served on our worship teams for over 20 years. She is a gifted singer and keyboardist but is equally gifted in her leadership and relational giftings. Many have commented during Bobbie's time of interim about her passion and creativity to lead the congregation into worship of our Lord each week.

• Be sure to congratulate Bobbie in the weeks ahead and welcome her to her new position.

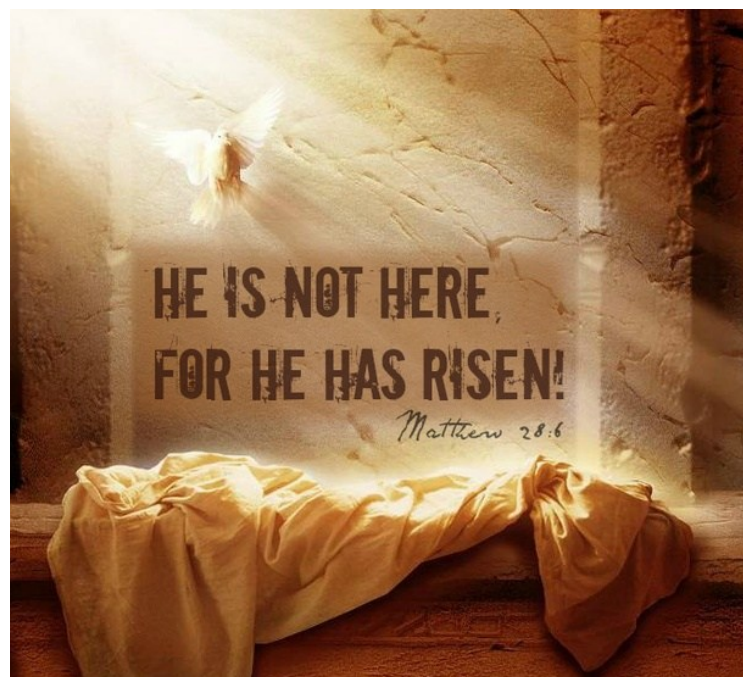
### Next Step Class

You come to worship at Countryside. Perhaps you're new or you regularly attend. Let's add to that good habit by learning how you might deepen your service to God. The Sunday after Easter (**April 12**) we will be offering our four week *Next Step Class* at **9:45am during the CF hour**. The staff will take turns sharing about Countryside's ministries, the purpose of church, and the beliefs of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the denomination to which we belong. You'll consider how God wants you to use your gifts for His Kingdom work here.



To register: use the church app, or call the church office, or fill out your Sunday Connection Card (write *Next Step*). We encourage you to turn your regular attendance into the commitment of membership.

**Christian Formation** for most classes ends April 26<sup>th</sup>. To grow your soul this summer, prayerfully consider joining a Bible Study, Discipleship Group, or a Life Group.



### Holy Week Calendar

**Good Friday, April 3**  
*Service at 7:00 p.m.*

**Easter Sunday, April 5**  
*Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*  
*(No Christian Formation Classes)*





# Gather Moms

- ◆ Third Saturday of the Month | 9:30 a.m. | Let's Talk (Conversations you must have with your kids): Focus on motherhood to middle school and high school kids but can apply to any stage as well. Led By: Amy Brunk, Tiffani Eilrich, and Kelli Farley  
Next Gathering: April 18, Room 6
- ◆ Fourth Tuesday of the Month | 7:00 p.m. | Doing Life With Your Adult Child: Focus on motherhood to adult children. Led by: Linda Totman and Carri Carlson  
Next Gathering: April 28, Room 13



## Thank You's

Our Shoe Drive Fundraiser is officially complete!

The shoes have been picked up from campus and we finished with 67 bags of shoes. That's about 1,675 pairs!

We chose to do this fundraiser because it was different than anything we've done before, and we loved that the shoes don't just sit somewhere — they get reused and help support young entrepreneurs around the world.

From me and the entire Central Cheer team ~ thank you for helping make it such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

- Gracie Kidd, Admissions Counselor / Head Cheer Coach



## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

David Case,  
Founder and  
Director of Live  
Free Ministries  
and The Omega  
Project



Saturday, April 25  
8:30 am  
Countryside Gym

RSVP by April 22 on your  
Connection Card or call the  
Church Office, 620.241.4499



## SEW & SHARE

The ladies that meet once a month have such a great time as they gather to “work on” projects for different missions. And, they’d love to have you join them! **In April they will meet on Monday the 20th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5.** It’s a great way to serve and to help others.



## Life Student Ministries

# April Newsletter

### OUR NEW TEACHING SERIES!

During our last month of youth group, we will be diving into a new teaching series for both middle school and high school youth group! We will be looking at FIVE ways to love the Lord our God! : Soul, Mind, Strength, Heart and Love our Neighbor. This is based off of the passage in Mark 12:30-31

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

We are ecstatic to welcome in five incredible speakers over the course of these teachings:

Philip Hinman: Mind

Mallory Roberts: Heart

Meaghan Reamy: Strength

Connor Gibson: Neighbor

Abby Walker: Soul

## APRIL EVENTS

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> EASTER Sunday!  
No Christian Formation Classes.

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: Late Night  
Game Night for Middle School.  
7-8:30pm, Countryside.

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>: our LAST  
Youth Group night of the school  
year. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders stay for High  
School Youth Group.

## MAY EVENTS

Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> is Senior Sunday!  
Both services, 8:30 & 11am to  
celebrate our graduating High  
School Seniors.

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> is our  
Confirmation Sunday! We will  
celebrate our Countryside  
Confirmants at both services, 8:30  
& 11am.

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> is Youth Sunday.  
Youth will lead worship for both  
services.

# Countryside Kids

## KIDS TOWN (SUNDAYS) | AGES 2 - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- April 5 | No Kids Town & No Kingdom Families (Easter)
- April 12 | The Work of the Holy Spirit
- April 19 | The Book of James
- April 26 | The Book of Jude (Last Sunday of Kids Town)

## KIDS LIFE (WEDNESDAYS) | AGES 4 - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

We meet from 6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Check-in is in the foyer outside the Worship Center. All kids must be picked up in the building by an adult at the end of the night. *April 29<sup>th</sup> will be our last night of Kids Life for the school year.*

This month, through different themes, our preschoolers and elementary kids will learn that God sent Jesus, God helps us with our thoughts, God helps us with our words, and God helps us with our actions.

### PRESCHOOLER/KINDERGARTEN THEME



### ELEMENTARY THEME



### BE PART OF OUR VBS TEAM THIS SUMMER!

VBS is our largest outreach event of the year and we would love to have you on our team! Our team has just as much fun as the kids! Use the QR code to the right to see opportunities and sign up!



### AMAZON WISHLIST FOR VBS

We do not charge for our VBS so when purchasing items off our wishlist for our stations and environment you are helping offset some of our costs for this event! Scan the QR code to the left to view and purchase from our list!



## APRIL COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

1	Wednesday	• Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
5	Sunday	• Easter Sunday (No Kids Town)
8	Wednesday	• Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
12	Sunday	• Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM
15	Wednesday	• Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
19	Sunday	• Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM
22	Wednesday	• Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
26	Sunday	• Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM
29	Wednesday	• Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM

### CONTACT US

Feel free to contact us with any questions about our programming, events, or milestone celebrations (such as baby dedication and baptism).  
 Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries [amy@csidecov.org](mailto:amy@csidecov.org)  
 Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministry Assistant: [tiffani@csidecov.org](mailto:tiffani@csidecov.org)

### BAPTISMS

We celebrated baptisms on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Along with several others, 5 children were baptized! Beckham Froese, Emory Parrish, Oren Parrish, Adalyn Wuest, and Paxton Wuest.



### FUEL THE BREAK FOOD DRIVE!



Thanks to all of your food donations our food drive was a huge success! We were able to fill 20 bags FULL of food to distribute at the food bank and also to families at CR. The food that was not distributed by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders was donated to the food bank in McPherson!



### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SERVICE PROJECTS

We had some awesome 5<sup>th</sup> graders who volunteered their time during the month of March to serve at the Kansas Food Bank in Wichita. We packed boxes of food for seniors during one of our visits and repackaged potatoes for distribution on our visit during spring break!



### KINGDOM FAMILIES

We will not have Kingdom Families in April since Easter falls on the first Sunday. However, we will have it on May 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the end of the school year (preschool families will be included)!



### A Place to Call Home: A Story of Hope and Transformation

At McPherson Housing Coalition, we often say that housing is more than just a roof over someone’s head. It is the foundation for stability, growth, and hope.

**Not long ago**, a young mother came into our program without a permanent place to live. Each day was uncertain. She was doing everything she could to provide for her child, but without stable housing, even the smallest steps forward felt overwhelming. She carried fear, exhaustion, and the quiet question so many face in difficult seasons: How do I move forward from here? Through the support of our housing program, she was given a place to stay. It became a place where she could breathe, regroup, and begin again. And with that stability came something powerful.

Hope.

Within a year, her life began to change.

She secured a better job.  
 She enrolled in school.  
 She began planning for a future she once could not see.

Her child began to thrive emotionally, academically, and socially because for the first time there was consistency, safety, and peace at home. She also began

attending church regularly, finding strength and encouragement in her faith and in a supportive community.

This transformation reflects what we are reminded of in Jeremiah 29:11, that God has plans to give hope and a future. Sometimes, that future begins with something as simple as a stable place to live.

It also reflects the calling found in Matthew 25:35, where we are reminded to care for those in need. When we come together to support one another, we are living out our faith in real and meaningful ways.

At McPherson Housing Coalition, we do not just provide housing. We walk alongside individuals and families as they rebuild their lives. We help create pathways to stability, independence, and ultimately homeownership.

Stories like this are happening every day because people in our community choose to serve, to care, and to step in.

#### A home can change everything.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support and prayers of our church community. Your faithfulness makes stories like this possible, and we thank you for being a part of this work.

Blessings,  
 Chris Goodson



#### Widows Connection

- Tuesday, April 7, 9:30am,  
 The Cedars Event Center.



We have lots of fun things planned. We will also celebrate our 7th anniversary!

- Saturday, April 18, 11:30 am, @ the home of Judy Blaine

We'll have games, food, fun & laughter!

#### BRUSH UP MAC

Saturday, April 18, 2026



Brush Up Mac helps the elderly, the disabled, and low-income homeowners with projects such as yard work, minor home repairs and debris removal.

They are currently seeking donations, volunteers, and most importantly, homeowners who need their help.

Homeowner and volunteer applications may be picked up at Countryside’s Information Center, McPherson Chamber of Commerce, Council on Aging, or at the McPherson Senior Center.

For more information, call McPherson Housing Coalition, 620-241-7828 x 17.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Hallelujah, Spring is here! Hopefully you've had a chance to get outdoors and be reminded of the beauty of God's creation like the chirping of birds, the trees awakened with flowering buds. As the seasons change, we tend to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of daily life, the highs and lows. God's creation offers a way to be reminded of His goodness and presence.

Psalm 19:1 states "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." We are given this opportunity at any moment to see the work of His hands and to share with God His creation. It doesn't have to be a big planned event, just a willingness to pause and appreciate his goodness, perfection, and eternal power.

As we continue on our walk with Christ, one way to develop more of a consistent relationship with Him is through intentional, ongoing conversation. Of course, this is supported by daily prayer, but another impactful approach is taking time to notice God's presence in creation and to thank Him for his goodness. The cultivation of these "pauses" throughout the day helps bring us closer to Him.

Spring is the perfect time to refresh your spirit by actively appreciating God's beautiful creation. We encourage you to take these moments throughout your day to pause, reflect, and give thanks to our Creator.

The Leadership Team continues to ask for your prayers as we discern God's will for Countryside Covenant Church. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

Sarah Corcoran, Leadership Team



## Church Life Update



### Baptisms:

**Beckham Froese. Dylan Hall.  
Mallorie Jader. Natalie Jader.  
Jay Lacey. Mike McVicker.  
Emory Parrish. Oren Parrish.  
Phil Parrish. Josh Vernon.  
Adalynn Wuest. Paxton Wuest.**

### Death in the Family:

**Bob Lundberg, March 26**



### March 2026 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
March 1	159	565
March 8	148	593
March 15	138	539
March 22	132	553
March 29	160	713

### March 2026 Giving

March 1	\$28,051.30
March 8	\$34,765.22
March 15	\$21,209.84
March 22	\$16,981.49
March 29	\$28,491.51
<b>Total Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$338,932.25</b>
<b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$21,515.41</b>

Countryside Covenant Church  
PO Box 765, 940 E. Northview Avenue,  
McPherson KS 67460

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Your April Newsletter is here!!



*Countryside Covenant Church is a body of believers with a heart for Jesus Christ.*

## ***This Month at Countryside***

Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Christian Formation Classes, 9:45 a.m.

### **APRIL EVENTS (SEE ENCLOSED CALENDAR FOR FULL LIST OF EVENTS)**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Men's Book Study                        |
| 1                | Gather Moms (Preschool/Elem)            |
| 1                | Gather Men                              |
| 3                | Good Friday Service                     |
| 5                | Easter Services; No CF Classes          |
| 7 & 18           | Widows Connection                       |
| 7, 14, 21, 28    | Men's Coffee                            |
| 7, 14, 21, 28    | Celebrate Recovery                      |
| 7, 14            | Freedom in Christ                       |
| 12               | Ministry Coordination Council           |
| 18               | Brush Up Mac                            |
| 18               | Gather Moms (Teens)                     |
| 20               | Sew & Share                             |
| 21               | Leadership Team Meeting                 |
| 25               | Men's Prayer Breakfast                  |
| 26               | Last Day of Christian Formation Classes |
| 28               | Gather Moms (Adult Children)            |

## **Countryside Staff**

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Pastor Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Lizy Johnson, Student Ministries Director

Bobbie Kaufman, Worship Arts Director

Lizy Johnson, Student Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director

