



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

- Worship
 - Disciple
 - Serve
 - Multiply



VOLUME 23, ISSUE 5

May 2024

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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Live by Faith

- Kelly Morrow

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Galatians 2:20 is one of my favorite verses written by the Apostle Paul to the Galatians. The students know that Paul is my go-to example for living a life that is on fire for Christ, counting all the costs and living "all-in," sharing and living out the Gospel. The teachings of Paul also frustrate me, because he doesn't always spell everything out with direct clear answers; he makes us think for ourselves and "work things out." Paul calls us to lean into the confidence that we have been given by the Spirit as he tells us in 2 Corinthians 3:6, that our competence comes from God, not from ourselves, which takes me back to why I love Galatians 2:20, because I have experienced God's faithfulness as I have learned to get out of my way and allow Christ to have His way in my life.

Eight years ago when I stepped into the Student Center to observe the youth group for the first time and see what it was all about, I would have never imagined where it would lead! In October of 2018, I humbly accepted the call to be the Director of Student Ministries and fully relied on God to equip me for what He was calling me to, and God proved faithful.

With this, I am thankful; thankful to the students for allowing me to be a part of their lives and growing their relationship with Jesus. It has been nothing less than incredible to witness their growth, celebrate their achievements, and support them through challenges. We have laughed, cried, played together, and covered approximately 16,000 miles together in church vans

on mission trips, rides to Covenant Cedars, and all kinds of youth events!

To the parents, It has been a joy and honor to partner with you in the faith formation of your students. I did not take lightly the privilege I was given to be a part of your child's walk with Jesus. I continue to pray that they know that they are wonderfully made, lavishly loved and have a great purpose in building the Kingdom of God. Thank you for trusting me with the spiritual, emotional, and physical safety of your child. I am forever grateful.

To the community of Countryside, you belong to an incredible church family who truly love and support one another. Be a Paul, be "all-in," you will not regret it! As Ephesians 4:11-12 reminds us, "so Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastor, and the teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Take the chance when you feel the prompting of God to serve. His plan is always so much better than our own and He will always prove to be faithful to what He is leading you to.

To those who have served alongside me in Student Ministry and to the church staff, thank you for your love, support, and guidance. I appreciate each of your unique skills and perspectives and am proud of the work we have accomplished together.

As my time at Countryside comes to an end, I have nothing but a thankful heart full of joy and sweet memories.

Love, Kelly

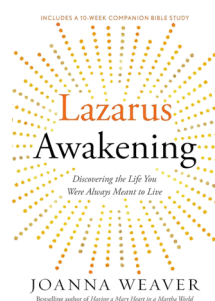




The Women's Ministry team at Countryside has several exciting events that we are inviting you to this month! As always, it's

our goal to **connect women with other women and to Jesus** through our ministry ... Bible studies, events and opportunities. And, we want you to know too that you are **always** invited to attend and participate in these opportunities, especially since it's our hope that you will feel welcome and join us!

Recently we had sign-ups for **The Gathering Table** that are scheduled to meet in May, June and July. If you missed signing up, please let me know and possibly we can still get you into a group. Sometimes women have to miss for one reason or another and hostesses are looking to have six in their group. Let me know if this is something that you would consider.



The **Thursday Night Bible Study** group begins the study, *Lazarus Awakening*, on May 16. Author Joanna Weaver (*Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*) invites you to experience a divine shift in how you view your relationship with God, one that moves the truth of God's love from your head to your heart and helps you step

into the fullness of life Jesus came to bring. Just as Jesus called Lazarus forth to new life, He wants to free you to live fully in the light of His love, unhindered by fear, regret, or self-condemnation. If you want to join us, be sure to write "Thursday Bible Study" on your Connection Card to reserve a book.



Another "new" addition to Women's Ministry is providing a **Bible study** on Wednesdays at 7 pm for six different weeks this summer. Sharon Stinemetze will

facilitate the first one that will meet on May 29 in Room 18 (across from the café). Her topic will be *The Signs (Miracles) of Jesus*. Please help us save you a seat by calling 620.755.2060. These "stand alone" times allow for you to attend when it works in your summer schedule, and the best part, there's no homework. The other dates will be June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24 and August 7. Other topics and facilitators will be announced soon.



We're also bringing back a fun event on June 24 and you are definitely encouraged to attend. Let's just call it an old-fashioned **Salad Supper**! Some of us older women will remember these evenings, but I'm sure that younger women have no clue what it's about. Each woman is asked to bring a salad (any kind) that provides servings for 10-12 others. Plans are to meet in the Student Center at 6 pm so put this date on your calendar and watch for more details.



Women's Fall Retreat at Covenant Cedars is planned for Friday, Oct. 4 – Sunday, Oct. 6. Cost is \$175-200 per person (price varies based on lodging). Registration opens on July 15.

In addition to these events, interest has also been shown in starting a **"singles group for women"** here at Countryside. If you are single, would you like to meet possibly once a month for a meal and an evening where you can meet others? A tentative date for getting together is Sunday, June 9 at 4 pm. And, I've heard that tacos are on the menu!



As mentioned in my article in the last issue of The Pulse, I know it's hard to sometimes walk into an event not knowing who will be there or what you might even find there, but I can assure you that you'll be glad you did. We are a bunch of women who desire to spend time with others or possibly meet a new friend. Even though my walk with Jesus started many years ago, I am still learning and growing and my involvement in women's ministry has been the catalyst for that growth.

One last thing ... Did you know we have a Facebook page? Search for Countryside Women's Ministry and follow us. You'll hear of events there as well as on our website, [Women's Ministry | Ministries | Countryside Covenant Church \(csidecov.com\)](http://Women's Ministry | Ministries | Countryside Covenant Church (csidecov.com))

As you can tell, there's a lot going on, but our ministry team really wants to get to know you through these events. If you have questions about any of these opportunities or anything related to women's ministry, please feel free to contact me, 620.755.2020 or linda@csidecov.org.

Linda Totman, Women's Ministry Coordinator



Every person 55 plus growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and serving in His kingdom ministry.

Retirement and Musical Chairs



As you think back to the game of musical chairs, you may remember the thrill of landing in one of the remaining seats or the agony of being cast out. There's a significant difference between the two feelings, of course. That's why it's important for people making the retirement transition to ensure they have replacement chairs waiting for them.

It may be time to try some new chairs. Think about the variables of the workplace which slowly disappear in retirement. Work provides purpose and identity, social interaction and physical activity, not to mention timelines, goals and a sense of routine. When you leave full-time work, retirement upends everything.

Some of the familiar chairs may seem to have either been moved or eliminated. Your life is no longer defined by your role at work...your social interactions might decrease in frequency and value... physical activity may not come as easy or often... and you have to develop both a new routine and new goals.

But if you have a new set of chairs in place, life can be fantastic. Here's how to do it, using three musical motifs:

Measure & Scale: Take an inventory of the top five or 10 things that work provides for you. Do you enjoy certain tasks, co-workers or types of projects? Think about the various roles you have had as well as strengths described in your annual reviews or spiritual gifts. Consider writing these things down. That way, you can better see what work gives you, and then, strategize ways to replace them. Too often, people assume some of these things will automatically fall into place. They won't. Be proactive.

Ensemble: Try to do things in a group format. Take an exercise class, group travel or volunteer with friends. Make the event social and you can enhance the feel-

ing derived from the activity. Or consider applying your personal strengths to *new* areas of interest you can do with others. If you are handy, consider volunteering to help a community theater company or church VBS with its set design and props.

Skip To A New Beat: Work may have held you back in some areas of life. So, it may be time to try some new chairs. Launch a new business, start a hobby, host a new group at your home. It's not uncommon for people entering retirement to want to be part of something bigger than themselves and to have a lasting impact on others. To do so, take some time to [consider your legacy](#) and the ways you feel drawn, or compelled, to help others.

In short, rather than feeling cast out in retirement, keep the music playing. Maybe even up the tempo by replacing the things you valued at work with wholly new ones in this new transition. You just might enjoy marching to a different tune. - Robert Laura, Forbes Magazine. 'Reprinted with permission from Next Avenue.'

<https://www.nextavenue.org/musical-chairs-retirement/>

Tuesday, May 21st, 12:00 p.m., Covenant Annual Crescendo Webinar. This is a live event over Zoom with opportunity to meet other Covenanters across America as you learn from professionals, interact in breakout sessions, and discover more about our season in life. Let Lynn know if interested.

In June, VBS. Crescendo will help lead the Missions Room as well as serve lunch to workers and kids Thursday and Friday that week. If you are interested in either of these ministries, contact Lynn Black (meals) or Jolene Czosnowski, (574) 520-9850, (missions room) NOW for further details.





McPherson Housing Coalition

Every year, I eagerly anticipate the arrival of May, with its many celebrations, such as graduations and All Schools Day. On social media, I see parents proudly sharing photos of their children being accepted into college, winning awards, or their team winning the state championship. However, I also reflect on the parents whose children struggle to get through school. These children may not receive awards or excel in sports; they may be lucky to have a full belly and a warm, safe place to sleep. They may be alone when they graduate high school, as their parents work multiple jobs or are absent. That is why I encourage everyone, our passionate supporters, to be observant during these times of celebration. We should include those who do not fit into the popular crowd, those who are alone, or those whose parents cannot afford fancy clothes or parties. **This could mean inviting them to your celebrations, offering a kind word or gesture, or even acknowledging their presence.** It is a perfect opportunity to show the love of Christ to someone who feels very alone.

Testimony: A few weeks ago, a class from a local college toured our cottages. As we shared our story and passion for helping families, a young student came up to me privately and said, "I was homeless and grew up in shelters, sleeping on people's couches. This village would have made things so much better for me. So please keep doing what you do, and know that you are changing lives." This powerful testament underscores the profound impact of our work and the difference the faith community is making in the lives of those in need. **Your support is directly contributing to these life-changing moments.**

Brush Up Mac 2024

Thank you, so much for supporting the annual Brush Up Mac program. Your generosity and dedication have made a significant difference in the lives of many seniors. I wish I could have you with me as I greet these seniors who often bring me to tears after a team visit. **"You have been helping me for many years, and I could not stay in my home without your support. May God bless all of you as you continue this endeavor,"** said a recipient of the 2024 BUM event. Your support, **individually and collectively,** is truly invaluable.

Construction updates:

Oak Harbor Cottages:

⇒ 1 home waiting on trim and doors

Sutherland Estates:

⇒ 3 homes—sheetrock complete

⇒ 2 homes—framed with windows, plumbing, and electrical

⇒ 1 home—framed

Important Dates

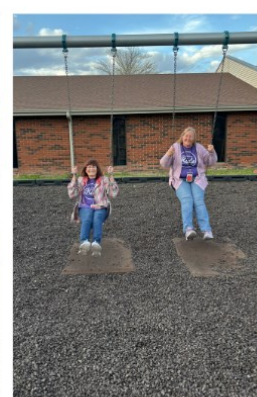
September 26, 2024, McPherson County Housing Conference.

[Philippians 2:3-4](#) ESV Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.

Blessings,
Chris Goodson



Countryside Kids



THAT'S A WRAP ON KIDS LIFE 2023-24!

It was another great year of Kids Life! We had almost 80 kids (ages 4 - 5th grade) join us this year for our midweek program! We want to thank our volunteers for their commitment to Kids Life this school year. It would not be possible without them and their passion to see the next generation become faithful followers of Jesus Christ! We hope that everyone can join us on May 1st for our End-of-Year Celebration!

VBS JUNE 3 - 7 | 9 AM - NOON

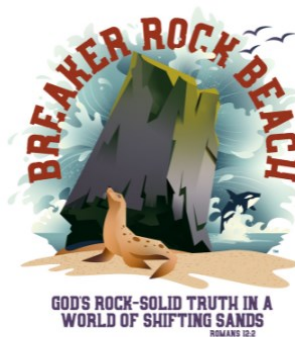
Kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love. Adventure awaits each day as kids explore tide pools, spot orcas, fly kites, and watch the mighty waves crash up against the immovable Breaker Rock!

We are still needing a few more people who would love to be part of this week by serving as a small group guide (lifeguard)!



COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP | SUMMER 2024

This camp is open to children entering 1st - 6th grade! Contact Amy if you are wanting to use Camp Bucks for your deposit or for scholarship information.



USE THE QR CODE BELOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD OR TO VOLUNTEER FOR VBS 2024



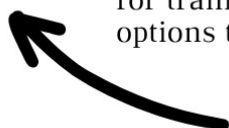
CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

MAY

- 1** | End of Year Celebration | 5:30 - 7:30 PM
- 20** | VBS Training | 7:00 PM | Room 15
- 21** | VBS Training | 6:00 PM | Room 15
- 29** | VBS Training | 7:00 PM | Room 15
- 30** | VBS Training | 9:00 AM | Room 15
- June 1** | VBS Training | 9:00 AM | Room 15

VBS TRAINING

If you have signed up to serve as a rotation leader/assistant or a small group guide you will need to attend one of the trainings. We will have 5 options for training, so just pick one date to attend. See the options to the left under the calendar!



Countryside Kids

SERVING TOGETHER!

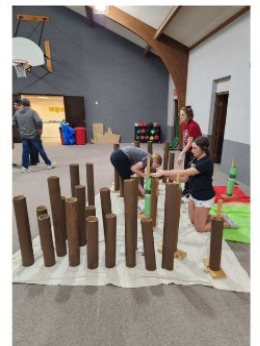
During April we had several opportunities to serve together as we prepared for summer ministry. The first opportunity was at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp in Nebraska! They had several projects for our group, and because of the great weather and hard-working team we had, we were able to complete almost everything!

Our second opportunity was our VBS Work Day! We had a great crew that helped us get a head start on VBS sets and decorations as well as cutting out and copying many items for VBS lessons and crafts!

COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP WORK WEEKEND



VBS WORK DAY



May Youth Group Schedule:

***No Wednesday Night Youth Group in Summer Months**

1 | 8-9:30 pm High School End of Year Party

5 | Confirmation Sunday

19 | Senior Sunday

June:

LIFE STUDENT MINISTRIES

Watch For Upcoming Events: Please refer to the church website and church app under Student Ministries to stay informed on upcoming events. You can also follow us @Lifestumin On Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (X) announcements.

CHURCH



M.S.



for

Lifestumin M.S. Youth Group

Scan this QR code and join!



for



Lifestumin M.S Youth Group

Scan this QR code and join!



Life Student Ministry H.S. Youth Group



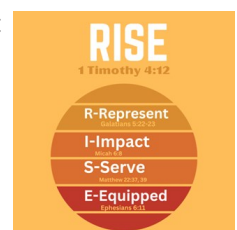
Registration is open for Summer Camp at Covenant Cedars! Register through their website at Cedars.org. Scholarship forms available on church app or band app!



Unite (formerly known as CHIC) is a denominational-wide event where Covenant youth gather to Unite around God's purposes. All Covenant churches across North America and beyond are invited to encourage and equip high school students for God's

glory and neighbor's good. The event will be hosted at two separate locations. The Midwest Conference we are part of has been assigned to go west to San Diego, held at San Diego State University, July 15-19, 2024. This event is for incoming freshmen (those who will complete 8th grade by the summer of 2024) through outgoing seniors (class of 2024)! Registration is complete for this event as final details are in progress.

At LSM, we desire for each student to Rise-Up and live into the call of 1 Timothy 4:12 “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.”



Last Night of Middle School Youth Group



Senior Night and Last High School Youth Group of the school year.



Kelly's Going Away Celebration!

Join us on **Sunday, May 26, 9:45-10:45 a.m.** in the Student Center to celebrate Kelly Morrow's graduation and to thank her for her service here at Countryside! Bring a note of appreciation to honor her. We'll be serving donuts and fresh fruit.



Church Life Update

Birth:

Miles William, son of Andreu & Laura (Wurm) Peuchen, April 8.



Wedding:

Zoe Flowers & Dawson VanGoethem, April 19.



Welcome Lizzy Johnson!

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Elizabeth (Lizzy) Johnson as our new Director of Student Ministries for our middle and high school students.

Lizzy and her husband Nick Johnson have been married for almost 9 years. Over the last 7 years Lizzy has been busy doing the hardest job of all, raising their four wonderful children: Nora-7, Theo-5, Archie-3 and Gwen-1.

Lizzy comes with a tremendous amount of experience. She graduated from Kansas State University, with a Bachelors Degree in Family Studies and Human Services. Her experience includes over 5 years of experience being a Youth Director in Manhattan, KS and Lindsborg, KS. She has recently been volunteering as an adult leader for our middle and high school youth groups this past year and has created long-lasting relationships with many of the students. Many members of the search committee were able to hear Lizzy speak to both groups on multiple occasions. She showed she can deliver a strong message that is based and guided on God's Word, as well as share some of her personal

experiences that can relate to the message being given.

Lizzy shared with the committee her journey with Christ, and how she always looked to His Word to provide guidance, support and comfort in the many challenges of life, especially current trials she and her family have faced, and the path that led her up to this point. The Search Committee reviewed and interviewed multiple candidates. In the end, the committee agreed that we all felt God was leading us to Lizzy. Not only because of her experience, but the ability to jump into the position and work with our current Director Kelly Morrow to help create a smooth transition for our summer youth programs. Above all else, the passion she showed for youth ministry was clear to us all.

I want to thank my fellow search committee members: Jen Scheck, Sarah Boese, Megan Pruitt, Aaron Glendening, Steve Eilrich and Ronald Hamilton. This was a dynamic group of individuals that brought so much to the committee and process. Combined, this group had over 50+ years of experience working with children and youth ministry directly at Countryside. Thank you for the time, commitment and willingness to serve in this capacity.

- Tom Sullivan

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

I have amazing news to report: April 8 our first grandchild, Miles Peuchen, was born. All are well! With his arrival we were invited to spend several days in Iowa, and I therefore missed both a Special Leadership Team meeting and the regularly scheduled LT meeting, but I report takeaways as follows.

As a result of the special LT meeting in April (that I called and then missed!), I am very pleased to report that Elizabeth “Lizy” Johnson began as Countryside’s Director of Student Ministries on April 15. This allows overlap before Kelly leaves; I appreciate their shared goal of continuity for our youth. I wish to thank the seven search committee members for their faithful work in the recommendation. They are Tom Sullivan (Chair), Aaron Glendening, Jen Scheck, Sarah Boese, Megan Pruitt, Ronald Hamilton and Steve Eilrich. As a reminder, bringing in new staff at CCC is by 2/3 Leadership Team vote, but a call for a pastoral position would be by 2/3 congregational vote. Lizy, we welcome you and pray God’s blessings upon your service here.

I report also that I understand Covenant Properties spent a day with staff, and made a presentation at the April LT meeting. I am sure a focus was on options regarding space for Christian Formation classes. Properties Team was invited to the LT meeting. Like you, I look forward to hearing or learning more.

We as LT (and staff) penned a vision last year augmenting our mission statement, and I repeat this from last month’s PULSE **“We exist to make and deepen disciples who make Jesus their top priority, obey his commands, and teach others to do the same.”** Have I mentioned I am a new grandpa? I expected something special, but still, when I walked in that Monday mid morning and saw little Miles I teared up at the miracle of new life that God had blessed Laura and Andrew and our family with. I realized this is how our Lord Jesus looks at all men. As the Spirit moves in our hearts and matures us as followers of Jesus, this is the nature we take on. We as LT discern a “holy tug,” as found in the Great Commission, that we seek not just to learn about Jesus but to be like Jesus and intentionally share this life with others by discipling. In Acts there are several references to “the Way.” **Acts 24:14 and part of 15: “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God.”** This of course references the church, the followers of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives. But the intensity and reality of Jesus’ life in the gospels, of Jesus’ desire to share God’s love and redemptive plan to the world; this discipling or this sharing of this “Way” of life, is something we desire for our church. Discipleship has been described to me by Bob Wil-

lford of our LT as “a very rigorous process of teaching and training and was primarily motivated by the disciple wanting to be like the rabbi.” We want to enable the deep desire of wanting to be like Jesus in our day to day circumstances both by being disciplined by others and by discipling others in our church. There isn’t a program we can adopt, rather it is a way of life. Nonetheless, as described before, LT and staff have identified three activities throughout the year of Trunk or Treat, Christmas program and the upcoming VBS program wherein we seek a springboard toward discipling by approaching these as intergenerational, “all church” occasions. We have already heard good testimony from this focus! Please consider how you may participate in our June VBS this year. You may contact Amy Brunk, and/or stay tuned for possible ways to serve in this all church effort for VBS. I desire that my grandson grow up knowing and serving Jesus with living examples of what this looks like around him, and we desire this for our church as well. Bob has also said that being a disciple “means emulating Jesus in our time, culture, political landscape, etc....how do we learn to be like Jesus and how do we demonstrate being like Jesus in our day-to-day circumstances?” Again, please consider how you can participate in VBS this year, how you are being disciplined, and how you can disciple others.

Finally, please mark your calendars for **Sunday morning May 26** to celebrate Kelly’s graduation and honor and appreciate her service here, before she joins Matt as they make their new home in Lenexa. God has truly blessed us with her gifts, passion and leadership.

Let us continue to pray for unity, peace and strength; for God’s will to be done - at Countryside, in our community and nation, and across the world.

Mark Wurm, Church Chair

April 2024 Attendance (includes online)		
	Christian Formation	Worship
March 31	—	943
April 7	166	597
April 14	171	600
April 21	146	594
April 2024 Giving		
March 31		\$30,322.42
April 7		\$20,773.69
April 14		\$22,501.93
April 21		\$30,201.23
Total Y-to-D		\$446,191.92
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D		\$9,484.13

Countryside Covenant Church
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McPherson KS 67460

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Your May 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.



MAY EVENTS

1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Prayer Group
1	End of Year Celebration & Meal
4, 11, 18, 25	Women's Coffee Connection
4	Crescendo to Mac College Antique Car Show
5	Confirmation Sunday
7, 14, 21, 28	Men's Coffee
7, 18	Widows Connection
7, 14, 21, 28	Celebrate Recovery
10	All Schools Day/Church Office Closed
12	Mother's Day
14	MOMs Group
19	Senior Sunday
20	Sew & Share
21	Crescendo Virtual Conference
21	Leadership Team Meeting
20, 21, 29, 30	VBS Training
26	Kelly Morrow Send Off Celebration
27	Memorial Day/Church Office Closed



Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant