

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 20, ISSUE 3  
March 2021

## The Power of the Tongue

-Pastor Jon Black

Isaiah begins his Prophetic book in this way:

*Isaiah 1:4 - Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption!*

Isaiah continues to pronounce these “woes” upon God’s obstinate, hardheaded and disobedient people for the first five chapters. He does so in obedience to God’s calling upon his life. Isaiah is really good at what he does.

But something life-changing happens within Isaiah in chapter 6. He suddenly turns the “woes” upon himself.

*6:5 - “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”*

Why the change? Because Isaiah was caught up into the presence of the Lord.

*6:1 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.*

The more we spend time in the presence of our Lord, the less critical and judgmental we will be of others because we will recognize how far we too have fallen short. We will begin to see others as God sees them; with eyes of compassion....worthy enough to die for.

Did you notice how Isaiah’s repentance was directed toward his very strength, gifting and profession as a prophet of God? *“Woe to me...I am a man of unclean lips.”*

During these days of corruption, division and dissention, we as Christ-followers are

called to demonstrate the love of Christ in our works **and** words. Yes, we are to speak the truth without compromise, but we are to do so **in love**. (Eph 4:15).

The Apostle Peter said it this way:

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15.*

Peter learned this by watching the example of Jesus for three years.

*When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:23*

During the course of conversations, I have at times won the argument but lost the relationship, because of my lousy attitude and lack of love. As Christ-followers we can “win the battle but lose the war.”

The Bible has much to say about the tongue. It can be used as an instrument of destruction or an instrument of blessing.

It is my prayer that we will use our lips to bless others, encourage and build up, not tear down. And when we are occasionally called to confront and admonish someone, I pray that we will always do so in love, conveying an attitude of gentleness and respect in obedience to scripture.



## ♥ Ministry to Women

One of my recent devotions centered on Luke 8:18. It reads, *"So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."* Have you ever thought about God's wisdom as being given to you or taken from you? Jesus is pretty clear here – for those who will listen, more truth and wisdom will be given. But to those who do not listen and follow, truths will be concealed. We may not fully understand why God does this, but we should heed the warning to follow the wisdom God gives us and treat it more precious than diamonds. God will give His truth and wisdom to those who seek, ask, and follow. But to those who listen but ignore it, they will live in confusion, unclarity, and a cycle of discontentment. So then we should ask the question, "How much do you crave and desire God's wisdom?" Ask God to grow His wisdom in you. Where and how do I grow His wisdom?

- 1) Study the scriptures to gain wisdom
- 2) Spend time in prayer to grow in wisdom
- 3) Read Christ-centered devotions and books to gain wisdom
- 4) Seek out Godly counsel for biblical wisdom

Women Ministries continues to promote and provide excellent opportunities to help you gain godly wisdom. And Bible studies are at the heart of our ministry and, therefore, we currently are offering three studies ...

- *Made to Crave* facilitated by Angie Brunk. Meets every other Tuesday at 7 pm in Room 20
- *Precepts Study of Nehemiah and Esther* facilitated by Lynn Black and Michelle Logback. Meets every Thursday at 9 am in the Student Center
- A new study kickoffs Thursday, March 4 at 7 pm. We'll spend some time reviewing the Elijah study and enjoy a dessert bar too! As we join Priscilla Shirer for the new Bible study, *The Armor of God*, it will bring to light

the war around us and challenge us to suit up, stand firm, and secure victory in our lives. Contact Linda in the Church Office to order a study book. (Cost is \$17 each)

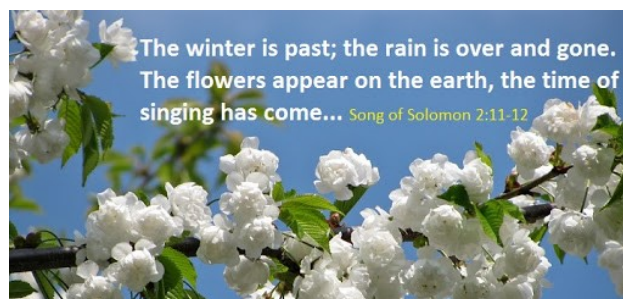
### UPCOMING EVENTS (Note dates have changed!!)

- ⇒ Lifeway Women Live Simulcast Event, Saturday, May 1 (Tickets go on sale April 1)
- ⇒ A Woman's Night of Worship, Monday, June 28
- ⇒ Going Beyond Simulcast with Priscilla Shirer, Saturday, September 25 (Tickets go on sale August 29)

I continually am reminded of Francis Chan's quote from his book *Letters to the Church*. "The church's 'purpose is not just to exist. It's to produce. Are we producing mature disciples who imitate Christ by constantly serving others? Are we developing communities that are so deeply in love with one another that the world marvels (John 13:34-35)?"

I ask that often of Women Ministries at Countryside. How would you answer that question?

– Linda Totman



### Esther Mini-Bible Study.

**NEW!** Do you wish you knew how to study God's word for yourself? We'd love to explore with you *how* to study your Bible *while* you study it! Precepts for

Women on Thursday mornings will have a **4 week mini-study on the book of Esther**. Hiding her true identity, Esther is chosen to be queen out of all the women in the kingdom. God uses her daring and influence to save His people from their enemies. Intrigue, suspense, and courage bring this beautiful story to life. Call Lynn Black for info: 620-755-7585.

**Starts April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am.**

## March Lifestumin Schedule

\*Please note that we return to the regular schedule on March 3<sup>rd</sup>

3 | 6:30-8 pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00-9:30 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

10 | 6:30-8 pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00-9:30 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

17 | NO YOUTH GROUP - SPRING BREAK

24 | 6:30-8 pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00-9:30 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

28 | Baptism Service 8:45 & 11am

31 | 6:30-8 pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00-9:30 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)



**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the Love of Donuts Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Lifestumin Student Missions. We are overwhelmed by the response; we sold over 140 dozen donuts! The generosity of our church family is very much appreciated!

**Covenant Cedars Summer Camp Early Bird dead-line is April 1<sup>st</sup>.** If you register by this date, you will receive a discount. You can register on their website: [cedars.org](http://cedars.org) or register on the church app. If you register on the Covenant Cedars website, please make sure you list Countryside Covenant as your church and let Kelly know so we can be sure to have room in the van for you!

\*Scholarships are available through the church but requests need to be made by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Ignite Summer Mission Trip to McAllen, TX, June 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.** Students finishing 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us on this life-changing mission trip. The cost will be approximately \$350 per student. We do not want cost to be the reason you wouldn't go. Fundraising is underway and scholarships are available.

We will be working with different organizations that support immigrant families and those seeking citizenship. While Covid will keep us somewhat restricted, this will be a great opportunity to learn about immigration issues first hand and serve those who it affects. Please register on the church app if you are interested in going!

Please refer to the church website and church app under Student Ministries to stay up to date on upcoming events that could be added to the schedule. You can also follow us @Lifestumin on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for announcements. Text @lsminfo to 81010 for text updates!





# Countryside Kids



## KIDS TOWN IN MARCH

Illusionist's never reveal their secrets. That is because once we figure out the mechanics of how each illusion is performed, the act loses that "wow factor". Jesus, however, shares with us all the trade secrets of being in a relationship with God and serving the Kingdom of God. Oftentimes, it was through teaching with parables that these "secrets" were revealed. Kids will learn that: They can be part of something big, God will never stop loving them, God made us to do great things, and God forgives us!

## TIP OF THE MONTH

It can be pretty terrifying when your kid asks hard questions about God or life that you're not sure how to respond to. You might be tempted to give a quick answer or shut down the conversation, but here's a tip: instead of trying to give great answers, try asking great questions. Your job as a parent is less about telling your kid the right answers and more about journeying with them as they learn to ask great questions and discover new truths.

## PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR

*Ages 3 through Kindergarten*

**Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM**

Join us in Room 15 for an hour of reading, songs, and crafts. Parents/caregivers are welcome to join us or enjoy a coffee in the Cafe during this hour.

## SEWING MINISTRY



The sewing ministry resumed in February and they are designing and sewing a quilt that will be auctioned off to support the 5th Grade Mission Trip in August.

# CALENDAR

## MARCH

7 | Baptism Class @ 1:00 PM

28 | Baptism Service

7, 14, 21, 28 | Kids Town @ 10:00 AM

3, 10, 24, 31 | Kids Life @ 6:15 PM

3, 10, 24, 31 | Preschool Story Hour @ 10:00 AM  
(No Kids Life or Story Hour on March 17)

## APRIL

4-18 | T-Shirt Fundraiser for Preteen Mission Trip

## VBS

**June 1st-4th**



## SUMMER CAMP

**(3RD-6TH GRADE)**

**Early Bird Deadline**

**April 1st!**

If you need a scholarship or plan to use camp bucks please register through Amy, otherwise, you can register online ([www.cedars.org](http://www.cedars.org)). If you have questions, please contact Amy! If you have been a counselor at Covenant Kids Camp in the past and would love to counsel again this summer contact Amy!

**Entering 3rd-4th grade June 27 - 30**

**Entering 5th-6th grade June 20 - 25**



## BAPTISM CLASS

**March 7th @ 1:00 PM**

This class is for children (5th grade and younger) desiring to be baptized. Contact Amy to reserve a spot.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & APP

We post our emails that we send out weekly on our website and on our church app. So, instead of searching for that last email we sent, you can always head to those two places, and in just a couple of clicks you can have our most recent announcements and info at your fingertips!



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



**Rescheduled from February: Widow's Connection** will have a Service of Remembrance and Luncheon on Tuesday, March 2 at 10:30am, with lunch at

11:30am. **Please call the Church Office (241-4499) to UPDATE US and let us know you're coming and what you'd like to eat** (Fried Chicken or Lasagna). Men's Bible Study is providing our meal! Bring a picture of your spouse.



**As a Grandparent**, you have a unique spiritual influence on your grandchildren. Crescendo wants to help equip you for your role in the life of our grandkids by offering key learning experiences:

#### **Mini 4 week Grandparenting Bible study.**

This is a pilot study for our denomination to help test and critique their new materials. Several Crescendo leadership team members are committed, and we still have a few more spots available. We'll meet weekly at church beginning mid-March. Contact Lynn Black for more info, 755-7585.

**"Parenting Your Adult Child"** with Gordon Mohn meets at 10:15 am Sundays on Zoom. If you want to have a great relationship with your grandkids, you first need to have a great relationship with your adult children. It's not automatic. Gain new insights on how to navigate the often murky waters of these relationships. For more info, contact Gordon: 620-877-7728.

Gain tips and insights right in your e-mail in-box by visiting **Legacy Coalition's Website** and signing up for their newsletters, blogs, and webinars. Google "Legacy Coalition" or [Home - Legacy Coalition](#)



If **retirement** is around the corner or fresh in your experience, I'd like to introduce you to some tools that could help you in this most important and life-changing transition. **"Third Calling"** is a self-guided study that could serve to dynamically

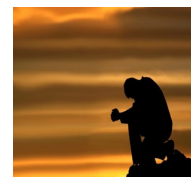
change the way you think about retirement, life, and your walk with God. We may start a small group of this study if we have interest. Contact Lynn Black for more information!



*"There is a fountain of youth. It is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap into this source, you will truly have defeated age."* Sophia Loren

**On your calendar... Crescendo: Tour of Little Jerusalem and Spiritual Retreat. April 16-17.** Leaving Friday morning and returning Saturday evening. Trip includes a personalized tour of the Little Jerusalem State Park, visits to historical churches in Northwest Kansas, and an opportunity for contemplative prayer and worship. Arrangements for lodging, travel and meals are pending. Total cost approximately \$50. To reserve a spot or for more information contact Gordon Mohn (620-877-7728) or Lynn Black at the church. More details to follow. **Deadline to register is March 22.**

[Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park](#) | [VisitOakleyKS](#)



**Serve this Spring and Summer:** McPherson Housing Coalition Tiny Cottages building project. Become involved in building affordable housing for the homeless in our community. Carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical, shopping for home goods, grunt work, etc. Contact Project Coordinator Don Bland: 620-334-0360.



**Save 'N Share** is looking for two co-managers to help run the store. These are paid positions. If anyone is interested, they can contact Jalayn Stieben at the store, 620-241-7389, or Vaughn Ingram, 620-241-7262.





## Church Life Update



### Birth:

**Addison Mae, born January 12 to Graham & Holly Yowell (correction from last month)**

### White Rose:

**Harper White**



### Brush Up Mac Coming this Spring/Summer

Many projects are always needing to be done, which may include yard work, cleaning and painting. Dates and times will be available as people are available to help. Applications for homeowners and volunteers are due by **March 15** and are available at the Information Center. Contact Chris Goodson, 620-241-7828 x 16, with any questions or for more information.



## Holy Week Calendar

### Palm Sunday, March 28

**Worship Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

Palm Sunday for all kids ... Please plan to arrive to the service of your choice a few minutes early. We will be handing out palm branches before each service and inviting the kids to process around the sanctuary during our opening songs. Look for Amy when you come in the lobby!

**Baptism Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

If you or a family member desires to be baptized, contact the Church Office. An informational meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24.

**Christian Formation Classes at 10:00 a.m.**

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

**Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.**

### Easter Sunday, April 4

**Worship Services at 8:45, 10:00 & 11:15 a.m.**

**No Christian Formation Classes**

**Easter Lilies...***If you wish to place a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, please write "Lily" on your Connection Card or call the Church Office no later than Wednesday, March 24. Cost is \$8 per lily. Please specify too the name(s) that your lily is in recognition of.*



## Thank You's

Countryside Staff and Leadership Team,  
Thanks for the Amazon gift card and Chamber Check. I plan to purchase some items for my classroom. I am especially grateful for your prayers for my 4th graders and me.  
Sincerely, Ann Koehn, Moundridge Middle School

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and text messages after my dad died unexpectedly (to us). To feel the encouragement from the gift cards for working in the school district and then the love shown after Dad died. It is good to feel the love and encouragement from the church family. I pray that I will do the same for those that need a card or a hug.

Sincerely, Tamara Gayer

Thank you to everyone who provided snacks for Kids Life! The kids always enjoy them! We are so blessed by your generosity!

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Love of Donuts Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Lifestumin student missions. We are overwhelmed by the response, we sold over 140 dozen donuts! The generosity of our church family is very much appreciated!

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

### Adult Christian Formation is in PERSON

10am Sundays. We're asking that people wear a mask if they cannot social distance in the hallways and classrooms.

- ◇ **"Next Steps"** for new members with the staff will be in Room 20 across from the nursery area.
- ◇ **"That the World May Know"** with Bob Williford will be in the Worship Center in the south seating area.
- ◇ **"Immerse"** with Kaufman/Rogers is in Rooms 16/18 across from the Café. *New topic after Immerse: Holy Spirit.*
- ◇ **"Precepts for Women, Studying the Bible in Chronological Order"** with LaJane Anderson is in Room 2 in the corner off of the gym.
- ◇ **"Developing Leaders"** with Houston/Wedel will be in Room 5, the parlor.
- ◇ **"Parenting Your Adult Child"** with Mohn's will still meet on Zoom at 10:15am due to Gordon's recovery from knee surgery. If you would like to join the class on Zoom, contact Gordon: 620-877-7728.
- ◇ **"Books of the Bible"** will not meet until fall 2021.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

### Greetings Church – What does it mean to live in community?

The early believers in Asia Minor found themselves in a very difficult situation. By becoming followers of Christ, they were adopting a world view that was counter cultural to the world in which they lived. Their culture, much like ours today, ascribed value to people based on wealth, beauty, accomplishments, and political/social status. It also pushed for individualism and self-sufficiency. The Christ-centered values of their newfound belief which focuses on servant leadership and caring for and supporting one another in community was vastly different than what the world told them. However, they flourished amidst hardship because of these Christ-centered values. They were there for each other, sharing in hardships, caring for each other in times of need and celebrating with each other in times of joy. The social and economic walls of their culture were broken down and they were living in community.

As we look at our current world, we see a lot of similarities in what our culture values – most especially the concept of individualism and self-sufficiency. This creates a cultural hurdle for our ability to live in community and has been exacerbated by the isolation we have all seen and experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we have been able to leverage modern technology to stay connected, that same technology could also allow us to exercise more individualism and self-sufficiency by connecting “virtually” and in a sense work against our ability to be there for each other.

As we are beginning to see some relaxation of the social distancing guidelines and are moving toward meeting “in-person” more fully, I would encourage all of us to remember what it means to live in community. Let us not allow the convenience of the technology we have so nicely leveraged to keep us connected, now hinder us from meeting together and fully exercising our spirit of community.

*Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Let us hold firm to the examples that Jesus gave us for putting the needs of others ahead of what is easy

or convenient for us as individuals. God does not call us to live as self-sufficient, but to be wholly dependent upon Him, loving and caring for one another. The world is watching us. May they see Jesus in how we respond to everything that comes our way.

In Christ's service,

Bob Williford



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

If you are a 20-something Young Professional and are interested in learning more about how to get involved with other 20-somethings for connection, Bible study, and community, contact Lynn Black (755-7585), Cynthia Wiard (620-200-1392), or Connor Gibson. A Bible study is forming using [Freedom in Christ Ministries, USA \(ficm.org\)](http://Freedom in Christ Ministries, USA (ficm.org))

### February 2021 Attendance-includes online

(Doesn't include Feb. 28)

	Christian Formation	Worship
January 31	—	512
February 7	—	485
February 14	—	387
February 21	159	588

### February 2021 Giving

(Doesn't include Feb. 28)

January 31	\$18,698.97
February 7	\$25,021.38
February 14	\$14,375.44
February 21	\$16,614.95
<b>Total Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$156,428.00</b>
<b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$29,448.40</b>

**Countryside Covenant Church**  
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McPherson KS 67460

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Your March Newsletter is here!!



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

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

Worship Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.  
Christian Formation Classes, 10:00 a.m.



### **MARCH EVENTS**

2	Widows Connection, Service of Remembrance
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Men's Coffee
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Celebrate Recovery
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Prayer Group
6, 13, 20, 27	Women's Coffee
7	Kids Baptism Class
9, 10, 23, 24	MOMs Care Groups
14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
16	Leadership Team Meeting
24	Baptism Informational Meeting
28	Palm Sunday/Baptism Services



### **Countryside Staff**

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant