



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 21, ISSUE 11
November 2022

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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Thankful Hearts or Grumbling Hearts -Pastor Jon Black

November 24th will soon be here and many of us will be gathering around tables to celebrate Thanksgiving with our loved ones. In my household some of our annual Thanksgiving traditions include carving up the turkey, enjoying a great meal, and expressing reasons for which are thankful. It is truly a special time of year.

But there is also one other annual tradition! It is the time once again that I have to drag out those blasted Christmas decorations and hang up the outside lights. And can anybody please remind me why so many bulbs are burned out on those lights?

It is about this time every year that the Spirit of God reminds me to:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Thess 5:16-18

Ugh!

Displaying hearts of gratitude can be challenging as we encounter life's difficulties and frustrations.

But God commands us to give thanks in all circumstances regardless. And if God commands this of us, we can know that he will also transform our hearts when we choose to obey.



I recently read a story about how quickly we can give into our sinful nature and resort to grumbling over giving thanks.

Back in 1988, a Polish railway worker named Jan Grzebski was hit by a train. He lived ... but only barely. For the next 19 years Grzebski was in a coma.

He awoke in 2007 to a whole new world. Nineteen years earlier, Poland was a communist state. Grzebski noted; "*Back then meat was rationed and there were huge lines at nearly every gas station. And there used to be only tea and vinegar in the shops.*"

But 19 years later, he awoke to a free nation where he said: "*There are so many people on the streets with cell phones and so many goods in the shops that it makes my head spin.*"

-continued on page 2



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“Thankful Hearts or Grumbling Hearts”

But something else puzzled him. *"What amazes me is all the people who walk around with their cell phones and yet they never stop complaining about things."*

These people had freedom, food, and wealth greater than Poland had had for decades ... and yet Grzebski woke from his coma to find that all they seemed to want to do was grumble!

If we don't get into the habit of thanking God for what we DO have, we will soon become ungrateful because of what we DON'T have.

God reminds us of what life will look like in the last days:

*People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, **ungrateful**, unholy. - 2 Tim 3:2*

But those who love God will be known by their hearts overflowing with gratitudeand not just during the Thanksgiving meal until they have to drag out the Christmas lights.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks **in all circumstances**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. - 1 Thess 5:16-18*



A huge **THANK YOU** to Mike Thompson for building and installing the new, beautiful bookcases in the library area! We appreciate it so much!

A special **THANK YOU** to Stan Neufeld, Ron Mork, Bob Andersen, Bruce Laude, Adrian Morales, Tim Kliwer, Dan Kliwer, Doug Johnson, Darrell Arthaud, Dee Scherich, Frank Anderson, James Anderson, Michael Brunk, Amy Brunk, Aaron Roberts and Duane Becker for the hours they have spent disassembling the old playground equipment and installing the new equipment! Stan has also spent hours researching, planning and preparing for the installation as well as the ground cover that will be under the equipment. The removal of the tape and "playground closed" signs will signal when the equipment can be used.

Dear Countryside Covenant Church,
Thank you for helping us build our playground!
We are going to have so much fun on the climbing wall and in the tunnel! A special thank you to Stan Neufeld and Amy Brunk!

Love, Playhouse Kids Childcare
Kim Koehn, Brittani Golden, Heidi Allen

Countryside Covenant,
Thank you for your generous support to camp.
God abundantly multiplies each gift you have graciously given. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer as the Lord continues to work here at camp.

With many thanks, Covenant Cedars

Church family,
Thank you for your prayers, support, meals, and love you've given for our family through our time fostering and our adoption. You have rejoiced with us and cried with us and sent many prayers on our behalf. We are grateful for each of you!

Love, James & Courtney Bohnenblust & family

Jeff and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the prayers, calls, texts and visits while he was in the hospital. It was a very stressful time, but I certainly felt the prayers and support while I was sitting and waiting for him to wake up. God was certainly right there with both of us. So many prayers were answered! Thanks be to God. It is truly amazing to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Thank you! Jeff & Chris McMannis



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

Kansas City Missions Trip to Freedom Fire Covenant Church and its urban ministries. Come for all or part of this adventure Nov.10-15 with Pastor Jon and others. Projects range from manual labor (yard work, cleaning, fixing things, H-vac maintenance) to ministry with children (games, conversation, meal prep) to homeless shelter work (serve meal, clean up a homeless camp, attend homeless worship service).

Make a difference by serving people. Your expense: hotel and some meals. RSVP to Cynthia Wiard (620) 200-1392. Scholarships available.



Deck the Halls Service Project, Sunday, November 20 at 6:00 pm.

We come to church that first Sunday of Advent and think that little elves must have magically appeared to decorate the sanctuary trees and hallways for Christmas! Generous hearts and busy hands beautify our worship spaces at Countryside. Please come and share in the fun while serving your church family. Bring a friend, a grandchild, or your entire life group! Holiday snacks provided. Questions? Ask Connor Gibson.

Sun. Nov. 20, 6:00pm

**DECK
THE
HALLS**



Crescendo Christmas around the World, Monday, December 5, 6:00pm - 8:30pm. Share your family heritage by bringing a food from your family's ethnic holiday traditions. We'll

stamp our passport and "travel" from country to country. We'll also participate in a Mac holiday tradition by riding the trolley to see Christmas lights around town. Put this on your calendar and start perusing your family recipe book!

Our most precious commodity is not silver or gold, nor is it stocks or our home. It's time! How are we spending what time we have here on earth? What does God think about how we spend our time? Certainly our time is in God's hands!

The older we get, the more precious time becomes. We realize we may have precious little left compared to the first half of our lives. How would God have us fill our remaining time?

A look at Jesus's last three years of His life points us toward the answer.

Reading through the gospels we see that Jesus went from town to town, declaring that "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" Then he healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, and shared the Good News of the Gospel with everyone who would listen. As His story unfolds, we become keenly aware of how Jesus lives His life in the service of others. From sun up to long after it's gone down, he exhausts each day on behalf of those who need Him. And He trained His disciples to do the same. This is His Father's mission for Him and Jesus's distinct calling to us as His disciples.

Do I reach the end of each day feeling "spent" in service to others? Have I done the good that my good God has asked me to do? Do I bear the image of Christ to my fellow employees, neighbors, and family members by serving them? Jesus said that for me to have true life, I have to give mine away as He did. To hoard it, save it up, fritter it, or "manage" it, often makes me unavailable to pursue God's calling on my life. One glance at my calendar will show my priorities.

Who will you serve today? "For you are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that you should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10) Start by serving with Crescendo this month!



Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

- * **Tuesday, November 1, 9:30am, Monthly Meeting in Room 5.**
- * **Saturday, November 26, 11:30am, in the Café.**

Contact Judy Blaine, 360-355-0943, for more info.

November Youth Schedule:

2 | Youth Group

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School

8 – 9:30 pm | High School

4-6 | Middle School Fall Retreat at Covenant Cedars

9 | Youth Group

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School

8 – 9:30 pm | High School

16 | Youth Group

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School

8 – 9:30 pm | High School

18-20 | High School Fall Retreat at Covenant Cedars

23 | NO YOUTH GROUP – Happy Thanksgiving

30 | 7–9 pm Cloverton Christmas Concert – No Youth Group

All students and families are encouraged to attend.

Looking Ahead:

Life Student Ministry will meet December 7th & 14. Please check out Student Ministries on the church app or website for upcoming service opportunities in December!

Watch For Upcoming Events:

Please refer to the church app or website under Student Ministries to stay informed on upcoming events. You can also follow us @Lifestumin on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for announcements.

Band APP:

Scan the QR to download the app and get all the latest updates about each specific group:



Life Student Ministry H.S. Youth Group

Scan this QR code and join!



Lifestumin M.S. Youth Group

Scan this QR code and join!



Happs @ Applebee's



FCA Fields of Faith - Over 200 McPherson County students gathered at Grant Sports Complex on October 5th for fellowship, worship led by Connor Gibson, and a great message from Abby Walker. Many students from Country-side including Keanna Sullivan, Reanna Eilrich, & Aislyn Soukup were part of the leadership that made this event happen!



Church APP QR code:



Volunteers Needed:

We are still in need of volunteers for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. It can be as simple as greeting at the sign-in table, leading a game or teaching a class on Sunday morning. If you have a heart for teenagers and would like to serve, please contact Kelly.

Covenant World Relief & Development
Sunday, November 20, 2022

Covenant World Relief & Development (CWRD) is the Evangelical Covenant Church at work in the world. Through CWRD, Covenanters participate in God's transforming mission.

Immediate response to disasters is vital to save lives and facilitate recovery. For more than 65 years, CWRD has been the Covenant's response to human suffering and injustice in the world. "We work through partnerships with Covenant and Covenant-connected organizations. These partners are experts in their communities. They are best equipped to work together with local leaders in long-term development and to respond immediately to disasters."

Covenant World Relief & Development exists because of the generosity of Covenant churches and individuals.

You can be involved with CWRD in several meaningful ways:

- **Stay connected** using their website, <https://covchurch.org/cwr/> Facebook, and Twitter.
- **Pray** for transformation around the world, in our neighborhoods, and in our own lives.
- **Give** locally, give online at www.covchurch.org or by mail.

We as a church will take a special offering for CWRD on Sunday, November 20.



In just a few months, the **Oak Harbor Cottages** have become a safety net and a safe harbor for those in need. A place to seek refuge for a family who has nowhere to go or no one to turn to in their time of need. We have witnessed families thriving and finding peace when they are given tangible gifts, surrounded by services, and wrapped in God's love. This has happened because of the overwhelming support the Cottages have received from the community. Your assistance has allowed us to build and furnish homes, move materials, pray over the property, and connect families to essential resources. In addition, residents have received food from the food bank, handmade quilts, educational opportunities for growth, health services, specialized advocacy, and legal services. This additional support has made all the difference in the lives of the children within the complex. They can see in a very tangible way how much they are loved by those around them. We are so thankful for your support and that those in the cottages have received the help they need in a way that truly represents God's love for all of us.

As we move into the holidays, I often reflect on the many seasons I have spent with my family. We celebrate around a table so full of food we could feed the entire city. Yet, my story could have been different if God had not pursued me when I was young. Looking back, He sent people who not only shared His love but also provided tangible gifts such as a meal, a bed, or an opportunity. I want to be the person who uses God's gifts to help those around me.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Blessings,
 Chris Goodson



women's ministry



As I write this, we are receiving a much, much needed rain! Thank you, God! Isn't He good?

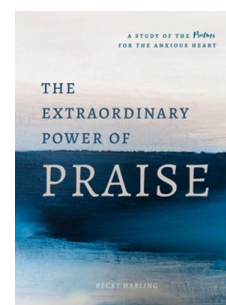
Talking about how good He is, 15 women from Countryside attended the Women's Fall Retreat that was held at Cross Wind Conference Center near Hesston. Not only did we experience beautiful weather, sweet fellowship, but also a great time learning about God's WonderFULL World. We explored God's love and wonder as we embarked on a travel-adventure theme that took us on a virtual journey around the world. Various Bible stories helped us uncover answers to some of our biggest wonders about God, like "I wonder where God is when life is hard?"

Upcoming events for us include organizing the donated items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. Children's ministry is hosting a packing party for children who attend Kids Life and their parents on **Wednesday, November 2** and our ministry team will provide helping hands at the party.



On **Monday, November 28**, we will usher in the season of Advent when we host **A Woman's Night of Worship in the Worship Center at 7 p. m.** where we will enter a worshipful, intimate environment. In the quietness of *Simply Still, Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas*, there will be opportunity to embrace God's heart and mission; the beauty of the decorations will cause us to restore a fresh wonder of the gift of God's grace and the impact of the sixty minutes spent alone with God without distractions will rekindle a gospel love that bursts to live out the true meaning of Christmas. Make plans now to attend this evening of being still before the Lord!

I also want to extend an invitation to you to join the new Thursday Bible study that begins **November 3 at 7 p.m. in Room 20**. This 6-week study looks to Psalm 94:19 "when anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy!" *The Extraordinary Power of Praise* will help you put into practice the two-step process for soothing an anxious heart: finding joy to replace anxiety and learning to pour out our hearts to God in praise. Each day includes studying a Psalm, thought provoking questions, and short morning and evening prayers. You'll also find suggested praise songs and prayer journaling prompts to help you engage more deeply with God. As you meditate on the Psalms throughout this study, you'll experience the genuine joy of God's presence, develop a positive outlook in the midst of the world's stress, and find victory over fear and anxiety. Call the Church Office, 620.241.4499, to reserve a spot and a book today!



Linda



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK
November 14-21, 2022

McPherson Drop-Off Center:
Countryside Covenant Church
940 E. Northview
McPherson, KS 67460

Hours

Monday, November 14, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 15, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 17, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, November 18, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m. – Noon
Sunday, November 20, Noon – 4 p.m.
Monday, November 21, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

CONTACT: Mary Bohnenblust. 620-755-4134. dmbohnenblust@gmail.com



Countryside Kids



OCC Packing Party
November 2nd
7:00-7:30
 Parents are invited
 during this time to pack
 a shoebox with their
 child in the gym.

NOV. 30

CLOVERTON CONCERT

No Kids Life



NOVEMBER

2	Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
2	OCC Packing Party 7-7:30 PM
6	Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
9	Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
13	Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
16	Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
20	Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
23	No Kids Life
27	Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
30	No Kids Life Cloverton Concert

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP!

December 4 | Christmas Caroling (notice we will be doing on Sunday this year!)

December 18 | Children singing during Sunday Worship Service

CAROLING & COCOA

Please join us for this annual event! This event will look a little different than it has in the past but will have the same caroling fun and yummy hot cocoa! Instead of everyone going out at once this year we will have several times that you can sign up to go caroling from 5:30-8:00. We will have the caroling locations planned for you and the McPherson Trolley will take each group to the different locations throughout the evening. You will be able to go online (www.csidecov.com) and sign up for a time for you and your family or group! Sometimes the evening can get late for small children so hopefully, the earlier times will help with that! You can come for hot cocoa and cookies before or after you are signed up for caroling.



KIDS TOWN IN NOVEMBER

Kids love to be in the kitchen. They may even love helping prepare something delicious! Having a plan or a recipe usually helps, too. Just like having a plan in the kitchen helps the meal we hope to enjoy, the stories of the Old Testament prophets are like a cookbook that helped people prepare for the Savior that God would send one day. Even though there's no exact recipe, kids will find that they can prepare themselves for a loving relationship with God when they trust God, talk to God, listen to God, and leave the results to God. *Check out the timeline below to see where we have been this year and where we are going!*



Psalms/Proverbs > Job > **Prophets** > Christmas > Jesus' Early Life & Ministry > Jesus' Teachings > Jesus' Ministry > Easter > Early Church

Cloverton is coming back to Countryside!

**Wednesday, November 30,
7:00pm**

Cloverton is a Christian music band that began performing together at a Manhattan, Kansas church. They propelled on to the Christian music scene in 2011 as the first ever ROCK THE CAMP contest winners hosted by TobyMac and Camp Electric. Soon after receiving this prestigious honor, Cloverton scored the #1 most downloaded song in the history of KLOVE radio for their first single "Take Me into the Beautiful," which also charted at #12 on the overall Christian Billboard top 25. They followed up that effort with an unforgettable Christmas rendition of Leonard Cohen's song "Hallelujah," reaching millions of viewers on YouTube in just weeks while climbing to the #1 slot on iTunes.

Cloverton continues to pave a new way for independent Christian music, and we are so excited to have them back!



COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

A CLOVERTON CHRISTMAS

TOUR

WED, NOV 30
7PM

COUNTRYSIDE COVENANT CHURCH

940 E NORTHVIEW MCKPHERSON, KS

FREE ADMISSION
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM. ALL SEATING
GENERAL ADMISSION. FOR MORE
DETAILS AND INFO VISIT
CLOVERTONMUSIC.COM



Save 'N Share sells clean gently used clothing in sizes from baby to adult.

They also sell shoes, toys, stuffed animals, books, luggage, small appliances, small furniture and a large variety of household items – plus a large selection of seasonal decorations! All profits from the sale of items are used by Churches United in Ministry (CUM) for assistance projects in McPherson County. Since September 16 CUM has assisted 176 households consisting of 460 individuals. - Linda Andersen



Leadership Team UPDATE

Last month I expressed thankfulness that Christian Formation classes had begun. I am equally thankful that life groups have resumed. These “subsets” of our congregation invite fellowship, time to share and grow together, and give us one mechanism for encouragement and accountability among the greater fellowship that is Countryside. I believe our life groups are one of many ways we can “grow in the grace and the truth of Jesus Christ as we worship, disciple, serve and multiply.”

This month Leadership Team allocated some of our Faith Funds. We gave generously to the following ministries: the radio station KJIL, the McPherson Thanksgiving Community dinner, and the cost of the Claverton Concert planned for November 30 at Countryside (free admission). It is a privilege to have these Faith Funds to use to bless ministry and missions beyond budget line items – thank you for your generosity.

Our Adult Ministries Director has formally been a part-time position, but responsibilities have been updated and the position is now a full-time position for Pastor Lynn Black. This may not look too different from last month or last year – we had temporarily increased the hours for this position during Pastor Jeremy’s deployment, subsequently hours were similarly extended during Pastor Jon’s sabbatical, and finally due to additional responsibilities that had been added, this position had continued until now with authorized extended hours. So this “change” to full-time is an outcome of our discerned church needs.

The Harvest Festival, which includes our annual Special Meeting for presentation and approval of the budget, is November 20. After the celebratory noon meal, please plan to stay for this all-church meeting wherein we will have time to reflect, share and give God thanks both for his goodness this past year and also for his love for us – love so great that he sent his only Son Jesus Christ into the world as our Savior. While weather, politics, and many worldly concerns may press in on us, we focus on obedience to God, and we can rest in peace knowing God is in control and God is good.

Mark Wurm, Church Chairman

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS

Worship Services

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Christian Formation - 10:00 a.m.

Potluck Dinner - 12 Noon

Business Meeting - 1 p.m.

Potluck Dinner - If your last name is A-L, please bring a pie or dessert. M-Z, please bring a crockpot of soup. Salad will also be served.

Church Life Update

Birth:

Eliana (Elly) Ruth, daughter of Alex & Emily Wuest, born October 21.



October 2022 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
October 2	226	576
October 9	228	566
October 16	173	559
October 23	192	548

October 2022 Giving

October 2	\$21,737.15
October 9	\$20,485.57
October 16	\$18,759.66
October 23	\$16,558.33
Total Y-to-D	\$949,098.55
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	-\$79,181.74

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

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Your November 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, 10:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER EVENTS (see enclosed calendar for full list of events)

1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Men's Coffee
1	Widows Connection
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Celebrate Recovery
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Time of Prayer
2	OCC Kids Packing Party
4-6	Middle School Fall Retreat
5, 12, 19, 26	Women's Coffee Connection
8	MOMs Group
8	Leadership Team Meeting
10-15	Mission Trip to Kansas City
11	Crescendo to Mark Lowry Concert
13-19	Mission Trip to Mississippi
14-21	Operation Christmas Child Box Dropoff
18-20	High School Fall Retreat
20	Harvest Festival & Business Meeting
24 & 25	Happy Thanksgiving!/Church Office Closed
28	Sew & Share
28	Women's Christmas Event
30	Cloverton Concert

Give
THANKS
to the Lord
PSALM 106:1

Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Lead

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate

Pastor Lynn Black, Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant