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UNTRYSIDE

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

- Worship
 - Disciple

Serve

Multiply

People of Wisdom

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a very old carol, dating as far back as the 1500s. According to church tradition, the Christmas celebration lasted twelve days, beginning on Christmas Day, December 25, and extending to Epiphany, the traditional date for the visit of the Magi.

> My "True Love" in the song refers to God. Thus, each of the following gifts are to be understood as gifts from God.

- 1. The partridge in a pear tree refers to Jesus Christ on the cross.
- 2. The two turtle doves refer to the Old and New Testaments.
- 3. The three French hens stand for faith, hope and love, which are the primary virtues taught in the New Testament.
- 4. The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- 5. The five gold rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, which is called the Pentateuch.
- 6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
- 7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, exhortation, teaching, contribution, leadership, and mercy.
- 8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- 9. The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy,

- Pastor Jon Black

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



- 10. The ten lords a-leaping stand for the Ten Commandments.
 - 11. The eleven pipers piping represent the 11 faithful disciples.
 - 12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 "We believes" from the Apostle's Creed. Source - (Sharefaith Magazine).

It is vitally important to attain the knowledge of God and to learn about His Word. But we can be filled with a boatload of knowledge and still be lacking in wisdom. Wisdom is different from knowledge in that wisdom is applied knowledge.

The religious leaders who served in King Herod's court in Jerusalem possessed great amounts of knowledge. They were able to successfully pinpoint to Herod the exact time the star of the Messiah had appeared.

Matt 2:4 - When he [King Herod] had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people, Israel."

- continued on page 6

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1 January 2023

Ministry to Women

As I write this article for the January issue of The Pulse, I'm looking out the window from my desk at home and I see a backyard covered with white snow and the sun shining and everything looking calm and peaceful. As I reflected on that serene scene, I was reminded of that still quiet night of long ago when Jesus was born. What a beautiful picture of God's care and love for you and me! I've needed encouragement in both my soul and spirit of both of those as these last few months have been rough as Don recovered from hip surgery along with some other personal things that have needed our attention.



Saturday, January 7, all women are invited to Flannels, Flapjacks and Favorite Things! Lisa Bouray is coordinating this "special event" as we meet in the gym at 8:30 that

morning. You are encouraged to wear your flannel pjs or shirt and bring a wrapped favorite thing! We'll exchange those favorite things as we share why it's our favorite. Please RSVP to Lisa at 620.755.3072 if you plan to attend.

Two new Bible studies kick off this month as well!



A study of *Galatians* on Wednesday nights will be facilitated by Bobbie Kaufman. Paul's words found in Galatians serve as an encouragement to pursue a life of holiness, not in our own strength but in the knowledge of God's empowering grace in our lives. And the only thing you will need for this study is your Bible! Be sure to let Bobbie know that you will be a part of the group by calling her at 620.755.2278. They will begin on January 11 in Room 19 at 6:15 p.m.



The other new study begins on **Thursday**, **January 12 at 7 p.m. in Room 20.** *Prayers and Promises of the Bible* will be a 10-week study of looking closely at the many prayers and promises found in the Bible. It will provide you with the historical and scriptural context to gain a fuller understanding of what was going on and why when each prayer or promise was spoken. You'll also find a personal application for each prayer and promise, a way of making it relevant to the life you live. Contact Linda Totman at 620.755.2060 to reserve a book. Women Ministries Team has scheduled a one-day retreat to help us focus on where God is leading us as we care and love on women in our church family and community. Please share with any of our team members what you would like us to consider. We also covet your prayers for us on Saturday, January 14 and even before for God's guidance and direction.

Join us for **A Woman's Night of Service** that will be held on **Monday, January 30.** We'll meet in the Student Center at 7:00 p.m. to assemble items for care packages that will be distributed to the homeless in our community by the McPherson Police Department. Not all of the details are finalized but we know that this is something that we can do to show God's love and care to others.

Back to that care and love that God gives us ... Yes, I know that God loves me and cares for me because I have a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus! And I desire that my relationship with Him is one that not only glorifies Him in my worship, but in my day-to-day life as well. In her book, Disciple Her, author Kandi Gallaty writes, "D-groups (Discipleship Groups) are groups of 3-5 women that meet weekly for 12-18 months. Together they read the Bible, journal, pray, memorize scripture, and share their testimonies, all with the intention and expectation that those in the group will lead a new group at the end of their time together." Is a discipleship relationship something that you want to engage in during the new year? If so or even if you aren't sure, please have a conversation with Linda to find out more about the possibilities.

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! – Psalm 145:8-10. I'm reminding myself of that daily and I hope it brings you encouragement too!

Linda Totman for the Women Ministries Team ... Lizzy Butterfield, Carri Carlson, Crissy Cooks, Jen Hartley, Kris Lambertus, Barbara Lowe, Juliana Meador, Val Mork, Cindy Pressnall, and Dani Waltner

Sew & Share, Monday, January 30, 9:00 a.m. We will gather to sew projects and have fellowship

together! We will meet in **Room 5.** Feel free to come and go as you wish. Contact Shirlee Harper, 620-755-1205 with any questions.



Countryside Kids



Head to the church website or church app to RSVP for this event and to see how you can help!

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2023 VBS!



June 5th - June 9th 9:00 a.m. - Noon Ages 4 - 5th Grade

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

To kick off a new year we will be hosting a family game night! Our schedule for the evening includes a meal, board games, and bingo!

- Walking Tacos served from 5:30 7:30 p.m. (\$3/adult and \$2/child)
- Board games feel free to bring your favorite board games to share! We will also have some available for you to play!
- Bingo Bingo will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will go until all of the prizes are gone.

We will need some extra hands in the kitchen throughout the evening. Please check the sign-up online to see how you can help!



JANUARY

- 1 No Kids Town (11:00 Worship Service Only)
- 4 Family Game Night (No Kids Life)
- 8 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM Resumes
- 11 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM Resumes
- 15 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 18 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
- 22 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 25 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
- 29 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY

22 Ash Wednesday Service (No Kids Life)

Kids Praise will be offered during both services beginning January 8!



KIDS TOWN IN JANUARY

Museums have the unique ability to transform learning! Instead of merely reading words on a page, we can experience them through all of our senses! A Day at the Museum is a series all about helping kids interact with the stories of Jesus and connecting them to God. Jesus' life and early ministry helps all of us experience (see, hear . . . even taste!) and follow God in new, tangible, and real ways.

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



VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1



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

We want to live into well-rounded discipleship as Jesus followers. We seek to grow spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, while serving in community.

Where are you currently serving Christ in our community? Email Lynn Black and let her know so that we can share where the opportunities exist!

Your Crescendo leadership team includes Jon and Lynn Black, Reba Becker, Phil and Jeri Brooks, Paul and Jolene Czosnowski, and Pat Shaft. Interested? We'll tell you how much fun we're having!



Crescendo had a Merry Christmas Tour! Stops included Tanzania, Mexico, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Japan, and Germany where we learned how each country uniquely celebrates Christmas. I believe we proved that Countryside has some of the best cooks in the world as we sampled dishes from people's ethnic heritages!

The Mac Trolley took us around to see the lights of Mac, reminding us that this Christmas we worship the Light of the World, Jesus Christ!

Upcoming Crescendo Opportunities:

K-State Women's Basketball vs. TCU (Texas Christian), Sat. Jan. 21, 6:30 pm game, leave church at 4:30pm. Tickets \$12 and \$5 for van ride. RSVP to the church office by Jan. 15.



Mac College Auto Restoration Tour

Sat. Feb. 4 at 10:00 am. Meet at the college; **RSVP** to church office, limit

40. Contact Lynn if you own an older car and would be willing to take others on a joy ride afterwards.

Hymn Sing and Chili Supper

Sun. Feb. 19 at 4:00pm. Contact Lynn Black to RSVP or help bring chili/ cinnamon rolls.



March: CovTalk on Poverty in McPherson County.

Have your eyes opened to the number of children who "couch surf" each evening at a friend's house, women living in their cars, and all of the unexpected life circumstances that create havoc in housing. We'll have a panel of McPhersonites who work with the homeless population regularly and find out what help exists for people who need a hand up. Learn how you can become involved. Watch for the event date!!

Widow's Connection meets each month for support, community and growth. January we will gather at Lynn Black's home Tues. Jan. 17th at 11:00 a.m. for a New Year's Tea. Call the church office if you'd like to receive the Widow's Connection monthly letter.

At our Christmas party, Judy "Garland" gave us a visit and handed out candy canes!



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<u>January</u>

4 | Youth Group

5:30 – 7:30 pm | All Church Event – Families encouraged to attend

8 – 9:30 pm | High School Youth Group

11 | Covenant Cedars Camp Preview Night & Pizza Party

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School 8 – 9:30 pm | High School

15 | 9 pm – High School to HAPPS @ Applebee's

18 | Youth Group

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School 8 – 9:30 pm | High School

25 | Youth Group

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School 8 – 9:30 pm | High School

THANK YOU to all who supported our Yoder Snack Stick and Cinnamon/ Sugar Roasted Almond fundraiser, we truly appreciate each of you! The money raised will be used towards covering the cost for students on our summer mission trip! Special thanks to Jim & Lori VanGoethem for donating the almonds and supporting the youth at Countryside.

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 in youth ministry or mentor a student one on one, please contact Kelly.

Camp Counselors Needed

Parents and adults are needed as Camp Counselors at Covenant Cedars this summer! Camp is encouraging each church to send volunteer counselors to be with our students this summer! This is one of the best ways to ensure proper safety and meaningful discipleship - by having capable and faithful leaders to walk with them in their faith journey! Talk to Kelly if you are interested in investing in our students for one week at camp!

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.

Church APP QR code:

Band APP: Scan the QR to download the app and get all the latest updates about each specific group. Middle School: High School:





Life Student Ministry H.S Youth Group Scan this QR code and join!



Middle School Christmas Party





High School Christmas Party





"People of Wisdom" - continued from page 1

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

The chief priests and teachers of the law possessed knowledge without wisdom. They apparently felt satisfied enough in their lives: (their status, comfort, and prosperity), that they had no real need to seek after the promised Messiah.

> **Ps 10:4 -** 'In their pride the wicked do not seek him; in all their thoughts there is no room for God."

We will be celebrating Epiphany on **Sunday January 8, 2023,** (which is the closest Sunday from the 12th day after Christmas). I pray that we will become people of wisdom, and not just knowledge, as we together actively seek after Christ.

Thank you for making Countryside your church home and church family where we pursue Christ and His priorities through our worship, discipleship, service and multiplication. May God bless us as we seek Him in 2023.



Adult Christian Formation resumes along with children and students on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Which CF Class	No homework.
should I go to?	Reading Expected.
Ŕ	Homework expected.
CLASSES OFFERE	D SUNDAYS 10:00 AM
the Evangelical Covenant Churc	b. 12), Room 3. An opportunity to meet others new t our church, its ministries, and our denomination, h. Discover your spiritual gifts and consider how Goo m work. A pre-requisite for membership and leader
That the World May Know, I text to the cultural, political places in the Bible. Topics: The L of the Messiah, and The Early Ch	Room 20. DVD series on the Holy Land. Provides con- , and religious landscapes related to the people and ife & Ministry of the Messiah, Death and Resurrectio nurch. These volumes give understanding to timing of pact he has on God's plan of redemption. (Williford)
children in faith-based conv scripture and talk about how to	estament, Room 16-18. Join other parents of your versations. Get to know each other as you study apply the Bible to your family's latest challenges. what it means to be a life-long learner of Jesus.
pre-reading weekly through Then process, compare, and cor	rse yourself in the big picture of the gospel story by h the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. ntrast them to the gospel of John with a lively volley nged to go deeper in your walk with Jesus. And bring Rogers)
fascinating stories, amazing tions as you converse through L	n 19. Ever wonder about the Old Testament's many g characters, and quirky commands? Ask your ques- eviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and amuel. Learn <i>how</i> to study the Bible <i>as you study</i> it lerson)
fascinating stories, amazing tions as you converse through L Old Testament history in First Sa with other women. (LaJane And Contemporation (LaJane And Contemporation) Self-view, your decisions, even y rect your misperceptions of Wh on life. Through pre-reading, jou Ingram, we will learn specific wa	g characters, and quirky commands? Ask your ques- .eviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and amuel. Learn <i>how</i> to study the Bible <i>as you study</i> it

As one year closes and we enter the next, we cannot help but reflect on all that has happened in the last twelve months. Reflection propels us forward, allowing us to see where we've been and where we're headed. It shines a light on our successes and areas needing improvement. We've learned a lot along the way and have had to be flexible as adjustments were needed. In reflecting, we're amazed to see what God has done. He's provided all along, even when we were uncertain.

- 50 families received housing and utility assistance
- 30 seniors received help with yard work and minor home repairs
- 6 cottages were funded and constructed by the church family
- 200 people were given resources or referrals

In 2023 we hope to complete the last four cottages, start construction of the permanent supportive housing project, continue ministering to families in need, provide resources to those experiencing housing instability, and provide education and information to the community on poverty and the lack of housing options.

We are thankful for all that has happened and excited for all that is to come. McPherson Housing Coalition continues to take heart in all the support we have received from our community and, ultimately, the strength and guidance God gives us each day.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Chris Goodson



It is with much gratitude that we thank you, our church family, for the gifts that you gave us this Christmas season...financial gifts, goodies, prayers, time spent in conversation...every act of love was such a blessing to us! We truly appreciate you all!!

-The Church Staff

Thank You's

Dear Countryside,

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant you sent for Shari's service. It really meant a lot! Also, thank you all for your many prayers for her and the family over the years. We definitely felt them! -The family of Shari (Goering) Henson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your care and help during this difficult time of losing Caleb. Words cannot express how much we appreciate the church wrapping its arms around us. We felt that love and compassion in the service, the meal, and in each encounter. We know that we have been in your hearts and prayers. Thank you so much.

-Brenda Newberry & Deb Steel

Thank you to everyone who helped serve and those who provided a salad, side dish, or dessert at Caleb Newberry's funeral. You are all very much appreciated. Without your help, this ministry would not be possible.

-Aleasha Allen

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all you've done for the Operation Christmas Child Drive this year! There were many who volunteered their time as sorters, inventory-ists, packers, helping hands, box folders, and more. Thank you for your service! Thank you also to each of you who gave. Our church was able to hold a successful packing party because of your generosity. A special thanks to the grade school kids and teachers in Kids Life, who packed boxes during their game time. And for the high school students who packed boxes before their regular activities. Together they packed 182 shoebox gifts! Those gifts and the service and generosity of our church have been a huge blessing, and will reach many children with the Gospel.

-Dani Waltner

Dear Church Family:

Once again you all have played a big part in helping spread the gospel to children around the world through participation in the Operation Christmas Child ministry. Our church family generously granted the use of the building as the area Drop-Off Center, as well as donated items, packed shoeboxes, and served in the Drop-Off Center. THANK YOU!:) Countryside donated items for, and packed 206 boxes, and our community dropped off an additional 2,258 shoeboxes for a total of 2,464 shoeboxes collected at the McPherson Drop-Off Center! Praise the Lord for those gospel opportunities and to God be all the glory!:)

-Mary Bohnenblust, Drop-Off Center Leader





Annual Business Meeting & Potluck lunch Sunday, January 29, 12 Noon

Please bring a crockpot of soup if your last name begins with A-M. If your last name is N-Z, please bring a pie/dessert. Drinks will be provided.

Annual report books will be complete by Sunday, January 22. Election of officers and Leadership Team members is on the agenda. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

We're trying to gage interest in connecting young marrieds! If you were married in the last few years, no kids yet, and want to connect regularly with other couples over casual dinner and Bible study, contact either Pastor Jon or Lynn Black.



together 2023 February 10-12, 2023 Marriage Retreat @ Covenant Cedars Bible Camp



You're invited to a weekend of romance, adventure, learning, and fun without the

distractions from everyday life. Together, you and your spouse will be encouraged together to pursue passion, vision, and mission in your marriage so that you can say, "yes" to God in your relationship. Sign up to draw closer to one another as you draw closer to Him.

Price \$250 per couple - includes meals, lodging, sessions, and activities (Note: \$50 non-refundable deposit must be sent with your registration). Register by February 1st. Brochures are available at the Information Center.

Contact Lynn Black if interested.



COUNTRYSIDE'S CANCELLATION POLICY: It is that Countryside Covenant Church follows the

decisions of USD 418 regarding inclement weather made during the school week. If schools are cancelled in McPherson due to snow or other weather conditions, activities are not held at Countryside Covenant Church. If inclement weather happens on a Saturday or Sunday, the leadership of Countryside will make a decision regarding cancellation of services. Cancellation notices are posted on tv stations KSN, KAKE, KWCH, 98.9 KMCP Radio as well as the church's website <u>www.csidecov.com</u> and Facebook page @csidecov.





Happy New Year! In the last part of Joshua 24:15, Joshua states "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We invite you to attend the Countryside Covenant Church annual business meeting on January 29. The annual report will be compiled and available, which includes written reports from church staff and each ministry team and the church's financial reports. Vision for 2023 onward will be shared by the Leadership Team, pastors and staff: this effectively constitutes "annual mission and ministry objectives." Per our church constitution and/or bylaws there will be two spots requiring election for the nine-member Leadership Team, along with election of officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Financial Officer.

For those who were at the November Harvest Festival annual special meeting (the second required all church meeting of each year, with a purpose of celebration and approving a budget), I read page two of our constitution - I did this primarily to share that we do have a thought out and purposeful structure for our governance. Ministry teams implement the varied ministries of the church, with the Leadership Team carrying general administration and spiritual oversight as in 1 Tim. 3:8-13. I affirm that CCC follows scriptures as the only perfect rule; I differentiate that our constitution and by-laws are not set in stone and can be amended as required. Amendments can be adopted by 2/3 vote of the congregation, but they do have to have been presented at a prior meeting (there are further constraints but my point is these documents can be changed - with due process which includes "settling time.") For questions or suggested changes please talk to any of us on LT or staff.

As I shared at the November all church meeting, our Constitution Article IV Section 1 states that our purpose "is to glorify God by growing in Christ and His Word, fellowshipping with one another and revealing Christ to the world; to be a church in which Christ is presented according to scripture in a creative, relevant and caring environment of love, acceptance, and forgiveness, where people under the guidance of the Holy Spirit can come to salvation and reach their full potential in Christ." To this end, we frequently make reference to our discerned mission statement "We are growing in the Grace and Truth of Jesus Christ through Worship, Discipleship, Service and Multiplication."

We must be committed to our purpose as a church and individually. Joshua 24:22-24, "Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.' And the people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey." Toward the end of the chapter after the death of Joshua is recorded, we get a picture of how we desire for things to look in our relationship with God. Joshua 24:31, "Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel." We continually seek and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace as we serve our Lord, Jesus Christ, who we know is God as affirmed in John 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Let us give God all glory and praise!

Mark Wurm, Church Chairman

December 2022 Attendance (includes online)		
I	Christian Formation	Worship
December 4	186	557
December 11	183	544
December 18	175	648
December 24	—	754
December 25	—	382
December 2022 Giving		
December 4		30,838.68
December 11		17,586.39
December 18		52,645.10
December 25		45,382.46
Total Y-to-D		\$1,229,266.97
Giving vs Expense:		-\$11,502.63 (includes \$96,000 set side for capital projects)
•		

A detailed accounting of these funds can be provided upon request and they will also be included in the annual report booklet published in January. Countryside Covenant Church PO Box 765, 940 E. Northview Ave. McPherson KS 67460 Nonprofit US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #23 McPherson KS



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.

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

2	Church Office Closed
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Men's Coffee Baby
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Celebrate Recovery
4, 11, 18, 25	Time of Prayer OUTSIDE
4	Family Game Night & Meal
7	Women's Coffee, "Flannel, Flapjacks, and
	Favorite Things"
10, 24	MOMs Group
14	Pro-Life Prayer, 7:00 a.m., CCC Cafe
14, 21, 28	Women's Coffee Connection
17	MOMs Playdate, CCC Gym
17	Widows New Year's Tea
17	Leadership Team Meeting
21	Crescendo to K-State Women's Game
29	Annual Business Meeting & Potluck Lunch
30	Sew & Share
30	A Woman's Night of Service
31	Moms Game Night

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

