

- Worship
 - Disciple
 - Serve
 - Multiply



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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Faith, Hope and Love

- Pastor Jon Black

The Apostle Paul offers a great description of love in 1 Corinthians 13. The chapter ends in the following way:

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

What are the differences between faith, hope and love? I find myself using these words interchangeably at times when referring to my spiritual walk. But how do they differ? And how is love the greatest of the three?

We demonstrate faith in something when we trust in an invisible reality. For example: we hop on a 747 jet without understanding in the least how this metal object could possibly hold and transport 400 passengers to far away destinations traveling at 570 MPH. But we have faith that the plane is able to do so. So, we buckle in and enjoy the ride.

Hope would be the process of waiting for that invisible reality to become visible. We hope for that future reality to be realized, namely the landing of the plane on the runway of our vacation destination...or at the place where our loved ones are awaiting our safe arrival. Those thoughts fill us with joy and strength.

Love is the goal and outward expression of our faith and hope. When we finally land, we will embrace those awaiting us as an expression of our love for them.

Love is the greatest of the three because as Paul says in the opening three verses of 1 Corinthians 13.... Without love, I am nothing... and I gain nothing. Love is

the goal and expression of our faith and hope.

I read an example illustrating this point.



There was a woman that felt called to teach in a one room Christian-based schoolhouse. She left her old life behind and dedicated her time and energy to the instruction and care of her new class of children. However....after she arrived and began teaching, the children experienced fear and intimidation in her presence. She wore a frown and exuded no joy in her interactions with the children....even as she remained 100% dedicated in her commitment to teaching them.

As Christ-followers, sometimes our zeal of dedication and commitment can replace the love of God in and through our lives. Exercising our gifts and commitments by faith will ultimately amount to nothing, without possessing the love of Christ in our hearts according to the Apostle Paul.

All three are essential in our Christian walk.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

But the ultimate goal of our faith and hope in Christ is love expressed in the now and for all eternity.

How do others experience the tangible expressions of the love of Christ in and through our lives as we live by faith and with hope?





Every person at Countryside who is 55 plus, growing in Jesus Christ and engaged in His kingdom ministry.

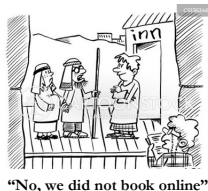
Crescendo is not a program; it's a perspective on life. It's not activities; it's an attitude about *how* we live. We try to see our later years as God sees them: ripe with opportunity to continue to give God our time, talents, and treasure (Psalm 92). *For what purpose has He granted me more years?*

Crescendo Upcoming Events:



CovTalk with Darrell Arthaud – Where in the World Did He Go? Saturday, November 16 @ 9:30am.

Darrell has been on literally dozens of short-term mission trips as a servant of Christ and pharmacist. His travels have taken him to several continents! Take in the adventure as you see his pictures of travel, hear interesting stories, and relive his insights. Hear how God has used Darrell to bring healing, light, and purpose to both those he serves and to his own life. Coffee will be served; bring a small plate of treats to share. **RSVP** to the Church Office or write "Crescendo CovTalk" on your Connection Card on Sunday.



Progressive Dinners, Saturday, December 7, from 4 to 6:30pm.

Joseph and Mary traveled right before that first Christmas and we will too! Sign up to join a small group of eight and venture from house to

house for each course of a meal. We'll all merge at one secret location for a grand finale dessert w/ fun included, of course!

Participants can expect to host a group of eight and provide one of three parts of a meal: appetizer, salad, or main dish. *If you live out of town*, we'll have you bring something for dessert. If you don't care to host in your home, choose a restaurant just for your course of the meal; be creative! Along the way we'll provide the conversation starters for you to "remember the stories of Christmas" and to tell your own story.

Sign up with the Church Office, or write "Progressive Dinner" on your Connection Card, or sign up at the Crescendo table in the lobby in November. **Deadline is Dec. 1st.**

Adult Christian Formation Classes



have the unique opportunity to hear personally from our denomination's president, Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim during the CF hour **Sunday, November 10 at 9:45am**. Meet in the sanctuary for a detailed update on our denomination and satisfy your curiosity with some Q & A. All adult classes are cancelled for the morning.

Adult classes will meet each week through December 15th, including Thanksgiving weekend.

Connections



If you are friendly and enjoy welcoming folks, please consider greeting before one of Countryside's services. Just call or text Pastor Lynn and she can get you signed up to try it. Most people make up their mind about coming back to worship within the first five minutes of attending for the first time – make a difference in the life of our church by being a greeter!



Sew & Share

Monday, November 29, 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

KIDS TOWN | SUNDAYS | 9:45 AM | AGES 2 - 5TH GRADE

Can you imagine needing to walk through the desert? You'd be surrounded by cacti, sand, snakes, and more sand. With the heat of the sun, we'd wind up so thirsty and wondering "Are we there yet?" That's probably how the Israelites felt as they wandered around the desert, waiting to enter the Promised Land. But no matter how tired our feet get, we can focus on what's happening in our lives right now rather than just on where we're going. In this series from Exodus, we'll explore how we can choose to be thankful, love God and others, turn to God when we're lost, go to God when we need rest, and remember God's promises



WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
We can choose to be THANKFUL.	We can LOVE God and others.	We can TURN TO GOD when we're lost.	We can go to God when we need REST.	We can remember God's PROMISES.

"I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
Isaiah 43:19b (NIV)



Our next Kingdom Families will be on Sunday, November 3rd. K-5th families will meet in the Student Center for a light breakfast, fellowship, and a time of learning together. Our focus this month will be the practice of thankfulness.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AS A FAMILY

Countryside Kids is signed up to serve two different meals this fall/winter. We will be serving the *Celebrate Recovery Ministry* at Countryside on November 12th. The second meal is for the *StepMc Program* at First United Methodist Church on December 19th. Contact Amy if you are interested in helping or see the website for sign ups.



Our mid-week program for kids where we worship together and then break into small groups for discipleship and time in God's Word!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 3 Kingdom Families | 9:45 AM | K-5th Grade Families
- 12 Countryside Kids Serves CR Meal
- 27 No Kids Life (winter break - will resume January 15)

December

- 1 Kingdom Families | 9:45 AM | K-5th Grade Families
- 15 Christmas Caroling | 5:30 - 8 PM | Trolley Rides
- 19 Countryside Kids Serves StepMC Meal @ FUMC
- 22 Children (Prek-5th Grade) Sing During Worship Services
- No Kids Life in December
- No Kids Town December 22nd and 29th

COMMUNICATION

Most of our communication comes through weekly email and text. You can also use the QR code to the right to get more details about what is happening and weekly updates about what kids are learning! If you are not receiving the emails already, please contact Amy to get added to our list! amy@csidecov.org



Dear Friends, We arrived back to the states mid July. We have been busy with missionary retreats, family reunions, class reunions, and settling into our home. It has been a very busy time but filled with many blessings. We also returned to a large

stack of mail and cards. Thank you for remembering all of our birthdays, anniversaries, & holidays! We have felt very loved and prayed for. We thank you for all your love and prayers. We look forward to visiting to share with you soon!

- Paul & Sheryl Noren

Greetings,

We at JAARS want to thank Countryside Covenant Church for partnering with us. Without support like yours, we couldn't spread God's word to the ends of the earth. If you have any questions about JAARS, give me a call, 810-516-1327. Also, check out our website at JAARS.org for more information. Blessings to you all!

-Shari Ruesink

Dear Countryside Covenant:

Thank you so much for your recent gift to the Omega Project and of course your regular giving. We are seeing an ever increasing impact on families, churches, and even around the world through our videos. Thank you for believing in our work!

In Him, David Case

If it's possible, my heart is bursting at the seams for the way in which YOU responded to the drive we held for the McPherson County Food Bank in September. Women's ministry collected items from two different neighborhoods along with announcing that your donations could be brought to the church. And then we also asked those in our church family to respond to the need for coats, quilts, blankets and baby formula as a truck was going to Ashville, North Carolina to respond to the hurricane relief effort that was being orchestrated by Samaritan's Purse and other area organizations. It's with a grateful heart that I say THANK YOU for the way you became the hands and feet of Jesus through these two efforts. I pray that you are blessed because of your thoughtfulness and generosity.

- Linda Totman, Church Administrator

LIFE STUDENT MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 2024



A lot has been going on this fall!



In early October, hundreds of students gathered together for an FCA, Student led worship service on the football field! All students, no matter their schooling institution, came together to sing praise, listen to a teaching and enjoy incredible community! Countryside students and leaders represented well and was so fun to even see a few of our own leading worship! A HUGE thank-you to FCA and the student group who did all the planning, set up, tear down and leading the event!



We've also enjoyed allll things FALL!! And when you combine pumpkins, mazes, large slides and yummy food, you are guaranteed to see teenagers thriving!



Please email/call if you'd like to serve in our Student Ministries! We'd love to have you!
Contact Lizy Johnson: 785-317-9384 or lizy@csidecov.org



The recent stories from those coming into the cottages have been heartbreaking. One team member shared, "I have worked in this field for ten years and have never witnessed so much heartache. I don't know how to handle this much trauma." In just one week, we encountered a young woman who had been trafficked, a young man who was so deeply saddened that he was on the verge of suicide, and another family living in a rental home with sewage pooling under the house, which was making them ill. "Where is God in all of this?" she cried out.

A few days later, she walked into the office with a cheerful grin. We asked her what had changed. "Remember when I told you about my difficult week and all the heartbreaking stories?" she asked. "Yes," we replied. "Well, God showed up for me today," she explained. "At the cottages, two young mothers sat on the porch while their kids played in the grass. The sad young man has found hope through the support of a Christian counselor, and the family has found a new home where the kids and their grandmother can live in a healthy environment. I can finally see God's healing hand in all of this. Although they still have a long way to go, they have finally found peace, and they feel safe and loved for the first time."

This is just a sampling of the recent stories that continue to unfold. They remind us why we do this work and motivate us to move forward with our mission. When facing difficulties, we rely on God to help us find a way ahead. As we approach Thanksgiving, we feel especially grateful for the blessings we have received through our faith community and for God's continued blessings in our lives and in the lives of those we serve.

Romans 15:13 ESV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope

Families Served:

⇒ 366 people served YTD

News and Events:

- ⇒ **7 Homes in various stages of construction — Sutherland Estates**
- ⇒ **Lift Up Lindsborg — Ongoing**
- ⇒ **Brush Up Mac, April 19, 2025**

Blessings,
Chris Goodson



Church Life Update



Dedication:

Nash Walter, son of Brice & Janelle Burgeson



Daylight saving time ends
turn the clocks back

The Churches United in Ministry (CUM) held their quarterly meeting October 22, 2024. It was election night and Debbie Johnson was voted to serve as President and David Dixon (City Church) was voted for the Pastor-at-large position.

Sheila Plooster, Client Service Manager for CUM, reported she has assisted 640 households consisting of 1,354 individuals from Jan 3, 2024 through October 18, 2024.

Churches United in Ministry is supported by people donating items to Save n' Share which are sold in the store. The store then gives money to CUM on a monthly basis. The store is really in need of volunteers. Some departments needing help include Toys, Games, Stuffed Animals, Dolls, unpacking seasonal items and putting them out, general sorting, pricing clothes. Some volunteering to work from our church include Vera Schra, Phyllis Scherich, Kathy Skinner, Sue Hervey, Conene Turner and Linda Andersen. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering talk to anyone of these ladies for more information. It is so rewarding to serve God through volunteering in our community.

-Linda Andersen, Countryside Covenant Church Representative



(Boxes are available on the OCC table across from the Worship Center!)

PACK A BOX! SHARE GREAT JOY! 😊

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK

November 18-25, 2024

McPherson Area Drop-Off Center
Countryside Covenant Church * 940 E. Northview * McPherson, KS

Hours:

- Monday, Nov. 18: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, Nov. 19: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday Nov. 20: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Thursday, Nov. 21: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Friday, Nov. 22: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Saturday, Nov. 23: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Sunday, Nov. 24: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Monday, Nov. 25: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Once again, Countryside Covenant Church will provide the cardboard shoe boxes for your use this season. They will be available for you to pick up beginning on Sunday, November 3. Boxes will need to be returned any time during Collection Week which is November 18-24.

NOVEMBER 11

VETERANS DAY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

****DATE CHANGED****

HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS

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

Christian Formation - 9:45 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.

MOMs Group is in full swing! If you know of any moms that are in need of community and a small outing every now and again, we are here for them. So far our theme of "The Armor of God" has been riveting, and we are excited to see what else God has in store. Thanks for praying for and supporting our ministry! Our next meetings are **Tuesday, November 12, and Tuesday, December 10 @ 9:00 a.m.** We also have a MOMS night out scheduled for **November 22.** Contact Lizzy, lizajane.4893@yahoo.com or Allie, alliediederich@gmail.com for more information!

Moms Group
WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

John 15:5 *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Last month I reported that classroom painting was complete and some carpet replacement was yet to happen. The new carpet installation is now completed! Also of note, **Our fall Harvest Festival meal and all church business meeting will be held Sunday, December 8;** this is a couple weeks later than normal primarily to avoid conflict with various other calendar items including school holiday vacation – I hope this works for you!

Bible, constitution, bylaws, policies, employee handbook

Our permanent resource for governance is the Bible. Always seeking to abide by scripture, our church constitution and bylaws establish our Leadership Team (LT)/Ministry Team system which I overviewed in last month’s article. Each ministry team has broad discretion to achieve the goals of each particular ministry. We then have perhaps a dozen church policies approved by the LT, and last year I shared with you that LT had also approved a Personnel Policy Handbook. Generally these exist beneath the surface. The intent isn’t to constrain staff or our work, rather the idea is to provide clarity and thus general freedom for routine execution of the work of Countryside. While the church constitution, bylaws, policies, etc. are meant to be useful and prudent, our prayer is that we abide in Christ, and that the Spirit be among us and teach us to be one in the Spirit as we worship and serve God in our community and in the world, and disciple, serve others and multiply.

At the December 8 business meeting we will have a ballot vote regarding the bylaw amendment that was presented at the January business meeting. I offer this overview: this proposal makes no change for calling the Senior Pastor. For calling other pastors it expedites the procedure by avoiding two meetings, 1) a nominating committee meeting to select a slate for pastoral search committee and 2) a church meeting to vote in a pastoral search committee. This is done by, for an internal candidate only, having the nominating committee serve as the pastoral search committee. The proposed amendment preserves that the search committee

shall work with the conference, it preserves that the candidate must be a member of Covenant Ministerium in good standing, and it preserves that the congregation makes the call by ballot vote of 2/3. This amendment is recommended by the LT. Please see the church office if you would like a copy of the proposed amendment.

Weddings –I share that Amy and I were blessed to go to my nephew’s wedding in KC mid October. The morning of the wedding I went to the Community Covenant service in Lenexa – and was surprised by Micah Black welcoming me! It was great to see him, and I was blessed worshipping at the church that my parents belonged to (my mother now attends service at her retirement village up the street). As I write this we’re about to leave for San Francisco. We’re invited to our son-in-law’s twin brother’s wedding (this is Uncle Jonathan to our grandson, Miles – and Miles will also be there!) It is a privilege and it is very encouraging to me to get invited to these weddings, in both cases centered around Christ Jesus as Lord. Jesus calls for us to abide in Him – abiding is a continuous thing, this applies for these couples in their marriage and for each of us in our church. We cannot bear fruit without abiding in Jesus, we can’t abide without walking – let us pray that we will walk in the Spirit and abide in Jesus. We can pray each day “Lord Jesus, I give you this day.”

To God be the glory!

Mark Wurm, Church Chair



October 2024 Attendance (includes online)		
	Christian Formation	Worship
October 6	188	514
October 13	205	514
October 20	191	509
October 27	208	571
October 2024 Giving		
October 6		\$29,326.82
October 13		\$18,756.05
October 20		\$20,007.09
October 27		\$19,555.73
Total Y-to-D		\$1,088,768.85
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D		-71,667.32

Countryside Covenant Church
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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 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.; Christian Formation, 9:45 a.m.

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

1-3	Middle School Fall Retreat
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Women's Coffee Connection
3	Fall Back-Turn Your Clocks Back 1 Hour
3	Kingdom Families
5, 12, 19, 26	Men's Coffee
5, 16	Widows Connection
5, 12, 19, 26	Celebrate Recovery (19th Thanksgiving Dinner)
6, 13, 20, 27	Time of Prayer
10	MS Rake and Run Event
12	MOMs Group
15-17	High School Fall Retreat
16	Crescendo Cov-Talk w/ Darrell Arthaud
18	Sew & Share
18-25	Operation Christmas Child Box Dropoff
19	Leadership Team Meeting
28 & 29	Happy Thanksgiving!/Church Office Closed

Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Pastor Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Keragan Gates, Production Director

