

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

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



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 25, ISSUE 1

January 2026



For the Purpose of Others

- Pastor Jon Black

We recently welcomed eighteen new members into our church family. During our five-week membership class, the staff reminded them that if God has indeed led them to Countryside, He has done so for very specific purposes according to His Word - *to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Eph 4:12)*.

Each of the new members took a spiritual gifts inventory to discover how God might be calling them to build up others in Christ in and through our church context.

When church members feel led to leave Countryside and attend elsewhere, I will typically encourage them to quickly find a place to serve in their new church family. When I hear how former members and attenders are using their spiritual gifts to serve effectively in their new church homes, it brings me great joy.

After my second year of college, I felt a great need to decompress, take a year off from school and work at home. During that year at home, I was invited by a friend to visit a Wesleyan Church. I really enjoyed the service and people in that church and decided that I would worship with them rather than return to my home church family. (1st Covenant).

Not long afterwards, I was invited to serve as a leader in the church's youth ministry under the pastoral guidance of an experienced youth pastor. I spent that year utilizing and developing my youth ministry gifts; and it would be during that year that I would receive a strong call from God to pursue full time ministry. When I returned to college, I changed my major and studied with a much greater purpose.



I was certain that God was calling me to pursue ministry into the Wesleyan denomination (which would have been fine); until I received an unexpected phone call asking me to travel in a Christian music ministry through the Covenant denomination. I did and the rest, shall we say, is history.

From this experience, I learned that God calls us into specific churches not solely (or even primarily) to meet *our* spiritual needs. But to empower and equip us for works of service...so that *others* in the body of Christ will be built to maturity.

For what purpose has God called you to Countryside?

I pray that we all have a joy-filled and purposeful New Year!

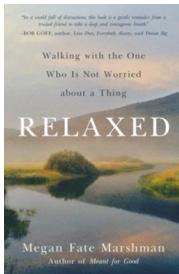


NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:

This winter, join other women as we study the book, *Relaxed*, by Megan Fate Marshman. As Megan takes us word by word through Proverbs 3:5-6, she helps us discover:

- * The joy of a continual, intimate relationship with God
- * What God calls us to do with the burden of shame and guilt
- * What it looks like to be relaxed in the midst of grief, financial stress, mistakes, and fatigue
- * The freedom and forgiveness of being found "in Christ"
- * How to incorporate rhythms of walking with God into our everyday routines

God never intended for us to be in control. As we lean away from our own understanding and into an intentionally relaxed spiritual life, we join Jesus in trusting a God who knows what he is doing--and isn't worried about a thing.



This seven-week study will provide an in-depth Bible study and a series of spiritual formation practices for you to carry on well beyond the study. Sign up by writing "Relaxed" on your Connection Card or by calling the Church Office. Please indicate which option you will attend: Tuesdays at 9:15 am with childcare by reservation or Thursdays at 7 pm. Classes start the week of January 6.



A new Precepts study begins Thursday, February 12 at 9 am and together we will study the Gospel of Mark. Are you going through a valley right now? Explore Jesus' role as a suffering servant through an inductive study of the gospel of Mark. In this eight-week study, you will not only learn how to do a Precept study, but you'll be encouraged as you dig into Scripture and see how He served and suffered-for you. Childcare is provided by reservation; deadline for registration is January 19. You can contact the Church Office or write "Precept" on your Connection Card.



Last fall two new groups for women were launched under the Gather Moms ministry. One group is designed for mothers of toddlers and elementary-aged kiddos while the second group's focus is for moms of teenagers. And beginning in January of 2026, a third group whose primary focus will be to mothers of grown children and grandchildren is scheduled to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Just because your children are grown adults, and you may also have grandchildren, does not mean that your role as a mother is over ... in fact, we believe quite the opposite! Your influence in the decisions they make might be less but coming alongside them to provide encouragement and support will deepen your relationship in this season.

Join other moms as we discuss leaving a Legacy of Love, to find the encouragement and support you need to mom and grandmom well. There are many challenges to this season, whether caring for aging parents, dealing with in-laws, or finding your purpose.

We believe moms can change the world through the way we raise our children and bless our grandchildren. We believe that being a mom can bring us together. And as hard as we try, we can't mom well without Jesus. We would appreciate knowing if you will be gathering with us on **Tuesday, January 27 at 7 pm**. Simply write Gather Moms on your Connection Card or text Linda at 620.755.2060 or Carri at 620.755.5454 no later than January 21. Hope to see you there!



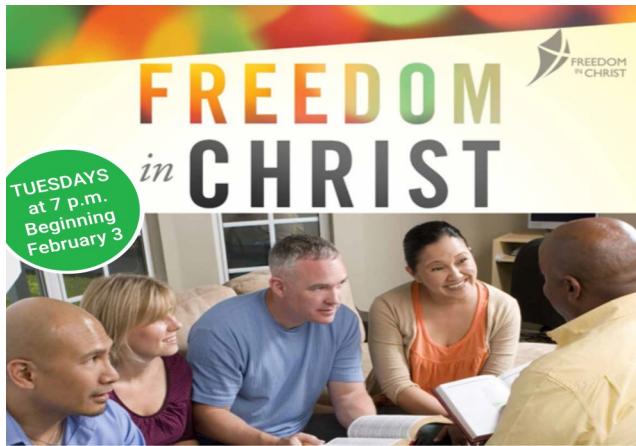
Sew & Share, Monday, January 19, 9:00 a.m.

We will gather to work on 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.



Adult Christian Formation Opportunities

How is God calling you to grow your soul in the new year? Pray about many of the opportunities open for adults: Bible studies, Basic Discipleship, Life Groups, or Sunday morning Christian formation classes. If God is leading you to a change in lifestyle, to drop a bad habit, to seek Him deeper, to take your faith in a new direction, Freedom in Christ 11 week small group will give you the accountability and tools needed.



Freedom in Christ

In February, Countryside is offering the **Freedom In Christ Discipleship Course**. You may recall this past summer when missionary Rob Reed spoke about this life-changing study he helped write and implement. This essential course is for all believers, couples, singles, (over 18), new believers to mature Christians, and offers a structured path to spiritual maturity.

Christ has already set us free! It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

Facilitator Laura Dailey, "I took this course during COVID to fill time... and it resulted in a lasting life change! I discovered that while I understood Christian concepts, had knowledge, and even had verses memorized, I just couldn't hold on to their truths for myself. As a result of deep hurts, shame, guilt, unforgiveness and other spiritual struggles, I had numerous negative thought patterns: self-harm, suicidal idealization, being unable and unwilling to accept God's love. Prior to this discipleship course, I didn't fully understand my identity in Christ and completely missed who God really is! Walking as a new creation in Christ is sometimes still not natural to me, but so very important! The tools I learned have become a foundation for healing more recent wounds and are essential for the continuing walking out of my faith."

We have everything we need to walk free! His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.
2 Peter 1:3

During this 11-week video course, learn how to resolve personal and spiritual conflicts, uncover areas of strongholds, negative patterns, condemning thoughts, and spiritual warfare. Learn to renew your mind! This isn't behavior modification but rather a focus on what is true. God's truths are true whether you believe them or not! Move from just believing to being a fruitful disciple as you discover God's real purpose for your life!

God works through our humble seeking. There is always more freedom! If you aren't sure that you have time for this – make the time! God will honor your sacrifice. Contact the church office to register or learn more!

Christian Formation Classes Resume on Sunday, January 11 at 9:45 a.m.

- ⇒ **Immerse Prophets, Room 12:** Bobbie Kaufman & Jerry Rogers, facilitators.
- ⇒ **RVL Biblical Discipleship, Room 13:** Josse Allen, facilitator.
- ⇒ **Marriage: Lessons for Family Relationships, Room 15:** Shared class facilitators are Veters, Harpers, Goldsmiths and Czosnowskis.
- ⇒ **Women of the Word, Room 19:** LaJane Anderson, facilitator.
- ⇒ ****New Class** Restless Families, Room 16/18:** The first half of this class will equip families with a biblical and theological perspective on technology by examining the creation account, humanity, and the effects of sin on the imago Dei. We will explore our theological heritage as we learn that our digital habits can distort our understanding and experience of spiritual formation and genuine Christian discipleship. Our heritage provides us with the tools and historical practices that can help free us from addiction to our devices and serve to redirect us to Christ. The second half of the class we will get practical with the "Tech Ready Home" parent curriculum by Protect Young Eyes. Amy Brunk, facilitator.
- ⇒ **Kingdom Families, Student Center (not meeting in January or April):** Once a month combined class for children ages kindergarten – 5th grade and their parents or grandparents.

For further information contact Pastor Jeremy or Pastor Lynn.

JANUARY 2026

Life Student Ministries Newsletter



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

It was a wild and snowball filled night with our middle school youth group this Christmas season! Love this goofy group of kids! They are such a gift to our church family!

The gym was transformed into a winter wonderland for our High School Christmas party! Decked with a beautiful banquet table, covered in sparkling twinkle lights, along with a hot cocoa station, holiday soda station and charcuterie cups!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!



LOOKING AHEAD INTO 2026...

The Lord is at work in the lives of these students! The spring semester will be focused on time in the Word and discipleship! Check out our upcoming teaching series!

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

4 week study on the BIBLE: Is it true? How is it structured? How can I read it? How should we study it?
 3 week series on STORIES: Leader Testimonies
 4 week study on Mark 12

HIGH SCHOOL

8 week study on Revelation: The Overcomers; God's vision for you to thrive in an age of anxiety and outrage
 4 week study on Mark 12





A New Year in God's Hands: Walking into 2026 with Expectation

As we step into 2026, we do so with gratitude for what God has already done and deep anticipation for what is still to come. Every New Year is a reminder that He is still writing His story—shaping hearts, opening doors, restoring hope, and preparing paths we have not yet imagined. The question is not only what this year will bring, but who God is forming us to be as we walk faithfully with Him.

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19

God is always at work, even when we cannot see all the details. His purposes unfold in seasons, and sometimes in surprising ways. At McPherson Housing Coalition (MHC), we enter this year with open hands and listening hearts. We do not know every step ahead, but we are confident in the One who goes before us. We are willing to follow wherever He leads, trusting that His plans are greater than our own understanding.

This past season has been one of faithful endurance, learning, and steady obedience. Personally, my leadership journey has stretched me, strengthened me, and deepened my dependence on God's wisdom rather than my own. I have learned that leadership is not about control—it is about surrender. It is about saying, "Yes, Lord," even when the path is unclear. And

time after time, He has shown Himself faithful, providing guidance, resources, and people at exactly the right moment.

Housing is more than brick and mortar—it is the foundation for restoration. When families and individuals gain stable housing, dignity is restored, children feel safe, futures become possible, and hearts begin to heal. At MHC, we are blessed to witness transformation up close. We see lives move from crisis to stability, from fear to hope, from surviving to thriving. These are not just housing stories. They are redemption stories—written by a faithful God who has not forgotten His people.

As we look ahead, 2026 may bring new partnerships, expanded opportunities, unexpected challenges, and unanticipated blessings. God may stretch us. He may surprise us. He may call us into new territory. But whatever unfolds, our prayer is that we respond with courage, humility, and obedience.

So as we say **“Happy New Year,”** we also say: **“Here we are, Lord. We are ready. We are willing. Lead us where You choose.”**

We move forward not in fear, but in faith—knowing that the One who calls us is faithful, and He will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24). May 2026 be a year marked by renewal, courage, provision, and lives transformed through the steadfast love of God.

Blessings,
Chris Goodson



Countryside Kids

KIDS TOWN (SUNDAYS) | AGES 2 - 5TH GRADE

- Jan 4 | No Kids Town (Christmas Break)
- Jan 11 | Daniel Obeyed God
- Jan 18 | Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego
- Jan 25 | Daniel and the Lions' Den

JANUARY GATHER MOMS GROUPS

- Our Wednesday evening group will not be meeting in January due to the game night on the first Wednesday of the month. We look forward to resuming in February!
- Jan 17 | Gather Moms @ 9:30 a.m. | Room 6
 - Moms of middle school and high school kids!
 - Topic: Moms, Let's Talk: Conversations We Must Have With Our Kids
- Please check out the women's ministry page for more information about another Gather Group starting on Tuesday evenings! We are excited to see groups for moms in all stages of motherhood!



On December 21st, the children joined the choir to help lead our time of worship! A special thanks to Jacob and Bobbie Kaufman and Jolene Czosnowski for all of their work to make this choir happen!

JANUARY COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

4	Sunday	No Kids Town (winter break)
7	Wednesday	Family Game Night 6:00 PM
11	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45-10:45 AM
14	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM
18	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45-10:45 AM
21	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM
25	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45-10:45 AM

CONTACT US

Feel free to contact us with any questions about our programming, events, or milestone celebrations (such as baby dedication and baptism).

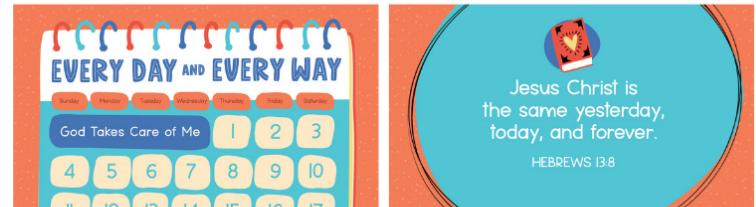
Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries amy@csidecov.org
 Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministry Assistant: tiffani@csidecov.org

KIDS LIFE (WEDNESDAYS) | AGES 4 - 5TH GRADE

We have been on a break but we are excited to resume Kids Life activities on January 14th! We meet from 6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Check-in is in the foyer outside the Worship Center.

This month, through different themes, our preschoolers and elementary kids will be learning that God is always powerful, God can always be trusted, and God is always with us!

PRESCHOOLER/KINDERGARTEN THEME



ELEMENTARY THEME



NO KINGDOM FAMILIES IN JANUARY



Kingdom Families is for families of K-5 children during the CF hour on the first Sunday of the month. We share a light breakfast together and a short lesson with an activity. We will not meet in the month of January because of the way the calendar worked out but will resume on February 1st!

CF CLASS STARTING IN JANUARY

Please check out the adult classes starting in January on Sunday mornings for CF. A new class will be offered that will focus on technology use and families.



COUNTRYSIDE KIDS WEEKLY UPDATES

Use the QR code to the right to subscribe to our weekly emails that go out! We use these emails to share the latest updates with you along with links to sign up for different activities and serving opportunities.



RIGHTNOW MEDIA



We are so excited that everyone at Countryside now has access to RightNow Media! There are so many great resources available to you and your families now! If you haven't already, use the QR code to create your account for free.

Operation Christmas Child Ministry Update

Thank you Countryside family for generously participating in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child ministry! And thank you, Julie Wenthe, for organizing and encouraging our church family to pack and share a box! Countryside provided 167 gospel opportunities through shoe box gifts packed with love. The McPherson community and area churches brought in a total of 1,456 shoe boxes to the Drop-Off Center here at the church building. Isn't it awesome the number of children around the world being blessed by receiving a shoe box gift and the opportunity to hear the Gospel?! May many come to know Jesus! And, to God be the glory!!

Mary Bohnenblust, OCC Drop-off Center Team Leader



Marriage Retreat, February 14-16, 2025

Covenant Cedars Bible Camp, Hordville, NE

- 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 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: \$305 per couple - includes meals, lodging, sessions, and activities (Note: \$75 non-refundable deposit included with your registration.) Register on their website www.cedars.org or at the link below:
- <https://www.cedars.org/retreats/marriage.html>



Thank You's

A big thank you to all of those who volunteered to help with the Clovertown Concert. It was a fun filled evening preparing our hearts for Christmas. The band was very appreciative of how smooth and quickly everything went especially the loading and unloading and commented on all the delicious food and snacks. We are so grateful for your servant hearts. Merry Christmas!

- Tiffani Eilrich

Pastors & Staff,

We want to thank the pastors and staff for their many prayers and cards during Sue's illness. Thanks also to the many members who attended Sue's service and a special thanks to the kitchen staff for a wonderful meal.

- Dan Hervey & Sheila Billings

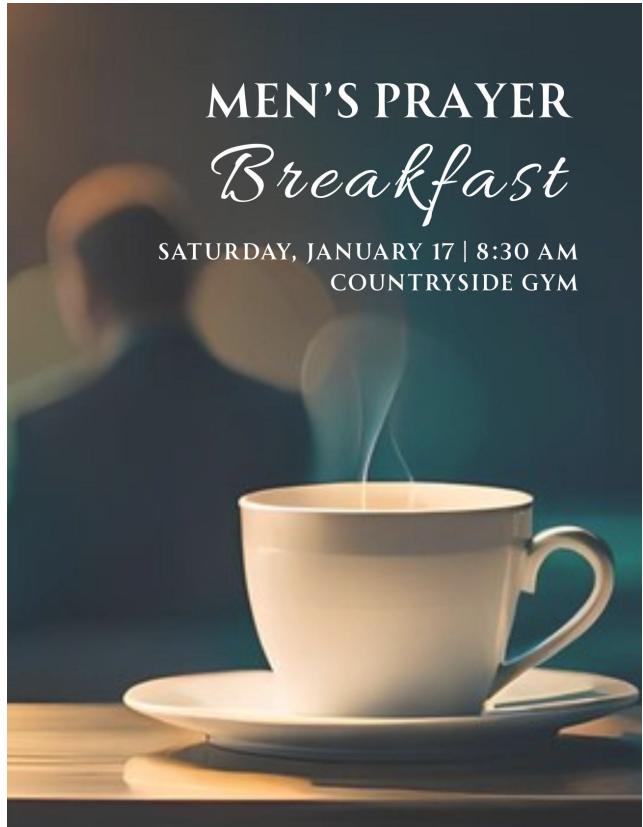


It is with much gratitude that we thank you, our church family, for the gifts that you gave us this Christmas season: financial gifts, goodies, prayers, time spent in conversation...every act of love was such a blessing to us! We truly appreciate you all!! -The Church Staff



MEN'S PRAYER Breakfast

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 | 8:30 AM
COUNTRYSIDE GYM



Church Life Update



Adoption:

Missy Irene, daughter of Hunter & Stevie Lawless

Marriage:

Cynthia Wiard & Ben Anderson, December 6

New Members:

Ken Crump, Don & Laura Dailey, Dylan & Summer Demel, David & Natasha Frank, Ron & Swati Hjertstedt, Tim & Marilyn Karstetter, Patrick & Christina McCarthy, Austin & Veronica McCulloch, Jake & Mary Strawn, Thomas Walzer.

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 www.csidcov.com and Facebook page @csidcov.



LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Changes are part of life and life continues to change. As we look forward to 2026, the Leadership Team will have their own changes to work through as Bob Williford and Reba Becker will be transitioning off the team. The work of these two when it comes to the LT is unmatched and will be felt. However, we press on and will excitedly await the next members to come alongside the current LT members as we navigate the Lord's direction. Also, there is a change in leadership of the women's ministry as Linda Totman will be stepping away from the leadership of that ministry. Once again, a servant that will be greatly missed, but Linda discerned the Lord's calling to step aside and let others lead. These three give us a great example of leadership and being a servant to lead Christ's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Thank you, Bob, Reba and Linda!

This February, we will have our inaugural celebration banquet where we will be celebrating all things Countryside Covenant Church. We will gather at the Community Building in McPherson to praise God for what happened in 2025 at Countryside and anticipate what He will do in 2026. There will be a catered meal along with other fun activities throughout the evening, so plan to attend. Tickets can be purchased at a price of \$10 each and will be available to purchase beginning January 11. This will also serve as our congregational meeting where we will vote on new LT members and other items. In order to vote, you must be a member of the church. You need not be a member to attend the celebration banquet, however. The Leadership Team is very excited about this opportunity to come together as a congregation and celebrate what God has done!

I pray, along with the Leadership Team, that you are surrounded by loved ones as 2025 comes to an end and 2026 begins. We need each other now as much as ever and we need to lean into the community God has provided for us at CCC. As one of my favorite Proverbs states, "If you want to go fast, go alone...If you want to go far, go together."

God Bless,
Aaron Glendening
For the Leadership Team



Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 5:00 p.m.

McPherson Community Building

The meal will be catered, and tickets are \$10 each. Annual report books will be completed by Sunday, January 25.



Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

- * **Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, January 6, 9:30am @ The Cedars Banquet Room**
- * **Saturday Fun Day, January 17, 11:30am, @ Countryside Café**

December 2025 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
December 7	145	637
December 14	114	599
December 21	125	673
December 24	—	695
December 28	—	447

December 2025 Giving

December 7	\$82,152.38
December 14	\$39,230.85
December 21	\$25,055.69
December 28	\$30,924.66
Total Y-to-D	\$1,356,939.56
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$15,177.66

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

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Your January 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.

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

1	Church Office Closed
6, 13, 20, 27	Men's Coffee
6	Widows Connection @ The Cedars
6, 13, 20, 27	Celebrate Recovery
7, 14, 21, 28	Time of Prayer
7	Family Game Night & Meal
17	Men's Prayer Breakfast
17	Gather Moms
17	Widows Connection Fun Day
18	Adult CF Teacher Lunch
19	Sew & Share
20	Leadership Team Meeting
27	Gather Moms

Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Senior Pastor
Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor
Pastor Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries
Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries
Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries
Bobbie Kaufman, Interim Director of Worship Arts
Linda Totman, Church Administrator
Kim Goering, Office Assistant
Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministry Assistant
Jase Brandt, Production Director

