

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 19, ISSUE 9
September 2020

Pray for Each Other

- Pastor Jon Black

When we encounter various storms in our lives, be they physical, emotional, spiritual, or relational, we will do anything to get beyond them to a place of resolution and calm. We can also cope with our storms by remaining busy rather than dealing with the pain.

Even when life is normal, we prefer to fill up our calendars and agendas. In so doing, we can neglect setting aside time for God, and get so distracted by life that we miss what He is doing right in front of our faces.

I relayed the story of Jesus walking on the water to His disciples in a recent sermon. Earlier, Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and go on ahead of him to the other side of the sea of Galilee, only to sail right into the middle of a violent storm.

The disciples may have been thinking: *"Why would Jesus lead us out here into the middle of this chaos? And why didn't he choose to come with us?"*

The disciple's only ambition was to make it through the storm to a place of safety and security. But this was not Jesus' goal for them. He had something else in mind for them; namely to reveal himself in a new and powerful way.

Jesus would come to his terrified disciples in the night by walking on the waves. The first words he spoke to them were:

Matthew 14:27 - *"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

Oswald Chambers recalled this story when he penned these words:

We are apt to imagine that if Jesus Christ constrains us, and we obey him, he will lead us to great success (to make a safe, uneventful journey across the sea). We must never put our

dreams of success as God's purpose for us; his purpose may be exactly the opposite.

We have an idea that God is leading us to a particular end, a desired goal; he is not. The question of getting to a particular end is a mere incident. What we call the process, God calls the end.

God's purpose is that I depend on him and on his power now. If I can remain in the middle of the turmoil (the storm) calm and unperplexed, that is the end of the purpose of God.....

God's end is to enable me to see that he [alone] can walk on the chaos of my life just now. If we have a further end goal in view, we will not pay sufficient attention to the immediate present; but if we realize that obedience is the end, then each moment as it comes is precious. - My Utmost for His Highest - (Nov. 28).

When Jesus got into the boat with his disciples, the winds died down, peace returned, and the disciples worshiped Jesus.

32 And when Jesus (and Peter) climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Do we slow down enough to meet Jesus in the middle of our storms (health crisis..... covid cancellations..... political unrest, etc) or do we just choose to get busy? Any number of storms can cause great anxiety or anger if addressed in our own strength.

But Jesus says, *"Look for me in the middle of your storm. You will find me there. I alone offer perfect peace. For I alone am the Prince of Peace."*



Church Life Update



Baptisms:

Kaelynn Bower
 Kayley Frank
 Allie Houghton
 Dakota Mitchell
 Barb Nelson
 Lexi Shandy
 Kaitlyn Sovde
 Lynette Sovde
 Drake Timson

White Rose:

Allie Houghton

Wedding:

Jonathan Epp & Katie Parry,
 August 22

Thank You's

Countryside Covenant Crew...

THANK YOU!!! What a joy it is to have such a group like yours that is so ready to serve and encourage. We accomplished a lot, and it made it so much more enjoyable doing it with you! Thank you again to each of you and we pray for your family at Countryside!!

- Chris Shillito, Director at Camp Shalom, Kansas City



LIFE GROUPS

SIGN UP TODAY!
 GROUPS BEGIN IN
 SEPTEMBER!



EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY THROUGH
 FELLOWSHIP, BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER

Sunday, October 4

P & M PUMPKIN RANCH

Admission: \$6.50/person

2 and under free

(mention you are with Countryside at admission
 booth for discount)

We will gather at the campfires from 5:00 - 6:00
 p.m. for hot dogs, smores, and fellowship!



October 4: Next Step Class begins

October 4: P & M Pumpkin Ranch

October 31: Trunk or Treat

November 4: Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

November 16-23: Operation Christmas Child box dropoff

November 22: Harvest Festival

December 2: Christmas Caroling/Advent Event

December 6: Christmas Home Tour

December 24: Candlelight Service

January 6: Game Night

Ministry to Women

Women Ministries is beginning to pick up momentum and it's a place that you want to be! We've had two very successful events in the last couple of months, especially if you count success by the number of women who participated and whose lives were no doubt, touched by God ... A Woman's Night of Worship the last of June with 55 women attending and the Lifeway Women Live Simulcast just last weekend where 81 women attended!

In addition to these two events, two Bible studies have been offered this summer. The first was a study of Romans that encouraged us to find good news as we explored the truths found throughout the book causing the bad news to be re-framed and reminded us of our hope for the future. Secondly, we are in the middle of a 28-day challenge of studying the book of Jonah. The challenge includes identifying the who, what, when, where, to whom and into which genre the book falls. Once we do that then we use the READ method to further discover what the passage says about God, identifying repeated or key words, and the main idea. Each day of the specific week another component is added – using the cross references, using a commentary, using a different translation etc. The week is then finished by answering the question, what does God want me to do today or this week to develop Christ-like character and habits. Jonah is a book with 4 chapters and so by reading and studying one chapter a week we'll have completed it in 28 days!



Two New Studies to Be Offered: On Thursday mornings at 9 o'clock beginning **September 17** the Precepts class will begin their study of the Book of Daniel.

Does the turmoil in our times, the uprisings and the spiritual decay of many have anything to do with the Book of Daniel? Daniel was a man who knew what God said about the end times. He focused on what God said, not the events of his own time. He had an impact on the people that God place in his life. How do you live as a Daniel in the crucial days in which you find yourself? How can you dare to be different? How do you get to know God Most High? The Book of Daniel has the answer. Call the Church Office and sign up by **Wednesday, September 2** to reserve a study book.



The other study beginning in October is Jennifer Rothschild's newest, *Take Courage*. She asks the question, "do you ever feel like the happy ending of your story is a million miles away?" Then you know how the Jewish people felt when they returned to their wrecked land after exile and began rebuilding the temple.

They were distracted, discouraged, and ready to throw in the towel. But the prophet Haggai reminded them they could find courage in the God who had never left them.

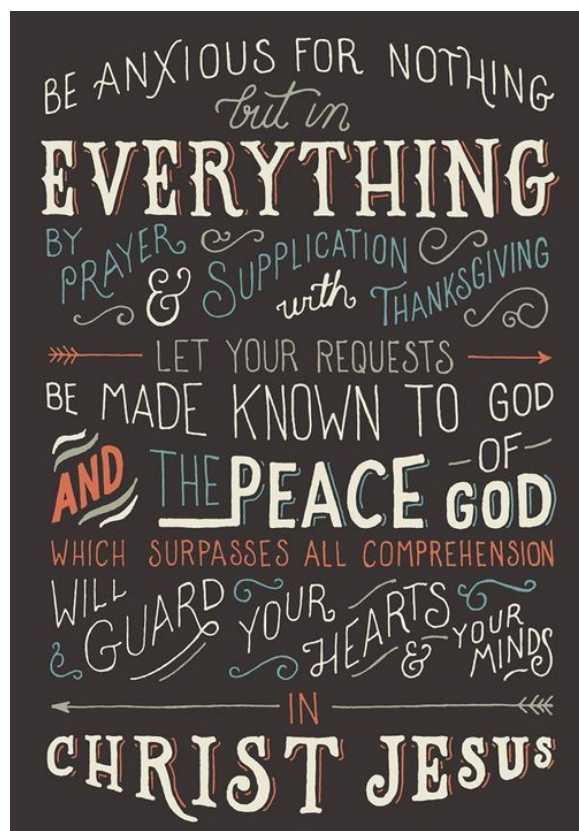
Sometimes the landscapes of our lives feel wrecked, with our hope and purpose in shambles. We too get distracted and discouraged. However, God's presence and promises give us courage to press on and trust Him with our story. In this 7-session study on the Book of Haggai, learn to walk confidently in your calling, stay motivated despite opposition, and courageously invest your life in God's purposes, trusting Him for results you may never see in this lifetime. It begins **October 1 at 7 p.m.** Again we ask that you call the Church Office to reserve a study book by **Wednesday, September 23**.

Ladies, it's so important for you to be daily in the Word of God. And our women ministries team encourages you to participate in one of these studies. For some, attending a study isn't where you can be right now and we would then encourage you to check out one of the online studies provided through Lifeway Women, Women's Bible Café, Proverbs 31 Ministries and others. Countryside also has a great library of video-based studies that we'd love for you to use. Just give me a call in the Church Office, 241-4499, and I'm more than eager to point you in the right direction.




Remember too that you're always invited to join other women for coffee on **Saturday mornings in the Countryside Café at 9**. It's a very informal time of fellowship where there's lots of good conversation and laughter!


Blessings to you and your family,
Linda






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


 In September, we plan to finally enjoy Peterson's Cabin on **Monday Sept. 7 from 3-7pm**. It's a potluck! For those whose last name is A-L bring a main dish, M-Z bring sides or salads. You can enjoy boating, skeet shooting, horse shoes, fishing, competitions, etc. weather permitting. Contact Lynn with P's and to RSVP: 620-755-7585. Gary and LaVonna Peterson, 2032 9th Ave., McPherson. Please bring a mask for indoors.


 **The Crescendo Planning Team** participated in a retreat for continuing education and prayerful planning on Aug. 20. Several wonderful things emerged and we found a vast array of interesting topics that peaked our interest. This coming year we hope to:

- ♦ host CovTalks on Covid-19 and Politics and the Bible
- ♦ experience a Spiritual Retreat at Little Jerusalem State Park
- ♦ engage in a thoughtful discussion about race in Kansas as we motor to significant sites
- ♦ plan a missions trip for next spring
- ♦ staff a prayer room for a week
- ♦ serve several populations including the Bower family as Jeremy is deployed.


Contact Pat Shaft to help with Bower meals or lawn care: 620-242-7685. Watch your email, church website, and PULSE for our calendar.


 **Your Story and His-story.** We want to capture a conversation with our older members to hear about God's faithfulness in their lives and how they are continuing to serve Him in their later years! If you or a loved one is willing to be filmed, please contact Lynn Black for details.

 **Tuesday Walking will resume starting Sept 15.** Destinations are Countryside's immediate neighborhood (15th), River Banks Orchard Park in Hutch (22nd), Kanopolis State Park (29th). Check the future Pulse for October locations.

 **Attention Grandparents!** You are invited to a free virtual event every Monday evening at 7pm until Oct. 5. **Grand Monday Nights** is a ministry of

Legacy Coalition – a partner organization begun by the makers of the popular children's series Awana. Legacy Coalition provides grandparent resources through workshops, retreats, books, lectures, and now virtual programs! A recent Monday evening featured Scott Wesley Brown with his talk, "The Grand Finale - Leaving a legacy through our gifts!" After almost 40 years of full time music ministry in the US and 40 countries across the world, Scott came to his moment of unveiling! "What is next? Is God finished with me especially in terms of significance?" He discovered what was missing was the most important mission ever and right there in front of him! Leaving a Godly legacy for his grandchildren. Scott's story of using his gift for a new reason in a new season is inspiring! To sign up for future Monday evening virtual events with other great speakers, just google "Legacycoalition.com/events" and click on "Grand Monday Nights" to register. It's free!

 If you are interested in a **Grandparenting workshop Sept. 17 to 20** with Legacy Coalition (also free), here's a link to their website. Your registration will enable you to watch each session as much as possible over the four day period. Enjoy the growth!"
https://legacycoalition.com/finding-hope-online-event/?inf_contact_key=e0948944b47c24607a14effbcfb7998a

 **Widows Connection** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9am at church.





September Youth Group Schedule

- 2 | 6:30pm Edge Youth Group! (Grades 6-8)
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group! (Grades 9-12)
- 6 | NO Christian Formation
- 9 | 6:30pm Edge Youth Group! (Grades 6-8)
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group! (Grades 9-12)
- 19 | 6:30pm Edge Youth Group! (Grades 6-8)
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group! (Grades 9-12)
- 20 | 7:00pm Ignite Movie Night! (Grades 9-12)
*Just Mercy-A movie based on a true story of Justice & Redemption
- 26 | See You at the Pole Event at Schools*TBA
6:30pm Edge Youth Group! (Grades 6-8)
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group! (Grades 9-12)

We are back; it was awesome to be able to gather again in the Student Center at the Lifestumin Fall kick-off on Wednesday, August 19th! We kept the momentum going with game night for Edge guys, a swim party for Edge gals and a social night at Kelly's for Ignite. We are better together than we are alone; community is life-giving and essential!

As we continue to gather, please refer to the church website and church app under Student Ministries to stay up to date on upcoming events. You can also follow us @Lifestumin on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for announcements!



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Christian Formation, Sundays @ 10am

- * **Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage**, Room 5, Pastor Jon & Lynn Black, Dave & Jaymie O'Dell, facilitators
- * **Next Step Class**, (Begins October 4), Room 6, Church Staff, facilitators
- * **Books of the Bible**, Room 8, John Mullen & Dan Tice, facilitators
- * **Immerse**, Room 16, Jerry Rogers and Jacob & Bobbie Kaufman, facilitators
- * **Develop Leaders**, Room 19, Jeff Houston & Tony Wedel, facilitators
- * **Precepts for Women**, Room 20, LaJane Anderson, facilitator
- * **That the World May Know**, Worship Center, Bob Williford, facilitator



Countryside Kids



KIDS TOWN IN SEPTEMBER

A lot of parents and kids alike focus more heavily on gleaning academic knowledge and gaining meaningful experiences, but teaching our kids to pursue wisdom will help them merge those fields and develop better, God-centered decision-making skills. Kids are placed in plenty of situations where they would need to exercise such discernment. While the wisdom they would need on a daily basis may not be on the scale of Solomon deliberating an argument between two women each claiming to be the rightful mother of a baby, kids will still collect valuable insight about wisdom from such stories. They will first determine wisdom comes from God, and that being wise also has a lot to do with saying the right words and asking the right questions. . . all of which we can ask of God, who will give them to us because God can be trusted.

PRETEEN MISSION TRIP

At the beginning of August, 10 students and 4 leaders spent the week partnering with several ministries in the Kansas City area for the preteen mission trip. After our trip to Texas had been cancelled we began looking for other ways to serve and ended up planning a trip through MERGE. We spent the first part of our week in Kansas City working with Freedom Fire Ministries and Mission Adelante. This included various landscaping projects and some cleaning and organizing. We spent the last part of our week at Camp Shalom. Even though they were unable to host summer camps this summer due to COVID-19 there were still lots of maintenance projects for us to help out with! We were so thankful for this opportunity and for the support of our church family!



COUNTRYSIDE KIDS DAY CAMP

The last week of July Countryside Kids hosted a Day Camp for kids entering preschool - 6th grade! We partnered with Camp Ruwá for a incredible week of faith and fun. Thank you to the many people who helped prepare lunches for the campers and staff and who provided hospitality to the Camp Ruwá staff by providing housing, meals, and entertainment some evenings. It was such a blessing to see everyone come together to make this week a success!



September

2,9,16,23,30 - Kids Life @ 6:15

13, 20, 27 - Kids Town @ 10:00

Note: No Kids Town Sept. 6 due to Labor Day.



DO YOU WANT WEEKLY UPDATES ABOUT WHAT WE ARE LEARNING?

Receive weekly email updates by emailing Amy at amy@csidecov.org

Worship

Discipleship

Service

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Hi All – Over the past several months we have all seen a lot of changes to how we function in all aspects of life. I would imagine we have all heard the term “social distancing” way too many times. We have seen our workplaces and work practices turned upside down. Going out for a relaxing dining experience is not so relaxing any more. Even a routine shopping trip to Walmart or Dillons is not so routine. And then there is the question of face masks - I am not going to touch that one (pun intended).

We have also seen changes in how we function as a church. We have done – on-line church, Zoom-based Christian Formation classes, socially distanced Bible Studies, postponed or canceled events and activities, etc. – the list goes on. During this time, the Leadership Team has been focused on helping the Church Staff manage through many of these issues. We are all diligently seeking God’s guidance as we navigate through and around these obstacles as a church.

The dictionary definition of “obstacle” is something that obstructs or hinders progress. All of us, when we encounter obstacles, respond in one of two ways. We either use it as a reason not to continue our progress, or we find a way to make progress despite the obstacle. I am reminded of the passage in James –

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
James 1:2-4 NIV

I encourage all of us to consider how we are looking at the trials in which we find ourselves. Are we experiencing joy as we know God is working to mature us? Or are we finding ourselves giving up and simply waiting for a “better” and easier path?

Two of the key phrases that we have used during this time are “demonstrate grace” and “exercise patience.” These are ways that demonstrate God’s love to one another and to the community in which we serve. Let us continue to show others who God is and how confident we can be in His provision, even though we face obstacles. Together we will continue to make progress in God’s kingdom through the ministries of Countryside Covenant Church.

In Christ’s service,
Bob Williford



August 2020 Attendance (Numbers include online attendance)

	Christian Formation	Worship
August 2	—	471
August 9	—	394
August 16	86	408
August 23	179	425
August 30	—	—

August 2020 Giving

August 2	\$18,425.70
August 9	\$18,636.13
August 16	\$18,898.58
August 23	\$24,335.00
August 30	—
Total Y-to-D	\$676,844.15
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	-\$23,875.59

Countryside Covenant Church
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McPherson KS 67460

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Hello,
September!

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 at 10:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

1	Widow's Connection
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Men's Coffee
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Celebrate Recovery
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Prayer Time
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Men's Bible Study
3, 10	Women's Bible Study Challenge
5, 12, 19, 26	Women's Coffee at The Well
6	No Christian Formation Classes
7	Labor Day-Church Office Closed
7	Crescendo @ Peterson's Cabin
15	Leadership Team Meeting
27	Ministry Coordination Council Meeting

Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant

