



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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

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 24, ISSUE 5
May 2025

A Full, Rich, Satisfying, Abundant Life - Connor Gibson

John 10:10b:

*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full. (NIV)*

*My purpose is to give them a rich
and satisfying life. (NLT)*

*I came that they may have life and
have it abundantly. (ESV)*

Question: Are you experiencing the full, rich, satisfying, and abundant life that Christ came to give you? Is that your experience right now? Another way to look at it: Are you overflowing with the fruit of the Spirit? Ya know, those things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control? Or, do you feel like your walk with God is more a daily practice of repressing and ignoring the “bad” things you probably “shouldn’t” do/feel/think about? (Insert your particular sin, struggle, or fear here).

I pose these questions because, sometimes, I think we tend to focus on our relationship with Jesus as some sort of business agreement, like, “I’ll give you this if you give me this,” rather than an all-out, all-encompassing, joy-filled, divine love affair with the God who has come to set us free! (Gal. 5:1).

If you are not experiencing the abundant life in Christ, perhaps you are pursuing the wrong “things” and not pursuing the right “who.” Perhaps you’ve got Matthew 6:33 backwards. Here’s something to ponder:

*Better is one day in your courts than
a thousand elsewhere. - Psalm
84:10a (NIV)*

My grandfather passed away many years ago. Any of you who have lost a loved one know that what I am about to say is true. I do not miss the gifts and things that my grandfather gave me. I don’t miss Christmas and birthday presents. I don’t miss cards stuffed with cash, or a free lunch every now and then. What I miss is him. I miss talking to him. I miss going to the gun range with him. I miss watching football with him on the couch while the sound is muted because he couldn’t stand the commentators. I would trade all the things he ever gave me for another day of just being with him. (Suddenly, Psalm 84:10 makes a little more sense...)



I think that many of us, if we’re honest, often don’t pursue God to experience and be with Him, but to receive the things that we want from Him. A better marriage, freedom from addictions, less anxiety, more financial security, etc... Don’t get me wrong, all these are good desires. But how would you feel if your kids came to you every time they wanted something and only when they wanted something? That would not be a very healthy and life-giving relationship for either you or your child. Yet for some of us, that is how we approach our faith with God as His children.

Instead, let’s pursue the greatest gift of all: God himself! Matthew 6:33 tells us that when we pursue His kingdom and righteousness, everything else will be added to us as well.

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We don't need to worry or chase after things, because God supplies every need of ours according to His riches in mercy in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19). So, in those ways we've sought after the things of God over God Himself, let's return in repentance like the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15), who initially valued the things of his father over the relationship with his father. And just like the prodigal son, God welcomes us back with open arms when we return to Him. He is a loving Father! Yes, He gives good gifts to those who ask (Matt 7:11), but...

...Let's not chase the gifts. Let's chase the Giver!

A final word. When our sole pursuit becomes Jesus Himself, He often calls us to give up the "things" we want in order to receive more of what He wants to give us. Are you trusting that His plan and desires for you are way, way, way (insert "way" 100 more times), way better for you than your plan and desires? Are you willing to listen for Jesus' voice and step out of the boat of your misplaced comfort and security to walk towards where He is at, deciding that He is better than anything else you could ever ask or imagine for yourself?

Friends, that is the path of the full, rich, satisfying, abundant life that Jesus has come to give us. Do you want to walk on water!? Listen for Jesus' voice, step out of the boat, walk towards Him, and be amazed at what He empowers you to do! He's got you.

Thank You's

Dear Church Family,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for the love, support, and kindness you have shown me and my family during this difficult time. Your prayers, the beautiful flowers, and the memorials in Joleta's memory have been a source of comfort and strength. Please know how much your support has meant to all of us. We are deeply thankful for your continued prayers!

With gratitude and love, Del Stucky & Family

Dear Church Family,

We can't thank you all enough for the support you've given our family in the last couple months. From all the meal trains to the many people who have helped me pick up the house or entertain our three big kids, we have been so blessed by you all. Lizzy's back is much better, the twins are growing, and turnaround is almost over. This is what it means to be part of a church family! Thank you all!

Blessings, Nate, Lizzy, Hannah, James, Daniel, Noah, and Levi Butterfield



SEW & SHARE

The ladies that meet once a month have such a great time as they gather to "work on" projects for different missions. And, they'd love to have you join them! In May they will meet on **Monday, the 19th, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5**. It's a great way to serve and to help others. Contact Shirlee Harper, 620-755-1205.



Moms Group
WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

We've had a great time with MOMs group. We're getting ready to close our year with our final meeting on **May 13 @ 9:00 a.m.** If you haven't made it yet, this is the meeting to come to! We'll be celebrating with giveaways and fellowship. Thanks to all who have supported us throughout the year. We are better together!



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

Saying "Yes!" - Dan Kliever

Since I retired from the refinery about 7 years ago with 32 years of service, possibly the biggest change for me has been the freedom to be available and to say, "Yes!"



When my daughter asked if I could pick up her first grader from school, I was able to say, "Yes." As soon as we met at the school, my granddaughter asked if we could go get some french fries. I said, "Yes!" So we went to DQ, got the fries and sat down at a booth. There we were, just the two of us and the chance for me to ask, "How's it going?"

It struck me that this is just what Jesus wants to do with us. He gives us all kinds of gifts, interests, desires and sometimes just what we ask for, like french fries. Revelation 3:20 says that Jesus stands at the door knocking. If we hear Him and let Him in (say, "Yes," to Him), He will be glad to come in and have french fries with us (ie: enjoy the gifts, interests and abilities He's given us as we spend time together).

Someone asked if I would like to play tennis on MWF mornings. I said, "Yes," and found an incredibly positive group full of encouragement (with plenty of competition) and striving to use their gifts and abilities for God's kingdom.

Another friend was sharing about how he was involved in jail ministry. He invited me to come give it a try. That was about five years ago and I've been stopping by the jail almost every Thursday evening to visit and pray with the guys who want to. It's amazing to see how God's love impacts their hungry hearts! God is clearly at work in their lives as they're healed from pain, bitterness, guilt and depression. He responds when they reach for His light in the midst of their potentially dark consequences and circumstances.

One Sunday as I arrived at church, I mentioned to a staff person that I was interested in mentoring someone. He said, "How about that guy?" I said, "Yes," and we've had a very good relationship for over five years. God's transformation in his life has gone way beyond anything I expected and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it!

A book idea jumped into my head (I believe God threw it in there) so I said, "Yes," and wrote, "Set Sail." It's a brief message that's had a big impact on me and others, including many of the guys at the jail. It's all about inviting Jesus into our boat as we sail to our islands of opportunity every day. I share more about it at the "Set Sail," link.



A couple of the tennis players encouraged me to try Senior Golf at Turkey Creek on Thursday mornings and I said, "Yes." I've thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie as we cheer each other on over 18 holes. It's a great chance to ask and share how it's going as we hit the little white ball as best we can.

Last fall, one of the other golfers asked me if I liked singing. I said, "Yes I do," and he invited me to join the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. We started practicing in January and just completed concerts at Tabor and Bethel in April. Many of the 120 members have been in this choir for over 20 years and some for over 50 years! I was surprised at how much I enjoyed harmonizing and fellowshiping with the other guys. Also, having those songs of praise and courage echoing in my head throughout the week has been a huge blessing. **Scan this code to see a video of our performance at Tabor.** One of my favorite songs starts at the 11-minute mark.



I see so many around me saying, "Yes," to God in all kinds of ways and having amazing experiences! I'm thankful for retirement and for Romans 8:28 that says all things work together for good for those that love Him. That verse applies even in my Crescendo years and gives me the courage to take risks by saying, "Yes," more often. Because as long as He's in my boat, I know I'll be okay! - Dan





**Connecting women
to each other and to
Jesus!**

Women's Ministry is excited to announce a couple of opportunities for you and other women at Countryside.

Once again, we are bringing back **The Gathering Table** for the months of May, June and July. Women who have participated in the past have been excited to get to know other women who attend Countryside through this experience! Groups are formulated with six women who meet for two hours once a month possibly for a meal, or in a coffee shop or restaurant, or the park, for example. A hostess will contact you suggesting times to meet and what the plans are for the first get together. If it's for a meal, she will let you know what you can bring to add to the meal. During the evening the focus of discussion will center around a Bible verse, answering a few Christ-centered questions, and then praying for one another. If you are interested but haven't signed up, please contact me soon so you can be placed in a group.

Our team believes that during this season at Countryside we are to focus on discipling and/or mentoring women. And because of that, a group of 11 women have met twice to put some direction to this emphasis. We strongly believe too that God has given us the task to "invest" in women's lives! Summer seems to be a great time to establish some guidelines and training for mentors. If you want more information about possibly serving as a mentor, I'd love to have a conversation with you. Our current goal is to be able to **connect women to other women and to Jesus** beginning this fall.

A new Bible study will be offered this summer at two different times ... we'll be studying the book **Restless** by Jennie Allen. In this eight-session, video-based study, we'll look at the life of Joseph and see how his passions, relationships, and suffering fit into the greater story of God – and how

our stories can do the same. We'll walk through a practical plan to identify the threads of life and how to intentionally weave them together for God's glory and purposes. Here's when these studies will be offered:

- ⇒ **Tuesdays at 9:30 am, begins June 9;**
Childcare by reservation.
- ⇒ **Thursdays at 7 pm, begins June 12;**
Sorry, no child care available.

Hopefully you can join us for one of these sessions. You can write "Restless" on your Connection Card on Sunday or call the Church Office to reserve a book and let us know if you will need childcare.

Watch for our upcoming service project! We'll provide lap blankets for cancer treatment patients at McPherson Hospital. There will be pieces of fleece that you will pick up and finish the edges by cutting and tying them available soon in the foyer.

Blessings to you,
Linda



Thank You to those who responded to the need for food and help for Dick Friedley's funeral last month. It's great to be able to serve families who have lost a loved one in this way and to be able to provide a meal of their choosing. They chose to have the chicken casserole and your salad or dessert added to the meal immensely! And special thanks to the great kitchen help who made it all happen as well!



LifeStuMin



May 2025 Newsletter



Spring in Life Student Ministries has been so full of life! On March 30th we had Youth Sunday and our INCREDIBLE worship team led by Keragan Gates did a beautiful job!

Check out the Summer Event Calendars!

Hello Summer

Wednesday, June 4th Bible Study + Sand Volleyball
7-9pm @ Lizy's Apt

Wednesday, June 11th Bible Study + Capture the Flag
7-9pm @ Lizy's Apt

Wednesday, June 18th Bible Study + Fire Pit/S'mores
7-9pm @ Lizy's Apt

Wednesday, June 25th Bible Study + Game Night 7-9pm @ Lizy's Apt

Friday, June 27th Worlds of Fun Day! 7am-Midnight

High School Summer Events

Hello SUMMER

Wednesday, June 4th Middle School Hangout 1-2:30pm Student Center

Wednesday, June 11th Middle School Hangout 1-2:30pm Student Center

Wednesday, June 18th Middle School Hangout 1-2:30pm Student Center

Middle School 24-Hr RUSH in KC! Friday, June 20-Sat June 21st.

Wednesday, June 25th Pool Party!! 1-2:30pm Eilrich Home

Sunday June 29-Friday July 4th 7th/8th grade camp at Covenant Cedars

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER EVENTS

Thank you!

I want to say "thank you!" to this wonderful church family who donated to our Bake Sale last month. We felt SO incredibly supported by this church community and are well on our way to Arlington, TX!

Verse Highlight

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Rom 12:2

Countryside Kids

COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP | 1ST - 6TH GRADE

This summer, we're excited to invite our campers to join us for our theme, "Prodigal." Luke reminds us that we have a Father who loves us no matter what – in fact, He wants to bring us back home to Him! Go online to find your camp week and dates, then get registered! cedars.org. Scholarships are available. Contact Amy for more details.



CCBC WORK WEEKEND

Thanks to this amazing crew that went up to CCBC in April for the work weekend! We spent two days at the camp helping prepare for the summer!



BAPTISMS ON PALM SUNDAY



We celebrated 5 baptisms on Palm Sunday! Pictured from left to right: Jameson Froese, Kaelynn Luther, Lily McDaniel, Kaelynn Shaw, Kerry Zickafoose.

Baptism

COMMUNICATION

Most of our communication comes through weekly email and text. If you are not receiving the emails already, please contact Amy to get added to our list! amy@csidecov.org

MAY COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

4	Sunday	Kids Praise 8:30 & 11:00 am
11	Sunday	Kids Praise 8:30 & 11:00 am
14	Wednesday	VBS Training 10:00 am & 6:00 pm
17	Saturday	VBS Workday 9:00 am - Noon
18	Sunday	Kids Praise 8:30 & 11:00 am
18	Sunday	VBS Training 10:00 am
21	Wednesday	VBS Training 10:00 am & 6:00 pm
25	Sunday	Kids Praise 8:30 & 11:00 am



Make plans for your child to attend our summer VBS at Countryside Covenant Church this summer! We have a fantastic week planned where kids will learn how to find their way in a world gone wild. We have Jesus - our true north! We hope to give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever! VBS is open to kids that are age 4 all the way through kids who have just completed 5th grade!



USE THE QR CODE TO THE LEFT TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR VBS

VBS CREW! JOIN US FOR ONE OF THE BEST WEEKS OF THE SUMMER!



Volunteering at VBS is one of the best ways to get plugged in at Countryside and experience community! Not only do you get to spend your week getting to know some amazing kids but you will get to make new friends as well as you serve alongside each other! Use the QR code to the left to see how you can use your gifts to serve!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH VBS!



DONATE ITEMS FOR SNACKS!
CHECK OUT THE TREES IN THE FOYER WITH ALL THE ITEMS WE ARE STILL NEEDING!



JOIN US FOR OUR WORKDAY ON SATURDAY, MAY 17TH
9:00 AM - NOON

SUMMER

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our schedule for children's programming will change a bit during the summer months! This is so we can make room for all of the extra things happening like VBS, camps, and mission trips. We will not have Kids Town or Kids Life over the summer (both will resume in September). We will still have nursery on Sunday mornings as well as Kids Praise during our worship services!



**CONNOR'S GOING AWAY
RECEPTION**

Sunday, May 25 | 9:45 - 10:45 am
Student Center

Join us as we thank him for his service here at Countryside!
Because one of Connor's favorites is **PIE**, we are asking each family
to bring a pie to share. (Throw away pans would be ideal!)

Church Life Update:



Baptisms:

**Jameson Froese, Kaelynn
Luther, Lily McDaniel,
Kaelynn Shaw, Kerry
Zickafoose**

Death:

Dick Friedley, March 27

Dedication:

**Owen Micah, son of Jacob
& Topanga Dailey**

New Members:

**Anita Eyer, Brian Eyer,
Brit Farley, Kelli Farley,
Tor Farley, Hayley Froese,
Lee Froese, Dangel
Hoffman, Dixon Shaffett,
Lauren Shaffett, Brie
Vinson, Nic Vinson.**



Spring Update from Save 'N Share:

The arrival of spring and summer brings an increased need for help at Save 'N Share. Garage sale season means more donations and some of our regular volunteers take time to travel. If you have an hour or two, we have a cool place you could spend it, sorting and cleaning donated items. Parents or grandparents are welcome to bring teens with them for an interesting view of behind the scenes at Save 'N Share and to learn a unique way to help our community. Thanks for your support!

**The heavens declare
the glory of God,
and the skies above
proclaim the work
of His hands.**

Psalm 19:1 (NIV)





McPherson Housing Coalition

A Season of Milestones and Mercy

May is a month filled with meaning—blooms burst into color, students don their caps and gowns, and we gather to celebrate the women who have shaped our lives on Mother's Day. It's a time of joy and reflection, a season of beginnings and endings. For many, May brings All Schools Day and the celebration of youthful hope and new horizons. But for others, it quietly marks another month of struggle.

As we honor accomplishments and those we love, we're reminded that not everyone has the same reason to celebrate. Some mothers are grieving losses or struggling to provide. Some students won't be walking across a stage, not for lack of intelligence, but because life's burdens weighed heavier than opportunity. Some families face the start of summer not with joy, but with worry—about food, housing, and how to keep their children safe when school doors close.

Scripture tells us, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2). In this season of milestones, may we not forget to look for those whose milestones are marked not by tassels and roses, but by courage and quiet endurance.

As a people who notice, who reach out, who offer more than celebration—but also compassion, we carry the heart of Christ into the world around us. May we honor mothers not only with flowers, but with food, shelter, and dignity. May we applaud graduates for their accomplishments—and also fight for every child to have the opportunity to walk across that stage. In this season of milestones, may our love be more than words—may it be action, presence, and unwavering hope.

This May, let our gratitude stir us to generosity. Let our joy move us toward justice. And let the love we give be wide enough to hold every story, especially the ones that haven't been told yet.

News and Events

- ◆ **60 Families Housed**
Since January 2025, we've assisted 60 families in securing safe and stable housing throughout McPherson County—changing lives one home at a time.
- ◆ **"Housing For Good" – Weekly Podcast**
Our weekly podcast continues to inform, inspire, and advocate for housing solutions, featuring local voices and national insight.
- ◆ **Brush Up MAC – Annual Event**
Our 2025 Brush Up MAC event was a success! 25 senior homeowners received critical home repairs and maintenance support, helping them age safely in place.

Blessings,
Chris Goodson

(Countryside folks helping out at Brush Up MAC)



WIDOWS CONNECTION

- Tuesday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.,
The Cedars Event Center
- Saturday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.,
Countryside Café—Good food, visiting,
laughter, games, just a good ol' time!

Contact Becky, 918-706-1257, or Judy, 360-355-0943 for more information or to RSVP.



LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

God has not given up on you!

*Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1:6***

The Apostle Paul wrote Philippians 1:6 with the utmost assurance and confidence. He had no doubt what the Lord started in their lives. He would continue to accomplish until His return. We call this work of God sanctification.

Do you have problems with 'stick-ability' or completing a task that you started? How many of us have a load of "unfinished symphonies," whether they are craft works, maintenance jobs, or the like that we started but never finished. Not being able to see things through to completion seems to be something that so many of us are guilty of.

Aren't you glad God is not like us?

God has begun a masterpiece in our life and He will bring it to completion too. You are a work in progress so don't give up. God has not given up on you.

As you already know, Connor Gibson will be leaving us in serving as Worship Arts Director on May 25. We are sad to see Connor go, as he has brought so much to us. Thank you, Connor! Thank you, Lord!

So, in keeping our communication open, I am happy to announce that Bobbie Kaufman has accepted the position as **Interim** Worship Arts Director, starting May 26. We look forward with joy, to what God will bring through Bobbie's service as **Interim** Worship Director.

Our Financial Team report for April at Leadership Team meeting continues to give us hope and thanks in how God provides for and through our congregation, for those in need. It

was agreed to give \$2,000.00 to returning missionaries to Congo, Paul & Sheryl Noren, \$3,00.00 to Roberto & Nancy Reed in Spain, for their retirement funds and \$3,000.00 to Covenant Cedars to help with items on their wish list. God leaves nothing undone.

Leadership Team Chairman,
Reba Becker



April 2025 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
April 6	164	595
April 13	143	644
April 20	—	883
April 27	119	534

April 2025 Giving

April 6	\$26,644.00
April 13	\$20,617.39
April 20	\$24,657.59
April 27	\$14,177.32
Total Y-to-D	\$429,828.28
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	(\$28,768.57)

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

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Your May 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.

MAY EVENTS

4	Confirmation Sunday
6, 13, 20, 27	Men's Coffee
6, 17	Widows Connection
6, 13, 20, 27	Celebrate Recovery
7, 14, 21, 28	Prayer Group
9	All Schools Day/Church Office Closed
11	Mother's Day
13	MOMs Group
14, 18, 21	VBS Training
18	Senior Sunday
19	Sew & Share
20	Leadership Team Meeting
25	Connor Gibson Send Off Celebration
26	Memorial Day/Church Office Closed



Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Lizy Johnson, Student Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Keragan Gates, Production Director

