

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 19, ISSUE 8
August 2020

Pray for Each Other

- Pastor Jeremy Bower

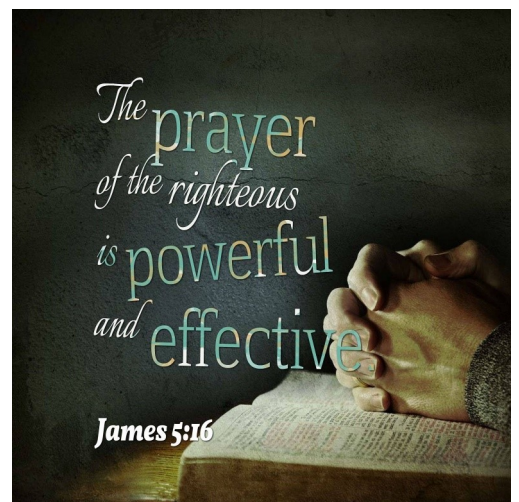
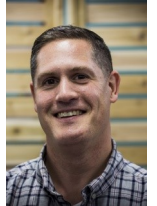
It seems like just when we are ready to move forward, we get moved one step back. I think we have all felt a bit let down and frustrated with everything COVID-19 related. This has been a very trying time not only for you, but also for us on staff. The Leadership Team and staff have spent countless hours deliberating on what to do, how to do it, when to do it, etc. The decisions we have come to arrive at have not come easily. We ask that you all continue praying for discernment as we move forward as a church.

The good news during all of this is that our church has been proactively thinking of ways to engage those in our congregation that are unable to show up on Sunday mornings. Over a year ago, we started broadcasting our LIVE STREAMING services via Facebook and our website. Additionally, our church now has a downloadable APP for smartphones. On this APP, you can view upcoming events, sign up for volunteering opportunities, watch past and present services, as well as have access to the church directory. If you have not visited our website lately, that too has undergone a massive update.

We are trying to give you all the information we can in various platforms, so you don't miss what's going on. If you are interested in downloading the church APP, you can go to our website and, at the top of the screen, you will find a link that says "Church App." Click on that link, enter your cell phone number and you will receive a link to download it.

With these new ways of engaging as a congregation (COVID-19 updates, a new website, livestream, an APP), what more could there possibly be? How about a deployment for one of our staff members? As most of you have already heard, I am being called up by the National Guard to deploy later in October. This may have come to you as a shock or maybe some of you were waiting for any reason to get rid of me for a while. In any case, our Leadership Team is working with Pastor Jon on a way to move forward during my absence.

We covet your prayers during this transition for our church as well as for my family who will have to manage while I am away. As always, I will continue to pray for our church while I am gone. Perhaps there will be some opportunities to ZOOM or SKYPE while I am overseas. Continue pressing into God and may you be blessed by His presence in your life as you seek Him in all you do.



LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Well, it has been a while since the last Leadership Team update via newsletter. As we are all aware, our lives have been turned upside-down and inside-out over the past 4 months. We have seen so many changes in our day-to-day lives that it seems there is no "normal" any longer.

As I sit here typing this update, it would be easy to jump into a litany of all the negative and difficult things we have been through. There has certainly been a lot of confusion and turmoil regarding what we can or cannot do and what we should or should not do as individuals as well as a church body. The Leadership Team (LT) continues to wrestle through the issues as they evolve and will strive to keep you informed.

During the past few months I have also seen God's blessing on Countryside Covenant Church in the many ways that we as a church have leveraged the difficult times and navigated the obstacles to stay connected with the work that God is doing among us and through us. The staff and ministry team leaders, as well as many of you, are continuing to do an outstanding job of adapting to the changing environment and working to assure that no one is spiritually isolated during these times.

At one of our recent LT meetings, I shared that Matthew 6:25-33 is one of my life's guiding scriptures.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt 6:25-33 NIV)

It is my earnest hope and prayer that as we continue to focus on seeking God's kingdom and righteousness, that we will exercise and experience His grace in all we do. The Leadership Team is monitoring

COVID-19 issues and continues to provide support to our staff in decisions and processes for us to regroup and regather as a church. As we have communicated before, the Staff and Leadership Team are committed to seeking God's direction as we continue to navigate these issues. Please feel free to reach out to any of us as you may have need for clarification or connection.

Blessings in Christ our Lord,

Bob Williford

July 2020 Attendance (Numbers include online attendance)

	Christian Formation	Worship
July 5	—	291
July 12	—	383
July 19	—	350
July 26	—	357

July 2020 Giving

July 5	\$16,051.20
July 12	\$15,304.44
July 19	\$17,910.27
July 26	\$13,789.16
Total Y-to-D	\$617,562.04
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$12,787.79



Congratulations to Countryside's softball team, who won the championship for the 3rd year in a row!! Team members were (l to r): Judah Neff, Evan Knight, Aaron Roberts, Chris Trenckman, Rebecca Roberts, Jim Pacey, Shawn Buckbee, Luke Silvey, Taylor Bersuch and Michael Brunk. Not pictured is Kody Cox and Daniel Mitchell.



Baptism

celebration

Sunday Morning, August 2

If you or a member of your family desires to be baptized, please contact the Church Office.

Church Life Update



Wedding:

Heidi Heidebrecht & Grant Tevis,
June 13

Baptisms:

Josse & Aleasha Allen,
Kaesie Melville,
Mackenzie Melville,
July 14



Deaths:

Howard Arvin, March 24
Alan Hansen, March 25
Kala Mason, April 10
Marjorie Piles, June 2

Births:

Dakota Lou, born to Daniel & Tricia Mitchell,
March 9

Briggs McCoy, born to T.J. & Brandi
Jackson, March 4

Constance Mae, born to Patrick & Katie
Selzer, April 15

Bri Elizabeth, born to Caleb & Julie Linn,
April 24

New Members:

Aleasha Allen, Josse Allen, Amy Allmon,
Anoria Carlson, Nathan Carlson, Jolene
Czosnowski, Paul Czosnowski, Debi
Heidebrecht, Jamie Heidebrecht, Dallas
Huber, Julie Huber, Leah Lockard, Nathan
Lockard, Barbara Nelson, Marilyn Postier,
Lisa Sack, Ashley Schafer, Nicholas
Schafer, Vera Schra, Dennis Shaw, Nanci
Shaw, Odessa Snyder, Stacy Snyder,
Deborah Steel, Dave Wedel & Mindi Wedel

Thank You's

Thanks to everyone who helped with the dinner for the memorial service for Alan Hansen, to everyone who provided salads and cakes, and to those who helped in the kitchen: Inge Krug, Jaymie O'Dell, Penny Selzer and Taryn Vetter. What a great crew!!

-Val Mork

Hello All!

These last few months have been a whirlwind. Just about a month after returning from our trip to Brasil and Costa Rica, I travelled to the US to be with my mom while she was on hospice and passed away, and because of COVID, I had to cancel ministry trips to four countries in Latin America and did not make it back to Spain. So much going on emotionally and with work. In the midst of it all we are so very grateful to God for His presence and provision. You have been such an important part of that with not only your prayers and monthly support, but also making Nancy's operation on her eyes possible. Nancy says "the colors pop out and I can see every single leaf on a tree. It's amazing!" Thank you! We are hoping to go back to Spain as soon as travel from Mexico to Spain is possible.

In Christ's Peace,
Rob & Nancy Reed

To all my friends at Countryside Covenant Church:

A huge thank you to all of you for your many prayers, cards and phone calls for when I had my unexpected hip surgery on March 23 and then spent two weeks in quarantine.

My recovery from surgery went well. The quarantine was not fun. It made me think of the POW's and people who are in solitary confinement! Psalm 46 is a good chapter in the Bible, and it's not too long. Verse 10 says "Be still and know that I am God." I had a lot of time to be "still." Verse 1 says "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

I had many cards and I especially want to thank the younger children who took time to write a note. I was impressed! It made me realize how important it is to send a card. I will try and do better at that.

I am thankful to be home and able to walk well. No races are being run unless there is one called the "slow race." Once again, thank you for your many prayers. Knowing there are people praying is always comforting. Many thanks and may God bless you all a "whole bunch." Jesus loves you all!

-Wanieta Penner



Ministry to Women

It's with much excitement that I write to you and give you an update on what's happening in Women's Ministries at Countryside.

On Monday, June 29, 55 women gathered in the Student Center for A Woman's Night of Worship. I have to admit that I was blown away by the number of ladies that were here. During the evening though Kari Bower shared their adoption story and it was evident how passionate she is about their decisions to add two additional children to their family through adoption. Kari also handed out prints that a friend has gifted her with as a reminder of those steps of faith that they took ... Psalm 27:14. We also were challenged by Nancy Billings and Carri Carlson that even through our lockdown time they found a way to dive deeper into scripture verses by talking on the phone once a week. As we considered "All He Asks of Us Is Love" through these stories, we were truly blessed. (Thank you, Jesus!)

The Thursday evening Bible study continues to look at the book of Romans and it's been a great way of getting to know each other better but also to know God's word better. Part of our weekly lessons is the challenge of memorizing a specific verse and, even though we struggle to learn, we've been richly blessed to "plant" God's Word in our hearts. Some have spoken of *new* daily habits that they are establishing which contribute to their spiritual growth. (Yay God!)

BIG NEWS! Our ministry team met last week and agreed to host the Lifeway Women Live Simulcast here at Countryside on Saturday, August 29! I can't tell you how excited I personally am to bring this to women of our church family, community and surrounding area. We will meet at 8:15 am to be ready when the simulcast starts at 8:30. And we'll meet in our Worship Center which will allow for social distancing. Lunch is provided in your registration cost of \$20. You are encouraged to register by August 23. You can stop by the Church Office to register or call, 620.241.4499. The line-up of speakers includes Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, Jen Wilkin, Jackie Hill Perry, Jennifer Rothschild, Kelly Minter, Angie Smith and Kristin McLelland. WOW! What a day as we ***Pursue Christ Together!*** Our day includes times of worship before we are finished around 4:15. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and join us for this awesome day to be together, to learn together and to hear the hearts of these women.

You are invited to join us for **Coffee Connection** on Saturday mornings at 9 in the Café at Countryside. It's an enjoyable, very informal time of chatting and getting to know one another better. Remember too that we have opportunities to serve through Women Ministries ... we'd love to have you help us serve the Celebrate Recovery meals on the second Tuesday of each month. You can contact me at linda@csidecov.org or call me at 620.755.2060 for more information and/or to sign up!



Hope your summer is going well and that you are able to rest in God's loving arms as we move through these days of unknowns and uncertainties. — Linda Totman, Coordinator, Women Ministries



Yes, our building has re-opened and we have regathered for worship on Sunday mornings. Yet, it's really important that the Church Office know when you will be in the building on weekends and during the week. Simply give us a phone call and let us know especially if your event isn't normally on our church calendar. Thanks so much!

Again, we say **THANK YOU** for giving to our General Fund and Benevolent Fund during the early months of online only worship as well as since we have been able to meet in-person! **You are the best!**

If you are mailing in your tithe check, your envelope should be addressed to Countryside Covenant Church, PO Box 765, McPherson KS 67460. Thanks for helping us use the correct mailing address.



You will
seek
me
and find me,
when you
seek me with
all your
heart.
Jeremiah 29:13



**LIFEWAY
WOMEN
live**



SIMULCAST

PURSUE CHRIST TOGETHER

Saturday, August 29

8:15 a.m. - 4:15 pm

Featuring Beth Moore,
Priscilla Shirer, Jen Wilkin,
Jackie Hill Perry, Kelly Minter,
Jennifer Rothschild, Angie Smith
& Kristi McLelland

\$20 per person includes lunch

Register in the Church Office
or by calling 620.241.4499

Countryside Covenant Church
940 E. Northview Ave. www.csidecov.com



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

Crescendo Leadership Team would not let Covid-19 define us! While we were unable to meet for worship in person this past spring, we had several options for fellowship and learning that kept us focused on *God's mission for us to grow in Jesus Christ and be engaged in His kingdom ministry.*

Still to do this summer...

Join us any weekday from noon to 1pm at the McPherson Waterpark to **walk in the lazy river** (or 7-8pm). The exercise is great and the companion-ship motivating! Bring cash or buy a pass.

Outdoors at Peterson's Cabin Saturday Aug. 15 from 3-7 pm. Enjoy kayak, paddle boat, canoe, skeet shoot, horseshoes, campfire, competitions, and fish off the peer. Bring a potluck dish to share: A-L main dish and M-Z side or salad, plus your table service and a lawn chair. Bring friends!! Beverages provided. 2032 9th Ave. McPherson. LaVonna Peterson 242-5467.

Oral Histories Project. We'd like to interview our older members to hear their faith stories and learn from their experiences. If you or a loved one would like an interview, contact Dick Skar, Jeri Brooks, or Lynn Black for more information.

Here's how we've moved through the Pandemic so far...

Starting with all CF and Bible Studies going on-line with Zoom for spring, classes adapted amazingly well to the new format. Those with computers or phones learned how to use their devices in more complex ways through tutorials and practice.

April, May, and June **Crescendo walks** on Tuesdays included not only familiar haunts, but we took advantage of the Chamber's historic district walking tour and the downtown mural tour (complete with scavenger hunt!). Norm Hope gave us a thoroughly interesting history tour of the Mac College campus. We also tried out the Sunflower Santa Fe Trail in Galva, an old rail corridor with woods and bridges. Walks will resume in September, weather permitting.



Widow's group formed a phone chain to check in with one another to help prevent isolation. They encouraged one another with physically distanced visits, flower and sermon CD deliveries, and even a meal out. We're now back together for regular meetings.



Widows' Connection. Next meeting is Tuesday, August 7th at 9am at church. Bring 3 or 4 items from your home that are in good shape but you are finished enjoying. Think "useful" or "beautiful." We'll be making gift baskets and delivering them. WC seeks to help women find friendship and empathy with others who are experiencing similar life circumstances. They meet the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Judy Blaine for more information: 360-355-0943.

The 24 Hour Prayer Zoom July 10-11 enjoyed thorough participation. Several people commented how the format was very meaningful since the experience was partially scripted, with room for people to also pray from their hearts. Designed for anyone to pray for an hour with others from their homes, we prayed for our church, community, country, and world, lifting up concerns about the pandemic.

A dozen folks **served a meal** to Celebrate Recovery on July 21st, our coordinated **service project** for the month. We don't need to go any further than our own fellowship to find people who need a hand up through a shared meal, so if you're interested in doing this again, let me or Teresa Power know! - Lynn Black

Adult Christian Formation

Fall 2020 Sunday morning classes are scheduled to begin along with the students and children on Sunday **August 16 at 10am.** We will have an **All Adult Assembly** to hear from our teachers about their class offerings, **including 3 new classes.** For a complete list of classes, check out our church website or app, csidecov.com.

New offerings include:

"Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage" (201) with Mark Gungor DVD series. There are critical times in the journey of marriage when a little more care and attention will mean the difference between success and failure. Newly wed, parenting young children, and empty nesting are all stages where this is paramount. Strengthen your marriage with the hilarious DVD series by Mark Gungor.

Developing Leaders (401) with Jeff Houston and Tony Wedel. Training for Countryside's Leadership team, Christian Formation teachers, and those in lay leadership of various ministries. *By invitation.*

Next Step Class (101) for those interested in learning about Countryside ministries or church membership, starts Oct. 4.

August Youth Group Schedule

19th | Fall Kick-off

*Details to be announced

26th | 6:30pm Edge (6th-8th)

8pm | Ignite (9th-12th)



In this season of Covid and the everchanging rules and restrictions, student ministry has continued to thrive in new ways! The summer has offered new ways to gather in small groups and continue to grow in faith and community!

We were able to celebrate 13 students who completed the requirements for Confirmation on June 28th. Within the requirements these students complete, there is opportunity not only for education in biblical truth, but also for students to come face to face with the call of Jesus to enter into a personal relationship with him and grow in their faith. We are so proud of the confirmands who took the initiative to complete the requirements.

The middle school gals and guys have gathered weekly for a time of devotions and games throughout the summer. Gals met with Kelly on Tuesday mornings and the guys met with Aaron Glendening on Thursday mornings. We found a few opportunities to serve our community too! Aaron and a few of the guys helped serve our community by handing out boxes at the Farms to Families distribution. The gals decorated inspiration rocks and hid them in local parks to bless someone who finds them.

Edge students blasted through the 24 Hour Rush - Covid Edition (12 hours) on July 23rd. For the past 7 years, Countryside has combined with Lindsborg and Salina to "rush" through a ton of activities and events to connect students with their leaders and peers. There is also worship, a message, and an opportunity to journey deeper in relationship with Jesus! The Covid edition had to eliminate the overnight stay this year, but there was no lack of fun & fellowship!

Lifestumin accepted the paintball challenge in June with Lindsborg & Salina. We went to Elite sports in Assaria and came out as the champions!!

High School students gathered on Wednesday evenings; the ladies worked through a study of Jude, while the guys had devotions with Abe Walker. They ended the summer with an evening at Lakeside Recreation Park in Assaria.

Junior and Senior students were also invited to participate in a book club, "Welcoming the Stranger," a book on the issues surrounding immigration. This book sparked great discussion and put a human face on the issues at hand to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges that immigrants face. This book debunked myths and misconceptions about immigration and exposed the limitations of the immigration system and how as Christians, we are called to respond. It is a must read for all evangelicals!

The high school graduating seniors were celebrated in worship on July 26, wishing them all the best as they head into their next chapter!

As we head into another school year and are making plans, please extend your grace when plans have to change. We are anticipating kicking off the fall semester of student ministry on **Wednesday, August 19th**. However, as we have all become accustomed to over the last several months, these plans can change suddenly. The best way to keep up with activities and happenings is to check our website at csidecov.com or on our app. Updates and announcements are also on Facebook & Instagram @ Lifestumin.



Countryside Kids



KIDS TOWN BEGINS AUGUST 16TH!!

Everyone loves a good superhero story, and every superhero story has a few things in common. No superhero started out as a superhero — they became heroes because of the way their circumstances shaped them, because of the choices they made, and because of the ways they decided to stand up for others. There aren't any superheroes in the Bible, but there is someone named Joseph who both experienced injustice and let God use him to fight injustice, just like Jesus did. In this series, kids will discover that Jesus is our hero, God helps us become heroes, heroes make wise choices, heroes help others, and heroes need help too. As we begin a new year of Kids Town we will have some classroom changes so be looking for that in the coming weeks.

KIDS LIFE KICK-OFF AUGUST 26TH

The year 2020. One we will never forget! Last March, as COVID-19 began to unravel, it *felt* like our ministry quickly came to a halt. Thanks to the grace extended by all of you and a little bit of technology we began reaching out to kids and families in new ways. As we have begun to regather we have taken a serious look at the "old way" of doing things. You have probably heard that we could totally miss what God might be trying to do through all of this if we just return to normal. Our goal/mission has always been to partner with families to help kids connect their lives to Christ. But, if we are honest, sometimes we actually miss the "partnering with families" part. Before COVID-19 was even on our radar we began to imagine what things might look like if we were more intentional about equipping parents to lead their kids spiritually. We began to dream about how we can minister not to just kids, but to parents and caregivers as well. It's always scary to do something different because if what you're doing seems to work, then why not keep doing it? But, through COVID-19 we believe that God has prepared us for change and really confirmed the direction we were wanting to head. So, as we begin a new year of Kids Life, we hope to develop an experience not only for kids, but also for parents, grandparents or anyone in your family system who wants to know more about following Jesus. Families will gather together to connect, have fun, and explore faith together! You may have lots of questions about what this will look like. You might be wondering, "What if I can't come, can my child still come?" Everyone will be welcomed, no matter what their circumstances are! Join us on August 26th to check things out and to hear more about our desire for families to grow together!

KIDS GIG

Throughout the summer we met weekly on Wednesday afternoons for Kids GIG. Our lessons came out of the book of Genesis as we learned about Abraham's family! We also played lots of wacky games and worshipped together! **Thanks to our Kids GiG Leaders!** Ben Bohnenblust, Hannah Bower, Jayna Bower, Harrison Brunk, Madelyn Brunk, Jolene Czosnowski, Tiffani Eilrich, Reanna Eilrich, Hunter Eilrich, Dakota Frank, Stephanie Hamilton, Bobbie Kaufman, Saige Kaufman, Gracen Krehbiel, Barb Lowe, Renae Moyer, Kristi Monroe, Brenna Sullivan, Keanna Sullivan, and Melissa Sullivan.



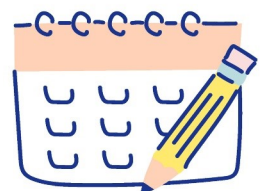
August

2-7 - Preteen Mission Trip

8 - Kidmin Leader Training
@ 9:00 a.m.

16 - Kids Town Begins

26 - Kids Life Kick-Off



**DO YOU WANT WEEKLY
UPDATES ABOUT WHAT WE ARE
LEARNING?**

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

Worship

Discipleship

Service

Countryside Covenant Church
P.O. Box 765,940 E. Northview Road
McPherson KS 67460

Nonprofit
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #23
McPherson KS

Countryside Covenant Church is a body of believers with a heart for Jesus Christ.

This Month at Countryside

Worship Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

AUGUST EVENTS

1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Women's Coffee at The Well
2	Baptism Service
4	Widow's Connection
4, 11, 18, 25	Men's Coffee
4, 11, 18, 25	Celebrate Recovery
5, 12, 19, 26	Prayer Time
5, 12, 19, 26	Men's Bible Study
6, 7	Global Leadership Summit Simulcast
16	Christian Formation Classes Begin
16	Lifestumin Parent Meeting
18	Leadership Team Meeting
19	Lifestumin Kickoff
23	Life Group Training
25	Summer Book Club
26	Kids Life Kickoff
31	Women's Simulcast Event

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

