

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 20, ISSUE 8
August 2021

Who You Gonna Call?

- Connor Gibson

Have you ever sat down and thought about who you would call when things are not good? Like, really not good. Examples include: bad news from the doctor, a marriage on its last leg, a loss of a loved one, a season of anxiety and depression, etc. You name the situation. Who are you calling?

Who would you call for the smaller inconvenient things? You need a ride to the airport, you need some gas money to make it to work this week, or you need a place to stay because your house is without power. Who are you calling?

Perhaps the most humbling question of all: Who are you praying for, and who is praying for you? And I'm not talking about the once-a-week 15 second prayer. I'm talking about the daily 'down on hands and knees, persistent petition, approaching God's throne of grace on your behalf' prayer.

When I asked these questions of myself a few years ago, I was not happy with my list of names. Actually, to be honest, it wasn't much of a list. Immediate family members, a couple guys from high school and college, and that's it. Ouch. I needed to invest in building some real Christian community within our church.

When we look to the New Testament, we see that we are called to be in deep, authentic, loving community with other believers. Take notice of how Paul starts and ends all of his letters in the New Testament. He is always mentioning his crew of fellow believers. In Paul's final greeting to the Colossians (Col 4:7-18), he mentions eight other faithful believers who are doing ministry alongside him, supporting him, who know his struggles, and who are praying for and with him. In our hyper-individualistic and independent culture, many of us miss out on real

community; on being a part of the family of believers. It can be messy, it can be difficult, and it's absolutely worth it. We are not independent as believers. We are totally dependent on God, and we need the family of believers to run alongside us. We need each other!

So again, take a look at your list. Who are you calling when things are bad? Who are you calling for the smaller inconveniences of life? Who's praying for you, and who are you praying for?

Not happy with your list of names? Understand that in order to grow it, you must be ready to be intentional and a little vulnerable. This will not happen in a day, and it will require prayer, effort and investment. But believe me, it is so worth it!

A few ideas to grow in deeper, authentic Christian community:

- Commit to joining and investing yourself in a Life Group, Bible Study or Discipleship Group this Fall. Seriously, consider it.
- Invite others over or out to lunch/dinner/supper. Sharing a meal goes a long way in building relationships and community.
- Ask people in your life how you can pray for them... and then actually do it.
- Take small risks with fellow believers you think you want to go deeper with. A small prayer request here, and small favor there. You will quickly see who is trustworthy with your vulnerability and who is not, based on their faithfulness and follow-through with the little things.



Countryside Kids

COVENANT CEDARS

A few pictures of Trailblazers (3rd-4th grade) at camp at the end of June!



AUGUST

- 1 | Baptism Service
- 1 | Pool Party @ 7:30 p.m. | McPherson Waterpark
- 1-6 | Preteen Mission Trip
- 15 | 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
- 22 | Kids Town Begins
- 25 | Kids Life Kick-Off Family Event
- 29 | Kids Town @ 10:00 AM



KICK-OFF EVENT | AUGUST 25TH

We will kick off the fall with a fun event for the entire family! This event provides family-friendly activities for families with kids ages 3 and older. Family teams will work their way through a series of adventure stations as quickly as possible to claim their final prize! We will be serving food from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and adventure stations will be open from 6:00-7:00 p.m. with a short parent meeting in the Worship Center at 7:15 p.m. which will conclude our night!

KIDS TOWN

SUNDAYS | 10:00 AM

Kids Town on Sunday mornings will kick off on August 22nd! Kids Town is our Sunday morning ministry to kids ages 2 - 4th grade. Classes will begin for students in 5th-12th grade as well (see LifeStumin page for more details). We will be diving into the promises of God in our series *Promise*.

AGES 2-4 | NURSERY

KINDERGARTEN-1ST GRADE | ROOM 12

2ND-4TH GRADE | ROOM 15

KIDS LIFE

WEDNESDAYS | 6:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Kids Life will officially begin September 1st but we will be having a kick-off on August 25th.

PRESCHOOL (4 YEARS)

We will be utilizing the Bible App Curriculum again this year for this age group on Wednesday nights. Kids will focus on one unit for a month and have a take-home page each week to continue learning at home.

KINDERGARTEN-2ND GRADE

We will be switching from Awana handbooks to Kids Quest handbooks for Wednesday nights this year. Kids will still have a weekly memory verse but Kids Quest will encourage them to discover the Bible as they work through the handbook together instead of at their own pace. If your child participated in Kids Life last year we ended our year, learning about Joshua. Our new handbooks will pick up where we left off so we can continue to build on what kids have already learned. Handbook is \$10.

3RD-5TH GRADE

We will be utilizing *Breakout Discipleship Material* for this age group, and we are planning to resume ministry teams for this age group. These teams are still being formed so keep a look-out for those options via the weekly email. Handbook is \$10.

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

While we know that life can get crazy and it can be difficult to commit to a class just for parents on Wednesday evenings; we don't want to lose sight of our mission to come alongside parents and equip them to be spiritual leaders in their homes. Instead of meeting weekly, we will be planning parent gatherings once a month for parents to attend (during the same time your child is participating in Kids Life). We will be utilizing the book *Faith and the Modern Family* for our discussions this year. We will meet on the first Wednesday of October, November, February, March, and April. We would like to offer a family meal on these nights but we currently do not have anyone to coordinate that. If you are interested in serving in this way please contact Amy!



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

The Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social had a great turnout for an evening of worship, homemade ice cream, and socializing. Thank you to Connor, Allan, Jaymie, Annette, Kelly, Terry and Kristi, and the Whitehills, for all you provided to make this a wonderful evening.



Crescendo participated in a fascinating and educational trip to Concordia including the Orphan Train Museum and World War II POW camp. Many commented how we have a very rich and surprising heritage in our area of the country. Benevolent care has been at the heart of these two memorial spaces and spoke to us of how God provides even in the midst of crisis, faithfully and lovingly.

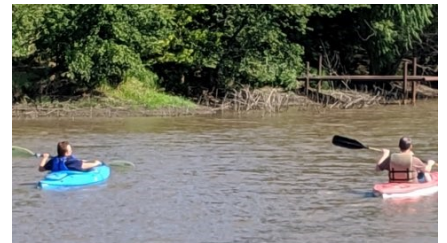


UPCOMING EVENT:

**Potluck @ Peterson's cabin,
2032 9th Avenue,
Saturday August 14th, 5:00 p.m.**



A through L bring a main dish, and M through Z bring a side dish or salad. Those who would like to fish may come a little earlier. Enjoy kayaks, canoeing, skeet, horseshoes, campfire and warm fellowship. RSVP starting in August with the church office.



ADULT MINISTRIES

How do you plan to grow in your faith this fall? Christian Formation classes for all ages begin **Sunday, August 22nd @ 10:00am**. An all adult assembly will meet in the Worship Center, where teachers will give an overview of their classes. Students and children will begin their classes as well.

Life groups also are forming during the month of August and will begin in September. If you would like to meet regularly with either a group of peers or an intergenerational group to experience food, fellowship, and living life together, as well as studying the word together, sign up for a life group! Look for further information in the Sunday bulletin and on the church website, csidecov.com.



Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

- * **Tuesday, August 3, 9:30am Monthly Meeting.** Flowers are not only for spring. Come see what we are up to!
- * **Saturday, August 24, 11:30am, Hawaiian Luau.** Dress in Hawaiian clothes or bright colors. It will be a great time!

Ministry to Women

Divine Appointments

Jesus took every opportunity to make the message of God's love and forgiveness known. Although He was weary as He sat by the well of Sychar, He accepted the arrival of a woman from Samaria as a divine appointment. Asking for a drink of water, He got her attention and engaged her in conversation, then proceeded to make His message relevant to her life and situation. What a great example of how believers can share their faith!

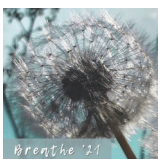
How about you? How about me? Do we look at "chance" meetings as divine appointments? And, if so, do we make his message relevant, do we anticipate divine appointments and are we ready to show that the life Jesus offers is desirable and attractive? Whether we find ourselves in the line at the grocery store or sitting on the bleachers next to someone at our children's ball game, we have opportunities to interact with others.

As women who interact with others daily, I challenge you and myself to step out and share Jesus with those we come in contact with. Women want to spend time together and they want to spend time with God. And this fall several Bible studies will be offered for you and a friend. Be watching for details about how you can get involved!

- ♦ On Monday, August 30, Women Ministries will host **A Woman's Night of Prayer**. It will be held in the Student Center beginning at 7 p.m. Taryn Vetter has graciously agreed to share how God has been close to them throughout their recent situation and Reba Becker will lead us through a Lectio Divina as part of the evening too. All are invited to join us as we approach the evening in a reflective mindset and discover the heart of God. You can reserve a spot for childcare for your child(ren) by calling the Church Office, 241.4499.



- ♦ Ladies, information has been received for the **Breathe Gathering** (formerly known as Women's Fall Retreat)! Join us October 1-3 at Covenant Cedars as we learn to breathe with a new perspective. You'll be *encouraged* in your faith journey, *equipped* through teaching and community connection with resources for personal growth and spiritu-



al development so that you can fully *engage* your world/sphere of influence. Early bird registrations are due before August 31 so take advantage of that by completing a registration form today. Brochures are available at the Information Center and should be completed and turned into the Church Office along with your check.

- ♦ Recently we announced that we would host **Priscilla Shirer's simulcast**. And, yes, we are going to do that this fall but it will be served up differently than originally thought. Some have said that the day gets to be too long to attend so we have reached the decision to break up the simulcast in three viewings. What has been a typical six-hour presentation, we will turn into three 2-hour segments. The first will be held on Saturday, October 9 from 9-11 am; the second on Thursday evening the 14th from 6:30-8:30 and the third on Monday, October 18 from 6:30-8:30 pm. And by doing that we are able to keep the costs to a minimum ... you can choose to pay \$5 per session or purchase a pass for all three sessions for \$12. Those tickets will go on sale in mid-September.

"Women Ministries at Countryside exists to advance God's kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve, and reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ." And therefore we encourage you to be involved with others that have found meaningful times together through women ministries.

Blessings,
Linda Totman
Women Ministries Coordinator

Moms Group
WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

MOMS Group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, with the first meeting on **September 14 at**

9:00 am. We hope you'll come and enjoy a brunch, find encouragement and friendships! Childcare provided for children birth-5years old. A fee is charged and can be paid per semester. Childcare workers are also needed! Contact Amy Benisch, 785-769-6060, for more details.

Sew & Share is back!!

Beginning **Monday, August 23**, we will gather to sew projects and have fellowship together! We will meet in **Room 5 at 9:00am** and end with lunch. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Contact Shirlee Harper, 620-755-1205 with any questions.



Thank You's

Jon and I and our children would like to thank Countryside for the lovely memorial flowers that were sent for my father's funeral. It was a lovely gesture and made us feel loved even though far away. My father's memorial service was a testimony to God and his faithfulness to the family of God. Thank you for your care and support during this difficult time.



- Lynn Black



Thank you to the Countryside family for your attendance at my ordination service. This highly personal and yet very public event was made sweet by the support of my beloved church.

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as your pastor, teacher, and fellow sister in Christ. The joy is mine.

- Lynn Black

The Gideons appreciated the opportunity to share about the ministry July 25 and are thankful for the generous offering received. That offering will provide for the average placement of 956 Testaments throughout the world! Most importantly those Testaments will touch that many or more lives!

Dear Church,

Humbly, we thank you for your dear gift to us at this time. We are blessed to call you all 'family'...please feel our warm hugs from our hearts. Though overwhelming challenges lie ahead, each day we are seeing blessings, large and small. You all serve as a reminder of our God's unconditional love and steadfast care. Daily we look to Him as our Rock who holds us confidently in His good and loving hands. We truly do sing His praises each day! Blessings back to you all,

- Chuck, Taryn and Nelson Vetter

Thank you so much church family, for all of the prayers, words of encouragement, calls and cards, to help celebrate the life of my father, Larry Becker. Also, thanks to the ladies in their work of service in preparing and serving the lunch to our family and friends. Your expression of love reaches deep in our hearts.

- Reba Becker

It's an exciting time for McPherson Housing Coalition, staff, volunteers and supporters. After jumping through a few hoops, attending public meetings, talking to potential donors, promoting the project and gathering supplies, the project has become a reality and is quickly moving forward.

On July 22nd, three of the ten foundations were poured, so construction can move forward. Something Don Bland and the team have been eagerly awaiting. The second week of August, the site will be ready for additional volunteers to build the floor joists and subfloor. Hutton Construction will build and install the exterior walls and Raber Construction will install the trusses and roofing. Don Bland, the project manager, is putting together the details for the construction and volunteers, along with Bob Andersen, Craig Spencer, Allan Sents and Frank Peters.

Jaymie O'Dell has been busy coordinating the interior design, gathering household items and assisting with the meals for the volunteers. Chris Goodson and Karolyn Moore have been sharing the Oak Harbor Cottages story with local churches. Details are given about the local mission field, describing how God is using the project to bring the church together and explaining how the cottages will change lives and provide hope. We ask that you continue to pray for the project, staff and the volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact:

Don Bland (620)334-0360

Jaymie O'Dell (620) 480-9462

Chris Goodson (620) 242-6799



It's with much excitement that the Leadership Team announces "for the first six months of 2021, criteria has been met to transfer to our Capital/Properties Fund and Capital/Missions Fund." Each of those accounts has been boosted by \$5,000 monthly. The Properties Team manages the money designated for Capital/Properties while the Leadership Team manages the money designated for Capital/Missions. Any gifts or donations from these funds are given above the amounts allotted for in our budget. And we want you to know how those funds have been disbursed since January, 2021.

<u>Paul Jaster, missionary to Africa, ultrasound instrument</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<u>Matt & Ali Barnes, Alaska missions</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<u>Young Life, Austin Penn, Arizona</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<u>Pastor Eugene Kiruhura, Shalom Covenant Church, Urbandale, Iowa</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<u>First Mennonite Church, McPherson (McPherson family)</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<u>Garden Gathering Church (Hannah Corbus, Greece trip)</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<u>KJIL Radio</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
<u>Ed & Coralee Murray (CRU, moving expenses to USA)</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
<u>Christian Radio for Russia</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<u>Fellowship of Christian Athletes (local event)</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>

Because of your faithful giving, these gifts are possible! Thank you so much!

August Youth Schedule:



- 15 | Pancake Breakfast, 10:00 am
 22 | Christian Formation (aka Sunday School) begins
 25 | Youth Group Fall Kick-off
 6:15-7:45 pm | Edge
 8:00-9:30 pm | Ignite
 29 | 6 pm Ignite Back to School Blast @ Kelly's
 BBQ, Swim, & Games

Watch For Upcoming Events:

Please refer to the church website and church app under Student Ministries to stay informed on upcoming events. You can also follow us @Lifestumin on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for announcements. Text @lsminfo to 81010 for text updates!

Covenant Cedars Bible Camp made an impact for the Kingdom!

Countryside sent 24 middle school students and 22 high school students. The theme this year was "Dwell" and the messages were centered around Psalm 23. A week at camp is an amazing time for students to deepen their faith and relationship with God. We had Life Student alumni Kelsey Wilson and Abraham Walker, faithfully serving on the staff this summer, and current students Madelyn Brunk and Evie Elder, serving as counselors! A special thank you to Aaron Glendening, Tyler Suderman, & Matt Morrow for helping drive students to and from camp!

Hurricane Harbor

Ignite wrapped up summer activities with a day trip to Hurricane Harbor Water Park in Oklahoma City. We made a stop on the way at the iconic Route 66 Pops Soda Ranch in Arcadia. It displays over 700 different flavors of bottled pop!

Middle School 24 Hour Rush: August 5th - 6th

Students will meet at Countryside at 8 am on the 5th & return by 9 am on the 6th! Students that have signed up will spend 24 hours (8 am to 8 am) having the ultimate party of the summer. Bowling at The Alley, swimming at Kenwood Cove, a movie at the AMC Salina, worship, message, lots of games, hanging with old friends and new, and probably some awesome surprises along the way!

Pancake Breakfast

Life Student Ministry will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, August 15th between services at 10am. Free-will offering, proceeds will go to Student Missions.

Fall Kick-Off

Wednesday night youth group will begin on August 25th! Please note that Edge (6-8th grade) will gather from 6:15-7:45 pm and Ignite (9-12th grade) 8-9:30 pm.

Ignite at Pops on Route 66



Ignite at Hurricane Harbor -OKC



MS at Covenant Cedars



HS at Covenant Cedars



LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Greetings Church!

This month's update will be a little bit of a rambling session...

To start off, I'll confess that writing these monthly articles is a difficult task for me. Not because I'm at a loss of words and don't have anything to say, but because I'm sensitive to the fact that words have meaning and impact. Most of the time the impact is intentional and is received as intended. At other times however, the impact is unintentional and communicates things that are not intended. I frequently get caught up in being so concerned with potential unintended impact that I gridlock myself in what I share. Another issue I deal with is that I often feel like I need to share something profound. A perspective or a truth that God has shown me which provides an "aha moment". When I can't put my finger on that profound tidbit of information, I struggle with – "God, what do you want me to share this time?" Well, this month, this rambling is the result of that question...

Two things I'd like to share –

God has made each of us the way we are and who we are because He has a purpose for us. How many times do we look at how God is using others and say to ourselves "I wish I could be like that"? The truth that we need to embrace is that we are like that – God's chosen people, made by Him and for His purpose. Each of us has a contribution to make to God's kingdom, but many of us hold back because we don't believe that we are gifted or don't have talents that He can use. The truth – God is in the business of using ordinary folks, like you and me, to show the world what He is like, how much He loves us and how He desires for us to know Him, to trust in Him, and to help Him demonstrate His love to others.

That brings me to the second point – what does that look like? This was the topic of some of our discussion at the last Leadership Team meeting. If we are God's people, and are called to His purpose, how do we look different than the rest of the world? Another way to say it – if what we say and what we do looks like everyone else, how are we demonstrating God's kingdom and the work to reclaim His creation? What God has shown me is that I need to act and react differently than what the world would expect. I believe this is especially true for the time in which we live, a time in which we are easily offended and focused on blaming others for our situations and circumstances. God did not promise an easy life, but a life filled with His presence, His peace, and His comfort. As we strive to demonstrate who God is to those around

us, we will have to look different than the world. We will have to look more like Jesus.

God continues to bless Countryside in many ways. I believe that this is a direct result of our obedience to His calling and the work that He has for us as individuals and as a congregation. I pray that we will continue to be God's hands and feet to the community and embrace the fact that we will look different in our actions and reactions. We are in the world but not of the world.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27 [highlight added]

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and the ministries of Countryside.

In Christ's service,

Bob Williford - Chairman

Church Life Update

White Rose:
Maddox Glendening



July 2021 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
July 4	—	461
July 11	—	520
July 18	—	495
July 25	—	538

July 2021 Giving

July 4	\$33,042.11
July 11	\$16,678.73
July 18	\$32,736.94
July 25	\$16,911.21
Total Y-to-D	\$691,588.00
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$44,268.00

Countryside Covenant Church
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McPherson KS 67460

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Your August Newsletter is here!!



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

This Month at Countryside

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

AUGUST EVENTS

1	Baptism Service
1	Widows to Opera House
1	All Church Pool Party
1-6	5th Grade Mission Trip
3, 21	Widows' Connection
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Men's Coffee
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Celebrate Recovery
4, 11, 18, 25	Time of Prayer
5-6	Edge-24 Hour Rush
7, 14, 21, 28	Women's Coffee Connection
14	Crescendo Picnic @ Peterson's
15	Lifestumin Pancake Breakfast
15	3rd Grade Bible Presentation
20	Leadership Team Meeting
21	Crescendo Leadership Training
22	Christian Formation Kickoff
23	Sew & Share
25	Lifestumin & Kids Life Kickoff
30	A Woman's Night of Prayer

Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Pastor

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant

