



At Countryside Covenant Church, we are a Community growing in the Grace and the Truth of Jesus Christ as we ...

- Worship
 - Disciple
 - Serve
 - Multiply



VOLUME 25, ISSUE 6

June 2026

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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Be Filled with the Spirit

- Pastor Jon Black

On Pentecost Sunday, I offered an object lesson demonstrating the Spirit-filled life. I filled two glasses with water and dropped Alka Seltzer tablets in each glass. Both glasses of water contained Alka Seltzer, however only one of the glasses fizzed.

Was it a trick? No. Did one glass contain expired tablets? No. Then why did only one glass of water exhibit the “fizz, fizz after the plop, plop?”

Here is my secret in case you missed it. I unwrapped the tablets dropped in the first glass, while the tablets in the second glass remained in their packaging. (Please keep this amazing secret to yourself).

This analogy demonstrates the difference between a born-again believer who is filled with the Spirit and one who is not.

Jesus gave His disciples this command before He ascended into heaven.

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)

At the moment of our salvation, we were all baptized with the Spirit of God meaning: the Spirit of God filled us for the first time making us new creations in Christ. Our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit of God.... His dwelling places. And He promises to never leave us or abandon us.

Later, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we must *be filled with the Spirit*. - Eph 5:18 He uses the verb tense that suggests that we must *keep being filled with the Holy Spirit*.

A man was asked if he had received the second blessing since first coming to Christ. His response was, *‘What do you mean? I have received ten thousand since the first.’*

We are once again filled when we ask the Lord to fill us with His Spirit and surrender to His control over our lives.

Being filled with the Spirit does not mean: *“How much of the Holy Spirit do I have.”* Rather: *“How much of me does the Holy Spirit have.”*

-continued on page 2

One Sunday Service begins June 7, at 9:30 a.m. Pancake Feed Fundraiser supporting the H.S. Mission Trip to follow this Sunday’s service.

-continued from page 1

“Be Filled with the Spirit”

When we are filled and surrendered to the Spirit’s control in our lives, it will become evident in our relationships. We will bear the fruit of the Spirit; specifically, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Conversely, when we are not filled (surrendered to the Spirit’s control), it will equally become evident. The obvious sins of the flesh that are rampant in our fallen culture may manifest themselves... namely; sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, drunkenness...and the like. (Gal 5:19, 21).

But also, the more subtle and “acceptable” sins of the spirit may leak out; like, biting and devouring each other with our tongues, (v. 15), hostility, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfishness, dissensions (discord that disrupts harmony, and factions (the organizing of small groups in support of your side of the issue) (v. 20).

No matter how justified we may feel by our responses, we will still be walking according to the sinful flesh and out of step with the Spirit of God.

Paul concludes this chapter by reminding us of this truth. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (v. 25).... Let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

This requires a daily choice....or rather, “many daily choices” if we are to respond in a way that is consistent with who we are in Christ. If we are to put off our old sinful nature of the flesh that would tempt us to justify our response, and put on our new nature, created to be like Jesus.

May we all choose to keep in step with the Holy Spirit by regularly asking God to fill us with His Spirit and allow His supernatural influence to bubble, fizz, and overflow in and through our lives and into our relationships.

Thank You’s

Hello McPherson Friends!

My family wants to thank you for your thoughtful gift for Christmas. We appreciate your love and support always!

-Dale Lusk

Church Life Update

Confirmands:

Hugh Scheck & Leo Scheck

New Members:

Nancy Billings, Cheryl Buchman, Rodney Buchman, Cheyna Evinger, Rodney Evinger, Becky Hogue, Amy Meadors, Michael Meadors, Erick Okonkua, Andrew Shandy, Melissa Shandy, Garreth Wachtel, Sophia Wachtel.



PANCAKE FEED Fundraiser!

LSM High School is going back to Arlington, Texas this Summer for a mission trip and we need YOUR HELP to get there!

We’d love to bless you with BRUNCH on Sunday, June 7th at 10:45am (*directly following worship service*)

Free- Will donation!

(gluten free available upon request!)


Mission
Arlington | Metroplex

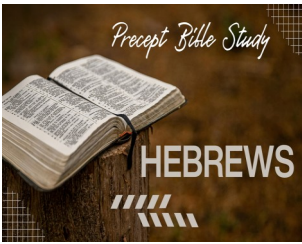




Summer Bible Studies Coming Soon!

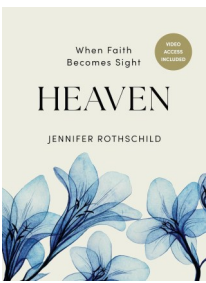


TWO BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN ...



Hebrews. In these last days, God has spoken to us in His Son. What does He say about Jesus, angels, and our great salvation? Learn about Jesus' superiority to all in this exciting Precept

study of Hebrews that enlightens and enlivens Old Testament law and prophecy. This study begins on **Wednesday, June 10 and is from 6:15-7:45 pm and will last until December 2.** Write "Hebrews" on your Connection Card.



Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next? In this seven-session video-based study, Jennifer Rothschild

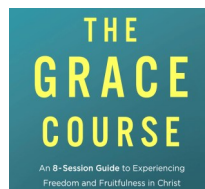
explores the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective. Plans are to begin on **Thursday, June 11, at 7 pm in Room 13** and we would love to have you *come and grow with us!* Books are \$22. To reserve a book, contact the Church Office or write "Heaven" on your Connection Card.

TWO CO-ED BIBLE STUDIES ...



Spiritual Disciplines with Pastor Jon and Lynn Black. We're familiar with meeting God in corporate worship or in a Bible study. Are these the only ways God speaks to His people?

Throughout the ages God has communicated with His children both corporately and individually through various practices known as disciplines. Experience, enjoy, and refresh your walk with God this summer as You seek His face anew. Starts **Sunday, June 7, at 6 pm** (six weeks). Write "Disciplines" on your Connection Card.



The Grace Course with Laura Dailey and Bob Williford. Understanding the grace of God is a key to living life to its fullest. Without grace, we are left trying our best and focusing on our weaknesses.

But with grace, we can relax in the abundant life God gives us. Look at Bible passages with fresh eyes as God's grace is revealed in His Word. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly! This isn't just eternal life in the future but also right now! Live what it means to walk free, to be unashamed, innocent, victorious, courageous! CALM, fruitful, and as a peacemaker. Write "Grace" on your Connection Card. Starts **Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 pm** (8 weeks).

The Lord is my strength and shield.
 I trust him with all my heart.
 He helps me, and my heart is filled
 with joy.
 I burst out in songs of
 thanksgiving.
 Psalm 28:7



JUNE 2026 *newsletter*



School year reflection by Lizzy

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper, and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." Acts 2: 42-47

This is the passage that came to my mind again and again and again this year in Life Student Ministries. Our God is in the business of redeeming life change and won't He do it?!

It's hard to measure growth or success in ministry because it isn't about quantity, or I should say, ONLY about quantity. Numbers are helpful but not the full picture. But when we see FRUIT, real fruit of the Holy Spirit blossoming in students, when I see young people and adults in discipleship relationships, when I witness student-led prayer circles and worship nights and testimonies shared... that is how I measure growth.

As I sit and reflect on this past school year, I am truly humbled and amazed at the work our gracious LORD is doing in these student's lives. I can say with full certainty, there is a holy work being done in every school- private school, public school or homeschool... Our God is leading student's hearts to repentance, building trust and loyalty in friendships and revealing Biblical truths to these kids and they have a deep desire to walk in obedience. Sometimes I sit back and watch in awe. Thank you Jesus.

I write this as an encouragement to you. The teenage years can be full of angst, rebellion and foolishness, but honestly so can the adult years, am I right? But the incredible students that the Lord allowed to walk in the doors of Countryside Covenant Church are eager, resilient and hungry for Jesus and His Word. We ended our school year with an average of 50 middle school students and 50 high school students coming each Wednesday night! It was an honor to walk alongside them in their faith and see how the Father was moving. We praise God for an exciting, challenging and exhausting year, but in the best way possible. I cannot wait to see what great plans the Lord is preparing for these students in their future. Let's continue to cover them in prayer, disciple them, talk with them, listen to them and encourage them!



Our 2026 Graduating Seniors

Left to Right, Back to front.

Creighton Friesen, Layton Schmidt, Wyatt Wenger,
Ben Bohnenblust, Dakota Frank, Jay Lacey

Izabella Wedel, Emma Glendening, Aubrey Wilson



Countryside Kids

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

We concluded Kids Town and Kids Life at the end of April and had fun celebrating with the kids! We said goodbye to our 5th graders as they will be moving up to middle school youth group over the summer!



5th graders with their leaders.



Group Picture from Kids Life



COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

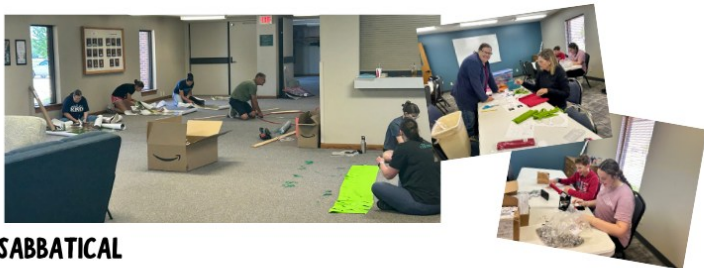
1-5 Mon-Fri
7 Sunday

VBS | 9:00 - 11:30 AM
VBS Sunday | 9:30 AM
Summer Schedule Change!
9:30 AM service only.
Explorer Camp @ Covenant Cedars
Trailblazer Camp @ Covenant Cedars

14-19 Sun-Fri
21-24 Sun-Wed

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone who donated items for VBS and showed up for our workdays! VBS would not be possible without you!



SABBATICAL

I am so excited and ready for my sabbatical this summer. It will begin on June 15th, and I plan to return to the office on August 10th. With that said, you will not see me around this summer, but Tiffani will be overseeing the ministry while I am gone, so you are in good hands! You can contact her with any questions during that time! I plan to attend a ministry renewal retreat at the end of June and we have a family vacation planned for the end of July. My hope is that I can disconnect a bit from the demands of ministry and discover and strengthen spiritual disciplines that will refresh my soul for ministry. Thank you for this time - it is such a gift!



JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR OUR VBS | JUNE 1-5

DAY 1: PRAY FOR OUR VBS

Pray that through VBS, kids in our community will grow in their relationship with Jesus and that the truth of who God is will sink deep into their young hearts. May the impact of VBS last a lifetime.

DAY 2: PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Pray that the changes in kids' hearts this week be an inspiration to their families. Let parents and caretakers pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. Let family connections grow stronger, deeper, and focused on Him. Give kids the strength to stand firmly rooted in their faith and relationship with Jesus.

DAY 3: PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

Pray that our church will be a great influence in our community through our VBS. We want Jesus' perfect love to be at the foundation of our town, and we pray that we spread His love. Let our doors be open, and our hearts be welcoming to all kids and their families. Let His goodness shine through us.

DAY 4: PRAY FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Pray that our volunteers are sustained by Jesus as they pour love (and patience) upon the kids they are serving this week! Give them strength, health, and an overwhelming joy to serve! We pray that our volunteers are given the opportunity to help children experience Jesus and that they would grow closer to Him!

DAY 5: PRAY FOR OUR LAST DAY AND SUNDAY SERVICE!

It is our last day! Pray that our VBS crew will finish strong and continue to give them wisdom as they build relationships with kids. Pray for our Sunday service as well. We pray that the many guests that we will have that Sunday will feel welcomed and that we can make meaningful connections with families!

SEMINARY UPDATE

It has been an absolute privilege to be enrolled at Dallas Theological Seminary since 2022. This past year I was enrolled in their Ministry Residency Program which allowed me to complete the majority of my electives for my degree. I have three classes left to take and anticipate graduating in May of 2027! It has been a journey that has required commitment and sacrifice but I am so grateful! Below is a class picture from our May intensive week in Dallas. It was a wonderful group of people to study with!



SUMMER CAMP AT COVENANT CEDARS

If your child is registered for summer camp in Nebraska you can expect to hear from us at least a week prior to camp about transportation. If you don't hear from us contact the church office!

Congratulations, 2026 Graduates!!

Ben Bohnenblust
Reno County Home School
Connection

Pastor Jeremy Bower
Doctor of Ministry
Oral Roberts University

Judah Cooper
Smoky Valley High School

Dakota Frank
McPherson High School

Creighton Friesen
Inman High School

Easton Gehring
McPherson Middle School

Emma Glendening
Elyria High School

Faith Hall
McPherson High School

Cowen Huggard
McPherson High School

Ava Koehn
McPherson High School

Jay Lacey
McPherson High School

Layton Schmidt
Moundridge High School

Izabella Wedel
Elyria High School

Wyatt Wenger
Wenger Home School

Aubrey Wilson
McPherson High School

Wesley Wurm
Kansas State University



How Does Someone Become Homeless?

Many people assume homelessness is caused by laziness, addiction, or bad decisions. Sometimes those things play a role, but more often homelessness happens through a series of crises that slowly overwhelm a family until there is nowhere left to go.

I have known a woman named Sally for many years. She is a wife, a mother of two children, and someone who has fought hard to hold her family together through impossible circumstances. As a young child, Sally and her brother were abandoned and placed into foster care. Trauma like that never fully disappears. It changes how people respond to fear, stress, and uncertainty long into adulthood.

As an adult, Sally tried to build a stable life for her family. She and her husband worked hard, rented a home, and believed life was finally improving.

Then the house caught fire.

Suddenly, everything changed. Sally and her children stayed with friends, sleeping on couches and trying not to become a burden. Eventually the environment became unsafe as addiction took hold in the home, forcing Sally to leave again. For a time, the family stayed in the Oak Harbor Cottages while searching for another place to live. Eventually they found another rental, and for a while, life felt stable again. The children had beds. The family had hope.

Then the owner sold the house.

Within weeks, they were forced to move again. Rental prices had climbed beyond what the family could afford, and housing options were limited. Sally's husband worked hard, but a past conviction made finding better-paying employment difficult. Slowly, the pressure became too much. The family split apart, staying with relatives just to avoid sleeping in their car. Even when the Oak Harbor Cottages could have helped again, Sally hesitated because she believed someone else needed the housing more than she did.

Imagine trying to comfort your children while wondering where they will sleep next week. Imagine working every day and still not being able to afford a home.

Scripture reminds us in Galatians 6:2 to **“carry each other’s burdens.”** At MHC, we are often able to help stabilize families as they rebuild their lives. But sometimes the trauma people carry is so deep there are no quick solutions. In those moments, we continue to offer a hand, prayer, compassion, and the reminder that they are not forgotten.

Today, Sally has left the area hoping for a fresh start somewhere new. Homelessness is rarely one bad choice. More often, it is a fragile family pushed beyond its breaking point by trauma, rising housing costs, unexpected disasters, and the lack of safe, affordable housing. Behind every homeless family is a story, and behind every story is someone who needs compassion more than judgment.

Blessings,
Chris Goodson, McPherson Housing Coalition

Leadership Team Update

I recently heard someone say that May is the new December. I completely agree with that statement. I was having a conversation with myself talking about how much April and especially May just seem to bring so much craziness and unneeded stress for everyone.

There are always things to fill up our calendars, but the late spring seems to rev it up; proms, recitals, and spring cleanings/fresh ups lead to graduations, Mother’s Day, and end of school year activities. Once the month of May is over, I feel like we are ready to finally relax and enjoy the summer...and then summer hits.

I don’t write all this to bring anyone down; I hope whatever is on your calendar is bringing you joy, because like every season of life, this is temporary. I urge you to consider the day the Lord made, rejoice and be glad in it. With each day comes new and sometimes difficult circumstances, but adventures as well.

The word I have for all of us as we enter the summer is TRUST. Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5, emphasis added) Trust God in all life circumstances, not just the ones we deem too big for us to handle or just don’t want to deal with. Lean into God and the community He has put in your life; it’s not an accident who walks with you right now.

With that, the Leadership Team wants you to know you are valued and want to hear from you with any joys, concerns or otherwise. Please feel free to reach out to any LT member with any of the aforementioned items.

- Aaron Glendening
- Michelle Logback
- Stephanie Hamilton
- Glen Snell
- Sarah Corcoran
- Randy Walker
- Allan Sents
- Kelly Nelson



**One Sunday Service begins
June 7 at 9:30 a.m.**

Pancake Feed Fundraiser supporting the H.S. Mission Trip to follow the Sunday, June 7 service.



May 2026 Attendance (includes online)		
	Christian Formation	Worship
May 3	—	576
May 10	—	630
May 17	—	587
May 24	—	546
May 2026 Giving		
May 3		\$27,259.49
May 10		\$29,060.30
May 17		\$25,350.90
May 24		\$14,410.74
Total Y-to-D		\$558,021.00
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D		\$14,971.00

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

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Your June Newsletter is here!!



One Sunday service begins **June 7 at 9:30 am.**, and goes until **Sunday, July 26**. A brunch will follow each service.
A Pancake Feed Fundraiser supporting the H.S. Mission Trip to follow the **Sunday, June 7** service.

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

This Month at Countryside

One Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

JUNE EVENTS

1-5	VBS
2 & 20	Widows Connection
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Men's Coffee
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Celebrate Recovery
3, 10, 17, 24	Prayer Group
3, 10, 17, 24	High School Dinners @ Lizy's
7	One Sunday Service Begins, 9:30 am
7	Student Fundraiser Brunch
7, 14, 21, 28	Spiritual Disciplines Class
9, 16, 23, 30	Grace Course Class
10, 17, 24, July 1	Women's Precepts-Hebrews Class
11, 18, 25, July 2	Women's "Heaven" Class
13	High School Worlds of Fun Trip
13-14	1st-2nd Grade Camp @ Covenant Cedars
14-19	5th & 6th Grade Camp @ Covenant Cedars
16	Leadership Team Meeting
21-24	3rd & 4th Grade Camp @ Covenant Cedars
23	Gather Moms (Adult Children)
24-27	Covenant Annual Meeting @ Scottsdale, AZ
28-July 3	Middle School Camp (7th & 8th) @ Cov. Cedars

Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Bobbie Kaufman, Director of Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director

