

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 11

November 2020

## What Do We Display?

Pastor Jon Black

*Republican vs. Democrat. Pretrib vs. Posttrib. Masks or No Masks, etc. etc. etc.*  
There are so many issues that divide us today, and they are only growing. Satan is the author of dissention, disrespect, and disunity. When Jesus is present, peace, unity and respect will be evident.

I love our Covenant Affirmations. The Sixth Affirmation has to do with freedom. It can be summed up in the following way:

We are not only freed from sin and freed in order to serve; we are also free to agree to disagree on the matters that are non-essential to our salvation.

As we often repeat in our church:

*"In Essentials, Unity. In Nonessentials, Freedom; In All Things, Love."*

I think the most compelling characteristic of a believer in Christ is the ability to offer love and respect to those with whom we disagree. The apostle Paul addresses this distinctive of freedom in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8.

*"Let us stop passing judgment on one another.....Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.....Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food" – (political affiliation, end times beliefs, health practices, etc.). The Apostle Paul concluded in 1 Corinthians 8: "Therefore, if what I eat (a nonessential) causes my brother to fall*

*into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall."*

The life lived for Christ will demonstrate strong evidence of love and respect to one another. If these attitudes and qualities are missing in our interactions and responses, then our witness for Christ will be interpreted as a loud gong or a clanging cymbal (1 Corinthians 13:1) even when we are confident that conviction is correct. Our attitudes will only serve to push people further away from knowing Jesus.

As someone said, *"We can win the battle, but lose the war."*

The next time you are tempted to jump into a heated debate with someone over an issue (especially when it is non-essential to their salvation), remember that our highest priority is to display the attitude of Christ by our love and respect to him or her.



# Countryside Kids



## CAROLING & COCOA EVENT

Please join us for our annual Caroling & Cocoa Event. We are making some adjustments to our event this year as we consider guidelines for COVID-19. We are asking people to sign up for time slots between 6-8 PM. You can view these time slots by going to our church website. You may also call the church office and we would be happy to help you get signed up as well. Families will also have the opportunity to put together Advent Boxes to help your family celebrate Advent at home throughout the Advent Season.

## KIDS TOWN IN NOVEMBER



People say music is the universal language, something everyone loves in one form or another, and a way we can communicate shared emotion and experience even across generations, culture, location, backgrounds, and traditions. Much of what is expressed in the book of Psalms are things we experience and feel today. This month we will explore a 5-week series on the book of Psalms!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD @ COUNTRYSIDE

Our packing party will be on November 4th @ 6:15pm. We will begin in the Worship Center with family worship and then begin packing boxes. All are welcome to participate in the packing party and our goal is that each person that attends will be able to pack 1 quality box (with the \$9 shipping fees covered). We are still needing items to pack boxes. You may drop them off at the church or bring them the night of the packing party. **Suggestions:** "Wow" item (e.g. soccer ball w/ pump or doll), School supplies, Small Toys, Personal Care Items (no liquids or toothpaste). We are also taking donations to help with the shipping costs!

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & APP

We post our emails that we send out weekly on our website and on our church app. So, instead of searching for that last email we sent you can always head to those two places, and in just a couple of clicks you can have our most recent announcements and info at your fingertips!



## KIDS LIFE

Just a reminder that November is the last month we meet for the calendar year for Kids Life. We will not meet the last Wednesday of November (25th) due to Thanksgiving Break. We will resume Kids Life January 6th with a Family Fun Night!

## WACKY HAIR NIGHT!



## November

4, 11, 18 | Kids Life @ 6:15

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Kids Town @ 10:00

4 | OCC Packing Party @ 6:15 PM

4 | Theme Night Kids Life - Dress in clothing from your favorite country

25 | No Kids Life (Thanksgiving Break)

## December

2 | Caroling and Cocoa Event 6-8 PM

No Kids Life in December

6, 13 | Kids Town @ 10:00







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



**Widow's Connection** seeks to help women find community, empathy, healing, and joy. Meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us Nov. 4 at 9am to help Betty Brandsted celebrate her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday!! In addition, a monthly social outing is scheduled as well. In October we enjoyed dinner at Diamaru in Salina with our chef, "Mr. B."



**CovTalk on Covid 19, Sat., Nov. 14 at 10am,** Sanctuary. Countryside Health Professionals answer your Covid-19 questions and offer advice on flu season. Submit questions to Lynn Black to help our panelists prepare. Please **RSVP** with the church office or Lynn Black 241-4499. Bring a mask and coffee with a lid!



**Service Opportunity Tues., Nov. 17**  
**Celebrate Recovery meal prep and service.**  
Dinner starts at 5:30pm. We don't have to go any further than our backyard to find folks in need. Help meal plan and shop, or cook and serve, or eat and help clean up. Contact Lynn Black for more info, or use the Sign-up Genius link via our church AP. [Click here](#) if you're viewing this on our website. Meal prep begins at 4pm.



**Crescendo Walks** Enjoy God's great creation with others. Within 30 minutes of Mac we've discovered the wide variety of places from wooded trails to expansive vistas to urban creek beds to rock climbing! Look ahead with us to exploring *Little Jerusalem*, Kansas's new state park, in April 2021. Enjoy an overnight spiritual retreat at an area hotel, then experience the park, a prayer walk and photo ops. Trails are easy to moderate.



**Crescendo Christmas Party Tues., Dec. 8 at 6:30pm.** Save the date!!



**A Widow's Christmas Brunch** will be served by Lynn Black on Tues., Dec. 15 at 10:30am, location TBD.



If you filled out a **Crescendo Survey**, **THANK YOU!** If you need to turn yours in, do so to Lynn Black at the church office. We need your feedback, insights, and opinions for future planning.

#### A few quotable quotes:

- ⇒ *Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese.* – Billie Burke
- ⇒ *I didn't get old on purpose, it just happened. If you're lucky, it could happen to you.* – Andy Rooney
- ⇒ *Few people know how to be old.* – François de la Rochefoucauld
- ⇒ *I want to die young at a ripe old age.* – Ashley Montagu



Evy Boese and her great granddaughters joined Crescendo at The Alley for laser tag.





## Ministry to Women

*"Lord, help me to remember to give thanks to You in all things, knowing that You reign in the midst of them. Remind me that You have redeemed me and I am Yours, and nothing is more important than that. I know when I pass through the waters You will be with me and the river will not overflow me. When I walk through the fire I will not be burned, nor will the flame touch me" (Isaiah 43:1-2).*

And, I am thankful for this reminder of all that God gives me and that I am His. During the month of November we often express our thanks for the many blessings that God has showered on us. But, unfortunately, we need to say thank you every day, actually many times a day for all He gives us. First, of all, thank you to the great ministry team that is known as Women Ministries. Thank you to Dani Waltner, Crissy Cooks, Juliana Meador, Val Mork, Carri Carlson, Kris Lambertus and Cindy Pressnall for their passionate and servant hearts. They are the ones who "get the job done" and bring much creativity to our team.

This last month provided two great opportunities for us to sit at the feet of Jesus' servants as we engaged in the Lifeway Women Live Event and then the Virtual Fervent Tour with Priscilla Shirer. Thanks to all who attended. I pray that you continue to draw on what the presenters shared with us and that those were "life giving" events for you.

Looking forward to November will find us hosting **A Woman's Night of Service on Monday, November 30.** We'll meet in the Student Center at 7 pm and assemble items to share with single moms, the Omega Women's Shelter, Mt. Hope Sanctuary and the McPherson County Food Bank. Come and join us for an evening of fellowship, prayer and worship as we are used by God through this endeavor!

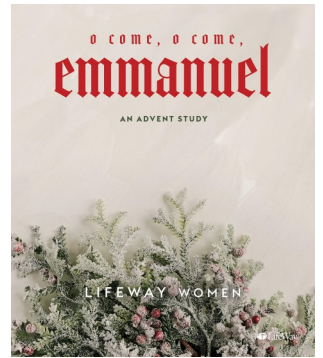


*A Woman's Night of Service*

*Coffee*

Remember too that Women's Coffee Connection meets on Saturdays at 9 am in the Country-side Café. Feel free to grab your favorite "drink" and be a part of this encouraging group!

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: An Advent Study*** explores Jesus' work on our behalf in the message of Christmas. This study will not only fuel our worship of Jesus, but help us foster steadfast love anchored in biblical truth now and all year long. We'll more fully understand the anticipation and waiting that the Old Testament world endured, the light and life Jesus came to bring us, and the eternal promise that Jesus is yet ushering us into. This beautiful resource will also include advent activities to help kids, students, and adults celebrate the Christmas season together. This Christmas season, set your focus on the anticipation and joy that only Christ can bring in this study of Advent. This 5-week study begins at **7 pm on Thursday, November 19.** Please call or text Linda at 620.755.2060 to let her know you will attend.



Because of COVID, our annual Christmas Open House tour will not be held. Thanks for your awesome support these last two years and we hope to bring it back in 2021!

One last thing ... it's our goal to mobilize every woman's God-given potential to deeply love Christ and her neighbors. As we organize Bible studies, events, and service opportunities designed to encourage spiritual growth, we pray that Women Ministries will be a part of your life. - Linda Totman





## Church Life Update



### Baptism:

**Arvo Lucas Goodhope Neece,  
September 26**

### Weddings:

**Mason Polston & Alaina Johnson,  
September 27**

**Grant Barrett & Reganne Barker,  
October 10**

### Birth:

**Caleb Josiah born to Danielle & Grant  
Claassen, October 9**

### Dedication:

**Emersyn Rose, daughter of James &  
Courtney Bohnenblust, October 18**

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

### NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK DROP-OFF CENTER SCHEDULE

Location:  
Countryside Covenant Church  
940 E. Northview, McPherson, KS  
Contact Mary @ 620-755-4134 with Questions



|           |             |                  |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| MONDAY    | November 16 | 4 – 6:30 p.m.    |
| TUESDAY   | November 17 | 4 – 6:30 p.m.    |
| WEDNESDAY | November 18 | 4 – 6:30 p.m.    |
| THURSDAY  | November 19 | 4 – 6:30 p.m.    |
| FRIDAY    | November 20 | 1 – 3 p.m.       |
| SATURDAY  | November 21 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. |
| SUNDAY    | November 22 | 12 Noon – 4 p.m. |
| MONDAY    | November 23 | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. |

## Thank You's

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,  
I can't begin to tell you what a wonderful, loving church Countryside is. Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and mostly prayers said for me. I certainly felt the love and prayers. Thanks seems hardly enough. Wish I could hug each of you.  
Much love in Christ,  
Betty Schmidt



Dear Friends at Countryside,  
Wow! Thanks so much for your generous contribution of \$750. Please be assured that your donation will be used to help the people displaced by the trailer park. We appreciate your generosity & thoughtfulness. You are such a blessing to our community!

Sincerely,

Jean Ballew, McPherson Housing Coalition

Thank you to the Countryside Deacon Care Team, led by Debra Spencer, for reaching out to those who have on-going health issues and are isolated at home or in care facilities during this Covid season. Your ministry of encouragement, phone calls, cards, and visits makes a difference! Join the team by contacting Deb or Lynn Black.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

### CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS

**Sunday, November 24, 10:00 A.M.**

**(Business Meeting will be held during the  
Christian Formation hour this year.)**



**Churches United in Ministry Inc.** is accepting applications for Save 'N Share co-store managers. The store is looking for Christ ministry minded individuals who work well with people to work 25-40 hours/week. There will be some lifting involved, and will need to coordinate 80-90 volunteers. If interested, please mail your resume including at least 3 references to Vaughn Ingram, 630 E. Elizabeth St., McPherson, KS 67460. Men or women, single or couples, younger or older are encouraged to apply. We are also looking for volunteers to work in the store at 209 S. Main, McPherson. Inquire within during store hours; Tues.-Thurs. 9:30am-3pm or Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm.

## November Lifestumin Schedule

- 4 | 6:30pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- 7 | Middle School Fall Retreat 8am – 3pm  
Salina First Covenant & The Alley – Salina
- 11 | 6:30pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- 18 | 6:30pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)  
8:00pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- 20 | High School Fall Retreat - CANCELED
- 25 | No Youth Group – Happy Thanksgiving



Life Student Ministries November series is called Unite; fighting for unity in a divided world. This series will address how to fight for unity in a politically divided world as Kingdom people, how to respond to division as disciples of Jesus, and no matter who is in the White House, Jesus is still on the throne!

As we get closer to Christmas, Lifestumin will be announcing ways we can give back to our community through the McPherson County Angel tree. Donation suggestions will be announced.

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



### Covenant World Relief

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is the Evangelical Covenant Church at work in the world. Through CWR, Covenanters participate in God's transforming mission.

Immediate response to disasters is vital to save lives and facilitate recovery. For more than 65 years, CWR has been the Covenant's response to human suffering and injustice in the world. "We work through partnerships with Covenant and Covenant-connected organizations. These partners are experts in their communities. They are best equipped to work together with local leaders in long-term develop-

ment and to respond immediately to disasters."

Covenant World Relief exists because of the generosity of Covenant churches and individuals. You can be involved with CWR in several meaningful ways:

- **Stay connected** using their website, <https://covchurch.org/cwr/> Facebook, and Twitter.
- **Pray** for transformation around the world, in our neighborhoods, and in our own lives.
- **Give** locally (bring your check to Countryside), give online at [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org) or by mail.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Well, we are in the final months of 2020 and what a year it has been. We have all seen significant changes in how we live our everyday lives. And I am sure, we have all taken some time to re-evaluate our priorities and have given thought to how we spend our time and our resources. Some of us are finding renewed focus in our relationships with our loved ones and with our God. I believe that because we have continued to seek and follow God's leading through this difficult year, He has continued to bless us in abundant ways which, in turn, have allowed us to be His blessing to our community, our conference, and the missionaries and ministries we support.

In past years, we have always encountered a time during the year where the monies we receive via our tithes and offerings fail to keep pace with our expenditures and we get into a shortfall situation. God has always been faithful to our needs and we have not had to take extraordinary actions to work through these deficit times. Because of God's blessing this year and the faithful giving of our congregation, we have not seen the typical slow times during the 2020 year. This is remarkable given the Covid pandemic and all the changes we have made to respond to this issue. Thanks for your faithful giving.

The Leadership Team has a process in place that for each month of the year where we maintain a minimum level in our cash reserve, we allocate \$3,000 to our Missions FAITH Fund and \$5,000 to our Properties FAITH Fund. We began the program several years ago after we paid off our mortgage and had the financial freedom to focus on supporting ministry activities to further the harvest in God's kingdom. During the year 2020, we have been able to allocate these FAITH funds every single month.

It has been a delight during Leadership Team Meetings that our discussions of how we use these FAITH Funds has been focused on how we, as a church, allow God's blessings to flow through us and not to us. God continues to bless us by allowing us to be His blessing to others. I would encourage all of us to continue to see ourselves as God's blessing to those around us.

During the past several months, I have been challenged to remember the words of Jesus in his model prayer – "... give us this day our daily bread...". God has promised to provide for us what we need for today. It is not about what we need tomorrow, or next week, or next month; but what we need today. In the same way we should be focusing on how we can be obedient and faithful to God today. We need not be concerned with

what He asks of us tomorrow, or next week or next month, but what He does ask of us today. It is when we apply these perspectives to our daily lives, that God uses us to show the world who He is and allows us to be His light in the world's darkness.

I will put in another plug for the children's programs. Amy Brunk, our Director of Children's Ministries has done an outstanding job this year of keeping the Children's Ministry programs moving forward and aligned with keeping our congregation safe during the Covid issues. That said, we are still short on volunteers for these programs. Please pray for discernment and ask God if He's leading you to be a part of these programs.

As we slide toward the end of the year, the Finance Committee and Leadership Team are working on the proposed budget for next year. Please be looking for it in the coming weeks and be aware of our upcoming Harvest Festival, scheduled for November 22, 2020, where we will have an opportunity for review and Q&A. Hope to see you there.

In service to Christ Jesus our Lord,  
Bob Williford



### October 2020 Attendance (includes online attendance)

|            | Christian Formation | Worship |
|------------|---------------------|---------|
| October 4  | 221                 | 448     |
| October 11 | 175                 | 422     |
| October 18 | 204                 | 413     |
| October 25 | 189                 | 410     |

### October 2020 Giving

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| October 4                        | \$21,004.11         |
| October 11                       | \$17,737.89         |
| October 18                       | \$15,974.80         |
| October 25                       | \$26,091.25         |
| <b>Total Y-to-D</b>              | <b>\$883,280.02</b> |
| <b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b> | <b>-\$11,142.28</b> |

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

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Your November 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.  
Christian Formation Classes at 10:00 a.m.



### **NOVEMBER EVENTS**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 3             | Widow's Connection                          |
| 3, 10, 17, 24 | Men's Coffee                                |
| 3, 10, 17, 24 | Celebrate Recovery                          |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | Prayer Time                                 |
| 4             | Operation Christmas Child Packing Party     |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | Kids Life; Lifestumin                       |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | Men's Bible Study                           |
| 5, 12, 19     | Women's Precepts Bible Study                |
| 5, 12         | Women's Haggai Bible Study                  |
| 6-8           | Middle School Retreat                       |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | Women's Coffee Connection                   |
| 10            | Leadership Team Meeting                     |
| 14            | Crescendo CovTalk                           |
| 16-23         | Operation Christmas Child Box Drop Off Week |
| 19            | Women's Advent Study begins                 |
| 22            | Harvest Festival                            |
| 26            | Thanksgiving                                |
| 30            | A Woman's Night of Service                  |

### **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



# October Birthdays and Anniversaries

- |                        |                          |                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Gary & Pat Shaft     | 14 Danica Brunk          | 26 Zach Stucky         |
| 2 Elias Merkle         | Pat Peters               | 27 Jerod Corbus        |
| Tammy Purdy            | Pat Shaft                | Duane & Reba Becker    |
| 3 Maddox Glendening    | Leo & Karen Mendoza      | Don & Kendra Kuchta    |
| 4 Paul Penner          | 15 Angie Brunk           | 28 Violet Kaufman      |
| Chuck & Mary Horn      | Dick Luthi               | Jon & Lynn Black       |
| 5 Shawn Busenitz       | 16 Jaxon Carlson         | 29 Barbara Lowe        |
| Connor Gibson          | Abby Cullinane           | Danielle Schmidt       |
| Max Strutt             | Reese Elliott            | 30 Jessica Bohnenblust |
| Tom Sullivan           | Elijah Gehring           | Lana Chaney            |
| Ron & Inge Krug        | Brooklyn Hartley         | Jeffery Lambertus      |
| 6 Keith Birkhead       | Kathryn Thurlow          | Nick Schafer           |
| LeRoy Cape             | 17 Cindy Mace            | Linda Totman           |
| Melody Elder           | Mark & Amy Wurm          |                        |
| Hadley Hageman         | 18 David & Natasha Frank |                        |
| Kymber Whitehill       | Tim & Jamie Kaminkow     |                        |
| 7 Chad Boese           | 19 Nathan Johnson        |                        |
| Carri Carlson          | Henry Lyon               |                        |
| Ku Sup & Shin-hee Chin | Chad & Sarah Boese       |                        |
| 8 Charles Arvin        | 20 Cindy Stephens        |                        |
| Dave Bohnenblust       | Randy Stephens           |                        |
| Ronn Rinker            | 21 Tamara Gayer          |                        |
| Kaliah Tice            | 22 Ray Eilrich           |                        |
| 9 Joshua Anderson      | Jules Glanzer            |                        |
| Jennifer Hartley       | Ron Mork                 |                        |
| 10 Logan Goodenough    | 23 Brian Billings        |                        |
| Steele Kaufman         | Cai Morales              |                        |
| Michelle Logback       | Gary & Doris Stucky      |                        |
| Everly Sides           | 24 Molly Black           |                        |
| 11 Ana Claassen        | Gracie Bohnenblust       |                        |
| 13 Dwight Crown        | Stan Neufeld             |                        |
| Bob Williford          | Chuck Vetter             |                        |

We apologize for any mistakes.  
Please call the church office  
with any corrections.

