

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 7

July 2026

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“A Call to Slow Down”

- Pastor Jon Black

How many remember the good ‘ole days before cell phones, I-pads, and computer games? The days of three or four TV channels, Saturday morning cartoons, no activities on Sundays or Wednesdays, playing kickball in the streets until the lights came on?

If you were alive during those days, would you describe them as boring? I wouldn’t.

Today, life seems so much more hectic and frenzied. Information and entertainment can be found at our fingertips, 24/7. Are we any better off emotionally or spiritually? Or would you say we live in more anxious and restless times?

It is a common belief that the one who hurries and hustles will get more done. Is that true? Maybe so. But will we be better off in the end after all of our accomplishments?

Instead, Jesus invites us to *“Come to him, all you who are weary and burdened, and he will give us rest...rest for our souls.”* - Matt 11:28

Someone pointed out; *To walk with God, we need to go at a walking*

pace. We are called to “walk in the Spirit”... NOT... “run in the Spirit”. - Gal 5:16.



When Jesus came to earth, he lived an unhurried life. The crowds would often have to search for Him in hopes that He would meet their needs.

But Jesus often made it a priority to get away from the crowds to remote places, to slow down and spend time with His Heavenly Father...to abide in His presence.

He learned how to live the unhurried life.

- Jesus wouldn’t begin His important public ministry until He was 30 years of age.
- His first activity in His public ministry was to get away into the wilderness for 40 days and commune with His heavenly Father.
- When He was urged by friends to hurry to Lazarus’ house because of his life-threatening illness, Jesus waited another two days....which was two days too late.... in their thinking.

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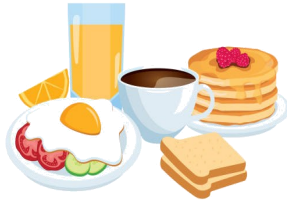
COUNTRYSIDE COVENANT CHURCH
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THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE



Summer Brunches

Continue



We find ourselves one month into a two-month period of doing light summer brunches following the Sunday morning worship service. And, overall, they have been successful.

To begin the trial period, a fundraiser was held on June 7 for the high school mission trip to Arlington, Texas. Pancakes were served and nearly \$3,000 was donated. Lizy will have the exact numbers which might be a little less due to expenses.

The next two weeks were very well attended with 160-200 people each Sunday. God prevailed and, it felt like the story of little boy with five loaves and two fishes was playing out in our midst. And yet we have been able to have a few leftovers each week.

A special thank you to the Leadership Team, the staff and the Scherich, Spencer and Totman Life Groups! YOU. WERE. THE. BEST! Because of your efforts, plans are to continue doing this during the month of July too! Below you will find suggested items that we need for this coming week ...

***Sunday, June 28
Potluck Breakfast***

You are asked to bring a dish or food items that serve 12-15 people!
Suggestions: Seasonal fruit (washed and cut up), yogurt, cheese (cubed or sliced), meat trays, pastries, etc.

Paper products and drinks are provided.

We appreciate your help and look forward to this coming Sunday!

The staff knows it's important to provide opportunities for fellowship and hopefully you have been able to sit across from someone you didn't previously know or you've had a chance to have a conversation with someone you knew.

Thanks again to those who have helped and to those who have committed to one of the Sundays in July. Whether you are in a group or not, and you want to serve, feel free to contact Linda in the Church Office. There's just might be a place for you since there are still some slots open.



We return back to two services on Sunday, August 2, 8:30 and 11:00 am.

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“A Call to Slow Down”

- Jesus resisted the adulation and demands of the crowds so that He could invest in His small rag tag group of disciples.

We must resist the tyranny of the urgent... the many loud, competing voices in our culture that promise to fulfill our immediate gratifications and need for excitement.

We need to learn to slow down.... remember the importance of sabbath rest....be still and know that God is God....Come to Jesus with our weary hearts to find rest in our souls.

Jesus' still small voice calls out to us every day...many times a day. He waits for us to hear His voice, slow down and deeper our relationship in His presence.

Countryside Kids

SUMMER SCHEDULE



As many of you know our schedule changes a bit during the summer. This is to give our children's ministry volunteers some much needed rest as they recharge for the fall! We also use the summer months to discern and plan what the next season of children's ministry will look like. We have a few exciting changes coming. See below for more details!

KIDS PRAISE

We implemented some changes to Kids Praise in June. We are having it in Room 20 now (across from the nursery). We are going to continue in there throughout the summer to see how it goes, and will likely continue in there in August when we return to two services. BUT, here is our big change for August. Once we go back to two services we are going to offer Kids Praise during the 2nd service only.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We are excited to announce that starting in September, we will be offering a children's choir at Countryside! It will be on Wednesday evenings before Kids Life, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. We have two dates on the calendar that the children's choir will be part of our worship service. October 11th and December 20th. Our choir will be led by Jolene Czosnowski. You will have an option to register your kids for the choir when you register them in the fall for other ministries!



JULY COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

5	Sunday	----	Kids Praise (during 9:30 a.m. Service)
12	Sunday	----	Kids Praise (during 9:30 a.m. Service)
19	Sunday	----	Kids Praise (during 9:30 a.m. Service)
26	Sunday	----	Kids Praise (during 9:30 a.m. Service)

AUGUST COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

2	Sunday	----	Return to 2 services Kids Praise 11:00 service only
9	Sunday	----	Kids Praise 11:00 Service
16	Sunday	----	Kids Praise 11:00 Service
23	Sunday	----	Children's Ministry Training 9:45 a.m. Kids Praise 11:00 Service
26	Wednesday	----	Ministry Fair
30	Sunday	----	Children's Ministry Training 9:45 a.m. Kids Praise 11:00 Service

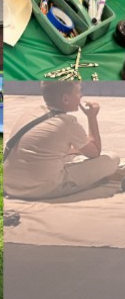


KIDS CORNER

Kids Corner is our church nursery for children from birth to age 4. We would love to have you join our team on Sundays as we care for the littlest at Countryside! Please contact Tiffani Eilrich if you have interest in serving as a caregiver or greeter in that ministry!

VBS

At the beginning of June, we hosted our annual summer VBS. Our theme this year was Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God! It was an incredible week where kids learned truths about who God is. Kids shared their God Sightings throughout the week and learned some incredible worship songs that they shared in our Sunday service on June 7th! Thank you again to all of you who donated items, volunteered, and prayed for VBS. Because of your support, we were able to host about 150 kids during the week of VBS. These kids also demonstrated generosity and kindness through our offering project that supported Open Door Health Services in Hutchinson. They raised \$1,813.12 for this organization!



The Next Generation of Worship Leaders -Bobbie Kaufman

This month we shared some of our worship team members with Covenant Cedars. Izabella Wedel, Jayna Bower, Saige Kaufman, Ben Bohnenblust, Hayden Scheck, and Elaina Stucky were asked to lead worship for the Trailblazer Camp, June 21-24. Several members of this team were offered opportunities to use their gifts in our church since elementary school, have been invested in by multiple student worship team directors, and were well equipped and eager to join our Sunday morning worship arts team when they turned 16. Hayden Scheck is also serving as our worship intern this summer.

It has been a joy to serve alongside these talented leaders on Sunday mornings and it's awesome to see God call them and send them out to share their passion for worship with the 3rd and 4th grade campers.

As we prayed over them the day they left, I was filled with gratitude that this church values investing in the next generation, sending them out into the world to make Him known.

What awesome and tangible evidence that Countryside exists to make and deepen disciples, who make Jesus their top priority, obey His commands, and invest in others to do the same!



America Turns 250 — Lynn Black

We saw our first fireworks tent go up last weekend. With the nation's celebration of 250 years, its history, and our freedoms as its citizens, how will you mark this historic event? I invite you to utilize the prayer below as we reflect on our nation's birthday. (Taken in part from the Life 365 App)

Father God, I choose to rejoice in your rule and reign today, meditating on the words of 1 Timothy 2:1-6a: *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, and intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."*

As a follower of Jesus, I am called to pray for my leaders as much as I talk about them, if not more! Regardless of whether I voted for them or agree with how they're leading, Paul reminds me that governments need my prayers.

I take a moment to name the leaders in my nation, state, and local governments before God. How can I thank God for them today?

What do I want to ask God to do for them and for the nation?

For those whose decisions I struggle with, what truth do I want God to reveal to them?

What blessing could I pray over them?

As I re-read the above passage of scripture, intentionally listening for the voice of God, what word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting for me today?

Afterwards, ask the Lord, "Why this word, this phrase, today? (listen) God, what are You revealing to me in Your word about Yourself? (listen) About myself? (listen) About others? (listen) How then shall I live?" (listen)

"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders...of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end." Is 9:6-7.



LIFE STUDENT MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

July 2026

What we've been up to!...

The month of June was filled with Middle School Bible studies and High School Dinners!

The middle school students have been diving into Men and Women of the Bible during their Bible studies.

The older teens have been enjoying TAWG time together each Tuesday mornings.. sipping coffee and reading our Bibles together. We also get together for dinner and game night each Wednesday!

The Summer months provide so much time together building community and diving into deeper relationships, founded on the truths of the Gospel.



Upcoming Events

- Middle School Camp @ Covenant Cedars, June 28- July 3
- High School Camp @ Covenant Cedars, July 5-10
- Mission Arlington Trip: July 19-25





McPherson Housing Coalition, Inc.

She Did Everything Right

Ann moved to our community with a dream. She enrolled in nursing school, secured a full-time job at a local hospital, worked hard, saved money, and did everything she could to build a better future. Yet despite doing everything “right,” she still found herself sleeping in her car.

Ann’s situation is a reminder that homelessness does not always look the way people expect. She was single, had no children, was not fleeing domestic violence, and was not struggling with substance abuse or mental illness. She was simply a hardworking student trying to become a nurse. Even with full-time employment and school, her income was not enough to keep up with rising housing costs. As expenses increased and options ran out, her car became her only place to sleep.

For months, Ann lived in that uncertainty. Each day she went to work and attended classes while carrying a burden few people knew about. At night, she returned to the reality of not having a stable home. When Ann first reached out to McPherson Housing Coalition, the program was full. Families with children were ahead of her on the waiting list, and there were no available openings at the time.

Months later, her school reached out again and asked if there was any way we could help. A cottage had become available at Oak Harbor, and a meeting was scheduled. The day before that meeting, Ann called and said she did not want to waste anyone’s time. After hearing “no” so many times, she had begun to believe that help was no longer possible. Still, she agreed to come. The next day, she met with one of our case managers, and that evening she had a safe place to sleep for the first time in months.

Today, Ann is still working and still attending school, continuing to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. She is expected to complete her LPN program in about a year. With continued support from her school and McPherson Housing Coalition, she is now on a path toward stable, independent housing and is expected to be in her own home within the next few months.

Galatians 6:2 reminds us, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Ann’s story is a reminder that homelessness is not always the result of poor choices. Sometimes it happens to people who are working hard, pursuing their dreams, and doing everything they can to succeed. Sometimes, all it takes is a community willing to help carry the burden.

Blessings,
Chris Goodson

Church Life Update

**Death in the Church Family:
Joe Unruh. June 17**



Widows Connection



exists to help women find community, support, and joy in their common season. This month,

they will meet on **July 7, 9:30am** at The Cedars Event Center, and **July 18, 11:30am** is TBD. Contact Becky Hogue, (918) 706-1257, for more information.

Leadership Team Update

As a Leadership Team, we are continually grateful for the many ways God is moving in and through our church family. One of the most amazing highlights of the year has just wrapped up—our week-long Vacation Bible School.

VBS is truly one of the biggest events in the life of our church. It takes more than 80 volunteers faithfully serving to invest in around 150 kids from our church and community. From teaching and music to games, snacks, and Bible verses, every detail is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus. While the energy and excitement of the week are incredible, what matters most are the lasting lessons and relationships that are formed. Seeds of faith are planted, friendships begin, and lives are impacted in ways we may never fully see this side of heaven.

Moments like VBS remind us of something bigger: the importance of investing in people and building meaningful connections within our church. We are called to be more than a gathering—we are a body, a family, created to know and care for one another.

But that kind of connection doesn't happen by accident. We cannot meet needs, serve each other, or carry one another's burdens if we don't take time to truly know each other. It starts with simple, intentional steps—learning names, listening to stories, sharing meals, and creating space for real conversations. When we open our lives to one another, we create opportunities for God to work through us in powerful ways. Scripture encourages us in this calling:

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
— Galatians 6:2

As we celebrate all that God has done through VBS, let it also be a reminder of who we are called to be year-round—a connected church where people are known, supported, and loved.

Let's continue investing in one another, reaching out, and building a community where no one feels unseen and every person has a place to belong.

Stephanie Hamilton, Leadership Team



June 2026 Attendance (includes online)		
	Christian Formation	Worship
June 7	—	626
June 14	—	526
June 21	—	495
June 2026 Giving		
June 7		\$37,095.61
June 14		\$20,052.51
June 21		\$32,881.49
Total Y-to-D		\$670,458.28
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D		\$18,161.82

Women's Exercise Group has changed days and locations for the summer!

Mondays: meet in the Countryside Student Center @ 9:30 am.

Wednesdays: meet at the McPherson City Pool (weather permitting) for some water walking! Time TBD.

Contact Judy Heiman, (620) 245-2153, or Karen Young, (620) 245-4568, for more info.



Countryside Covenant Church
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McPherson KS 67460

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Your July Newsletter is here!!



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

This Month at Countryside

Worship Service @ 9:30 a.m., Brunch follows service

JULY EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Time of Prayer |
| 1, 8, 15, 29 | High School Dinners @ Lizy's |
| 4 | Independence Day |
| 5-10 | H.S. Camp @ Covenant Cedars |
| 7 & 18 | Widows Connection |
| 7, 14, 28 | TAWG (Time Away With God) for H.S. |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | Men's Coffee |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | Celebrate Recovery |
| 12 | Ministry Coordination Council |
| 19-25 | High School Mission Trip to Arlington, Texas |
| 21 | Leadership Team Meeting |
| 31-1 | M.S. 24 Hour Rush, Kansas City |
| August 2 | Back to 2 services, 8:30 & 11:00 am |

Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Lizy Johnson, Student Ministries Director

Bobbie Kaufman, Worship Arts Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director

