



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 21, ISSUE 5
May 2022

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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Get Your Rest On

- Pastor Jeremy

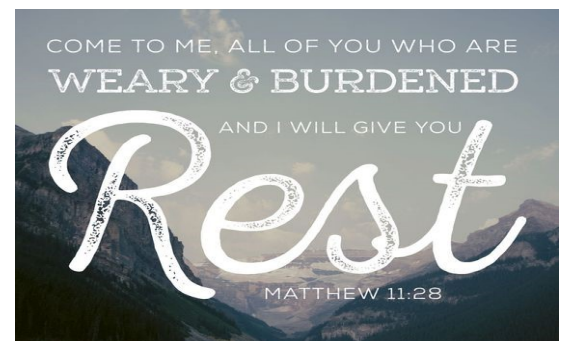
In the culture of mainstream America, we often ask people, "How are you doing?" The response, almost automatically is, "Good." In all your interactions with me, how many of you noticed that "good" is almost never a response I provide? I like to use other adjectives to describe how I am doing, or I'll comment about my lack of sleep, some sort of body pain, or an open-ended "I'm doing okay," which is said in an inviting way to inquire as to why I am not "good." As of late, I have been feeling tired; tired physically, tired emotionally, and at times tired spiritually. I noticed that I have been doing much more since returning from my deployment. But, I didn't think I was until my wife helped me see how jammed packed my calendar really was. I never struggled with overworking or not letting things go, until I returned to church last October.

I have been convicted that I am struggling with rest. Not sleep, but rest. Rest from the busyness of having a full-time job, a part-time job, managing my household, all while still responding to God's call in my life to evangelize and make disciples of all the nations in my everyday life. It is easy for me to do, but much harder to "just be." When the Psalmist wrote Psalm 46, nations were falling and kingdoms melting, and in verse 10, it says, "Be still, and know that I am God." To be still is a struggle for me because I sometimes feel like if I let something go, I will fail or a project

will fail. I lack the trust that God is in control through all of my circumstances. Through conversations with the church staff, our leadership team, and Pastor Jon's much-needed sabbatical, we are beginning to recognize the importance of rest even more.

I know many of you are busy in life and may have a way more hectic schedule than I do. I know some of us wear that as a badge of honor, but this is not healthy at all. In fact, over the past two years dealing with the pandemic and constantly adjusting to a new normal, it has taken a toll on many of us. I have seen firsthand how our burnout and the trajectory of where we are going will lead to disaster if something does not change.

At the end of April, I started a short sermon series titled, "Creating a Posture of Rest" which will be at least a three-part sermon looking at how we enter rest based on the life of Jesus. I hope we can all open our hearts towards receiving some encouragement about rest, and to take the command seriously that we will honor the Sabbath by keeping it holy.



Countryside Kids



SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp is right around the corner! Camp for kids entering 3rd-6th grade is in June this year. The next deadline to save money on your registration is June 1st! If your child has attended Kids Life this year they should have earned camp bucks. Each camp buck is worth a dollar towards camp. I will calculate those at the end of the month and let you know how many your child earned! We do have camp scholarships available. To register for camp and apply for a scholarship, check out our website!



TIPS - MAPP CLASSES

Attention prospective foster and adoptive families! To begin the process to adopt or open your home for foster care you must complete these classes. They are offered virtually (via zoom). The classes are 10 weeks long (3 hours a week). Classes can fill up quickly so sign up early. You can contact Amy in the church office for more information or Jocelyn Busick, Foster Care Homes Recruiter.

Call/Text (620) 282-9555
Jocelyn.busick@st-francis.org

Upcoming Classes:
Tuesdays starting May 3rd | 6-9 PM
Saturdays starting May 21st | 1-4 PM
Mondays starting June 6th | 6-9 PM



VBS | MAY 31 - JUNE 3
9 AM - NOON

Each summer we look forward to hosting a week of VBS for our church family and our community! This is a week of fun for kids ages 4 - 5th Grade. Our theme this year is *Food Truck Party*. Registration is now open as well as our volunteer sign-up. You can find both of those forms on our website: csidecov.com/events/vbs-summer-2022

Kids that register by May 15th will receive a free t-shirt!

If you want to help share the love of Jesus with the kids in our church and community visit the church website to see how you can help or contact Amy or Kristi in the office.

VBS PROGRAM AND LUNCH
JUNE 5

The Sunday following VBS, kids are invited to our VBS program during both of our services that morning. We will share highlights from the week and the kids will help lead worship with the songs they learned at VBS. After the 11:00 service, we will have lunch food truck style (weather permitting). We will be serving a classic food truck dish, walking tacos!

AMAZON LIST FOR
VBS SUPPLIES



SCHEDULE

May 1, 8, 15 | Kids Town
May 31-June 3 | VBS
June 5 | VBS Program
June 19-24 | 5th/6th Grade Summer Camp
June 26-29 | 3rd/4th Grade Summer Camp

Ministry to Women

We're doing some updating!!

Specifically with our funeral volunteer list. An email was sent out to all women last week asking them to respond to the following questions:



1. Are you able and willing to help set up before the funeral meals, and then clean up after the meals?
2. Are you willing and able to provide food dishes for funeral meals? (This would be desserts, salads, & occasionally soups to feed 8-10 people. We will try not to ask for a dish if you're already committed to helping unless you would like to volunteer it.)
3. What is your current phone number?
4. Do you prefer text or voice call?

Because our church family is large, we don't know how everyone is related and who is friends with who. If we happen to call on you for a funeral you'll be attending, please let us know and we'll move down our list. We don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to share in that time if they wish. If you responded to the email, THANK YOU! If you haven't and would like to, please send your answers to Aleasha Allen at aleasha8502@gmail.com or call Linda in the Church Office, 620.241.4499 and she'll gladly record your response.

Several months ago as many of us were consumed with COVID ramifications, Psalm 37:4 kept coming to me. *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.* Of course, as human as I am, I started pondering that verse, asking questions, noticing how God was at work and wanting to hear more from Him. I realized that God was giving me an actual desire. He placed a desire in my heart and I desired "that thing" because He gave it to me.

1. "That thing" was big and it's mysterious. – Often times, it's something that makes us a little uncomfortable to think about because it seems impossible. And because of that, it's mysterious. I asked, "Lord, how can this thing which I desire ever be?" God desires things outside of our thinking and our understanding. No matter if it's building an ark, freeing a nation from slavery, building him a temple, or building a wall around a city. God's desire will challenge us on every level, which leads me to my second point.
2. It requires faith. Hebrews 11:1 tells us *now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* If

I already had the "things hoped for" and the "things not seen," than I wouldn't need faith.

3. It requires patience.
4. It requires hard work.
5. He will give me a vision for it.
6. He will give you provision for it.
7. And, finally, He will give you peace about it.

As time went on, God provided all those points. I did some research, interacted with other women ministry leaders and prayed and prayed some more. And then it was time for me to share "that thing" with our women ministries team. **The Gathering Table**, a new part of our ministry, became a reality, not just a desire or even a dream! And, so many of you, 85 to be exact, have responded enthusiastically! As I write this, groups are being formed, hostesses have received communications and it's May! Here we go!! God is so good and now I can't wait to hear the stories that will be shared around tables in the next few months.

Summer Bible Study – We'd love to have you come and grow with us! We're excited to offer an evening study that will begin on June 9 and run through July 21. Childcare will be available for the study by reservation. The 7-session study, *Encountering God*, will unpack the biblical foundation for spiritual disciplines along with approachable ways to practice disciplines like prayer, study, worship, rest, simplicity, generosity, celebration and many more. Instead of being just one more thing on your to-do list, you'll find that these habits of faith can actually create more margin in your life – providing peace and rest as you walk closer with Jesus. You can enroll by calling the Church Office, 620.241.4499.

Enjoying these days filled with spring activities and experiencing God's goodness to us through nature,
Linda



May Youth Group Schedule:

1 | Envelope Fundraiser

4 | Ignite End of the Year Party, 7-8:30 pm

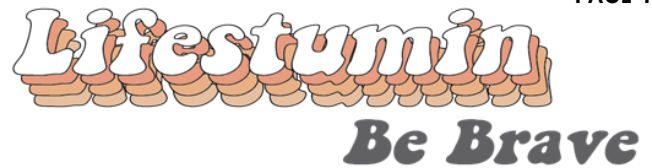
8 | Confirmation Sunday
Envelope Fundraiser

15 | Last Day of Christian Formation for Summer
Envelope Fundraiser

18 | Life Student Ministry Leaders Night Out

22 | Senior Sunday
Last Sunday of Envelope Fundraiser

*No Wednesday Night Youth Group for the summer.
Check out what is happening on the App or Website.



Confirmation Service Retreat: Some of our 7th & 8th graders spent a Saturday in April cleaning the inside of the church vans and picking up trash in the park!



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.

Summer Bible Studies and Events: Check the Church app for details on what's happening this Summer!

Save the Date:

- ⇒ Ignite to KC: June 16-17 (updated dates)
- ⇒ Edge to Splash Park in Wichita: June 29
- ⇒ Edge 24 Hour Rush: August 4-5

Celebrating the Baptisms of Danica Brunk and Cole Cooper.



Engage Summer Event:

Arvada, Colorado, July 17-22. Students finishing 8th grade through graduating seniors are invited to attend. Sign up on the church app or website.

In place of the historical "CHIC" event, the Midwest Conference has decided to host a conference-style event for our high school students next summer. For five days more than 400 students and leaders from around our five-state conference will converge at Arvada Covenant Church in Arvada, Colorado for worship, transformation, and fun. The purpose of ENGAGE is to be a catalyst that inspires Christ-like change, challenges students to see themselves as part of something bigger and inspires them on the journey of following Christ.

Envelope Fundraiser:

Help support over 30 students and leaders attend Engage!

Covenant Cedar Summer Camp:

High School | Sunday, July 3rd - Friday, July 8th.

Middle School | Sunday, July 10th - Friday, July 15th

We would love to have you join us this summer at camp. You can register for summer camp a few different ways: by picking up a form at church or printing it off the website and turning that back into Kelly, or you can register online at Covenant Cedars. Please make sure you list Countryside as your church home when registering online!





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

One of the things that I am most excited about this spring is a group of folks in our *Third Calling* CF class who are asking the question, “**Now what, God?**” Have you ever asked God that question? School’s out and your grandchildren are around more, “Now what, God?” Or your own kids have moved out, “Now what, God?” Or you’ve been hit with a hard situation in life, “Now what, God?” Or your spouse is gone, “Now what, God?”

This phrase could imply that maybe you tried something and found it wanting. Or that you’ve run the string out on your options. Or you’re unsure, disoriented, confused.

This could be the *first* question you ask when you see a transition ahead. Perhaps “Now what, God?” implies a new situation and you’re eager to know how to proceed. You’d appreciate God’s companionship on the journey as you take new risks and serve Him in new ways.

Whatever your reason for asking, “Now what, God?” this question implies that you’re open to His leading, perspective, and partnership. And that’s what I get excited about: people seeking the Lord with their next step in life. When we ask Him, He has answers.

If you’re wondering what God might have for you in your next season of life, Crescendo ministry would love to help you discover your God-given gifts. Our initiatives are designed to create space for you to think about God’s will for your life right now and into the future. So join us for these significant events to be equipped to “*grow in Jesus Christ and engage in His kingdom ministry.*”

CovTalk May 21, 9:45am, Crescendo is hosting a Watch Party!!!

“*On the Road Again, Onramps to Hope*” is our denomination’s Crescendo Virtual Conference coming to us live via webinar! Join us in the Student Center for coffee and donuts as we take in this two-hour, interactive, professionally designed webinar created especially for boomers and beyond! Through stories, interviews, and discussions we’ll explore:

- Naming and Processing Losses
- Investing in Younger Generations (ei. grandkids)
- Building Connections through Legacy Stories

Our very own Rev. Dick Skar, Gordon Mohn, and even our widow’s ministry will be highlighted on the big screen so make sure you come to “cheer them on!” We’ll have breakout sessions for conversation and processing all we’re learning. This is one CovTalk where YOU also get to talk!! **RSVP** for this event by calling the church office: 620-241-4499 or writing “CovTalk” on your Connection Card at church.



Crescendo Serves – Opportunities Ahead!!

What are you doing to impact the next generation for Christ? Several Crescendo folks remember serving our sister Covenant ministry in **Kansas City, “Freedom Fire.”** They provide after school programming, mentoring, and resources for the poorest in Kansas City. We painted, pulled weeds, engaged kids through games, served breakfast to a church for the homeless, and got a feel for inner-city missions in our own backyard.

The Missions Team at CCC is sponsoring an intergenerational **missions trip** back to Freedom Fire. This time you’ll be serving alongside our Young Professionals and anyone else who is interested in making a difference. Contact Cynthia Wiard or the missions team if you’d like more information. The trip is slated for June 9-11. Come create relationships with other servant hearts of another generations!



Can’t do an overnight trip? Then engage the next generation here at Countryside by volunteering for **Vacation Bible School** the first week of June. Sign up on your Connection Card or have a conversation with Amy Brunk. All skills sets needed and wanted!

Coffee

WOMEN'S COFFEE CONNECTION

Saturdays at 9:00 a.m., a group of women meet at The Tin Roof Pantry in Galva over a cup of coffee or whatever is your choice. It's a fun hour or so that has great conversation. If you don't see the group on the main floor, no doubt they are upstairs!

SEW & SHARE

The ladies that meet once a month have such a great time as they gather to "work on" projects for different missions. And, they'd love to have you join them! In May they will meet on **Monday, the 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5**. It's a great way to serve and to help others.



WIDOWS CONNECTION

Tuesday, May 3, 9:30 a.m., Room 5



Mother's Day Celebration—a special tribute to mothers is planned! Bring your daughter or granddaughter! Contact Becky, 918-706-1257, or Judy, 360-355-0943 for more information or to RSVP.

Saturday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.,
Countryside Café

Good food, visiting, laughter, games, just a good ol' time!

Church Life Update

Baptisms:

Danica Brunk, Averie Church, Ian Claassen, Cole Cooper, Kelli Farley, Margaret Hopkins, Nick Johnson, Steele Kaufman, Kacen Kliever, Sloane Kliever, Oliver Koehn, Colt Morales, Lael Stevenson.



Birth:

Anna Louise, daughter of Jonathan & Katie Epp, April 7

New Members:

Brian & Melisa Cooper, Bill & Patty Eccles, Peter & Susan Gassie, Nick & Lizzy Johnson, Daniel & Tricia Mitchell, Gary & Joana Oswald, Diane Portenier, Meaghan Reamy, Clint & Jen Scheck, Glen & Kerri Snell, Steve & Judy Steffes, Cynthia Wiard.



Wedding:

Mikayla Lacey & Drake Langshaw, April 9

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, the Leadership Team had its annual retreat with staff (March 26). Pastor Jon has begun his Sabbatical. As part of our Palm Sunday service we welcomed twenty one new members (plus their families) and we celebrated the sacrament of baptism with over a dozen members being baptized (Praise God!). We celebrated Easter Sunday – “Surprised by Hope!” Matthew 28: 5-6 “But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” At present we are directly upon the Wednesday, April 27 all church meal – the end of (school) year celebration.

Church membership comes with an obligation to be involved, to participate. This is part of our loving response to God. At Countryside, we are very blessed by an active membership, and at our retreat we discerned that we very much want to cultivate being in vulnerable community with one another – with relationships that are dependent, open and honest. In particular the word “dwell” comes to mind – not focused on “doing” but rather on “being” (we dwell in Christ and Christ dwells in us).

If the above paragraph seems familiar, that is because I basically copied it from the March 30 letter that went out to the congregation from me. My letter was intended to introduce Pastor Jon’s letter (same date, same envelope) in which he detailed his plans, hopes and expectations for his sabbatical. As review, the Covenant encourages Pastors to take a sabbatical every seven years to “provide for periodic release from pastoral duties so that there is a time for spiritual, emotional and physical rest, study, prayer and vision casting.” (Pastor Jon’s last sabbatical was nine years ago).

During this time, let’s be sure to extend grace and lend assistance to staff and to each other. Also, please remember to continually lift up our staff and leaders in prayer. Be sure to lift up Pastor Jon in prayer. It is truly a time to practice “putting on the new self.” Remember a couple weeks ago when Pastor Jeremy included a “holy living pause” in his sermon – he was correct in saying the Bible’s instructions for how to live – instructions for a new way of life – may sound easy, but are very hard for me to remember and prac-

tice. Nonetheless, I close with Colossians 3: 12-17 “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Amen!

Mark Wurm, Leadership Team Chair



April 2022 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
April 3	187	565
April 10	175	630
April 17	—	888
April 24	173	547

April 2022 Giving

April 3	\$17,958.57
April 10	\$34,555.25
April 17	\$24,394.34
April 24	\$39,532.41
Total Y-to-D	\$401,880.12
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$7,892.97

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

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Your May 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, 10:00 a.m. (May 1, 8, 15)

MAY EVENTS

3, 21	Widows Connection
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Men's Coffee
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Celebrate Recovery
4, 11, 18, 25	Prayer Group
7, 14, 21, 28	Women's Coffee Connection @ The Coffee Shed
7	Crescendo-Wind Surge Baseball Game
8	Confirmation Sunday/Mother's Day
9	Adult Christian Formation Teachers Meeting
10	MOMs Group
13	All Schools Day/Church Office Closed
16	Staff Retreat/Church Office Closed
17	Leadership Team Meeting
21	Crescendo Conference Watch Party
22	Senior Sunday
23	Sew & Share
30	Memorial Day/Church Office Closed
31-June 3	Vacation Bible School



Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant