



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 23, ISSUE 10  
October 2024



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

# THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

## “The Good Old Days”

- Pastor Jon Black

I just celebrated my birthday on September 20. It was great to hear from friends past and present on Facebook. Receiving their posts led me down memory lane and gave me a serious case of nostalgia about ‘the good old days.’

One of the best TV quotes in the history of sitcom came in the final episode of “The Office.” It was spoken by one of the main characters, Andrew Benard, as he reminisced about the past eight years of working for the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company in beautiful Scranton, PA. He said...

“The weird thing now is I'm exactly where I want to be. I've got my dream job at Cornell, and I'm still just thinking about my old pals....I wish there was a way to know you're in ‘the good old days,’ before you've actually left them.”

Life often seems better in “the good old days” compared to the present days which seem to drag by....or in other cases, fly by.

Our second born will be getting married soon. I often recall the days of pulling Molly in the little red wagon around our neighborhood block. Those were ‘the good old days.’

It is healthy to reminisce about the past at times. However, too much reminiscing can become detrimental if we get stuck living in the glory days of the past...at the expense of missing out on the God-given opportunities right in front of our noses.

What does God have to say about our present opportunities?

**Eph 5:15** - *Make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*  
– The Apostle Paul

**Gal 6:10** - *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* – The Apostle Paul



**Psalm 118:24** - *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.* – King David

**Eccl 7:10** - *Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?” For it is not wise to ask such questions.* – King Solomon

**John 4:35** - *Do not say, ‘It’s still four months until harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.* – Jesus

**Matt 9:37** – *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.* – Jesus

Take a moment to prayerfully reread the above verses and discern the attitude the Lord would encourage of us.

What do you find yourself consuming your thoughts each morning as you begin your day or each night as you hit the pillow?

What do you find yourself longing for?

What opportunities may God be serving up to be his faithful workers in the harvest today?

May we not become stuck in the glory days of the past at the expense of experiencing the great opportunities God has for us in the present.

May our eyes be open to the wonderful blessings and privileges of ‘the good old days’...unfolding right before our noses...before we’ve actually left them.



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

Congrats to Gary Peterson who participated in the Veterans' Honor Flight this past month!



### For "Cryonic" Out Loud!

Do you know where baseball legend Ted Williams focused his attention after retiring? Upon his death in 2002, he had his body frozen in the hope that he might be brought back to life. The science of Cryonics is growing exponentially around the world. Human bodies are being expertly frozen with the hope of being revived back to life in the future when science has caught up to reality. Currently there are over 500 people in the US in tanks, awaiting their moment.

As believers in Jesus, our hope to live forever is found in the resurrection and life found in Christ our Savior and Lord! Our bodies will one day be resurrected by HIS power. While we rest in the sovereignty of the God who numbers our days, we are also called to be responsible as good stewards of the bodies and the lives He has given us to live ALL our days while on earth. If we're alive, we have a purpose!

There are plenty of examples of people in the Bible who never retired from serving God – those who flourished and bore fruit late in life. Think of Abram, whom God called at the age of 75. Moses was 80 when he led the Israelites out of Egypt, and Caleb was 85 when he entered the Promised Land. Or think of Anna, the 80plus-year-old prophetess who finally saw Jesus, and Simeon, whom God promised would meet the Messiah before he died.

**Have you considered the fact that *your* story has the great potential to inspire others to re-imagine their own futures? Your story deserves to be told and heard.**

We're looking for people willing to tell their story about how the Lord has given them a new purpose and new work to do in this third season of life we call Crescendo. The Covenant would like to hear your stories too. Think about how God is leading

as you have transitioned from "retirement" to re-tooling, re-imagining, and re-envisioning your life. It could be small, it could be big. But each story has great value and becomes inspiration for others!

As long as we're in the body on this earth, we have God's purpose to live out! Tell your story and encourage others to prayerfully consider how THEY will move forward re-tooling, re-imagining, and re-envisioning retirement!

**Look for an upcoming special project that will involve our Crescendo Ministry and storytelling!**

### Help! I Need to Understand My Grandkids' World!

[Axis.org](https://www.axis.org) is a trusted, respected, and HELPFUL resource and they're FREE! Upcoming:

- **Media and Technology Discernment (October 2024)** An easy-to-use course that teaches teens and caring adults foundational principles for media discernment.
- **Sex and Relationships (November 2024)** A guided experience to help parents start conversations about biology, pornography, gender identity and more with middle schoolers.
- **Family Communication (Thanksgiving 2024)** A short video that teaches a research-backed, demonstrated method to get (and keep) teens talking. (They're experts!!)
- **Teen Culture (December 2024)** This new Parent Guide is a deeply-researched trend forecast with information Christian parents need as they begin the new year.

In case you missed it, **Widows Connection** would like to give a special shout out to Bruce Laude for his chauffeuring them on a recent Saturday. They traveled in style with the wind in their hair! Thanks, Bruce, for sharing your joy with us! Join WC on the first Tuesday or third Saturday of the month. Contact Pastor Lynn Black, Judy Blaine, or Becky Hogue for details.





**Connecting women to each other and to Jesus ...**

We were created for community. And because our Father is generous, He's given us one of the most

essential and life-changing relationships for community: friendship. The benefits of a relationship with other women touch on three major parts of each woman which are necessary for a woman to recognize. God's word gives support to one of those parts - the **emotional** side that we all have:

**Love:** Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. *Ask not, "Do I receive this type of friendship, but do I give this type of friendship?"* Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. *A great friend is ready to stand by at great personal expense.*

**Acceptance:** Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. *Acceptance is not permissiveness, but responsibility with the goal of maturity.*

**Support:** Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. *A friend walks with me through the good times and the bad times.*

**Freedom of Expression:** James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. *Do I have a friend I can trust and share deeply with?*

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. *A friend overlooks an offense; does not betray a confidence.*

Another aspect that Scripture speaks to is our **physical** side.

**A. Help in Work and Trouble**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But, pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

**B. Health to Your Body**

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.  
Proverbs 17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine,

but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. *A discontent and a bitter heart in a friend dries up the vitality of a relationship.*

The third aspect that we need to consider is, of course, our **spiritual** connection.

**A. Counsel**

Proverbs 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel. *Spiritual counsel from the word.*

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. *A good friend stimulates and sharpens you.*

**B. Speaking the Truth in Love**

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ.

Proverbs 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

**C. Encouragement**

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

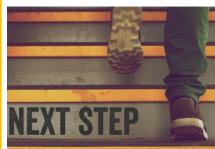
Philippians 2:4 ... look out for the interest of others. *Have an attitude of Christ.*

Women need each other and let's often ask ourselves ... what kind of a friend am I?

Our ministry team members encourage relationships with other women and, therefore, we invite you to share in the opportunities that we provide for women of all ages and stages of life. Together we are planning **A Pinteristing Day for you to join us on Saturday, November 16** where you can learn a new skill and connect with other women and to Jesus!

Luke 18:19b ... No one is good - except God alone.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.



**Next Step Class**

Next Steps Christian Formation Class begins **Sunday October 13 in Room 12**. It runs for four weeks. Learn about Countryside, our ministries, and the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination. Hear from the staff and get to know others who are newer to Countryside. Sign up with the church office so we have enough printed materials (620)241-4499. Prerequisite to membership and leadership at CCC.

**Church Life Update**

**Baptisms:**

Grace Emery, Bob Huff,  
Skylar Lockard, Lyndzi Scott.

**Death:**

LeRoy Schmidt



Life Student

October 2024

# Ministries



## Upcoming Events!



### Fields of Faith:

Wednesday, October 9th @ 6:30pm at McPherson High School Football field. ALL 6-12 grade students invited! Will take the place of Youth Group that night.



### High School BARN PARTY!

**7-9PM @ the Warehouse!**

We're going to usher in Fall with a good old-fashioned Barn Party... but without the barn! This event is open to all High School students and is a great opportunity to invite friends! We'll have outdoor games, yummy desserts, group dances from camp and \*hopefully\* country line dancing! We may even throw some swing dancing in! It's going to be a real good time! Yee-Haw! **October 27**



### Youth Group & Christian Formation are going full-throttle!

All of the Life Student Ministry programs are up and running this Fall! We have a number of ways students can get plugged in! Between Sunday morning Christian Formation, Wed & Sun Youth Groups, Bible Studies, discipleship groups and events... We've got so many opportunities to grow in faith and community!

pictured above: Confirmation Class - 6th Grade Class - Lizy J & Mallory R Karaoke!

If you're a student or adult looking for ways to join, reach out to Lizy at [lizy@csidecov.org](mailto:lizy@csidecov.org)



### Middle School Fall Party! Wednesday, Oct 30th, 6:15-7:45 Student Center

Who doesn't like to celebrate Fall??!! We'll have a fun night of fall themed games, food and flannel! Friends are a bonus too!! All 6-8th graders welcome!!



### What is Life Student Ministries really about??

Like our greater church body, we're a community growing in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ as we worship, disciple, serve and multiply! Countryside's youth ministry exists to make and deepen disciples who make Jesus their top priority, obey his commands and invest in others to do the same. It may look different, but the heart for discipleship is the same.

# Countryside Kids

## KIDS TOWN | SUNDAYS | 9:45 AM

In the jungle, every day is an unpredictable adventure! But to safely navigate the vines, animals, and tricky terrain, we'll need a guide to help lead us. This four-week series follows the life of Moses and his journey to leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

**LEAD THE WAY**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
God teaches us <b>HOW TO LEAD.</b>	We <b>FOLLOW</b> God's lead.	God leads us to <b>SAFETY.</b>	God will lead us to <b>WHAT WE NEED.</b>

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths."  
Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

4-week series from Exodus on Moses

### COMMUNICATION

Most of our communication comes through weekly email and text. You can also use the QR code to the right to get more details about what is happening and weekly updates about what kids are learning! If you are not receiving the emails already, please contact Amy to get added to our list! amy@csidecov.org

### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS



**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON AT P&M PUMPKIN RANCH**  
October 6  
Noon - 7:00 PM

We will serve hotdogs and smores at the campfires from 12:30-2:00 and you can explore and enjoy P&M on your own until they close!

ADMISSION IS \$12/PERSON  
2 AND UNDER FREE

October 6th will kick-off our first *Kingdom Families* for the school year. This is a time for parents and children to come together for fellowship with other families and also a time of learning. We will share a light breakfast together and then begin our family lesson.

**KIDS LIFE**  
WEDNESDAYS  
6:15-7:45 PM  
AGES 4 - 5TH GRADE

Our mid-week program for kids where we worship together and then break into small groups for discipleship and time in God's Word!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October**
- 6 Kingdom Families | 9:45 AM | K-5th Grade Families
  - 6 P&M Pumpkin Ranch | Lunch 12:30-2:00
- November**
- 3 Kingdom Families | 9:45 AM | K-5th Grade Families
  - 27 No Kids Life (Thanksgiving Break)



### Sabbatical Report-Pastor Jeremy Bower

Many of you know that for the past three months I was blessed with the opportunity to receive a long-awaited sabbatical. I cannot thank you, the church, the Leadership Team, and the staff for allowing me to take this opportunity for some much-needed rest and time for reflection.

During my time away, I was able to travel with my family to the East Coast to visit family members (three Aunts, one uncle, four cousins, four second cousins) and enjoy some sightseeing and activities. I also visited my parents, my sister, and Kari was able to travel to Alabama to visit her family. Our family also traveled to Texas to see our oldest daughter (Hannah) graduate from Basic Military Training in the Air Force. Lastly, at the end of my time away, I spent nine days in Alaska. Five of those days were spent in solitude in the wilderness. The other days were spent with my friend Curtis who is superintendent of the Alaska Conference of the ECC.

During this time away I was able to hear from God and here are just a few of the highlights:

- The absolute importance of spending daily time in God's Word (the Bible). Not the amount of time, but the quality of time with reflection
- To notice where God is at work in my life and the

lives of those I encounter and how to pay closer attention to His movement

- Begin letting go of my false identity I have held far too long and move into God's truth and how God sees me
- Discernment on how much longer I might serve as a chaplain in the Kansas Army National Guard
- Discernment on how I might better utilize my God-given gifts within our church

Additionally, I had the opportunity to visit many other churches in our community. I attended the Free Methodist Church, Revolution Church, Freedom Chapel, Morning Star Baptist Church (2x), St. Joseph Catholic Church (2x), Cornerstone, the Brethren Church, and First Covenant Church of Salina. While traveling I attended a US Coast Guard Chapel (NJ), an Evangelical Free Church (PA), and First Covenant Church (Anchorage, AK).

Lastly, I got to spend some much-needed time with my wife and kids, taking care of a few projects around the house, and getting to ride my bike. Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity and for being such a supportive and caring church. It is such a blessing being a part of this community.

In Christ,  
Rev Jeremy Bower





**As we continue our work at the cottages,** we have been able to assist more and more people through various life circumstances.

Sometimes, it's due to an unexpected loss or event. In other cases, individuals decide it's time to ensure their own and their children's safety. It could be the result of aging without sufficient savings. Regardless of the reason, we offer shelter, counseling, and compassionate support. At the same time, our newest project continues to take shape right before our eyes.

Our plan to construct 12 homes and a clubhouse is a testament to our faith and the progress we are making. While we have funds for the first 7 homes, we continue to pray for the completion of the rest of the project. **We believe in the goodness of God and trust that He will provide when the time is right,** strengthening our faith with each step. Your prayers and support are not just important; they are instrumental in helping us make this progress. We are filled with hope for the future, knowing that you are a part of it.



Lastly, as we work on our podcast "**Housing For Good,**" featuring leaders across McPherson County, I realized one day how fortunate we are to have so many Christians

who live out their faith in their ministries and everyday careers. Our podcast, highlighting these incredi-

ble living leaders of faith, serves as a platform that amplifies their work and inspires others to do the same, thereby changing lives and spreading our mission. People such as **Chief Golden**, the McPherson Chief of Police, who overcame a difficult childhood to become an inspirational leader or **Dr. Cody Rierson**, the Moundridge Superintendent, whose compassion towards those in his care is life changing. **Cheyenne Kroeker** from DCF, whose programs give people hope as they seek a better life, and **David Case** from the Omega Project, whose life-changing ministry has brought so much hope to those who feel lost and alone. I encourage you to listen and provide feedback so we can continue the conversations around housing, services and helping those who need us the most.

**Matthew 6:33 ESV**, *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

**Families Served:**

322-people served YTD

**News and Events:**

- ⇒ 7 Homes in various stages of construction- Sutherland Estates
- ⇒ Lift Up Lindsborg-ongoing

Blessings,  
Chris Goodson



**Trunk or Treat Break**

The staff discerned a need to take a break from our annual Trunk or Treat event this year. However, we would encourage each of you to think about blessing your neighborhood children and families by turning on your front porchlights, putting on your brightest smiles, and being generous with the handing out of treats this year. It may be one of the only times during the year that our neighbor children will step foot on our property to receive a tangible act of kindness.



**Thank You's**

We want to thank you all so much for the prayers, meals, and cards we received when we lost our precious Lonnie. It meant so much to us! May God bless you all!  
- The family of Lonnie Ensminger

Dear CCC Family,  
Thank you so much for all your prayers for my recent rotator cuff surgery. I definitely could tell I was being prayed for. Everything went well and I am healing. Thanks, too, for all the delicious meals - they were more appreciated than you know! It's such a stressful time, and to have yummy food being supplied was such a blessing! It especially took a load off of Frank's mind since he's still working full-time. Thanks for your continued prayers as I complete my PT.  
- Frank & Jean Ballew

Dwayne and I want to thank all of you for your kind words and deeds following the heavenly homecoming of my dad, Charles E. Wiggins, this month. We don't grieve as those with no hope, for those that know Jesus as Savior, we will see him again. Be blessed to be a blessing.  
- Dwayne and Amy Allmon

**LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE**

*“I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”*  
 2 Tim 4:7

**Ministry Coordination Council (MCC)**

We have about a dozen Ministry Teams (MT) which exist to implement the varied ministries of Countryside as determined by the Leadership Team (LT). Examples are the MOMs group, the properties team and the missions team. These teams can be very grassroots, our LT/MT model is flexible and responsive – it allows people to work where they are called to accomplish the mission and ministry of our church. The MT leaders are appointed by the LT, and then each MT organizes itself and recruits its own people. When we speak of the Ministry Coordination Council (MCC), that is the body of Ministry Team Leaders. They meet quarterly for coordination, encouragement and to resolve any problems. Staff and LT members may also attend the MCC meetings, either because of involvement or to encourage and to facilitate resolution of any issues. The LT Vice Chair (Reba) chairs the MCC meetings. The LT are stewards of Countryside, and LT is separate from the MCC; but the LT serves as a sounding board and advocate; a resource for the MCC. The LT serves as a liaison (both ways). We seek to have our ministries fully engaged, running the race to win!

**Leadership Team (LT) monthly meeting report**

- Reba reported on the September MCC quarterly meeting (see paragraph above!). I am very thankful for the faithful work of each of our ministry teams and for the leadership of each of the team leaders. I appreciate the attentiveness given in their reporting to Reba. I appreciate their discipline to be available and attend the MCC quarterly meetings. Reba is mindful to keep the meeting material / reports/sharing on track and focused, and for September she reported very validating feedback. While I missed this meeting, I know also that these meetings often spur useful side conversations of coordination between the teams.

- Classroom update: painting has been complete for a month, some carpeting remains to be installed

- FAITH Funds continue to be a blessing to us. We are extending support for the next twelve months for New Life Church in Wichita. This is being done with First Covenant, Salina and the Midwest Conference (MWC).

- Pastor Jeremy is back from Ministry Renewal. He described hearing from God in many ways, and he was convicted of “the absolute importance of spending daily

time in God’s Word (the Bible)”, in particular “... the quality of time with reflection” (emphasis is mine).

- Connor is presently taking his six-week Ministry Renewal; lets keep him in our prayers. You will have noticed the worship teams are being led each week by various leaders. We can be thankful for them stepping up, and we can also be thankful for Bobbie Kaufman serving as the point person during Connor’s absence. Also, I note that Keragan Gates is serving in the Production Director position I spoke of at the beginning of the year; Keragan also serves (separately) as Student Worship Director for Lizzy. Connor also has noted that Sean Gates is interning with us again.

- It is the time of year that Ministry Teams will be preparing requests toward a draft budget. Expenses and receipts are generally tracking for this time of year, but perhaps that statement isn’t quite fair: we have received a single large contribution this year (making a surplus) and also our sum of account balances is quite a bit higher than this time last year. As a reminder we’re now allocating funding toward what is essentially self insurance on the roof, so money goes out of the budget and out of the general fund, but then goes back into the bank account in an accruing fund for future use. Thanks for your faithfulness!

Mark Wurm, Church Chair



**September 2024 Attendance (includes online)**

	Christian Formation	Worship
September 1	—	564
September 8	—	572
September 15	214	555
September 22	182	571

**September 2024 Giving**

September 1	\$26,625.00
September 8	\$18,987.36
September 15	\$20,911.03
September 22	\$21,237.13
<b>Total Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$976,338.91</b>
<b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b>	<b>-\$52,071.67</b>

Countryside Covenant Church  
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McPherson KS 67460

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Your October Newsletter is here!!



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

## This Month at Countryside

Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Christian Formation, 9:45 a.m.

### OCTOBER EVENTS

1, 19	Widows' Connection
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Men's Coffee
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Celebrate Recovery
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Time of Prayer
4-6	Women's Fall Retreat
5, 12, 19, 26	Women's Coffee Connection
6	Kingdom Families
6	P & M Pumpkin Ranch
8, 22	MOMs Group
9	Fields of Faith
13, 20, 27	Next Step Class
15	Leadership Team Meeting
21	Sew & Share
25-27	Men's Retreat
27	High School Barn Party Event



## Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Pastor Lynn Black, Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts

Lizy Johnson, Student Ministries

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Keragan Gates, Production Director

(see enclosed calendar for a full list of events)

