



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 10
October 2022

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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Why is it Important to Commit to a Church Family? - Pastor Jon Black

Many have declared, "One doesn't have to go to church to be a Christian." True. One also doesn't have to eat right, exercise and steer clear of recreational drugs to be human. But if we desire to be a healthy and productive human, we will make healthy choices.

If we want to live as a healthy and productive Christ-follower, we will commit to a church. Why?

We were created to need each other.

God created us to be in community with one another. We need each other to effectively do the work that God is calling us to do. We as many members of Christ, together form one body and function better together.

Being a solitary Christian is an oxymoron. It is unhealthy. According to the National Institute on Aging the health risks of prolonged isolation is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

We were created that others need us.

Tim Challies in his article: [The Worst Consequence of Skipping Church](#), draws our attention to God's truth found in **Hebrews 10:24-25**....

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

He continues: *"This passage warns of the serious consequences of skipping church, but its focus is not what we*

might expect through our Western, individualized eyes. This passage does not warn us that when we skip church, we put ourselves at risk. Rather, it warns us that when we skip church, we put others at risk. The first sin of skipping church is the sin of failing to love others."



"Gathering with God's people is not first about being blessed but about being a blessing. It's not first about getting but about giving. As we prepare to worship on Sunday morning, our first consideration should be "how to stir up one another to love and good works." ...to encourage "one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." This text is not about us, but about them. This text is not for Christian individuals but Christian communities."

Beginning on **Sunday, Oct. 2, 10 am**, (for five consecutive Sunday mornings), the staff will be leading a **Next Step Christian Formation Class** (membership class) to explore the history, beliefs and practices of our church and denomination. You also learn of our fellowship and ministry opportunities for continued spiritual growth at Countryside.

If you desire to learn more about Countryside Covenant and the Evangelical Covenant denomination and are considering taking the next step of commitment, please call the church office or indicate your interest on your connection card found in your bulletins. Don't forget, you need others and others need you....even in the Countryside Covenant family!

October Youth Schedule:**2 | Family Day at P & M Pumpkin Ranch****5 | No Youth Group, Fields of Faith****12 | Youth Group**

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School

8 – 9:30 pm | High School

19 | Youth Group

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School

8 – 9:30 pm | High School

*HAPPS at Applebee's following Youth Group

28 | Youth Group - Dress like your Parents Party (when they were teenagers)

6:15 – 7:45 pm | Middle School

8 – 9:30 pm | High School

30 | Student Sunday

8:45 & 11 am | Students will greet at the door, lead worship & prayer in Worship Services!

10 am | We will still meet for Christian Formation.

31 | Trunk or Treat, 6 – 7 pm. Sign up to host a trunk!**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.

See You at the Pole @ MHS!**No Youth Group on October 5th – Join us for Fields of Faith!**

Join Life Student Ministry along with middle & high school students throughout McPherson County for Fields of Faith, hosted by MHS FCA! It is a time for everyone to come together to be united in Christ. There will be worship, a great message, Freddy's frozen custard, and more! Life Student Ministry leaders will be there to meet students. Drop-off and pick up will be at Grant Sports Complex, 1632 N. Main!

Fall Retreats at Covenant Cedars

November 4-6 | Middle School

November 18-20 | High School

We leave on Friday at 3:30 pm and return Sunday at 4 pm

Cost is \$95. Scholarships are available.

Register on the church app or website.

**Volunteers Needed:**

We are still in need of volunteers for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. It can be as simple as greeting at the sign-in table, leading a game or teaching a class on Sunday morning. If you have a heart for teenagers and would like to serve, please contact Kelly.

Church
APP QR
code:



Life Student Ministry H.S. Youth
Group

Scan this QR code and join!



Lifestumin M.S. Youth Group

Scan this QR code and join!

Countryside Kids



See our website for more details and to RSVP for this event!



TRUNK OR TREAT

On Monday, October 31st, we will host a Trunk or Treat Event in our parking lot! We would love for everyone to participate in this outreach event by either hosting a trunk, donating candy, or by bringing your family and friends! While we don't have a specific theme for our Trunk or Treat we do ask that you try to incorporate a verse into your decor! You must register your vehicle (church website) and have your theme/decor approved before October 27th. Candy donations will be accepted now through October 30th in the foyer or church office.

Youth T-Shirts!
\$15 Each
YXS-YL
Order Deadline:
October 10th
Email Amy to
order
amy@csidecov.org



OCTOBER

- 2 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 2 P&M Pumpkin Ranch Event
- 5 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
- 9 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 12 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
- 16 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 19 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM
- 23 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 26 Kids Life @ 6:15 PM | Wear your favorite team
- 30 Kids Town @ 10:00 AM
- 31 Trunk or Treat @ 6-7 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP!

November 30 | Cloverton Concert
 December 4 | Christmas Caroling (notice we will be doing this on Sunday this year!)



KIDS TOWN IN OCTOBER

On Sundays, in October we will begin a 5-week series on the book of Job. Do you ever stop and think about how big God must be? God created this whole world, all of the planets, and stars in the sky. God is really big! Knowing God is big can make us feel small and inconsequential. But the truth is, even the small things are a big deal to God. The story of Job will help everyone realize that even though we are small, God listens to our big feelings, God sees the big picture, God cares about every small problem, and we can also be a big help in small ways. *See timeline below for where we have been and where we are going!*



Psalms/Proverbs > **Job** > Prophets > Christmas > Jesus' Early Life & Ministry > Jesus' Teachings > Jesus' Ministry > Easter > Early Church



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

If ministry is a problem to solve, what problems do you see in our community? We asked this question of ourselves, a police officer, and our Mac Co sheriff on Crescendo's tour of the station last month. The officer said that the largest amount of police calls he responds to are domestic disturbance cases. The sheriff said that alcohol (because it is legal and therefore readily available) is the number one bane of law enforcement. And they reiterated that almost all domestic calls are fueled by alcohol. It was an eye-opening thought.

In addition, our tour of the jail revealed ministry needs right here in our community. Due to Kansas prison overcrowding, some prisoners remain in our facility up to a year – way past what our jail is equipped to maintain for well-being. There isn't much for them to do (read, watch tv, and go outside in a very small asphalt yard). Some earn work-release privileges.

Bill Fuqua, Dan Kliever, Barb Lowe and Tina Larabee have stepped up to revive Countryside's jail ministry that provides Bible study and prayer for the inmates of our jail. It's a breath of fresh air to have someone from the outside bring light and hope into their often mundane existence. Inmates have a lot of time to think about and pray over what is said, and many can find healing and hope through the gospel as it is shared. If you're interested in going, supplying materials, or praying specifically for the ministry, contact Bill Fuqua.

Upcoming Crescendo Events to put on your calendar and RSVP for. **NOTE DEADLINES!**

We need to know if you plan to attend to plan for food and pass along vital communication on specifics. You can RSVP to any Crescendo event by:

1. calling the church office,
2. emailing/texting Lynn@csidecov.org, or
3. writing the name of the event on your Connection Card at church.

CovTalk on Mental Health, Saturday, October 29, 9:30 am., Panel Discussion, Student Center. **RSVP by Oct. 24.**

Hear from several people in our community who deal as professionals with those suffering with mental health is-



sues. "Mental Health" is a buzzword that you hear a lot, but what does it truly entail? How do I know if I or someone I love is suffering from conditions of mental health? How could I get help or be help for someone? Explore the topic, get informed, connect with others who can help you and those you love. Coffee and sweets provided; sign up to help bring food items with Lynn Black.

Mark Lowery Concert, Friday, November 11 7:30 pm in Wichita. RSVP by Oct. 9 for discount.



Singer, songwriter, author, and humorist Mark Lowry is best known for penning the lyric to the Christmas classic "Mary Did You Know?" and singing baritone for the GRAMMY® Award-winning Gaither Vocal Band for many years. Lowry, who's entertained audiences since he was 11 years old, has a unique gift of communicating profound Biblical truths through music and storytelling. Group Tickets are \$25 and you may reserve a seat on the church van.



All-church Trunk or Treat Monday, October 31, 6:00 to 7:00 pm church parking lot. **RSVP by Oct. 24.**

Call some friends, brain-storm a Bible theme, and decorate your car/SUV's trunk for Halloween on Oct. 31. This community outreach event has blossomed into 500 kids coming to enjoy a safe, family-friendly trick or treat event. Parents of young children particularly appreciate the concentration of cars for their little kiddos. See Amy Brunk for further information.

Decorate the Church for Christmas Sunday, Nov. 20, 6:30 pm. We need all hands on deck to deck our halls!

DECK
THE
HALLS



Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while preparing Countryside's lobby and sanctuary for the Advent season. Talk it up with your life group or friends and determine to help this year. Many hands make the work light, especially when hanging Christmas lights! RSVP later date.



Crescendo Christmas Party "Passport to Christmas" Monday, Dec. 5, 6:00 pm. Enjoy Christmas traditions from around the world, ride the Mac Trolley to see Christmas light displays, and sample traditional ethnic Christmas foods. Potluck. RSVP later date.

If you have not yet filled out the **Crescendo survey**, there are forms at the Welcome Kiosk in the church lobby. Please fill out by Oct. 2. Thank you from the Crescendo Leadership team: Reba Becker, Jon and Lynn Black, Phil and Jeri Brooks, Paul and Jolene Czosnowski, Pat Shaft.

Thank You's

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and serve as well as everyone who provided a dish for Karen Anderson's funeral. We've received multiple compliments on the food and service from that day. This ministry wouldn't work nearly as smoothly without all of you helping.

Blessings, Aleasha & Renae

Our dear church family,
We have been so grateful to find a church that feels like a second home, but even more so now that you have all rallied behind us in our time of need. The food, messages, prayers, and financial blessings you've blessed us with have left us speechless. Thank you for loving us in the way only a body of Christ can!

Love, The Butterfields

We are thankful for the prayers and other ways you have been there for us during these weeks following Don's hip replacement surgery. Your calls, cards, visits and meals have reminded us of His Son's love. We would appreciate your continued prayers for the swelling to go down in his right leg and foot; right now it's even uncomfortable to wear his shoe. God is good and we are trusting Him for complete healing!

In Jesus' love, Don & Linda Totman



MISSION TRIPS

Another mission trip to Mississippi is available **November 13-19** through our Covenant Church MERGE min-

istries. This will likely be the last response to the flood damage that area sustained a year ago. Housing will be in a local church and the only participant cost will be for meals while traveling. Contact Allan Sents, 620.241.4713 or allansents@hotmail.com for more information.

Also, another KC intergenerational trip is available! **November 10-15!** This trip is very flexible and welcoming to anyone. Please contact Cynthia Wiard if interested. 620-200-1392 or cynthia.wiard@gmail.com



The Oak Harbor Cottages

In September, the three cottages under construction have come together and will soon be ready to welcome families. This is excellent news and an answer to prayer as we move past the project's halfway point. We will pour four more foundations this month if all goes as planned. Following the completion of all ten cottages, the playground and landscaping will be installed. We look forward to announcing our grand opening soon.

Although the Oak Harbor Cottages are still relatively new, we have had some amazing stories. Recently, we had a single mom whose life has been transformed by her time at the cottages. When she moved into her tiny home, she was at a women's shelter and only worked part-time because of child-care issues. Together with her case manager, they developed a plan that would allow her to find and secure stable housing. During her stay, she has secured child-care, is working full time, and is saving to purchase a vehicle. She was able to settle her child custody issues, and she graduated from a local program. After 90 days at the cottages with the support of her care team, she is ready to move to a permanent home. Not all stories have this happy ending because childhood trauma can be overwhelming. In these cases, we do what we can and allow God to finish the work. His plan is always greater than ours, as we remind ourselves daily. Working with those in poverty and experiencing homelessness can be challenging, but we know that God has a plan.

Philippians 1:6 ESV

And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for the project, the staff, and those living in the village.

Blessings,
Chris Goodson



Churches United in Ministry assisted 151 households consisting of 471 individuals from August 15-September 16. Thank you for your donations to Save-n-Share which makes this possible.

Volunteers are always needed. Volunteering together provides many opportunities for fellowship, friendship and purpose as we work together for the benefit of others.

Linda Andersen

Ministry to Women

Women's Ministries has focused on connecting women to other women through The Gathering Table, Bible studies and Women's Fall Retreat most recently. It's also been our desire to meet spiritual, relationship, emotional and physical needs of women of all ages and stages in life through our planning and praying for events and opportunities. God has blessed Women's Ministries at Countryside over and over again and its memories of those times that keep us keeping on.

As a young mother, I remember how Mother's Hour (now known as MOMs Group) was encouraging to me as our children were "taken care of" as we met monthly for connecting with other young moms. Early in my Christian life, I had the privilege of being mentored by a beautiful older woman who provided God's love and support to me. When our kids were married, it was the women of the church who showered them with bridal showers. Following my mother's funeral, the women of our church family served lunch for my extended family and friends. I've chosen to participate in several Bible studies and have learned from godly women time and time again. Women's retreat has a special place in my heart and because they have been God-centered, I have grown in my Christian walk. I'm thankful that I've been able to go and spend time with Him and other women.

Why do I say all of this? Possibly it's for the friendships and relationships that I've experienced along the way. Possibly it's to be thankful for the encouragement and support that have been meaningful and helpful to me. Possibly it's for the hard questions and discussions that sometimes take place when I'm surrounded by women who care, who want the best for me and others.

Women need women and, if you aren't involved with women's ministries, please know that we want you to be! Give me a call at 620.755.2060 or shoot me an email at linda@csidecov.org and I'd love to set up a time to meet you for a cup of coffee (or a coke). It's my desire that each of you would have some of the same experiences that I have found here at Countryside. For most of us, life gets busy and we're often in a hurry but I learned that I need to take care of myself and one of the best ways is to surround myself with other women! *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* – Ephesians 2:10

Linda Totman, Coordinator, Women's Ministries



UNITE NOW

Uniting Christ followers of all backgrounds in a

10.02.22 | 5:30PM
Lakeside Park
McPherson, KS

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Open Door Pregnancy Care Center

23rd Annual Fall Fundraising Banquet

Thursday, October 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Meadowlark Building at the
Kansas State Fairgrounds

Speaker: Dr. William Lile



You will also hear updates about what God is doing right here in central Kansas through the ministry of Open Door. We hope to see you there! To register, visit opendoorfriends.com or call 620-728-2229.

together 2023

February 10-12, 2023

**Marriage Retreat @
Covenant Cedars Bible
Camp**



You're invited to a weekend of romance, adventure, learning, and fun without the distractions from everyday life. Together, you and your spouse will be encouraged together to pursue passion, vision, and mission in your marriage so that you can say, "yes" to God in your relationship. Sign up to draw closer to one another as you draw closer to Him.

Price \$250 per couple - includes meals, lodging, sessions, and activities (Note: \$50 non-refundable deposit must be sent with your registration). Register by February 1st.

Brochures are available at the Information Center.



LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

I have to express how thankful I am for Christian Formation classes being back in session for a couple weeks now. My wife Amy and I are in the class covering minor prophets; it is a growing point for my faith to not only read the Bible, but also receive instruction and grow together by discussion and prayer. Let us encourage one another in these classes; I reference Romans 10:17 (above).

At the September Leadership Team meeting several upcoming events were listed. Next Step class begins for those who may be interested in joining Countryside. Budgeting season is coming up which entails a great deal of work for our Finance Team, for staff and for those leading various Ministry Teams. Staff will continue with their recent practice of a quarterly retreat in October. Choir season begins. Trunk or Treat is a near term event; our Missions Team continues with mission trips planned during November for KC and another trip to Mississippi. November 20 will be Harvest Festival, one of two annual all church meetings. Also, the two Christmas Eve and Christmas day services are mapped out with one service planned at 11AM for Christmas Sunday and two services for New Years' Sunday (no Christian Formation classes are planned for those Sundays).

Separately, progress continues on an Employee Manual for staff. Of particular interest is setting the stage for regular "Sabbath" days for staff – we desire for their work to be a marathon rather than a sprint, and this requires regular and intentional time to "Be still, and know that I am God" (first part of Psalm 46:10). Bathroom renovation is complete and looks really sharp - by the Student Center. You have witnessed work underway for the library, new furniture is ordered, and same for the new playground, and a much needed new sound system was installed in the Student Center.

I will also share three things about the Leadership Team. First is the custom or practice that we pair each staff person with a LT member to "check in," usually monthly maybe over a meal, sort of a personal champion for each staff member. Each on staff has unique gifts (Jon can juggle), a deep relationship with our Savior, and ideas and plans and we want to cultivate and use these for God's glory – AND we want each to be healthy and grow in his/her walk. Secondly is how blessed we are in unity in the spirit – something we actively pray for. We are "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" Ephesians 4:3 (for any legalists, our church constitution bylaws Article III Section 12 speaks directly to this). To be clear, I feel truly blessed because at our last meeting we literally have differing viewpoints stated, and we even identify those differences and take time to flush them out with discussion – then once we make a determination we all are then in support of that determination – with complete respect and ap-

preciation for each other. Third (last) comment is we are Americans and like success. This may not be the exact words but the flavor is we sometimes make a comment towards success of our church, but either will quickly catch ourselves or we keep each other honest: we desire to glorify God and spread the Good News to the world, so our true goal is not success of our church for our church's sake, but rather our goal is obedience to God, to Christ our Lord, as discerned with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Mark Wurm, Church Chairman



Church Life Update

Birth:

Lyra Lodner, daughter of Cassie Cooks & Donte Sylencievx, September 7.

Dedication:

Anna Louise, daughter of Jonathan & Katie Epp

White Rose:

Amaya Sullivan

Death:

Tom Stapleton, September 6.



September 2022 Attendance (includes online)

| | Christian Formation | Worship |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| September 4 | — | 508 |
| September 11 | 212 | 598 |
| September 18 | 195 | 601 |
| September 25 | 208 | 559 |

September 2022 Giving

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| September 4 | \$22,000.76 |
| September 11 | \$19,015.36 |
| September 18 | \$24,943.57 |
| September 25 | \$18,379.75 |
| Total Y-to-D | \$862,641.48 |
| Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D | -\$53,907.40 |

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

Nonprofit
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #23
McPherson KS

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 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Christian Formation, 10:00 a.m.

OCTOBER EVENTS

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Women's Coffee Connection |
| 2 | P & M Pumpkin Ranch |
| 2 | Life Chain, Linnea Park |
| 2 | Unite Worship, Lakeside Park |
| 4, 22 | Widows' Connection |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | Men's Coffee |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | Celebrate Recovery |
| 5, 12, 19, 26 | Time of Prayer |
| 5 | Fields of Faith, Grant Sports Complex |
| 9 | Life Group Leaders Lunch |
| 11, 25 | MOMs Group |
| 14-16 | Women's Fall Retreat |
| 16 | Ministry Coordination Council |
| 17 | Staff Retreat, Office Closed |
| 18 | Leadership Team Meeting |
| 29 | Crescendo CovTalk |
| 31 | Sew & Share |



Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Lead

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate

Pastor Lynn Black, Adult Ministries

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant