

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 20, ISSUE 2
February 2021

How-to: Countryside Church App - Connor Gibson

Using the new church app is easy and informational. Here are some instructions on how to use it:

List of Accessible Services through Countryside's Church App

- Giving
- Watch Church Online
- View and Register for Upcoming Events
- Serving Opportunities
- Connection Opportunities (Life Groups, Bible Studies, CF, etc)
- Listen/Watch Past Sermons
- Digital Bible
- Children's Ministry Content
- Student Ministry Content
- Church Social Media Links and Feeds
- More

How-to Download Church App:

1. Go to www.csidecov.com on your computer or smart phone.
2. Click "Church App" in the top menu bar.
3. Provide smart phone number and follow On-Screen Instructions

How-to Use Church App during Sunday Morning Services

1. Open Church App.
2. Click "Sundays" at the bottom-center of the screen.
3. Here, you will have access to Sunday's Bulletin, Connection Card, Giving, Sermon Notes, Requesting Prayer, and a digital Bible.

How-to Give Using the Church App

1. Open Church App.
2. Select "Give" icon or the Heart Image to Give Online or via Text.
3. If Giving Online, and you have an account with Countryside, click "Login" to enter your email and password. Bank or Credit card information can be confidentially and securely saved with your Countryside account for faster giving.

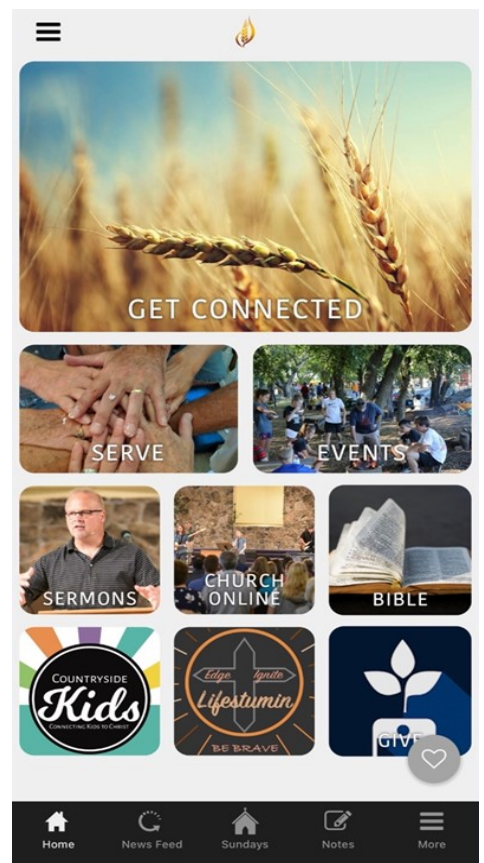
4. There are many different giving features, like setting up recurring gifts, options to cover transaction fees, and saving multiple bank accounts and/or cards.

How-to Access and Register for Upcoming Events

1. Open Church App.
2. Select "Events" tab.
3. You will see all attached upcoming events.
4. Click and Event to find out more information, or to register

How to Find Contact Information for Attenders

1. Open Church App.
2. Select "More" (three lines) at the bottom-right.
3. Select "Member Area".
4. Type name in the search bar.





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

Does God have favorites? Who is the apple of His eye? While our perfect Father in heaven cannot love any of us more than He already does, I believe that He has given an extra measure of His care and grace to some. James reminded the church in Jerusalem that, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after *orphans and widows* in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27).

Thank you to the many Crescendo folks who stepped up during December by reading to kids during our morning tutorial sessions sponsored by our children's ministry. Here's another way to help *next* month:

Service opportunity to honor and serve our widows: *Crescendo* will host an informal *Service of Remembrance* on **Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 10:30am** followed by a luncheon at 11:30am. If you could help set up, play instrumental music, serve lunch, or help with the dishes, contact Lynn Black at 620-755-7585 or email her at lynn@csidecov.org. We want to bless these ladies and the Lord!



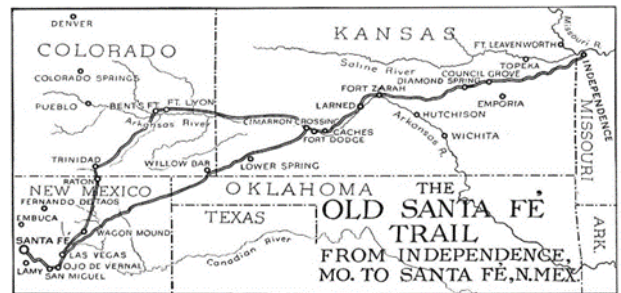
Widows Service of Remembrance Luncheon Feb. 16 (Service at 10:30am with lunch at 11:30am). Please bring a photo of your spouse. For reservations, contact the Church Office (241-4499) or Lynn Black (620-755-7585). Indicate your main dish preference: lasagna or fried chicken. Cost is \$3.

Widows Connection will also have their regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 9:30am** in Room 5 at the church.

Crescendo's previously advertised **CovTalk on "Politics and the Bible"** is postponed. Please watch future newsletters and emails from Crescendo for a new date.

All History Geeks! The 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail will host events throughout the year, some of which are in our neck of the woods.

February 9, 2021: 7:00 p.m. Quivira Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association, ZOOM Program presented by Pauline Sharp as "Chief Lucy," the first woman chief of the Kanza. Pauline will tell the story of the Kanza (Kaw) people through the character of her grandmother, [Lucy Tayiah Eads](#). Information for ZOOM will be posted www2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Facebook @200thSantaFeTrailKansas approximately 3 days prior to the program. For more information: Linda Colle, Phone: 620-504-9549. Or google: www.santafetrail.org, events. If you decide to attend, let Lynn Black know! 620-755-7585. We'll try to connect over coffee and conversation.

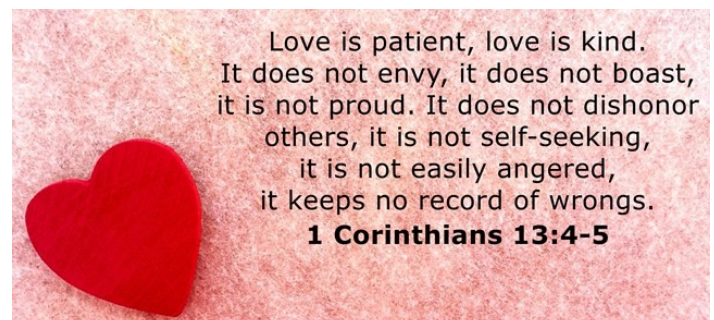


Warm Smiles and Elbows Wanted! Serve!

If you would like to help make people feel welcome on Sunday mornings by holding the door open, greeting, and offering your "right elbow of fellowship" to those worshipping at Countryside, contact Lynn Black and have a rewarding experience serving.



A Huge thank you to our Deacon Care Team for another month of care to our shut-ins and folks with health concerns. "If you've done it unto the least of these, you've done it unto me." *Jesus*. Contact the church office for more information on how you can give or receive care.





Ministry to Women

I admit I was hopeful back in the summer of 2020 that by early 2021 women's ministry would be in a better place – unified and meeting together again in person without social-distancing concerns.

The pandemic, politics, and culture wars have divided us in ways we never thought possible.

So how do we move forward, serving you and encouraging you to follow Christ while we strive toward unity and seek to glorify God in 2021?

1. **We actively engage in ministry to women in our local community.** Currently we offer three Bible studies where women can social distance and yet be in the Word and together! Our Tuesday night group is off to a great start, Precepts continues in their study of Daniel and the Thursday night group exploded with 30+ women attending in person, online or individually doing the study.

We also meet on Saturday mornings for coffee where, once again, social distancing is possible. It's great to be able to encourage one another as we enjoy our favorite drink out of our favorite mug.

2. **We schedule in-person events and activities** and are praying that we'll be able to carry those through. The first is a **Dinner & Movie Night** on Saturday, February 27. Dinner reservations will be necessary but we look forward to a great evening of fellowship and fun! Plans are also in the works to have a **"mini-retreat"** on Friday and Saturday, March 26 & 27. Highlights of the Wonderful World women's retreat experience will include:

- Bible study designed to help you grow in your relationship with God and develop lasting friendships with each other.
- Guided worship featuring music women love!
- Small group discussions that keep women engaged and building relationships throughout.
- And a meaningful service project that will allow us to provide love and encouragement to those in need.
- And then on Monday, April 26 we've scheduled **A Woman's Night of Worship** at 7 pm.

3. **We focus on what unites us, not what divides us.** There are women in our church that voted differently than I did, or you did. There are women in our church that are done with masks and others that have hardly left their homes in the last nine months. The enemy wants to divide us. Our focus must be on Christ. We are fellow citizens with God's people and members of His household.

Barna published a report in July 2020 that 32% of Christians had stopped going to church. Though that number has likely decreased (due to some churches' reopening), we are saddened that too many Christians have walked away.

Women's ministry at Countryside encourages you to be a part of our events and activities! I truly believe women are hungry for God's Word and for community. Please let us know how we might serve you in any way. – Linda Totman, Women Ministries Coordinator



Opportunity to Rewrite Your Future's Money Story

We each have what experts call **"a Money Story,"** and it includes the process of how we've learned throughout life to think about money. Some of us have been blessed to have wise people in our

lives who've helped shape that story, others of us have struggled throughout the years from poor examples to bad money habits to money anxiety to negative self-talk ("I'm a spender, not a saver," or "I'll never be able to get out of debt.") Some of us even associate our self-worth with our net worth. **Enter "My Money Story,"** a 90 minute Zoom workshop designed to help participants discover and re-write their own money story. While many of us desire to have good financial goals so that we can maintain our lifestyle, not outlive our savings, or avoid being a burden to our kids, statistically speaking, MOST of us are not confident we have planned adequately for the future. **Enter "My Money Story,"** where you can explore your "money personality," your own goals and convictions about money, and learn how to reshape your future through what *God says* about money. It's not about budgeting, per se, but about shifting the unexamined or regretted money history you're currently living, into a brighter future. You'll work on a "money compass" that will help point you in the right direction toward re-writing the next chapter in your money story, turning regret into life lessons. **Interested? Contact Lynn Black by February 15th** and we'll set up a Zoom workshop with Covenant Trust, the financial arm of our denomination the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Thank You's

To Countryside Covenant Church

The year of 2020 will not be forgotten. I want to thank our pastors, office staff, leaders, teachers, members and friends for serving so faithfully. Thank you for my November birthday party, the cards, gifts and flowers. I love Christmas music and always appreciate the caroling, the cards, gifts and beautiful flowers. God has been so good. Pray for our church and our nation. God's blessing in 2021.

Betty Brandsted

CCC Staff,

Thank you so much for the Craft Coffee card! It was much appreciated. So grateful for the opportunity to be on Leadership Team. Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Tiffani Eilrich

Dear Countryside Leadership Team & Staff,

Thank you for the prayers! The 2020-2021 school year is proving to be challenging. Thankfully God is great and providing the strength to hang in there! Thank you for the gift certificates. I appreciate you all and what you do for Countryside and the McPherson community.

Jenny Vernon

Countryside Covenant Church,

Thanks be to God and thanks to our church. You made my Christmas with many blessings-cards, flowers, gifts, caroling. Then summed it up with a Christmas Eve candlelight service. Praise the Lord! Thanks again!

Else Morris

Thanks everyone for the cards, calls & texts I received during the time of my dad's passing.

Kristi Monroe & family

We were so blessed by receiving the Christmas basket. Words cannot even begin to describe how much we appreciate it. We would like to say thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Barbara & Mildred Lowe

Dear Countryside Church,

We are so grateful for all the ways you have supported us over these past years. It is impossible to count the ways that you have supported & helped us. Just know we are so appreciative of all you have done for us. You have been a never ending stream of giving us courage & commitment to our cause of helping the less fortunate in our community.

Chris Goodson, McPherson Housing Coalition, Inc.

Dear Countryside Pastors & Staff:

THANK YOU! for your steadfast, adaptive, and loving care of our Countryside family during the eventful and tumultuous 2020. Your encouragement, compassion and love have been evident and have been such a blessing to all of us! I am also personally grateful for your partnership with the Operation Christmas Child ministry through the generous use of the Countryside facility as the Drop-off Center for the McPherson area. The Lord provided a way for many children to hear the Gospel of Christ, even in the midst of the infamous year of 2020! Thank you for your part in that!

Serving Him together with you...
Mary Bohnenblust

Countryside Covenant Church Leaders,

Words cannot express how blessed I felt when I received the card and giftcards from the church! It was so thoughtful and so encouraging! Thank you for that sweet blessing-it made tears come to my eyes. I'm blessed to have such a wonderful church!

Jessica Bohnenblust

Leadership Team

I would like to thank the church for the generous Amazon card and Chamber bucks at Christmas time. Sorry for the slowness in my response but I wanted the church to know that their generosity went to new ear buds for student computers. I bought a cart for my Daily 4 reading. I was able to buy spots that stick to the floor so that I can distance my kiddos 6 feet apart. I also was able to buy bedding and guinea pig food for my two classroom pets, Stella and Luana. Thank you so much. To be remembered and appreciated during these unsettling times was quite a boost for me and my students.

Carla Neufeld, Roosevelt Elementary, 3rd grade

Dear Countryside,

You guys as an organization have been nothing but loving and welcoming to me. I just feel like part of the family. I have recently talked to Pastor Jon about baptism soon and I would love to have Countryside be a part of that. This church has made a big impact on me as a person in general and as a Christian. I love you all and will do my best to make an appearance on Sundays as long as I am in the Kansas area.

Ahmadric (A.P.) Pelican

I want to thank the church and C.R. and anyone else for the cards, prayers, and flowers on the death of my husband, Sam Arvin.

The Arvins



February Lifestumin Schedule

- 3 | 6:30-7:30 pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
8:00-9:00 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- 10 | 6:30-7:30 pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
8:00-9:00 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- 17 | 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
NO Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
8:00-9:00 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
- 24 | 6:30-7:30pm Edge Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
8:00-9:00 pm Ignite Youth Group (Grades 9-12)



We are in the “Love Wins” series through February. Examining the four types of Biblical love and what it looks like to live out loving others the way God designed it. The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 17th. We WILL NOT have Edge youth group that night so students can attend the service with their families. Ignite will meet at regular scheduled time and explore all the ways to be intentional in our walk with God in the Lenten season.

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

Support our Students!! You can pre-order Krispy Kreme donuts for pick-up or delivery on **Sunday, February 14th**. You can pre-order in person on Sundays or on the app or website through February 7th. Proceeds will go to Students Missions for the 2021 summer mission trip.



Thank You Brandon Cook!



A very heartfelt thank-you to Brandon for his years of dedication to the students of Countryside. He has recently moved and has stepped down from serving in Lifestumin. Brandon has served in Student Ministries over seven years. He has done everything from setting-up the Student Center for Wednesday night, to being a small group leader for youth group, at camps, retreats, CHIC and everything in-between. Brandon has shared his powerful testimony of God saving his life and giving him a second chance and has been a shining example of a Kingdom servant! Please continue to lift up Brandon as he finds a new church home.

Welcome Kimmie Evangelista!



Kimmie will be serving as our Worship Director for Student Ministry. Kimmie and her husband, Felipe are both very active Central College students. She is from Sacramento, California and has been a leader in student ministry in both high school and college. When Kimmie is not leading worship, you can find her working at Heartbeat Coffee, the Village Geek, or cheerleading for the Tigers at Central College. She has a heart for God and we are beyond blessed to have her serving in this role!



COUNTRYSIDE’S CANCELLATION POLICY: Countryside Covenant Church follows the decisions of USD 418 regarding inclement weather made during the school week. If schools are cancelled in McPherson due to snow or other weather conditions, activities are not held at Countryside Covenant Church. If inclement weather happens on a Saturday or Sunday, the leadership of Countryside will make a decision regarding cancellation of services. Cancellation notices are posted on tv stations KSN, KAKE, KWCH, KNGL-KBBE Radio as well as the church's website www.csidecov.com and Facebook page.



Countryside Kids



KIDS TOWN IN FEBRUARY

We are always teaching our kids that we need to love God and love one another, but often times neglect to give them tangible ways to do so. In this series, we are going to examine a few of Jesus' teachings in-depth and discover practical ways we can demonstrate our love for God, family, friends, and enemies too! Remember, as long as there is no Adult Christian Formation, we will have Kids Town during the 8:45 a.m. service, and Kids Praise during the 11:00 a.m. service.

TIP OF THE MONTH

It can be a challenge to figure out how to disciple your kids, or to know whether or not you're making a difference. If that sounds familiar, try thinking about spiritual growth in terms of these four spiritual habits: spending time with God, spending time with others in healthy community, sharing your story, and using your gifts to serve.

PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR

Ages 3 through Kindergarten

Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m.

Join us in Room 15 for an hour of reading, songs, and crafts. Parents/caregivers are welcome to join us or enjoy a coffee in the Cafe' during this hour.



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

7, 14, 21, 28 | Kids Town @ 8:45 a.m.

3, 10, 24 | Kids Life @ 6:15 p.m.

3, 10, 17, 24 | Preschool Story Hour @ 1:00 p.m.

17 | Ash Wednesday Service (No Kids Life)

MARCH

17 | Spring Break (No Kids Life)

VBS

June 1st-4th



SUMMER CAMP (3RD-6TH GRADE)

Early Bird Deadline April 1st!

Each summer our kids in grades 3rd-6th are invited to attend Covenant Kids Camp @ Rock Springs. This summer Covenant Kids Camp will not be hosting a camp, so we invite and encourage kids to attend Covenant Cedars in Nebraska. What will be different from what you might be used to is that 3rd-4th grade will attend a different week than 5th-6th grade (see dates below). If you need a scholarship or plan to use camp bucks, please register through Amy. Otherwise, you can register online (www.cedars.org). If you have questions please contact Amy! If you have been a counselor at Covenant Kids Camp in the past and would love to counsel again this summer contact Amy!

Entering 3rd-4th grade, June 27 - 30

Entering 5th-6th grade, June 20 - 25

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & APP

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

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Greetings Church – I want to share with you some of the thoughts that God has laid on my heart as we continue to work through challenging times. Over the past several weeks we have witnessed significant division within our country, especially within the political arena, and most especially related to issues which challenge the basic tenets of our Christian beliefs. The scenario we face is not too different from that of Jesus’ disciples and the early church. God had positioned them in their time and their place and then commissioned them to share the good news of His redemptive power. This was not an easy task, as most of the world had adopted a value system that was focused on social status, wealth, beauty, political power, self fulfilment, convenience, and the attempt to keep all the gods (little “g”) happy. This sounds a lot like where we live.

So how did the disciples and early church do it? Here are a few key points which will help guide us:

- Jesus chose His disciples from among ordinary people not political superstars or well-established religious leaders. Are not most of us ordinary people? Do we not see ourselves as being chosen by Jesus?
- Jesus spent time with His disciples and conversely, the disciples spent time with Jesus. Additionally, they had passion to want to be like Jesus. Do we want to be like Jesus?
- The early church had to rely on one another. Because their message was counter cultural, they understood the need to live in community, supporting each other and the need to break down social barriers that the culture in which they lived would impose. Do we see ourselves as counter cultural and understand the importance of community?
- They were obedient to God’s calling even when it created hardship and suffering. Are we equally obedient to what God asks of us?

I believe that in the coming year, we will continue to be challenged in ways that we cannot anticipate. It is my sincere hope and prayer for Countryside that we would continue to be obedient to God in all things and trust in His sovereignty. He has blessed us richly and has put us in our time and our place to be His light in the darkness in which we live. Let us continue to pray for our leaders and our staff asking God to provide protection, discernment, and direction for us as a church. May we spend time with God, learning His word, learning His voice, and living in such a way that we put others above ourselves and by doing so continue to show our community who God is and how much He desires to redeem His creation. May we continue our journey to be disciples of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

In Christ’s service,
Bob Williford

January 2021 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
January 3	—	498
January 10	—	560
January 17	—	522
January 24	—	507

January 2021 Giving (doesn’t include Jan. 31)

January 3	\$10,457.00
January 10	\$10,038.00
January 17	\$28,372.91
January 24	\$20,420.07
Total Y-to-D	\$69,287.98
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$30,115.31



Ash
Wednesday
Service

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.
Worship Center

Come join us for a time of worship, reflection and prayer as we enter into the season of Lent together as Christ’s body. All are invited and welcome to attend. No Kids Life or Edge (middle school) during this time so children/students can attend with their families. The nursery will be available for children up to age 4.

Church Life Update

Birth:

Addison Mae, born January 12 to Graham & Holly Bacon

Wedding:

Jasmine Clingerman & Ace Lambertus, January 16

White Rose:

**Kyrie Busenitz
Evelyn Gassie
Amelia Hinman
Vivica Sides**



Deaths:

**Jordan Walker Johnson, December 30
Rick Schulz, December 31
Tina Rivera, January 11**

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

Nonprofit
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #23
McPherson KS

Your February 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 on Zoom, 8:45, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

2, 9, 16, 23	Men's Coffee at The Well
2, 9, 16, 23	Celebrate Recovery
3	Widow's Connection
3, 10, 17, 24	Prayer Group
6, 13, 20, 27	Women's Coffee Connection
7, 14, 21, 28	Next Step Class
9, 10, 23, 24	MOMs Care Groups
16	Widow's Connection Service of Remembrance
16	Leadership Team Meeting
17	Ash Wednesday Service
27	Women Ministries Dinner & a Movie

Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant

