



# The Pulse of Countryside

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 9

September 2026

[csidecov.com](http://csidecov.com)

At Countryside Covenant Church, we are a Community growing in the Grace and the Truth of Jesus Christ as we ...

- Worship
- Disciple
- Serve
- Multiply

## *What are you Seeking First?*

*- Pastor Jon Black*

What is your favorite month of the year? Many would choose October because of the beautiful fall colors and ideal temperatures. Others would choose December because it is "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" or May because of the end of the school year and the celebrations of our All-School's-Day festivities; or July because of the great experiences at summer camps, mission trips, and family vacations.

I would choose September, not only because it is the most popular month for birthday celebrations (including Pastor Jeremy's and my birthday...ha), but also because it is the kickoff of another NFL season and a multitude of 'back to school' activities. There is much anticipation during this month of the year.

I also look forward to September because it is the month when we launch our ministry schedule at church; a time we gather together to grow in the Lord and serve one another.

In the Old Testament Jewish year, God's people were commanded and required to celebrate three fall festivals back-to-back beginning on September 1 - Sept 22... (The Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles).

Each festival celebrated the faithfulness of the God of Israel and pointed to their future Messiah. Because of the requirements of God's commands, we can discern God's heart for His people. Specifically, make it your priority to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness for your life and for your family. When you do, you will experience the fullness of God's plans for your life.



Nothing has changed for us. When our Messiah came, He reiterated God's priorities.

Matthew 6:33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

This month begins the mad scramble of new activities, events, and choices for many of us. Our calendars will fill up quickly. I encourage each of us to make sure the first slots on our calendars are filled in with the priorities of God. And maybe September will become your favorite month as well.

Also, be sure to wish Pastor Jeremy and me a happy birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup>. (:)



## Adult Christian Formation Classes

begin Sunday, September 13

(Sunday mornings at 9:45 am between services; coincides with children's CF classes and nursery care.)

**Marriage: Loving and Laughing with the Lord – Room 16/18** (Goldsmith, Harper, Neufeldt, Vetter)

**Parents of Students – Room 15** (Johnson and Stevenson, plus)

**Practicing the Way– Room 13** (Pastors L. Black and Bower)

**Journey through the Word: A Bible Reading Course– Room 12/14** (Kaufman and Rogers)

**Women in the Word – Room 19** (Anderson)

**Next Step – Room TBD** (Church Staff) Starts Oct. 11. Reservation needed. Call the church office or talk with Pastor Lynn Black. Prerequisite for leadership and membership.



## Bible Studies (Various days and times)

### Men's Studies:

- Book Study “Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery,” and “Reason, Faith, and the Struggle for Western Civilization.”  
\* Wednesday mornings, 6:00-7:00, Library Area, starting September 9.
- Bible Study on the Book of Acts – (Sents, Spencer, Stinemetze, Williford).  
\* Wednesday evenings at 6:45, Room 15, starting September 10.

### Women's Studies:

- Precepts Inductive Method:  
\* Wednesday evenings at 6:15, Hebrews: Jesus, Our High Priest Forever, Room 15 (Thompson, Bosch, Schulz)  
\* Thursday mornings 9:00-11:00, 1&2 Corinthians: How to Be or Not to Be the Church, Room 15, starting September 10 (Black, Logback). Childcare upon request.
- James, the Steadfast Life ... Pursuing joy in suffering. Thursday evenings at 7:00, Room 13, starting September 10. (Skar, Totman) Childcare upon request.

### Co-ed Study:

- Freedom in Christ Course – Thursday evenings at 7:00, starting September 10 (Dailey and Williford)

### Adult Gatherings for Women:

Watch for announcements concerning all-church events.

- First Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:45, Gather Moms will meet individually for testimonies, connection, growth, and fellowship. Coincides with children's Wednesday evening activities and nursery care.
- Third Saturday mornings, Gather Moms of Teens at 9:00-10:30.
- Moms and Toddlers – Wednesday mornings, starting September 2 from 9:30 to 10:30. Build community with other moms and tots as you share in a simple time of conversation and play. Coffee provided. See the “Countryside Kids” page for further information.

## September

### COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

|    |           |                                                                               |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Wednesday | Toddler Time   9:30 a.m.<br>Kids Choir   6:00 p.m.<br>Kids Life   6:30 p.m.   |
| 6  | Sunday    | Kids Praise   11:00 a.m. Service                                              |
| 9  | Wednesday | Toddler Time   9:30 a.m.<br>Kids Choir   6:00 p.m.<br>Kids Life   6:30 p.m.   |
| 13 | Sunday    | Kids Town Begins   9:45 a.m.<br>Kids Praise   11:00 a.m. Service              |
| 16 | Wednesday | Toddler Time   9:30 a.m.<br>Kids Choir   6:00 p.m.<br>Kids Life   6:30 p.m.   |
| 20 | Sunday    | Baptism Services<br>Kids Town   9:45 a.m.<br>Kids Praise   11:00 a.m. Service |
| 23 | Wednesday | Toddler Time   9:30 a.m.<br>Kids Choir   6:00 p.m.<br>Kids Life   6:30 p.m.   |
| 27 | Sunday    | Kids Town   9:45 a.m.<br>Kids Praise   11:00 a.m. Service                     |
| 30 | Wednesday | Toddler Time   9:30 a.m.<br>Kids Choir   6:00 p.m.<br>Kids Life   6:30 p.m.   |

### OUR MINISTRIES

As we kick off another school year, we wanted to list all of our ministries to children! We have made a few changes this year, so please read carefully, especially the times. Also, we have added a few new ministries, and we don't want you to miss out on those!



#### KIDS TOWN | SUNDAYS | 9:45 A.M. BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13TH

Kids Town meets during the school year (Sep-May) and takes place between our two worship services on Sunday mornings! Our first day of Kids Town for the 2026-27 school year will be September 13th!

2-year-olds and Preschoolers: Check in at Kids Corner Counter.  
Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Check in at Student Center.  
*Kids Town will not meet the first Sunday of the month so families can attend Kingdom Families together.*



#### KIDS CORNER | SUNDAYS | 9:45 A.M.

Our "little portion" of Countryside Kids. Childcare is offered on Sunday mornings for children ages birth to 4 years. We provide quality, safe care for children while being an example of God's love to them. Please contact Tiffani if you are interested in serving in the nursery once a month!



#### KIDS LIFE | WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 P.M. BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2ND

Kids Life is our mid-week program for kids (ages 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) that runs through the school year. Check-in begins at 6:15 p.m. with our greeters in the foyer, and pick-up is at 7:45 p.m. (pick-up locations are posted at pick-up).

### BAPTISM SERVICES

Our next baptism service is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th. If your child has had a profession of faith and desires to be baptized, contact Amy to schedule a parent/child meeting. All meetings need to be scheduled and completed before September 13.

### REGISTRATION

If you haven't already, please register your kids for the new school year! Use the QR code to the right to register your kids for different ministries at Countryside!



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR | BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2ND



This year we are partnering with our worship ministry to start a new children's choir at Countryside. They will practice on Wednesday evenings (before Kids Life) from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Our choir will be led by Jolene Czosnowski. You will see this listed as an option when you register your kids! Performance dates are October 11 and December 20th (combined with adult choir).

*Just to clarify the connection between our choir and Kids Life! Kids can attend one without having to attend the other. We understand that not every child might enjoy being in the choir, so instead of building this choir practice into Kids Life, we decided to make them two separate programs. We also realize that Wednesday nights can get late for some families and didn't want them to miss out on being in the choir if they didn't normally attend Kids Life for that reason!*

### 1ST GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER! PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND THE BULLETIN FOR THE DATE!



#### KIDS PRAISE | SUNDAYS | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

Currently, Kids Praise takes place during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and it is a place where kids can enjoy an age-appropriate worship experience. Kids will be dismissed right before the sermon and return to their families at the end of the service. They meet in Room 20 in the Kids Corner area.



#### KINGDOM FAMILIES | FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH | BEGINS OCTOBER 4TH

Student Center | 9:45 A.M.  
Once a month, families (ages 5- 5<sup>th</sup> grade and their parents) have an opportunity to share a light meal together, worship, and get hands-on experience with discipleship practices and ideas that can be implemented at home. The goal is to equip and encourage

families as they disciple their children by helping them discover what works for their families as they anchor and nourish a faith that lasts. We do not have Kids Town on the first Sunday but Kids Corner is available for children under age 5. Please contact Amy if you have more questions about this!



#### TODDLER TIME | WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 A.M. BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2ND

Starting in September we will be hosting Toddler Time every Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:30 a.m. This is for toddlers (18 months - 3 years) and their caregivers. We will even have coffee for caregivers to enjoy during this time of play and fellowship!

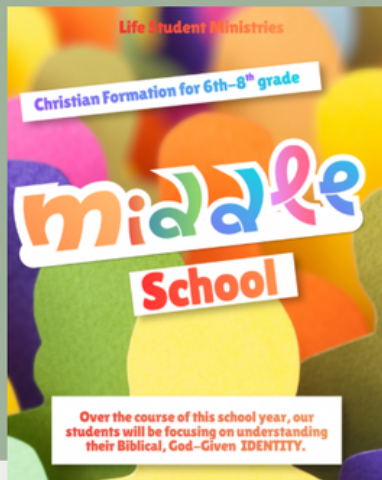
Sept 2026  
LifeStuMin



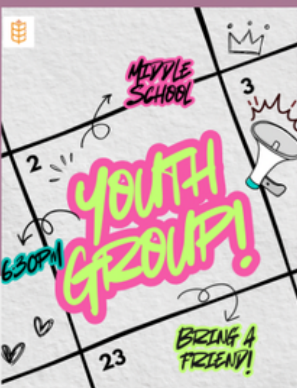
## FALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

With the arrival of September, comes the kick-off of all our yearly programming, including our Christian Formation classes. We have two incredible classes taking place this year for our youth!

- 6th-8th graders will jump into a year on IDENTITY.
- 9-12 graders will spend the year diving deep into the book of ROMANS. Paul's first and some say, most influential book of the Bible!



## YOUTH GROUP HAS ARRIVED!



Middle School:  
Wednesdays @ 6:30

High School:  
Wednesdays, 8:00pm



# BAPTISM BAPTISM BAPTISM celebration

## Sunday Morning Services

September 20

8:30 or 11:00 am

If you or a member of your family desires to be baptized, please contact the Church Office at 620-241-4499 or write "baptism" on your Connection Card on Sunday.



## Sew & Share, Monday, September 21, 9:00 a.m.

We will gather to sew projects and have fellowship together!

We will meet in Room 5. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Contact Shirlee Harper, 620-755-1205 with any questions.



## Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

\* Tuesday, September 1, 9:30 am, monthly meeting @ The Cedars Event Center

\* Saturday, September 19, 11:30 am, @ Countryside Café.

Contact Becky Hogue, 918-706-1257, or Diane Portenier, (785) 543-7426, for more information.

## Our Mission to the Russian Far East.



This is an image showing the rough approximation of our signal into the Russian Far East. The Pastor in Provideniya receives many calls about the positive impact KICY is having on their lives. God's Word prevails.



## KICY Information Night and Fundraiser!

Saturday, October 10, 6 pm

Countryside Covenant Church

Come enjoy a free salmon meal and hear about the outreach of Christian radio in Western Alaska and into Russia!

Patty Burchell, General Manager for KICY, will be here to share. While the meal is free, we do need an accurate count to prepare the meal, and we ask you to get a ticket from the church office by **September 27**. Please invite others you may know who might be interested in learning more about the impact of Christian radio. Free-will offering.

## Retirement: are we there yet? Is it all you thought it would be? What's missing?

If you are close to retirement, undergoing that transition, or finding that your retirement is not all that you thought it might be, I invite you to "Third Calling; What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?" a small group study. This 8 week small group will include:

- stimulating questions to prompt reflection and meaningful discussion,
- a study of Scripture and the lessons taught through the lives of many Bible characters,
- Additional resources to further equip you in discovering and following Christ in your Third Calling.

Contact Pastor Lynn Black for more information by September 10th. The study will meet at the convenience of participants' schedules.

## Church Life Update



### Birth:

*Lowyn Rose, daughter of Jonah & Reanna Clarke, August 4*

*Lydia Jane, daughter of Jonathan & Katie Epp, August 15*

*Dean Richard, son of Hannah Farley, August 20*

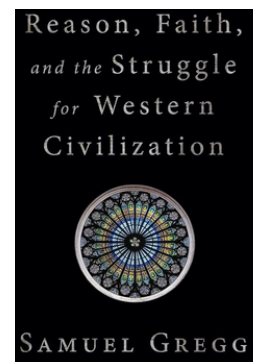
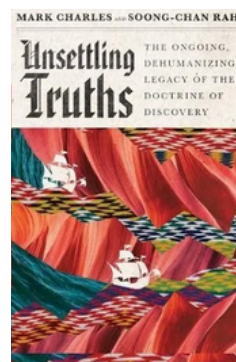
### White Rose (new life in Christ):

*Maddie and Maya Sok (Bower)*

## Men's Book Study Begins September 9

This fall, the men in our congregation are invited to take part in a weekly book study on Wednesday mornings at 6:00 in the church library. We are doing something a little different this time as we compare 2 books and their theological approaches to a common subject.

The first book is Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah's book "Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery." The second book is Samuel Gregg's book, "Reason, Faith, and the Struggle for Western Civilization." **This study will take place for 14 weeks and will go from 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM.** You can pop in at any time to join us. Please purchase these books ahead of time. If you would like to pay for the books and have them ordered by Pastor Jeremy, please let him know ASAP.



## Thank You

Thank you for your donations to The Gideons International! They received \$1,671, which is enough to pay for 1,037 New Testaments!



## What Does the Key to Your First Home Really Mean?

I still remember being 19 years old and buying my first home. I remember holding that key and the feeling that came with it. I was home. I was safe. It was mine. At 19, I probably did not fully understand how much that moment would stay with me. I simply remember the feeling of having a place where I belonged and knowing I could close the door behind me and feel safe.

Over the years, my own experience has helped me understand what that key can mean to someone who has experienced housing instability. I have watched single mothers and families receive the keys to their new homes, and I have seen the look on their faces when that key is placed in their hands. Sometimes there are tears. Sometimes there is a smile. Sometimes there is simply a moment when they stop and take it all in. In that moment, the key becomes much more than a way to open a door. It represents safety, dignity, relief, and the chance to begin again.

And then comes the moment when they open the door and walk inside. A parent can finally stop wondering where their children will sleep. A child can have a room of their own. A family can begin planning for tomorrow instead of simply trying to get through today. They can put pictures on the walls, make plans, and begin creating memories that are not temporary. A key opens a door, but a first home can open an entirely different future.

Scripture tells us, "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children." Proverbs 13:22 (ESV). We often think of an inheritance as money or property, but an inheritance can be so much more.

A first home can change the trajectory of a family for generations to come. Children who grow up with stability may have opportunities their parents never had. They can learn what responsible homeownership looks like and someday provide that same stability for their own children. What begins with one set of keys can become a legacy.

I also believe there is something spiritual about a key. Throughout our lives, we stand before doors we never expected to face. Some doors lead to uncertainty, while others lead to new beginnings. We may not know what is waiting on the other side, but faith reminds us that we do not have to walk through those doors alone. Sometimes God gives us the courage to step through a door we once thought would never open.

That is why the mission of McPherson Housing Coalition is From Homelessness to Homeownership and Everything in Between. A home does not erase someone's past or make every problem disappear, but it can give someone a foundation from which to begin again. When I think about the key to a first home, I think about that 19-year-old girl holding her first key and feeling, "I am home." And I think about the families I have watched receive their own keys and wonder what that moment might mean not only for them, but for their children and grandchildren.

Because sometimes a key is more than a key. Sometimes it is the first tangible sign that life can be different. It is hope made real. It is a door opening to a future that once seemed impossible. And what begins with one key, one home, and one family can become a legacy that reaches generations we may never live to see.

Blessings,  
Chris Goodson





*Gather Moms*

## **Gather Moms at Countryside**

Gather Moms is a ministry for moms in all stages of life. Our mission is to help you connect to other moms who get you, who know your joys and your struggles, and who can offer support and encouragement. All moms are welcome to come to any group, but some of the conversations will be geared towards certain stages of motherhood, so if that's important to you, please be aware of that!

### **First Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.**

This group will meet the first Wednesday of the month throughout the school year (September-April). Conversation is focused around raising younger children and the joys and struggles that come with that. We offer childcare for children up to age four (with a reservation), and kids ages 4 and older can participate in Kids Life! They will have their kick-off on September 2nd in the cafe.

### **Third Saturday | 9:00 a.m - 10:30 a.m.**

This group meets the third Saturday each month in the cafe. Conversation is focused around raising preteens/teens. We provide each other encouragement and support as we navigate cultural challenges in parenting. We currently do not offer childcare for this gathering. Please notify Amy Brunk if you need assistance with childcare.

### **Moms of Adult Children**

This is a unique season of motherhood and can be challenging to navigate alone. Please watch the bulletin for dates and times for this group! The details of this group are still being determined!



# LIFE GROUPS

As a large church, we try to make available opportunities for people to connect on a smaller, more personal level. Life groups help families and individuals walk alongside each other by meeting weekly or biweekly for a meal (optional), prayer, conversations, friendship, and support.

God's Word and prayer are central to these groups as we spend time gathering in Jesus' name. Our Life Groups are led by various members of the church and usually consist of no more than 12 people.

Choose to create community with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Countryside!

If you are interested in joining a Life Group or helping facilitate a Life Group, please let Pastor Jeremy know.

*The grass withers and  
the flowers fall, but  
the word of our God  
endures forever.*

*Isaiah 40:8*

*forever*

## Leadership Team Update

Back in the 1960s, there was an officer, Captain Charlie Plumb, who flew jet fighters off the aircraft carrier the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. On what turned out to be his last sortie, he was shot down and ended up spending six years as a POW with the Vietcong.

Some years later, he was eating at a restaurant in Kansas City. Charlie tells how, "A man about two tables away kept looking at me. I didn't recognize him. A few minutes into our meal, he stood up and walked over to my table, looked down at me, pointed his finger in my face and said, 'You're Captain Plumb.'" I looked up, and I said, "Yes sir, I'm Captain Plumb." He said, "You flew jet fighters in Vietnam. You were on the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down. You parachuted into enemy hands and spent six years as a prisoner of war." I said, "How in the world did you know all that?" He replied, "Because I packed your parachute." Charlie relates how he was speechless. "I staggered to my feet and held out a very grateful hand of thanks. This guy came up with just the proper words. He grabbed my hand, he pumped my arm and said, 'I guess it worked.'" "Yes sir, indeed it did," I said, "and I must tell you I've said a lot of prayers of thanks for your nimble fingers, but I never thought I'd have the opportunity to express my gratitude in person."

Parachute packers were the people who toiled down in the bowels of the aircraft carrier, rarely seeing the light of day during working hours; it was hot, humid, hard work. What a story about gratitude.

Colossians 2:6-7 says, *"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."*

How many people do we come in contact with every day that we just pass by? Do we take the time to thank someone for doing some small thing? Someone at work who cleans the toilets, a military veteran, someone who stocks the shelves at the grocery store. How about at church? All the little things that someone does to make sure we have a good experience.

A clean building, comfortable temperature, refreshments, bulletins and announcements on the screen, greeters and ushers, good sound, mowed grass and snow clearing, communion servers, teachers, etc.

God has used the lesser known to accomplish great things for His Kingdom. God asks us to behave in such a way as to make others notice that there is something different about us. Let's be slow to criticize and quick to show gratitude.

### WHO PACKS YOUR CHUTE?

Kelly Nelson, Leadership Team



### August 2026 Attendance (includes online)

|           | Christian Formation |  | Worship |
|-----------|---------------------|--|---------|
| August 2  | —                   |  | 540     |
| August 9  | —                   |  | 574     |
| August 16 | —                   |  | 598     |
| August 23 | —                   |  | 570     |

### August 2026 Giving

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| August 2                   | \$28,402.49  |
| August 9                   | \$29,384.59  |
| August 16                  | \$23,894.27  |
| August 23                  | \$22,795.83  |
| Total Y-to-D               | \$889,130.95 |
| Giving vs. Expenses Y-to-D | \$13,398.87  |



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

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Your September 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 am

Christian Formation at 9:45 am

(see calendar for all events)

### **September 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
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30| Toddler Time
- 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30| Women's Exercise Group
- 2| Gather Moms (Preschool/elementary)
- 7| Labor Day/Church Office Closed
- 13| Christian Formation Classes Begin
- 15| Leadership Team Meeting
- 19| Gather Moms (Teens)
- 21| Sew & Share
- 22| Gather Moms (Adult Children)
- 23| See You At The Pole
- 26| Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 30| Men's Picnic @ Spencer's



### **Countryside Staff**

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Bobbie Kaufman, Director of Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director