



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 24, ISSUE 10
October 2025

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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

1st Annual Turkey Trot!

- Pastor Jeremy Bower

Since autumn is upon us, many of us are thinking about the Thanksgiving holiday. And, you're right, we just started October; Thanksgiving is still a month and a half away. But I am writing this frontpage article to start getting us prepared for something amazing. Something that our church has never done in its over 140 years of existence. We will be hosting the first Annual Turkey Trot and Chili Cookoff. The event will begin mid-morning on Saturday, November 15 and will kick off with a 1-kilometer run, walk, jog, crawl, or stumble and be followed by fun activities suitable for all ages. Part of the fun will include a chili cookoff to determine who has the best chili making skills. In addition to the "turkey trot" participants and those entered in the chili cookoff, here's where you come in ...

1. We will need judges for the event.
2. We will need help with making sure people stay safe on the course.
3. We will need help with rolling frozen birds into bowling pins.
4. We will have shirts for those who register.

You might be asking ... "Why register? And is there a fee?" There will be registration so we can plan on food and snacks, but the money will go towards your shirt, access for chili tasting, and the additional money is a fundraiser for our future mission trips next year.



Not only will the whole family have fun, not only will our church family have a blast hanging out together, but we are also coming together to raise money for mission work. What a great cause!

So start checking our bulletins, emails, announcements on Sunday, our website, our church app, and social media to stay in the know. Be there or be square!



Saturday November 15 | 9 am - 12 pm

Cost to receive a shirt and to taste chili ... T-Shirt and Chili Cookoff Tasting –

\$25 per person (Cap for a family is \$100)

\$25 to enter your chili into the contest!

(You must provide enough to give out samples to everyone.)

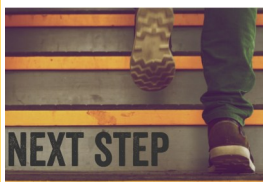
All other activities are FREE!



October is pastor/church staff appreciation month! We are blessed with three awesome pastors, (and a pretty amazing staff!). If you feel led, please send them a note of encouragement, or let them know you are praying for them, or bring them a treat (baked goods or chocolate are always a favorite) or just a simple thank you for all they do! We appreciate them so much!



FALL
leaves AND
PUMPKINS
please



Next Step Class

Next Steps Christian Formation Class begins **Sunday, October 19** in **Room 16/18**. 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.



Night to Shine is a prom-style celebration for individuals with special needs—right here in our community, in partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation.

This powerful event reminds each and every one of our special guests that they are known, valued, and loved.

This year's event will be held at **The McPherson**

Community Building, February 13, 2026.

To register to volunteer, scan the QR code, or click the link below if you're viewing this online.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekwCbtt9XuZ5R0FaZVzojJJQqhx2z97_me-Eazd2D64dwSQw/viewform



****Gardeners****



We are looking for someone from our church to oversee the Gardens next year. If you would be interested, reach out to Jacob Kaufman at jkaufman.music@gmail.com or touch base with him at church on Sunday.

Our regular garden cleanup will be on **Saturday, October 25th, 8am**. After that date your garden has to be completely cleaned up and everything out (cages, stakes, etc.).



... connecting women
to each other and to
Jesus!

Recently I have acknowledged that I am hungry. Really not for food, but I have a real hunger for God that desires Him deeply, seeks His presence and love as I would crave food when I am famished. This spiritual hunger prompts me to dive into His word, surrender my life, and encompass myself in prayer. In doing so, I grow closer to Him and cultivate a stronger relationship.

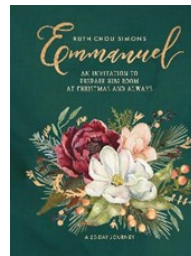
In my busy life, it's easy to forget the importance of stillness before God. Making the effort to slow down and be still in His presence is a way of expressing my hunger for Him. It is in these moments of silence that I can hear His voice, receive His guidance, and refill my spirit. I learn to invite the Lord into my busyness and anxiety, allowing His peace to wash over me. By cultivating a habit of stillness, I can deepen my relationship with God and reveal my desire to experience His comfort and embrace.

Through quiet times, being in the Word, fellowshiping with other believers, Sunday worship services and other opportunities, I am being fed. Over 80 women are participating in Bible studies that are being offered this fall. And, in addition to those four groups, there are others that meet weekly too.

I say this to encourage you to be hungry!! Be hungry for God and then do something about that hunger. Feed your soul just like you feed your physical self; or better yet, feed your soul **better** than you do your physical body!



You won't want to miss this special evening filled with stories from women who have truly received blessings from God through ministries here at Countryside or even outside our walls. A service project will also be featured where we can join together to bless someone in our midst. There will be lots of fellowship and scrumptious fall desserts too. So be sure to include **November 10** on your calendar now!



To prepare our hearts for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season, the Thursday night Bible study plans to look at the famed devotional book Emmanuel by Ruth Chou Simons. Even though the book has 25 daily readings, we'll begin meeting weekly on October 23 as we consider what it

means to intimately experience God's presence in our daily lives. We'd love to have you be a part of this study as we partake in a season of surrender and discover the true miracle behind Christmas: that while we journey to grow in our relationships with Jesus, He has already come so He can be with us forever. Please register soon by emailing linda@csidecov.org or by calling the Church Office, 241-4499. Books are \$25 which will include the gorgeously illustrated Advent book (a great keepsake!) and a personalized journal.

Looking forward to cooler temperatures, leaves turning colors and a welcome change! Linda

Church Life Update



Baptisms:

Emmy Bohenblust, Rayne Bohnenblust, Jocelyn Crites, Ezriel Cai Morales, Everly Sides, Kyson Sides, Vivica Sides, Zane Stone, Temri Vogt

Marriage Class Experiencing a Boom!

To make a smidge more room, the Sunday Christian Formation class, "Marriage: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" will meet just across the hall in room 15 by the café. Please come early to help with seating and so we can start on time. Then enjoy dating your spouse and learning alongside others as you put tools in your marriage box!



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

Studies show that folks who learn something new every day are more likely to have better cognitive recall as the years go by. How are you doing with this? Or, people who tell themselves they'll retire and then take up some sort of hobby or lifestyle change are less likely to actually do it than people who begin the activity BEFORE they retire. What have you always enjoyed doing and hope you have more time to do in the future?

Crescendo Ministry offers a life rubric for people who seek God's purpose for their lives just before and during retirement years. Here are some questions to ask yourself if you're hoping to be a well-rounded retired person:

Spiritually – What do I do daily, weekly, monthly that encourages my walk with Christ? Am I open to the Holy Spirit's leading and do I understand how to hear His voice? What younger people am I in relationship with that I pass along my Godly wisdom to?

Physically – Am I paying attention to my health by staying active, eating good food, and getting regular rest and Sabbath days? How well am I financially prepared for my future? What resources can I tap for help in this area?

Intellectually – Am I challenging my mind by learning new things each day? Do I read regularly? How old do I perceive myself to be in my mind?

Community – Who do I regularly get together with? Am I seeking the company of those both older and younger than myself? How do I stay in communication with my family members in a meaningful way?

Emotional Health – Am I lonely? How can I get more involved in my church, neighborhood, and community? Do I need help getting over personal regret or anger?

Service – Do I understand that service is not an option for the Christian? What needs do I see around me that God might want me to help meet? What is my God-given purpose in the season I am currently living?

The Evangelical Covenant Church website has connections to Crescendo materials that will help you get started living your best years yet. From there you can download the Crescendo App that will provide you with even more challenging ideas, articles, podcast/webinar links, and more. All of these resources are to help us have a Christ-like attitude toward our aging journey and to give us a perspective on life that helps us live into God's purposes for all our years.

<https://covchurch.org/make-and-deepen-disciples/crescendo/>



Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

- * **Tuesday, October 1, 9:30am, monthly meeting @ The Cedars Event Center**
- * **Saturday, October 18, 11:30am, @ Judy's, 1963 Autumn Wood Dr., McPherson.**

Contact Becky Hogue, 918-706-1257, or Judy Blaine, 360-355-0943 for more info.

Sew & Share

Monday, October 20, 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.



Countryside Kids

KIDS TOWN (SUNDAYS)

Last month we kicked off our Explore the Bible curriculum in Kids Town. During the month of September we explored the early chapters of Genesis and this month we are jumping to the New Testament as we explore the book of John!

- Oct 5 | Kingdom Families
 - We will still have Kids Town for preschoolers but all K-5 kids and parents will meet in the Student Center for a time of fellowship and a lesson on John 1
- Oct 12 | John 3: Jesus and Nicodemus
- Oct 19 | John 6: Jesus Fed the 5,000
- Oct 26 | John 9: Jesus Is the Light of the World



GATHER MOMS



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. We currently have two groups meeting once a month!

- Oct 1 | Gather Moms @ 6:15 p.m. | Room 15
 - Moms of preschoolers and elementary-aged kids, but all moms are welcome!
 - Topic: Mom Struggles
- Oct 18 | Gather Moms @ 9:30 a.m. | Room 6
 - Moms of middle school and high school kids!
 - Topic: Moms, Let's Talk: Conversations We Must Have With Our Kids



BAPTISMS

We celebrated 9 baptisms on Sept 28th! Pictured from left to right: Zane Stone, Jocelyn Crites, Rayne Bohnenblust, Emmy Bohnenblust, Everly Sides, Vivica Sides, Kyson Sides, and Temri Vogts. Not pictured is Cai Morales (baptized during our 8:30 a.m. service).

October COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

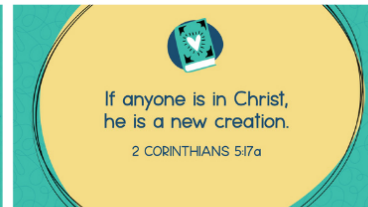
1	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM
5	Sunday	Kingdom Families (K-5 Parents) Kids Town (preschool only) 9:45-10:45 AM
8	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM
12	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45-10:45 AM
15	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM
19	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45-10:45 AM
22	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM
26	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45-10:45 AM
29	Wednesday	Kids Life 6:15-7:45 PM

KIDS LIFE (WEDNESDAYS)

Our midweek program at Countryside is for children ages 4 - 5th grade! We meet from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. All kids check in at the front of the Worship Center in the foyer and then are picked up in their classrooms!

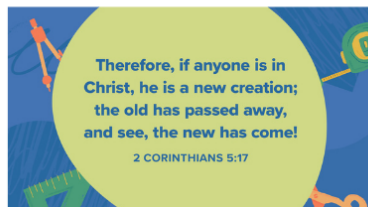
KIDS LIFE PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 4 AND KINDERGARTEN)

This month we will be sharing the Simple Truth, "God Forgives Me." Preschoolers will learn that God gives them a new start, a new heart, a new way, and a new hope.



KIDS LIFE ELEMENTARY (1ST - 5TH GRADE)

Our theme this October is Totally New and we are teaching the kids the Simple Truth "I Am Forgiven." Kids will learn that God gives them a new start, a new heart, a new identity, and a new hope.



KINGDOM FAMILIES | OCTOBER 5TH

Kingdom Families will start in October this year! Kingdom Families is a time for K-5 families to come together for fellowship over a light breakfast and then a time of teaching together. Our goal is to give you a discipleship practice each month for your families to implement and practice together as we develop families for the Kingdom of God! We do not have Kids Town for K-5 kids when Kingdom Families is scheduled.

EQUIPPING FAMILIES

With our new curriculum we are using on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, we have some great resources for you to utilize at home. It can be overwhelming to roll all of that out in the monthly newsletter, so be sure you are subscribed to our weekly emails, where those resources will be included!



RIGHTNOW MEDIA

We are so excited that everyone at Countryside now has access to RightNow Media! There are so many great resources available to you and your families now! If you haven't already, use the QR code to create your account for free.



KIDS CORNER

We have been blessed with lots of babies in our church nursery! We are needing more caregivers to ensure we can continue to provide a safe and caring environment for the littlest at Countryside! If you are interested in serving, please contact Amy or Tiffani!



LIFE STUDENT MINISTRIES

OCTOBER 2025

What We're Learning!

Middle School Youth Group

A Study on Parables!

Wk 1: Parable of the Lost Sheep

Wk 2: Parable of the Friend at Midnight

Wk 3: Parable of the Good Samaritan

Wk 4: Parable of Salt & Light

High School Youth Group

A Study in Colossians!

Wk 1: Jesus

Wk 2: Community

Wk 3: Warnings

Wk 4: Prayer

Why Small Groups?

Small groups is a KEY part of our evenings at Youth Group. This is a time where the students take a deeper dive into the teaching topic through intentional discussions. Here, students are able to ask questions, voice hopes, fears, insecurities, failures, victories... They meet in the same groups weekly and spend time sharing and praying and growing together!

Prayer Requests!

- Pray for wisdom, patience and energy as leaders engage with students
- Pray for the lost students who haven't given their hearts to Jesus yet!
- Praise for a GROWING and THRIVING ministry! Our numbers continue to grow each week, hitting around 90 students total each Wednesday night!
- Prayers for provision of more male leaders for Middle School! We have had a great GROWTH of young male students and need more adult male leaders!

Upcoming Events

- MS Movie on the Lawn: October 10th, 7-9pm
- HS Barn Party: October 26th, 7-9pm
- MS Fall Retreat: Nov 7-9
- HS Fall Retreat: Nov 21-23





A Day in the Life of A Case Manager: God's Light in the Darkness

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." – Psalm 46:1

Every morning, Tammy, McPherson Housing Coalition's case manager, kneels in quiet prayer:

"Lord, give me strength. Let me be Your hands and heart today, especially for those who feel forgotten."

Her work begins before she even sits at her desk. She has just helped John, a veteran recently honorably discharged, who found a job immediately but had nowhere to live with his family, move into a safe home after weeks of fear and uncertainty—when the phone rings again. On the line is Martha, a senior, voice trembling with tears, explaining that Social Security is not enough to cover rent or food. Tammy listens, prays quietly, and moves quickly to find a solution, knowing that for some, the night ahead could be the difference between shelter and hardship.

The stories pile up. Rachel, a single mother who had lived in fear for years, finally finds the courage to call for help. With Tammy's support, she secures a home and a job—a place where her children can finally laugh without worry. A family had been living in a trailer so overrun with mice it was unsafe for their children. Tammy acted quickly, moving them

into Oak Harbor Cottages. Even temporarily, it became a sanctuary from the chaos and danger they had endured.

And there are moments that pierce the heart. Kathy, a mother newly moved into the cottages, stood silently by her bed, tears streaking her face. When Tammy gently asked why, she whispered, "This is the first bed I've ever had of my own." That bed, small and ordinary, is the first safe night she has ever known. That bed is hope.

Through every phone call, every emergency, every setback, Tammy holds onto Galatians 6:9: *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

By helping families in need, you answer God's call in Proverbs 31:8-9: *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy."* Your care gives a mother peace, a child safety, a senior dignity—and together, we bring God's light into lives overshadowed by fear and struggle.

Every key handed over, every meal shared, every moment of care is a heartbeat of hope. Together, we turn despair into safety, homes into havens, and strangers into family.

Blessings,
Chris

RightNow Media

We are offering everyone in our church the free gift of access to RightNow Media—over 25,000 Bible Study videos you can watch anytime, anywhere, from any device! Go to the website below:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/csidecov>

Text the code CSIDECOV to 49775 and you will receive a text back, welcoming you to RightNow Media and providing you with the invite link to register. Or scan the QR code above to create your free account and start browsing!



Thank You's

Thank you for all the cards, calls and condolences after the death of my mom, Carolyn Skinner. They were appreciated. It is so nice to be a member of such a caring church.

- Garry Skinner

Dear Countryside family,
Don and I would like to thank you for your love and prayers during his long spell of knee surgery and heart issues that he has been going through. The Lord has, and continues to sustain us both. He is truly faithful. May He richly bless each one of you.

- In His love, Don and Barb Bland

Thank you for all the prayers. We enjoyed going to Countryside Covenant Church together. Pastor Jon did a great ceremony for Nancy.

- Richard Wakefield

Help stock the pantry at McPherson High School!



Current Needs:

- ⇒ Cups of Microwaveable Soup
- ⇒ Cups of Microwaveable Macaroni & Cheese
- ⇒ Individual Packages of Trail Mix
- ⇒ Individual Packages of Granola Bars
- ⇒ Individual Packages of Snack Crackers

Please leave donations on the table by the Church Office. Thank you!



Visitor Lunch

October 12, 12pm

Contact the Church Office, 620-241-4499, or write "Visitor Lunch" on your Connection Card on Sundays if you plan to attend. Eat with Countryside Staff and enjoy informal Q & A about Countryside and our ministries. Will be held at Jacob & Bobbie Kaufman's, 626 E. Euclid St.

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

Isaiah 40:8

GAMES INFLATABLES

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

FALL Family FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 11, 2025
2:30 TO 4:30 P.M.**

315 W. 1ST AVE.
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

FOOD DRINKS

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

FUNDRAISER FOR OPEN DOOR



Cloverton is coming back!! Mark your calendars for another amazing Christmas concert by Cloverton!
Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.
Watch for more details coming soon!

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

It seems like the world is getting crazier as the days go by. The best promise we, as Christians, can hold on to is in John 16:33 “I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me. The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!” (Good News Translation)

Over the past few months, many Christian leaders have gone on to be with Jesus in Heaven, one of the latest being Voddie Baucham. He delivered a message that stated, “You will hear a rumor one day that Voddie Baucham is no more. Don’t you believe it! Because though I die, I will rise with Christ. It will not be the end of me, because Christ is raised, and I, too, will be raised with Christ. Do not pity me.” What a mindset to have, that though I am no longer on earth, I am more alive than ever!

Mindset and focus have been the topic of chapels I have been giving to the college teams I get to serve. It is not lost on me that this is something not only college athletes deal with, but we all do. No matter our age, gender, ethnicity, vocation, etc. the world around us is shaping us one way or another. I have challenged these athletes, and I challenge you to take every thought captive, to fix your eyes on Jesus by having a renewed thinking. As Paul stated in Romans 12, “Do not be *conformed* to this world, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind.” (NIV, italics added)

How do we renew our minds?

- **Immerse yourself in Scripture.** The Bible isn’t just information: It’s transformation. It reorders your perspective and aligns you with truth.
- **Meditate on God’s Word.** Think deeply about it. Turn it over in your mind. Let it sink in.
- **Speak truth out loud.** Declare Scripture over your life. Hearing truth strengthens faith.

- **Capture rogue thoughts.** When a thought doesn’t align with God’s truth, take it captive and confront it. Don’t let it run loose.
- **Pray for transformation.** Ask God to help you see situations, people, and yourself as He does.

Let us renew our minds as Christ works in and through us and we are able to “test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will” for Countryside moving forward.

Thank you,

For the Leadership Team

Aaron Glendening



September 2025 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
September 7	207	570
September 14	190	595
September 21	192	650
September 28	181	671

September 2025 Giving

September 7	\$22,082.39
September 14	\$31,520.23
September 21	\$13,611.84
September 28	\$17,581.19
Total Y-to-D	\$912,257.42
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	(\$106,279.63)

Countryside Covenant Church
PO Box 765, 940 E. Northview Ave.
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	Gather Men
1, 18	Gather Moms
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Time of Prayer
3-5	Women's Fall Retreat
5	Kingdom Families
7, 18	Widows' Connection
7, 14, 21, 28	Men's Coffee
7, 14, 21, 28	Celebrate Recovery
10	M.S. Movie on the Lawn
11	Men's Prayer Breakfast
12	Visitor Lunch
15, 22, 29	Men's "Bondage Breaker" Book Study
17-19	Men's Retreat
19, 26	Next Step Class
20	Sew & Share
21	Leadership Team Meeting

(see enclosed calendar for a full list of events)

Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Pastor Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Bobbie Kaufman, Interim Director of Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director

