



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 9  
September 2025

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

# THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

## Are You Hearing God's Voice? - Pastor Jon Black

Jesus said: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32).

As this new school year commences, how will many respond when asked how they are doing? "Busy," "hectic," "crazy"? Others may respond, "Tired," "discouraged," "burned out."

But Jesus told us that He came to give us life to the full, life more abundantly. This is what we are all longing for in our souls. Then why do so many fail to experience the abundant life that God has promised? Could it be we are listening to the wrong voice?

I recently came across the following post on social media:

GOD'S VOICE	SATAN'S VOICE
Stills you	Rushes you
Leads you	Pushes you
Reassures you	Frightens you
Enlightens you	Confused you
Encourages you	Discourages you
Comforts you	Worries you
Calms you	Obsesses you
Convicts you	Condemns you

Jesus reminded us that when we know the truth, the truth will set us free (John 8:32). Conversely, when we believe Satan's lies, (and his lies come regular-

ly), we will experience a bondage to fear, stress, doubt, and discouragement.

From the post above, I was especially convicted by the first comparison between God's voice: Stills you and Satan's voice: Rushes you.

One of the primary ways I discern that I am being attacked by the enemy is when I feel rushed in my spirit to resolve an issue right away! I feel the need to take matters into my own hands as soon as possible. I feel tempted to run in the Spirit rather than walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16).

But this is when God calls us to be still and know that He is God (Ps 46:10). How often He longs to make us lie down in green pastures and lead us beside still waters? (Ps 23:2).

Jesus invites us to abide in His Word that He may fill us anew with His truth, .... because He genuinely wants us to experience His freedom (John 8:31).

God reminds us that He is in control, that He is faithful, and that His timing is always perfect.

Are you hearing God's voice speaking to you? Are you taking the time to abide in Christ and abide in His Word? He is speaking every day.

May you have a Spirit-led and peaceful fall!



## Christian Formation Classes for ALL ages begin on Sunday, September 7 at 9:45 a.m.

- ⇒ **Immerse Prophets:** is the fourth of six volumes of the Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience program. Prophets presents the First Testament prophets in groupings that represent four historical periods, beginning with the prophets who spoke before the fall of Israel's northern kingdom (Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah), then before the fall of the southern kingdom (Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk), around the time of Jerusalem's destruction (Jeremiah, Obadiah, Ezekiel), and after the return from exile (Haggai, Zechariah, Joel, Malachi).
- ⇒ **RVL Biblical Discipleship:** What is discipleship? To answer that, we'll continue our dive into the teachings and insight of renown teacher Ray Vander Laan (RVL). Join us to study what discipleship was in the days of and leading up to Jesus. We'll pickup our journey in Season 2 which explores the roots of discipleship, examining how God trained and established the nation of Israel in preparation for Jesus' ministry to come. We'll continue to Season 3 later this semester which frames up what it was and is to be a rabbi, and from that, what it looked like to follow Jesus from the perspective of His disciples. The class has optional homework in the form of devotions that focus on applying what is learned and establishing a spiritual rhythm. Some class activities will be conducted in groups. New students are welcome and there are no prerequisites - from new Christians to veterans in the faith, there's a little bit of something here for everyone.
- ⇒ **Marriage: The Good, The Bad and The Funny**  
This class's focus is to guide spouses toward building Godly inspired relationships. We will follow a video series called 'Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage'. This series delivers a unique blend of humor and solid relationship principles, delivered by Mark Gungar, a top marriage and family speaker. Be prepared to experience the joy of classroom interaction as together we gain strength and enrichment in our marriages.
- ⇒ **Women of the Word:** We will start our study at the end of the Gospels with Judas' betrayal. Then we'll study, Acts, James, Galatians, Thessalonians and Corinthians.
- ⇒ **Next Steps Class (coming in October!)** for newcomers and regular attenders. Learn about our church, its ministries, and our denomination. This class is a prerequisite for membership or leadership. **Watch for details in the bulletin and October's Pulse.**
- ⇒ **Kingdom Families:** Starts October 5. Once a month combined class **for children ages kindergarten – 5th grade and their parents/grandparents.** This will be a time for families to engage in a monthly lesson together and be introduced to a new family discipleship practice for the month! There will be no Kids Town for Kindergarten – 5th grade on these Sundays. Adults will skip their regular class.



**rightnow  
MEDIA**

LOOK FOR MORE INFO IN THE BULLETIN!

COMING IN  
SEPTEMBER! ACCESS  
TO RIGHTNOW MEDIA!



### **Visitor Brunch, October 12, 12pm**

Contact the Church Office, 620-241-4499, or write "Visitor Brunch" 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. Room 5 on the west end of the building.

### **Life Groups are forming!!**

Life Groups are a place to connect, pray, learn, grow, share a meal, and encourage one another. Study the word together. Build community as you live life together. Both peer and intergenerational groups are available. Most meet twice a month. Sign up by calling the Church Office, or check "life group" on your Connection Card on Sunday. If you are interested in facilitating a group, contact Pastor Jeremy for more information.





# LIFE STUDENT MINISTRIES

## SEPTEMBER 2025

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL???

Our Youth Ministry Programming is in full swing this fall! Our purpose of youth ministry is to make and deepen disciples who make Jesus their top priority, obey His commands and invest in others to do the same. Everything we do, from large events, to small group Bible study time, to teaching, to sharing meals together, is an overflow of this purpose!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Christian Formation:  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 7. Overview of the Bible in A Year  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 5. New Testament Confirmation

### HIGH SCHOOL

Christian Formation:  
9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 6. Study on World Religions vs the Gospel

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS!

Wednesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Group Kick-Off! 6:15pm for middle school & 8pm for High School \*Repeats weekly\*  
Sunday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Christian Formation Classes Begin, 9:45am  
\*Repeats weekly\*  
Saturday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Praise Fest in Manhattan for High School Students, 10am-midnight  
Friday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Late Night Game Night for Middle Schoolers! 8-10pm Location TBD

Contact Lizy Johnson with any questions! Phone: 620-241-4499 Email: [lizy@csidecov.org](mailto:lizy@csidecov.org)





## When the Waiting Becomes the Story

At the Oak Harbor Cottages, every home has a story. Families come through our doors weary from the weight of life's storms, carrying the fear and uncertainty that comes with not knowing where they will sleep at night. And yet, when they walk into these tiny cottages, hope begins to whisper again.

The same is true at the Sutherland-Estates homes. These houses are more than walls and a roof—they are places where children laugh again, where parents can breathe a little easier, and where healing begins to take root. But what many people do not see is the waiting that comes before the breakthrough.

We, too, have been waiting. Waiting for the funds to complete the last homes. Waiting for approvals and partnerships. Waiting for doors to open that we cannot open ourselves. And in that waiting, God has been teaching us something powerful: His timing is always perfect, even when it stretches our faith.

One mother at the Oak Harbor Cottages said recently "When I first came to Oak Harbor with my kids, I was broken. I didn't have anywhere else to turn, and honestly, I didn't even think about God much. I was just trying to survive and keep my kids safe. But something happened here. In the quiet of the cottages, I started to feel like maybe God really was watching over us. For the first time, I picked up a

Bible that someone left in the tiny home, and the words gave me a peace I had never felt before. The waiting has been hard — waiting for answers, waiting for a permanent home, waiting for life to get easier. But in that waiting, I met God. I realized He hadn't forgotten me or my children. I used to think I was alone. Now I know I'm not. God is walking with me, and Oak Harbor was the place He finally got my attention. I'll never be the same, and neither will my kids, because now we have hope."

Her words remind us that waiting is not wasted. In fact, it's in the waiting that faith deepens.

Isaiah 40:31 tells us, *"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength."* That is not just a verse on a page—it is a reality we see every day. Families are learning to rely on God's faithfulness, and we are learning alongside them.

As we continue to wait for answers, we are learning to see the waiting as part of the story God is writing—a story of hope, faith, and His unfailing provision.

So if you find yourself waiting—whether for an answer, a breakthrough, or a prayer yet to be fulfilled—know this: you are not alone, and God is not late. He is right on time!

Blessings,  
Chris



Roberto Reed (one of our supported missionaries - Freedom in Christ Ministries) will be preaching in our worship services on **Sunday, September 21**. You are invited to return to church **that Sunday afternoon**

**from 4-6 PM** to receive specific training and resources from one of their courses designed to lead people into freedom from their issues of spiritual bondage.

**PACK A SHOEBOX**

National Collection Week

NOV. 17 - 24, 2025



[SamaritansPurse.org/occ](http://SamaritansPurse.org/occ)



**Pastor Jeremy's ARMY Retirement Party**  
**Sunday, September 21, 12:15 pm**

**After 24 incredible years serving our country, Pastor Jeremy is retiring from the Army!**

**Join us for a fun and festive gathering to celebrate his accomplishments and show our appreciation for his service. Cake will be served in the gym.**

**Operation Christmas Child** is right around the corner! Watch for more details coming soon! We would like to set a goal of 300 boxes collected this year! Contact our new church coordinators: Julie Wenthz, (620) 245-6378, [julie-wenthz@hotmail.com](mailto:julie-wenthz@hotmail.com), or

Jodi Wenthz, (620) 200-3092, [jodilighschafer@gmail.com](mailto:jodilighschafer@gmail.com), with any questions!

## Countryside Kids

### MOVE UP SUNDAY!

Kids Town will kick off on Sunday, September 7th! We have some fun things planned for our first morning together for the school year. Kids Town starts at 9:45 a.m. and ends at 10:45 a.m. Parents/Guardians, please pick your children up promptly at 10:45 a.m. so our adult teachers can head to the worship service! They cannot leave their classrooms until an adult comes to pick up the children in their class!

- 2-year-olds will check in at the nursery for Kids Town
  - Teachers: Dallas and Megan Pruitt
- 3 and 4-year-olds meet in Room 20 (across from the nursery)
  - Teachers: Tim and Lacey Kliever and Jody Hack
- Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade meet in the Student Center for large group and then will be dismissed to their small group, where you will pick them up!
  - Kinder/1<sup>st</sup> grade pickup will be Room 11
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade pickup will be Room 3 (off the gym)
  - 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade pickup will be Room 2 (off the gym)

On the 7<sup>th</sup>, we will also hand out Bibles to our first graders during the worship services. You only need to come to one service to get your Bible!

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 7TH

# MOVE UP SUNDAY

1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION  
DURING WORSHIP SERVICE  
FIRST DAY OF KIDS TOWN | 9:45 AM  
PHOTO BOOTH FOR KIDS  
BY STUDENT CENTER

### GATHER MOMS



It's not too late to sign up for one of our Gather Groups for 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 a group that meets the first Wednesday of the month during Kids Life that is geared towards moms with preschool and elementary aged kiddos. We also have a group meeting the third Saturday morning of each month for moms of middle school and high school kids. Use the QR code to the left for more info and to register!

## September COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

3	Wednesday	Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
7	Sunday	Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Bible Presentation
10	Wednesday	Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
14	Sunday	Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM
17	Wednesday	Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
21	Sunday	Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM
24	Wednesday	Kids Life   6:15-7:45 PM
28	Sunday	Kids Town   9:45-10:45 AM

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PLEASE REGISTER YOUR KIDS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR! YOU CAN USE THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT!



### KIDS LIFE STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>!

Our midweek program at Countryside will begin in September! This is for children ages 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. See below for more details about drop off and pick up!



All children will check-in at the table in the foyer. Check-in begins at 6:05 p.m. Please do not drop your children off before that as there is no one to supervise them before then!

- Preschoolers and kindergartners will go straight to the nursery after check-in! You will pick them up at 7:45 p.m. from the nursery.
- 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will check in and then head into the Worship Center for large group!
- **Change for this year!** You will pick your child up from their small group classrooms (not the Worship Center). There will be signage at the doors that will let you know where to pick them up!



Baptism Services  
Sunday | September 28  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

If your child has had a profession of faith and has expressed a desire to be baptized please contact Amy!

Adults desiring to be baptized please contact the church office!



### KINGDOM FAMILIES | OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

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

I came across two different podcasts on a newly released book, *Away Game: A Christian Parent's Guide to Navigating Youth Sports*. I think we have all felt the tension of youth sports and how it sometimes feels like it competes with and pulls us away from our church family. These podcasts provided some great insight and gave me a lot to think about!

#### THEOLOGY IN THE RAW

PRESTON SPRINKLE  
& DR. ED USZYNSKI



THINK  
BIBLICALLY  
SEAN AND SCOTT  
MCDOWELL WITH  
DR. ED USZYNSKI







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

Women's Ministry at Countryside exists to *connect women to each other and to Jesus*. And as we plan for upcoming events, our ministry team uses that rubric to determine what opportunities to consider and offer to each of you. As with most ministries, we utilize the privilege and responsibility of prayer and God's guidance to direct what we offer. And I encourage you to join us in these opportunities that provide connection, community, growth and investment with other women.

During this school year we hope to be very intentional with these four points:

1. Connection – Are you new to Countryside or looking for a way to meet other women in our community?
2. Community – Are you looking for a group that can provide support and encouragement or wanting to connect with women in a specific season of life?
3. Grow – Are you ready to grow in your faith through Bible studies, discipleship or mentorship, and serving?
4. Invest – Are you looking to invest in others through teaching, mentorship, and outreach?

If you answered yes or even maybe to any of those points, I would love to have a conversation with you.

**Connection:** Plans are to have an event for all women at Countryside the last part of October or the first part of November. Watch for details through email in the upcoming month and through bulletin announcements.

**Community:** Through **Gather Moms** we believe that connection and community can take place. Through those times we'll help you connect to other moms who "get you," who know your joys and your struggles, and who can offer support and encouragement. One group that will be made up of moms with preschool and elementary-aged kiddos will meet on the first Wednesday of each month (Sept. 3) during Kids Life. The second group will meet on the third Saturday of each month (Sept. 20) and it is for middle and high school kids' moms. If you meet either of those criteria, use the QR code on the Countryside Kids page under "Gather Moms" for more information and to register.

**Grow:** This fall Bible studies will be offered on different days and times! What an opportunity to grow in your faith with other women. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and *it's not too late to sign up!* Here's the schedule:

• Tuesday mornings, *John ... Believe I Am*. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:15 am, Room 13, with childcare by reservation. Begins Sept. 9.

- Wednesday evenings, *Precepts Study of John*. Meets weekly at 6:15 pm, Room 13. Begins Sept. 3.
- Thursday mornings, *Precepts Study of Jeremiah*. Meets weekly at 9 am, Room 20, with childcare by reservation. Begins Sept. 11.
- Thursday evenings, *John ... Believe I Am*. Meets weekly at 7 pm, Room 13. Begins Aug. 28.

Watch for service opportunities too. We often use Sign-up Genius for meeting needs ... serving at a funeral luncheon, providing salads or cakes for the funeral luncheons, supplying a meal for a new mommy or following surgery, or a hospitalization.

Women who are desiring a mentorship or a discipleship relationship can contact me and I will provide you with the "next" steps.

**INVEST:** Possibly you are looking for ways to make an investment in others' lives by teaching, mentoring, outreach or serving. I would encourage you to have a conversation with me or any other staff person here at Countryside. We'd love to assist you in getting plugged in!

Registration for the **Women's Fall Retreat** at Covenant Cedars is open. Check your calendars for October 3-5 and join us for a great weekend. Go to [Women : Retreats : Covenant Cedars Bible Camp](#) to register. Scholarships are available, talk to me.

In His Love,

Linda Totman, Women's Ministry Coordinator



### Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

- \* **Tuesday, September 2, 9:30am., monthly meeting @ The Cedars Event Center**
- \* **Saturday, September 20, 11:30am, @ Countryside Café.**

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

### Sew & Share, Monday, September 15, 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.





## Crescendo And the Future

After seven years of ministry and a year of rest, I have been praying for fresh vision for our older adult ministry at Countryside. Please join me in prayer as I seek to engage individuals to join our leadership team. Commitment would be for one year. We will meet as a small group, training, connecting, and experiencing personal growth in this very transitional time of life. Typically, Crescendo folks are empty nesters, those considering and experiencing retirement, sandwich generation that cares for both aging parents and their young adults, people in need of info on financial planning for the future, anyone struggling with end of life issues, and people who need to find community and God's purpose for life in this vital season.

Crescendo has never been about programs. It's about perspective in a time in life when we can be the most productive. Crescendo is not an activity, rather it's an attitude that the Holy Spirit cultivates in us to serve the rest of the days of our lives. Psalm 92 sums it up for us.

If you would appreciate finding a small group to process any of the above issues I have listed, please send me an email or talk with a staff member who can direct you. Pastor Jon and I look forward to cultivating this next leadership group for our older adults.

Special shout out to both **Judy Blaine and Becky Hogue** who have done a great job in leading our widows group. This has truly been a blessing to all involved! Also, thank you to **Pat Shaft** who has been faithful to continue on with Crescendo as well as coordinate our Sunday morning greeters. Please thank these individuals and come alongside them to help. Hoping to have more information on my health soon. With joy, Pastor Lynn

### Crescendo Coffee with Short-term Missionaries:

On **Saturday, September 13, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** four of our church members will share stories from their summer mission trips. Following their stories, there will be a time of Q & A to learn more about their ministry experiences. We will hear from Cynthia Wiard, Paul Czosnowski, Darrell Arthaud and Jacob Kaufman. We will meet in the Student Center; coffee and snacks will be provided.



**Sunday Morning,  
September 28,  
8:30 or 11:00**

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

### Church Life Update



Birth: Finan Ian Nathan, son of Nick & Janelle Parton, July 29.

Death: Nancy Wakefield, August 17

### August 2025 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
August 3	—	591
August 10	—	558
August 17	—	612
August 24	—	608

### August 2025 Giving

August 3	\$21,409.46
August 10	\$23,490.93
August 17	\$20,494.93
August 24	24,402.69
<b>Total Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$821,871.67</b>
<b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b>	<b>-\$71,872.60</b>

**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 a.m.  
Christian Formation, 9:45 a.m.

### **SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

1	Labor Day/Office Closed
2 & 20	Widows' Connection
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Men's Coffee
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Celebrate Recovery
3, 10, 17, 24	Time of Prayer
3	Kids Life, M.S. & H.S. Youth Groups begin
3	Gather Moms Meeting
7	Christian Formation classes begin
7	Bible Presentation-1st Graders
13	Crescendo Coffee w/Short-term Missionaries
15	Sew & Share
16	Leadership Team Meeting
20	Gather Moms Meeting
21	Pastor Jeremy's Army Retirement Reception
21	Freedom in Christ Training w/Robert Reed
26	Middle School Late Night Game Night
28	Baptism Service
28	Ministry Coordination Council Meeting

## **Countryside Staff**

Pastor Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Pastor Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Bobbie Kaufman, Worship Arts Director

Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Bobbie Kaufman, Interim Worship Arts Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministry Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director