

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

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 6
June 2021

Transformed

- Pastor Jon Black

"Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

I remember learning this small rhyme as a child and occasionally blurting it out in response to others' insults. Then one day, I remember thinking, this rhyme cannot be true. Sometimes words can hurt deeply ... which can lead to unhealthy thoughts and attitudes for years. There came a time when I realized that I needed to be set free from painful memories of past insults.

Words are powerful and can be used to build up or destroy. Satan's primary weapon is his tongue. Satan, the Father of lies and the Accuser of believers uses his tongue to deceive us, tempt us, and accuse us. In fact, the name Satan means Accuser. He understands that if he can convince people to believe his lies, then he maintains some form of control over our lives.

We must be cognizant of Satan's strategy he uses against God's children. Our battle with this accuser is not a **power-encounter**, (as Jesus has already settled that battle on the cross); it is a **truth-encounter**. Jesus taught that when *we know the truth, the truth will set us free* - the truth being God's Word.

When we fill ourselves with God's Word, we will think differently. Our new thoughts will lead to new ac-

tions. Our new actions will develop new habits. And our new habits will result in new character. We will experience change.

Think of the wagon trails during the days of the wild west. Over time, the trails became entrenched with deep ruts from wagon wheels. Before coming to Christ, we spent years forging deep ruts of sinful thoughts, habits and patterns of living in our brains.

When we accepted Christ, these deep ruts did not automatically disappear. They would need to be replaced with new paths...(new thoughts, new acts, new habits). Replacing the enemy's lies with the truth of God's Word is the process for our spiritual transformation.

Rom 12:2 - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind.*

This spiritual transformation can at times seem like a painfully slow process. But just as a seedling will eventually develop into a fully grown tree when it receives its proper nutrients, so we will develop to spiritual maturity when we spend time in God's Word.

Then the truth will set us free from all of those painful lies we had once believed about ourselves.

Ministry to Women

How can we be writing articles for the June issue of The Pulse? It doesn't seem possible but when I realize that we've celebrated several holidays already and that school is out, I guess it's very possible. Women Ministries at Countryside has had a fairly busy year so far and we continue to pray and plan about upcoming events as well.

Our Thursday night Bible study continues to draw 25-28 women each week. It has been a gentle reminder that Jesus extends to each of us the same invitation He gave Mary and Martha – come to me. Even though their story is somewhat familiar, we've discovered that we each have a part of Mary and a part of Martha in our lives. And we are learning to deepen our devotion to God and to delight in sitting at His feet.



On **Saturday, June 12**, we invite you to join our ministry team as we do a deep clean of the church kitchen. We will start around 9 am and plan to finish by noon. The kitchen is used by several ministries and groups and we appreciate any help that will come our way!

We have found that many women engage in our "Woman's Night of ..." events. Monday, June 28 we'll host **"A Woman's Night of Worship"** which will be led by Kim Evangelista. These events begin at 7 pm and are usually finished between 8 and 8:30 pm. During the evening, we'll not only enter into a time of worship in song and scriptures but we will also have the privilege of hearing a testimony from one of our own ladies. You are encouraged to mark your calendars and bring a friend for this special time together. And we've also put "A Woman's Night of Prayer" on the calendar August 30; then November 29 we will once again have "A Woman's Night of Service."

MADE
To Worship

Women have been gathering at women's conferences and retreats in the Midwest Conference for well over 60 years! The tradition of meeting together for worship, connection, and communion will continue this year as we gather the first weekend of October 1-3. Even though the retreat has taken a different name,

"Breathe Gathering 2021," it was formed out of a deep desire to connect women, equip and encourage, and send women back into their churches to make a Kingdom impact where God has placed them. As Covenant people, we believe that we are better together. Breathe is no exception, what was once three separate Women Ministries "retreats" is now a combined weekend of worship, connection, and proclaiming the Word. It is no longer a retreat per say, but a gathering of women, who long to go deeper in relationship with Jesus. It's a place where movement begins and life extends. In addition to meeting in a new location at Covenant Cedars, Hordville, NE, women from Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas churches will be a part of the "gathering." You can receive information about what is happening in and around the Breathe Gathering by signing up on their website "breathegathering.com."



Blessings and hugs,

Linda Totman

Women Ministries Coordinator

Have you attended one of our Women's Saturday morning Coffee Connections? We are currently meeting "upstairs" at the Tin Roof Pantry in Galva each **Saturday morning at 9:00**, and we'd love to have you join us! Purchase your favorite drink and other goodies, if wanted, and be a part of this fun, relaxing time of fellowship.



June Lifestumin Schedule

2 | 7 pm Ignite Social Night @ Kelly's

8 | 9 am Devo's & Dodgeball
9:30 am Gals with God w/ Tiffani-
Service project @ Lakeside Park

12th – 18th | Ignite Mission trip to McAllen, TX

22 | 9 am Devo's & Dodgeball
10-11:30 am Gals with God @ Tiffani's

23 | 5 pm Ignite to Splash Aqua Park in Wichita



Watch For Upcoming Events:

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

A huge thank you to our Lifestumin leaders for another great year of ministry! Our faithful leaders include: Tom Sullivan, Nelson Vetter, Felipe & Kim Evangelista, Tyler Suderman, Sausha Friesen, Tiffani Eilrich, Aaron Glendening, Chad Boese, Nick Schafer, Mark Wurm, & Briana Lance.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021:

Cody Achilles, Katie Berg, Sam Boese, Tate Brewer, Hannah Farley, Sean Gorman, Alex Houston, Meghan Monroe, Zach Stucky.



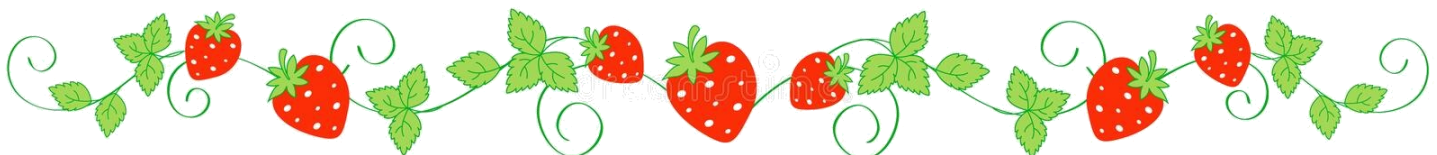
Covenant Cedar Summer Camp:

JR. High | Sunday, July 4th - Friday, July 9th.

SR. High | Sunday, July 11th - Friday, July 16th

We would love to have you join us this summer at camp. You can register for Summer Camp a few different ways: by picking up a form at church or printing it off the website and turning that back into Kelly, or you can register online at Covenant Cedars. Please make sure you list Countryside as your church home when registering online!

M & M Fundraiser - Thank you for your love and support! We received over **\$3,900** to help reduce the cost of the 14 students going on the mission trip to McAllen, TX. Your generosity is such a blessing to our ministry!



Countryside Kids



VBS | JUNE 1-4 & 6 (VBS PROGRAM) 9:00 AM - NOON | LUNCH PROVIDED

VBS at Countryside is for kids ages 4-4th grade (entering 5th grade). Each morning, June 1-4, kids will enjoy worship, games, crafts, and a Bible lesson. We will end our mornings with lunch from 11:30-Noon. We will try to accommodate allergies but, if you are concerned about that, you are welcome to send a lunch with your child. On June 6th kids will help lead worship during the services with the songs they learned throughout the week! Registration is required to attend. To register your child go to www.csidecov.com. You can find a registration link on the Children's Ministry page or the Events page.



COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP

It's not too late to register your kids for summer camp. Covenant Cedars in Nebraska is for kids entering 3rd-6th grade. We still have scholarships available so if financial assistance is needed please do not hesitate to reach out. Visit the church website to see details about registration and scholarships.

CAMP DATES (Based on 2021-22 School Year)

3rd-4th Grade | June 20-25

5th-6th Grade | June 27-30

KIDS PRAISE | JUNE DURING 8:45 & 11:00 SERVICES

This summer during June and July we will continue with our *Grow Curriculum* during Kids Praise while our Kids Town teachers take some much-needed rest! We are going to jump back into the Old Testament this summer and our June series is called *EPIC*. When we think about the Israelites in the wilderness, we often think of it as a time of disappointment, suffering, and promises deferred. What we often forget is that God was there even in the wilderness, reminding the Israelites of God's goodness and faithfulness. No matter their present circumstances, the people experienced that God was with them, and moved people like Joshua, Caleb, and Rahab to take incredible leaps of faith! Through the amazing accounts of Israel's journey during that time, your kids will also come to realize that they can: **spend time with God anywhere, trust God, take risks for God, and remember what God has done for us.**



PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

We will not meet for storytime during June but will resume in July. Storytime is for ages 3 - Kindergarten and resumes on Wednesday mornings @ 10:00 a.m. in Room 15

JUNE

1-4 | VBS 9:00 AM-Noon (Lunch Provided)

6 | VBS Program During Both Services

20-25 | Covenant Cedars Camp 5th-6th Grade

27-30 | Covenant Cedars Camp 3rd-4th Grade



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

Widows Connection June Events

Tuesday, June 1, 11:30am
Picnic at Lakeside Park
Shelter 5 by Mac Pool
Bring a dish to share & a
beverage.

Saturday, June 19, Lunch at
PF Chang's in Wichita,
Carpool at 12pm.
(Scholarship? Ask Lynn)



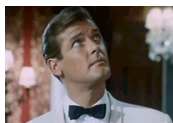
Crescendo Wichita Wind Surge

MiL Baseball Game **Sat. June 19, 6:05pm**
start. Invite your grandkids to attend with
you! Nothing says summer like a live
baseball game. We'll have a beautiful view
of the game, and Wichita too, from Riverfront Stadium.
Carpool from church at 4:15pm. \$15 group rate ticket
includes a \$3 concessions credit. Need 25 people to
qualify. Money due to church office by Tues. June 8.



Living Missionally (part 3 of a 10 part series)

Ever watch old James Bond movies?
My favorite part is after he listens to the
instructional tape, it goes up in smoke.
I always think to myself: *how does he
remember everything he heard??*



As Christ followers we desire to live ALL
our days "on mission." According to au-
thor and pastor Jim Denison, the first step to living mis-
sionally is discovering what is uniquely motivational in
life for you specifically. This he defines as **your person-
al mission**. Next, it's important to remind yourself of
your mission daily, so that you can live into it fully.
Sometimes that may involve accountability with others,
sticky notes, or even a recording!!

"Your mission, should you choose to accept it..." tells
us we have options when it comes to living out our mis-
sion. In Henry Cloud's book, *Boundaries*, he poses a sys-
tem for deciding what you're called to do that can forev-
er change the way you make decisions.

Throughout *Boundaries*, Cloud works to empower the
reader to value the "yes" and "no" they have in their
heart. He writes, "Those who can't respect our bounda-
ries are telling us that they don't love our no's. They only
love our yeses, our compliance. 'I only like it when you
do what I want.'"

God is not asking you to meet every need you see, or
every request made of you. He values the yes that's in
your heart. And he's not asking you to say "yes" with
your mouth when there is a "no" in your heart.

[Psalm 37:4](#) says, "*Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will
give you the desires of your heart.*" I think that not only means
that he will satisfy your desires, but actually fill you with
the right desires.

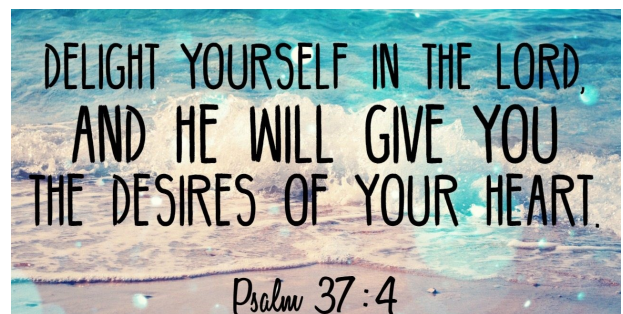
So if there's a yes in your heart to love someone, to do
something, go for it! If there's a "no," then you either
need to invite God to change your heart and pay atten-
tion to the work he does. Or you need to say "no," no
matter how much someone else wants you to say "yes."
Jim Denison, *Denison Forum*.

Spiritual Growth and Renewal

If you find that you're needing help hearing more clearly
the "yeses" and "no's" of life, or if you're "feeling out of
touch with God," or you are looking for deeper ways to
connect with God and grow in your relationship with
Christ this summer, ask Lynn Black about ***Spiritual
Disciplines***. We'll be meeting weekly in small groups of
three to four people for five weeks in June. During our
one-hour sessions we'll consider and practice several
practical ways to create space in our lives to hear from
God and grow our souls. Contact Lynn Black through
the Church Office, 241-4499, by June 8.

Looking ahead:

- ⇒ Orphan Train Museum, July 7
- ⇒ Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social,
Sunday, July 18, 6:00pm.
- ⇒ Picnic at Peterson's Cabin
Saturday, August 14, 5:00pm.



Newcomers and New Members Picnic rescheduled at the Kaminkow Farm for **Sunday, June 6 at 1:00pm.** (We were rained out before.) Hotdog roast, zipline, fishing pond, and so much more! Bring your pole. Enjoy getting to know others new to Countryside within this past year plus staff and leadership team. **RSVP to the church office by June 4.**



NEWCOMERS PICNIC RESCHEDULE

SUNDAY JUNE 6, 1-4PM
KAMINKOW FARM 311 -
16TH AVE MOUNDRIDGE
RSVP CHURCH 241-4499



*We have an immediate opening for a **Wedding Coordinator.** In this paid position, the coordinator fulfills an integral part of weddings and should be detail-oriented, have a cheerful and warm demeanor, have a humble and serving attitude, be outgoing and personable and be people-oriented and friendly. A copy of the current job description and application forms can be obtained in the Church Office.*



Newsletter Volunteers Needed

Once a month, our wonderful volunteer team helps us put the newsletter together, and we are looking to add to our team! If this is something you'd be interested in, call Kim in the Church Office and she will give you the details!



We're encouraging **Life Groups** to continue meeting this summer. If you are looking for a way to connect more deeply with others from Countryside, contact Lynn Black. She'll try to help you discern your next step!

Thank You's

Dear Friends at Countryside Covenant,
We want to thank you for all the wonderful work you did with Brush Up Mac at our house. Wow! The amount you were able to accomplish was amazing! Our yard looks great! Thank you so much! May the Lord be with you!

Sincerely, Frank & Jean Ballew



If you enjoy reading, you should "check-out" our church library! We have lots of good books just waiting to be read!

The Shannon Saga by Tracie Peterson and James Scott Bell consists of three books. In book one, "**City of Angels**", the courtrooms of 1903 Los Angeles are a man's world—until Kit Shannon arrives. With shoulders squared and dreams set high, Kit arrives in Los Angeles feeling a special calling to the law. Yet under the care of her socialite aunt, Kit quickly comes to realize that few understand her burning desire to seek justice and practice a profession known only to men. In book two, "**Angels Flight**", with her first trial a dramatic success, Kit Shannon steps out from the protective and guiding hand of her mentor and begins her own law practice. When she is drawn to the defense of a man accused of a crime that crosses racial lines, Kit is unprepared for the prejudice and hatred that is hurled in her direction. A loyal supporter of the law, Kit struggles with the secret role of the very officers who claim to represent justice. In book three, "**Angel of Mercy**", when an old enemy of Kit Shannon is arrested on suspicion of murder, he insists Kit is the only one who can represent him. Refusing at first, but moved by his desperation, she agrees. His possible guilt tests Kit's resolve to represent only the innocent. Step-by-step, she discovers there is more to this case than meets the eye. Much more.



Greetings Church!

During our last couple of Leadership Team meetings, we have been doing some reflection of what we have learned over the past year while managing through the Covid-19 issues. The questions that we used for the basis of our reflections are:

- What has God revealed to each of us through this last year?
- Are there changes that we need to embrace/strengthen?
- What do we need to let go of and how do we do that?
- How do we combat the spiritual warfare that seems to be raging?
- How do we discern God's direction for Countryside?

Some of the highlights from these discussions can be summarized in the following points that we captured:

- The importance of spending time in the Word, solitude, prayer, community
- Let go of opinions, and exercise humbleness
- Don't be too busy
- We should continue the online tools ... maintain connection points
- Let go of the past
- Focus on truth – Jesus ... reassurance of the Gospel
- Importance of loving people unconditionally
- Flexibility vs. control
- Importance of community
- Listen to God's voice
- Resting in the Word of God
- Discipleship
- Serving in and to our community

In our last meeting we tried to focus mainly on the question of discerning God's direction for Countryside and should we be doing anything differently. The discussion lead to a greater desire to listen for God's word and follow Him obediently. To be transparent – we believe we need to focus on daily obedience and through that process, God will lead Countryside in the ministries that He has planned for us – individually and collectively.

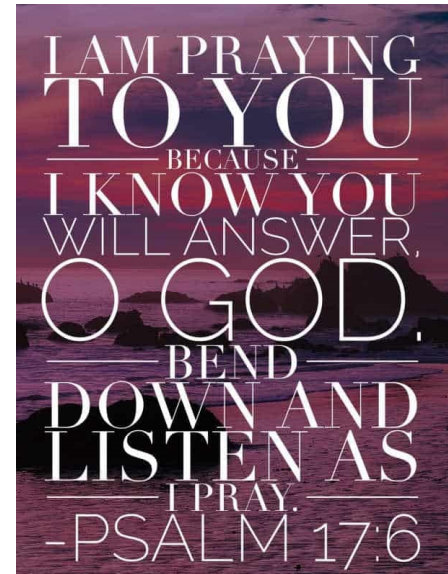
I would like to affirm the members of our Leadership Team in their desire to know God and to make Him known through our ministries and interactions with our community. It is awesome to be part of a team that has the single focus of being God's message to our community. I am also grateful to you, our members, attenders and sup-

porters for your faithfulness in participating in ministry opportunities and thoughtful giving. God continues to bless us as we are His blessing to others.

Please continue to seek God's direction daily and be obedient to His direction.

In Christ's service,

Bob Williford, Chairman



Church Life Update

Wedding:

Tricia Sondergard and Joshua Pimentel,
Saturday, May 15.

May 2021 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
May 2	164	531
May 9	158	536
May 16	132	513
May 23	—	596

May 2021 Giving

May 2	\$18,987.09
May 9	\$15,895.30
May 16	\$26,700.13
May 23	\$19,666.59
Total Y-to-D	\$463,679.67
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$27,728.52

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McPherson KS 67460

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Your June 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.

JUNE EVENTS

1-4	VBS
1, 19	Widows Connection
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Men's Coffee
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Celebrate Recovery
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Prayer Group
2	Ignite Social Event @ Kelly's
5, 12, 19, 26	Women's Coffee Connection
6	Newcomers to Kaminkow's Farm
8 & 22	Edge-Devos & Dodgeball
8 & 22	Edge-Gals With God
12	Kitchen Cleaning
12-19	Lifestumin Mission Trip to McAllen, TX
15	Leadership Team Meeting
18	Crescendo to Wind Surge Baseball Game
20	Father's Day/Confirmation Sunday
20-25	5th & 6th Grade Covenant Cedars Camp
27-30	3rd & 4th Grade Covenant Cedars Camp
28	A Woman's Night of Worship



Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant