



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 22, ISSUE 10
October 2023



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

THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Blessing the Next Generation

- Pastor Jon Black

Ps 71:17 - Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

A retired college professor had to travel to our hometown of Jamestown, New York to receive his monthly cancer treatments. My parents invited him to stay at our house on the night before his treatments. He stayed in my room while I got the living room couch (which enabled me to sneak in some late-night TV time).

I still remember the handwritten thank you notes that I found on my night stand every month.

I also remember how this man took the time to sit down with me and ask me a few specific questions about my school activities and interests. I never had an adult take such an interest in me up to that point.

I am still moved as I recall this retired professor's gentle, other-centered, Christ-like demeanor. I am more than moved. I am changed because this man took the time to go out of his way to make me a priority in his life. He was unknowingly making a future disciple by declaring the reality of God's power to the next generation through his small acts of kindness.

Discipleship has been a common topic of conversation amongst the church staff and leadership team this past year. God has been leading us to strategize specific ways that we as adults might pass on our faith to the next generations of students. We have identified three opportunities for this year.



The first opportunity is our upcoming annual Trunk or Treat outreach on October 31 from 6-7 pm. The second is our Christmas Eve morning worship service. And the third is our summer Vacation Bible School.

You might be thinking, what does Trunk or Treat have to do with discipleship?

- This is an opportunity to serve together side by side as a church intergenerationally. We are commanded to pass on our faith to the next generations and will never do that if we are unwilling to rub elbows with those entrusted into our care.
- An opportunity to redeem a secular holiday and focus on All Saints Day. We will decorate our car trunks and classroom doorways with biblical themes and characters telling God's story from Genesis to Revelation. There will be an opportunity for prayer (at a table) if our guests have specific needs and requests.

-continued on page 2



-continued from page 1 "Blessing the Next Generation"

- An opportunity to bless and welcome our community. We will extend an invitation to the following Sunday service where our guests will experience a worship service and message geared for them.

The Trunk or Treat loop will begin in our parking lot and funnel through the west end of our hallway, past our gym, student center, café and then out the library doors. Kids and parents will stop at every classroom door (also decorated with a biblical theme) to receive more treats from a Countryside participant.

This is an "all in" ministry. How can we all participate?

- ⇒ Pray for God's blessing over this event.
- ⇒ Purchase candy for the event.
- ⇒ Bring your young children to walk through Trunk or Treat
- ⇒ Decorate a car trunk or a hallway door.
- ⇒ Help as a parking lot greeter or attendant.
- ⇒ Create a Bible story decoration or artwork piece to be placed in between the cars or inside the church.

A sign-up sheet is coming for choosing your biblical theme or story in God's story. Possible themes may include:

Creation, Fall, Noah and the Flood, Abraham, Moses and Ten Commandments, Joseph, Esther, Red Sea, Exodus, Jericho, The Judges like Samson or Deborah, David and Goliath, Building of the Temple, Exile, Queen Esther, Daniel and Lion's Den, Rebuilding of the Temple,

The Birth of Jesus, Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus healing ministry, Jesus walking on the water, the cross of Christ, the resurrection of Jesus, the birthday of the Church, Jesus' Second Coming, the New heaven and new earth.

Who knows? Your participation and interaction may make a powerful impact on a young person's life....even as a retired professor unknowingly did with his simple short handwritten thank you notes and short conversations.

**KEEP CALM
AND
EAT
CANDY CORN**



Next Step Class

Next Step class begins **October 1 at 9:45 am.** This 5 week class is an opportunity to meet others new to Countryside, learn about our church, its ministries and our denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church. Discover your spiritual gifts and consider how God wants to use you for His kingdom work. A pre-requisite for membership and leadership. You can return to your regular CF class in November. Taught by Countryside Staff. Room 5.



Open Door Health Services

24th Annual Fall Fundraising Banquet

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Meadowlark Building at the
Kansas State Fairgrounds

To register, visit opendoorfriends.com or call 620-728-2229.

Church Life Update

Adoption: Rayne Nicole to James & Courtney Bohnenblust, September 22

Baby Dedication:
Daniel Butterfield

White Rose:
Logan Goodenough
Cade Morales



Our family is excited to announce our adoption of our youngest, Rayne Nicole Bohnenblust on September 22, 2023! At two years old, her story is already an example of God's faithfulness and mercy. Thank you church for your prayers during our fostering journey that have brought us to this day. We are humbled, grateful, and overjoyed to have Rayne officially a Bohnenblust. All glory to God!



October Youth Schedule:

- 4 |** 7 pm Fields of Faith @ McPherson High School Stadium
NO YOUTH GROUP @ Countryside
- 11 |** 6:15 -7:45 pm Middle School Youth Group
8-9:30 pm High School Youth Group
- 18 |** 6:15 -7:45 pm Middle School Youth Group
8-9:30 pm High School Youth Group
- 25 |** 6:15 -7:45 pm Middle School Youth Group
8-9:30 pm High School Youth Group
- 29 |** Student Sunday – LSM will lead in Worship
- 31 |** 6-7 pm | Trunk or Treat *sign up to host a trunk*



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.

CHURCH APP



M.S. APP



Lifestumin M.S Youth Group
Scan this QR code and join!

H.S. APP



Life Student Ministry H.S Youth Group
Scan this QR code and join!

Unite 2024 is in the Planning

Unite (formerly known as CHIC) is a denominational-wide event where we will Unite together around God's purposes. All Covenant churches across North America and beyond are invited to encourage and equip high school students for God's glory and neighbor's good. The event will be hosted at two separate locations. The Midwest Conference, that we are part of, has been assigned to go west to San Diego, held at San Diego State University, July 15-19, 2024. This event is for incoming freshmen (those who will complete 8th grade by summer of 2024) through outgoing seniors (class of 2024)! If you are interested in receiving more information, sign up for updates on the church app or website!



Envelope Fundraiser!

Life Student Ministry students are working hard planning and fundraising for Unite 2024 in San Diego, California. There is a display of colorful envelopes in the foyer with an amount on it. All you have to do is put that amount back in the envelope and return it to the box! All proceeds will go to students! Last Sunday for this is October 15th!

Fall Retreats at Covenant Cedars! More info and sign-up on the Church app/website.

- November 3-5 |** Middle School Fall Retreat at Covenant Cedars
17-19 | High School Fall Retreat at Covenant Cedars



Meet our LSM Intern:

Our very own Evelyn Evans is a junior at Central Christian College of Kansas where she is studying Pastoral Ministry/Student Ministries. Evelyn loves serving the middle school and high school students on Wednesday nights and Sundays mornings. She loves seeing students serve one another just as Christ serves. Her favorite class this semester is hermeneutics and pastoral care. She hopes to learn more about student ministry from this experience.



Countryside Kids

HOSTED BY:
COUNTRYSIDE KIDS



**P&M
PUMPKIN
RANCH**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

12:00-5:30
ACTIVITIES ON YOUR
OWN
5:30-6:30
JOIN US AT THE
CAMPFIRE FOR
HOTDOGS AND
SMORES

ADMISSION PRICES
(SPECIAL RATES FOR THIS EVENT)
3 YEARS AND UP \$11
2 YEARS AND UNDER FREE

P&M PUMPKIN RANCH

Please join us for our annual P&M Pumpkin Ranch Event on October 1st! Countryside Kids will be hosting this event which means we will be providing you with free hotdogs and s'mores at the campfires from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. See admission prices above, and please note that this is a special rate for Countryside Covenant Church that day. So, you will need to mention that you are with Countryside at the admission gate to get this special price. You are welcome to go out there when they open, but we hope to see you at the campfires at 5:30!

KIDS LIFE | WEDNESDAYS

Kids Life is our midweek program that begins on September 6th. The evening runs from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m.

- Kids Life is for children ages 4 - 5th grade.
- 1st - 5th grade will receive a handbook. The cost for those is \$10 (contact Amy for scholarships to help cover that cost if needed).
- Make sure your child brings their Bible each week!
- Preschool and Kindergarten are picked up in the nursery.
- 1st - 5th grade must be picked up in the Worship Center. Children will not be able to leave the Worship Center without a parent or guardian. Contact Amy if other arrangements are needed.

CALENDAR @ A GLANCE

OCTOBER

1 | Kingdom Families | 9:45 a.m. | Student Center
1 | P&M Pumpkin Ranch | Hotdogs and S'mores 5:30-6:30 p.m.

31 | Trunk or Treat | 6-7 p.m.

Wednesdays | Kids Life 6:15 - 7:45 p.m.

Sundays | Kids Town 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

To receive weekly emails from Amy on updates and events contact Amy! amy@csidecov.org



KIDS TOWN | SUNDAYS

- Ages 2 - Preschool will check in at the nursery for class.
- Kindergarten - 4th grade will check in at Room 15 next to the Countryside Café.

The theme for our unit this month is Staycation! Grab some blankets and flashlights! We're going to build a fort or jump on the couch because the floor is lava! That's right — it's time for a family staycation! In this series about Abraham and his family (and our families, too!), kids will learn that God blesses us so we can bless others and God always shows us compassion. That's why we can trust God (even when it's hard to trust each other), always belong in God's family, and can make peace with others — especially the people who live with us!



KINGDOM FAMILIES

OCTOBER 1 | NOVEMBER 5 | DECEMBER 3
9:45 AM | STUDENT CENTER

Kingdom Families is the first Sunday of each month! Families with children K-6th grade meet in the Student Center for a time of learning together. We will still have Kids Town during the hour for preschoolers. We will spend time introducing our new Kids Town unit for the month and introducing a new family discipleship practice together as well. A light breakfast will be served.



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

Which generation are you? The Greatest Generation was born before 1925, The Silent Generation between 1925 and 1945, Baby Boomers 1946-1964, Gen X 1966-1980, Millennials 1981 to 1995, followed lastly by Gen Z. Sociologists believe that each generation has some major circumstance(s) in common that help to define their communal thinking such as *The Great Depression* for the Silents or *The Freedom of the 60's & 70's* for Baby Boomers.

Author Jeanne Twenge in her comprehensive book, "Generations" says that these major events don't adequately tell the story of how common cultural experiences shape and define a generation's worldview. "It doesn't explain *all* the ways in which life today is so different from life twenty years ago, fifty years ago, etc.." In fact, Twenge has major data to back up her theory that instead of common, cultural experience, the single most powerful, defining force at work on each generation is technology.

And this isn't just about tablets or phones. After the technology of the wheel, crops, or the invention of writing, "today technology includes everything that makes our modern lives possible, from medical care to washing machines to multi-story buildings that make our lives strikingly different from past generations...technological change isn't just about stuff; it's about how we live, which influences how we think, feel, and behave."

If you go with Twenge's thoughts, you could place the blame of the "generation gap" squarely at the feet of technology. If each generation has its own defining technology, how do we expect to understand, relate to and/or keep up with others who are of a different generation than us? My mom doesn't text, so we talk on the phone all the time. My kids love to text so they rarely call.

It is said of Gen Z that some actually need practice having an in-person conversation because they are so trained to communicate through a device. As a person who wants to follow Christ, how does this impact Jesus' call for me to communicate the gospel with the next generation?

A couple of brief thoughts:

First, discipling others is a command Jesus gave to *all* His followers. Even if we are not exactly sure how to relate to another generation, *believers* are still the ones to reach out.

Second, there is something more powerful than technology that enables us to relate to differing generations for the sake of the gospel: the Holy Spirit. You partner *with* Him when you disciple someone. Be in prayer and see who God lays on your heart. He's in it to win it.

Third, place yourself in the same space as those you want to reach (even if it's in cyber space). Equip yourself to understand them!

Fourth, Countryside is seeking to provide spaces for such to happen this year. Be on the lookout for how you can volunteer and show up for events/activities/ministry initiatives that include those of a differing generation than yourself. Show up and initiate conversation!

What is your purpose in life? Are you willing to reach the next generation for Christ? How will you place yourself in a space where that could start today?

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Opportunities to help you begin discipleship this fall:

Trunk or Treat Oct. 31 from 6-7:00 pm. Get in the same space with other generations. You can decorate either a car trunk or a doorway in the church hallway. If you do not have a team, contact Lynn Black in the church office and we'll get you a partner and give you ideas for decorating with our theme.

The line is coming *into* the building this year to encourage familiarity with our building for trunk or treaters who don't have a church home. In addition to candy stations, we'll have a prayer station and offer an invitation to attend our service and kids' activities the following Sunday.

Get to know others while you work on your trunk as a team. Choose to work with young people so you can get to know them. Invest in our community by welcoming and silently praying for these young families while they parade through our church parking lot and hallway. Then look for them in our hallways on Sunday morning to welcome them back! We need you to create bridges for young people to see that the church is a place that welcomes, loves, and gives. Then the *greatest* gift can be shared with them: the good news of Jesus Christ.

Faith Friendships. You'd like to get to know a young person in our church but aren't sure how to go about it? Crescendo will partner with the Countryside Confirmation class by creating friendship pairs. Activities will be set up for you to attend together to help you facilitate this relationship. Partner with a 7th or 8th grader by meeting for a coke/coffee now and then. Get to know them by asking about their interests, activities, and families. Attend a school concert or sporting event and let them know you came to watch them. Send a card of encouragement on their birthday or after an important accomplishment. Pray for them regularly. These all add up to discipleship as you share stories about what your relationship with Jesus looks like. Contact Lynn Black or Kelly Morrow for more infor-

mation.

Understanding the Generations Christian Formation Class Sundays at 9:45am. Learn about each generation's unique qualities. Discern who you already know who may be a potential disciple for you. It could be your grandchild or someone you sit next to in church, choir practice, or Bible study! Learn ways to effectively communicate with others from a differing generation so that you can build understanding between yourself and others. Share your faith as you share your life. **Help** with Wednesday evening kids' ministry or sign up with the Missions Team to go on or support the next missions trip.



Widow's Connection is moving their Tuesday morning 9:30am meetings to the Cedars Wellness and Conference Center, 1021 Cedars Dr. Park in the main lot, enter the south facing doors; the conference room is on the left.

On **Sat. Oct. 21** the widows will go to the Wichita Zoo. Sign up with Judy, Becky, or Lynn. An alternate outing will be planned in the Countryside Café as well.



Crescendo welcomed 42 participants who enjoyed gathering together for a thought provoking and educational experience on trees.



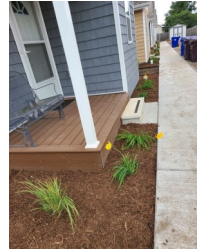


The Oak Harbor Cottages

The transformation of the cottages over the last month has been incredible. The addition of the plants, grass, sprinklers, and new sidewalks is really coming together. The trees along Oak Street are a nice transition and add to the property's curb appeal. If you haven't driven by lately, you really need to see the changes from a construction site to a beautiful village. A neighbor to the property said, "I love walking by each morning to see what is going to happen next at the tiny homes; they are beautiful."



What will happen next? The remainder of the landscaping, a permanent sign and two bridges will be installed by November, further adding to the site's beauty. Two cottages are ready for trim, cabinets and doors and two are ready for sheetrock.



From the beginning, it has been important to the team that this project serves a purpose and reflects the beauty of God's creation. A place where kids feel safe and are not ashamed to call home, even if it's only for a short time period. Where they can point to a cottage and say, "I lived there with my family, and it changed our lives; we knew that we mattered, and we felt love in our surroundings and the people who came alongside us." When we created this community following God's vision, we knew it was essential to bring that beauty to these cottages as a visual representation of God's love for all of us. We wanted to give our best in return, to those who live and grow in the cottages as we walk alongside them as they find hope and a future.

Testimony

"My children and I found ourselves homeless overnight and had nowhere to go. While I couch-surfed, my children stayed with their grandmothers. I was lost and at a loss for what to do. Then, I learned about the McPherson Housing Coalition. I am now in a cottage, reunited with my children, and working on getting back on my feet. I had lost all hope, and now, with support, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I have hope for the future and soon will be in a permanent home."

1 Corinthians 13:13 ~ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Blessings, Chris Goodson



I would like to thank the members of Countryside for their support and encouragement during the journey of changing my call to Pastor of Adult Ministries at Countryside. I am grateful to serve alongside so many wonderful people who love the Lord. A special thanks to both the Leadership Team and the Search Committee; the conversations, hours, and investment in this process on behalf of me and the congregation are most appreciated.



-Pastor Lynn Black

Countryside Covenant Church

TRUNK OR TREAT



October 31st | 6-7 PM

940 E Northview Avenue



Ministry to Women

Because our new mission statement is simple but impactful ... *"Connecting women to each other and to Jesus,"* Women's Ministry Team is using it as a guide to reach women as we plan opportunities for those in our church family.

Women of all ages and stages of life are encouraged to participate in not only the following opportunities but future ones as well. If you have a heart for this ministry, let's have a conversation! We'd love to put you in a spot where you can use the gifts and talents that God has given you!

Sixteen women from Countryside will be attending the **Woman's Fall Retreat, October 6-8**, at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp near Hordville, NE. Registrations close on Sunday, October 1 so be sure to go to www.cedars.org and register TODAY!

Through joyful worship, engaging classes, and rejuvenating fellowship, you will make meaningful and lasting connections with each other and your Heavenly Father. Don't miss this opportunity to be refreshed and renewed!

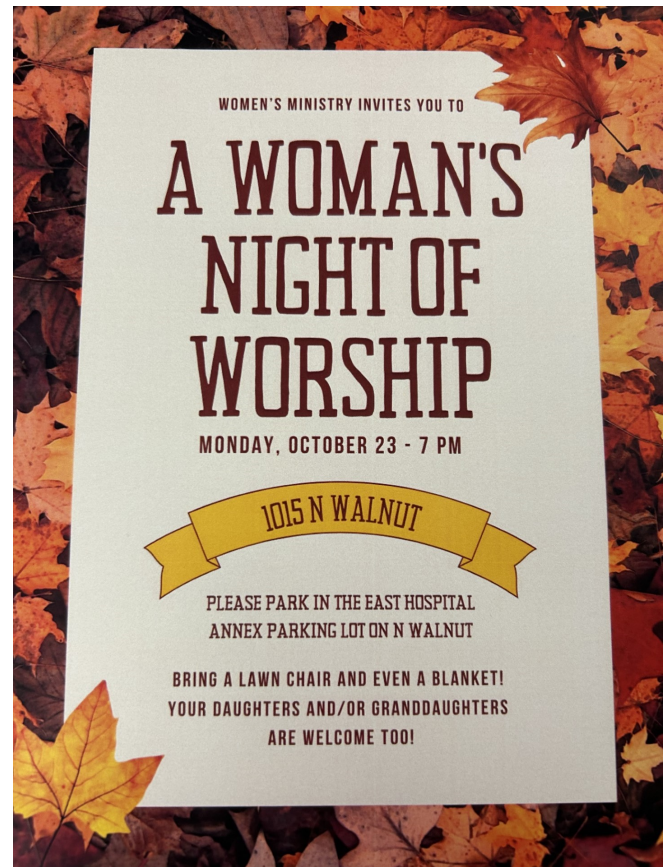
A Woman's Night of Worship will be held around a fire pit in the backyard of Aaron & Rebekah Atchley, 1015 N Walnut, on **Monday, October 23**. In an effort to make this opportunity intergenerational, you are encouraged to bring your daughter(s) and granddaughter(s) along with lawn chairs. We plan to start at 7 and be finished around 8 pm. Please park in the East Hospital Annex parking lot in the 900 block of North Walnut.

We also have plans to participate in Trunk or Treat this year on Tuesday, October 31! And on November 27, those attending A Woman's Night of Service will help us gather items for the McPherson County Food Bank. In December it's our goal to raise funds for the Omega House Women's Shelter with ticket sales to the Christmas Open House Tour on Sunday afternoon, the 10th.

As I write this, I am excited to see fall come soon in it's glorious beauty! Let me know if you have any questions about the above opportunities.

Linda Totman, Coordinator

Lizzy Butterfield, Carri Carlson, Crissy Cook, Katie Epp, Kris Lambertus, Melissa Laude, Juliana Meador, Val Mork, Cindy Pressnall



LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Pastor of Adult Ministries

At the Special-Called Church Business meeting on September 17, with the unanimous recommendation by the Pastoral Search Committee, Pastor Lynn Black was voted in (called) to serve as Countryside's Pastor of Adult Ministries! This has been a long process; please welcome and commend her to serve with this new title (formerly she was Director of Adult Ministries). Requirement to serve as a pastor at Countryside is that you have to be a member of the Covenant Ministerium (ie be ordained) (and be called by our church!) Thank you, Pastor Lynn, for everything you do!

Pastor / Director of Student Ministries Search Committee

At the same meeting a search committee for a Pastor / Director of Youth Ministries was elected to find a candidate for our youth. At the meeting Kelly explained that at the end of the school year she would be joining Matt in their family's move away from McPherson. Kelly's passion for our youth is palpable - leaving is hard; we are thankful for and blessed by her service here. The committee members are Sarah Bose, Steve Eilrich, Aaron Glendening, Ronald Hamilton, Megan Pruitt, Jen Scheck and Tom Sullivan. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Fruit of the Spirit: Peace, Galatians 5:22

It is a great time as fall activities commence. We want to be a church with great passion for Jesus our risen Lord! I believe Pastor Jon may outline in his article three activities in the coming year for which we target a whole church, intergenerational focus for all of our various ministries. These efforts can all at the same time be exciting, frustrating, uplifting and draining. On a personal note, I am reminded that a fruit of the spirit should be peace, but I find that I fall short on that measure far more often than I would like to admit. When the risen Jesus first appeared to His disciples He said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21) Some of you know that my wife Amy and girls are vacationing out of country, and I find that I miss the calming effect she generally has on me as we live life and its events together. Two are better than one (ref Eccl 4: 9-12). A person at my maturity level (ahem) should be at peace most of the time, right? I shouldn't need to change my demeanor or take a deep breath to put on a different behavior as I go to a church meeting and leave John Deere (tractor cranks but won't start) or leave Coop (pickup flat tire from previous evening) or leave McDonalds (why do I have to go inside for my mobile order when always before I got it at the drive through window?). Or what if I get a notification of additional cell phone charges (whew, really hard on the peace-o-meter!). When Amy is here she helps filter me; I'm sure to the world around I seem a lot more at peace. Dallas Jenkins, director of the Five Loaves, Two Fishes productions, said that at a low point in his life he and his wife came to the real-

ization that "our job is not to feed the multitudes, our job is to offer the loaves and fishes." We pray for God to use Countryside Church to His glory; but results of our efforts are really not the thing we need to measure – we need to measure our obedience and let God take care of the results He desires. Dallas said this realization let him begin to do his work (filmmaking) with the idea of pleasing God rather than worrying about results. He said: "It's not about the miracles in my story...It's about the peace that only comes from God." It was revealed to him that joy and happiness are two different things, and in relationship with Christ he could find joy even when there is no happiness. He could find peace. I pray for peace for all of us as our fall activities resume or commence! 2 Thess. 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all."



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!

September 2023 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
September 3	—	579
September 10	104	610
September 17	232	542
September 24	206	554

September 2023 Giving

September 3	\$20,203.96
September 10	\$19,149.73
September 17	\$27,672.48
September 24	\$20,050.92
Total Y-to-D	\$920,763.13
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	-\$29,109.60

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 | P & M Pumpkin Ranch |
| 2 | Staff Retreat, Office Closed |
| 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Worship Choir |
| 3, 21 | Widows' Connection @ Cedars Wellness Center |
| 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Men's Coffee |
| 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Celebrate Recovery |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | Time of Prayer |
| 4 | Fields of Faith, McPherson High School Stadium |
| 6-8 | Women's Fall Retreat |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | Women's Coffee Connection |
| 10, 24 | MOMs Group |
| 17 | MOMs Playdate |
| 17 | Leadership Team Meeting |
| 23 | Sew & Share |
| 23 | A Woman's Night of Worship |
| 31 | Trunk or Treat |

(see enclosed calendar for a full list of events)

Countryside Staff

Pastor Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Pastor Lynn Black, Adult Ministries

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

