

*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 19, ISSUE 3
March 2020

Mission Trip Opportunity

-Pastor Jeremy Bower

I don't have time for it; it's too far away; it's too expensive; I won't know anyone going; I'm not sure I have the right skills; it's going to be boring; my kids are too young; I'm too old. Those are just some of the reasons why I haven't attended a mission trip in the past.

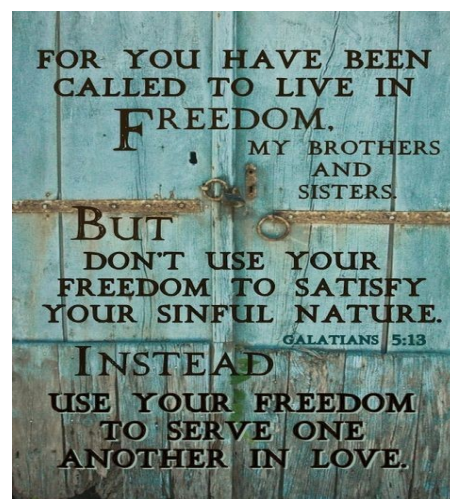
This summer, we are trying to create the best-case scenario for you to say **YES**. We are planning to go to the Kansas City Metro area over a week-end to partner with Freedom Fire Covenant Church and serve various ministries. This mission trip is designed to be an inter-generational trip that is: family friendly, wallet friendly, time-friendly, distance friendly, and skills friendly. There are opportunities to do yard work, build/repair fences, clean, evangelistic outreach, pack and serve food, and prayer. This trip is scheduled for June 12-14. We will depart the church parking lot on Friday (around 12:30 p.m.) and return on Sunday night.

Think of this trip as a "try-it-out and see" mission trip. The only major expense is lodging, which we will help supplement. A family of 6 could attend this trip for less than \$300 (including meals) and, if you're single, it's even less. There will be opportunities for young children to be engaged and more experienced adults to serve as well.

I hope you can attend one of the informational meetings (March 1 & 22, after each church service) to learn more about this opportunity and pick up a tentative schedule of activities. Consider what God might be calling you and others to as we live out our mission here at Countryside Covenant. You can RSVP for this trip with a \$50 non-refundable deposit (per family unit) by April 5th (Palm Sunday).

- ⇒ When: June 12-14, 2020
- ⇒ Where: Kansas City Metro Area
- ⇒ Why: To serve with one another in the love of Jesus Christ
- ⇒ Cost: \$200-\$299 per family unit. Assistance is available for those who need it.

Contact me if you have any questions, jeremy@csidecov.org or call the Church Office, 241-4499.





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

“Politics and the Bible” will be discussed at our next **Cov Talk**, an event the whole church is invited to attend. Elected citizens and public servants with a connection to Countryside will share their views on how the Bible and government interface. Speakers include Rep. Les Mason, Canton Mayor Tony Wedel, McPherson Mayor Tom Brown and City Attorney Jeff Houston. You’ll have opportunity to ask questions and to discuss this important topic from many vantage points. It will be **Saturday March 21, 10am** in the Student Center. Coffee and treats provided.

“Developing Leaders.” For the past several Sunday mornings, **Young Professionals and Crescendo Boomers** have been piloting a new **leadership curriculum** with teachers Jeff Houston and Connor Gibson. Varying leadership styles, for both the workplace and church, have been explored, including traits of a good leader. Students are taking personality inventories and other indicators to help them assess their own potential for leadership and how they lead best. An understanding of how leadership works in the Covenant church is also emphasized. The class will be offered again in a monthly format this fall. Contact Lynn Black if you are interested.



Widows' Connection seeks to help women find friendship and empathy with others who are experiencing similar life circumstances. They meet the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30am at the Cedars in a conference room. Next meeting is March 3. Contact Judy Blaine for more information: 360-355-0943.

Joy Game Night is Sunday, March 29 at 6pm. Bring a snack to share and your sense of humor! Room 20.

Join us for the **Dillon Lecture Series** in Hutchinson on March 10 at 10:30am to be inspired by award-winning journalist Byron Pitts. His 2009 Mem-

oir, “Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Help Me Conquer Life’s Challenges” chronicled his journey overcoming illiteracy and a stutter to become a journalist. We will meet at church at 9:30am and travel to Hutchinson Sports Arena with lunch after at Chick-Fil-A. Sign up with the church office by March 9. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online. <https://www.hutchcc.edu/dillon-lecture-series>

Recently, Tom Stinemetze gave us a tour of the **McPherson County Food Bank**. If you would like to help for a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings or Friday afternoons at the Food Bank, just show up. If you are available on a Monday to transport food from Dillons or Walmart to the Food Bank, contact Tom Stinemetze, 620-241-6460.



GOAL FOR 2020: SIMPLICITY

Leona Bergstrom, co-author of “Third Calling; What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life”, shared their family’s ideas for setting 2020 goals. Overarching all of them is their renewed sense for the pursuit of simplicity. Here are some examples:

- **Declutter.** Everything. Get rid of unnecessary stuff lurking in closets, garages, and computers. Spend March getting rid of one item for the number of the day (1 item on the 1st, clear up through 31 items on the 31st.) It's a motivating and effective method for calming the chaos.
- **Watch less TV.** The *average* American baby boomer watches *at least* 45 hours of TV *per week*. What else might God have you do with more of your time?
- **Read** more biographies and less how-to books. Learn how to be, not just do.
- **Walk** more and sit less. By some measures, three minutes every hour is better than a 30 minute work out.
- **Develop relationships** with all generations, especially grandchildren.
- **Ponder** the goodness and majesty of God moment by moment.

What are **your** goals for the year 2020?



Ministry to Women

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him," (Psalm 28:7).



"As wives, mothers, employees, employers, and friends, we have a lot on our plates. It gets exhausting at times. It feels as though we're pulled in multiple directions simul-

taneously. Any given day can find us in prayer with God, paying bills, scheduling doctor appointments, giving eight hours to our employers, driving the kids to basketball, football, or baseball games, planning creative ways to grow our business, studying God's Word and spending quality time with hubby.

Sometimes I just want to kick off my shoes, lay back, and chill...but I can't. There's too much to get done. I need some strength. I need some help. Does this sound like you too? I'm sure it does. Help is on the way.

David reminds us in today's verse that God is our strength. God empowers us. This verse reminds me of Isaiah 40:31 which encourages us that when we wait on the Lord, He will renew our strength. Renewed strength is what we need. I can't afford for my strength to be depleted and neither can you.

Don't misunderstand me. Of course, we need rest. We need to recharge our batteries. However, we find encouragement in the Word that the Holy Spirit is our Helper. God sent the Holy Spirit to come along side us to ensure we get everything we need – to DO everything He needs us to DO.

So, let's stick with David and place our trust in God. He knows every bill that needs to be paid. He knows every concern we have about our health and our families' health. He knows everything that's going on in our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

He will come through for us. So we can praise and rejoice. We can look forward to hope with great expectation because He's on our side. Be encouraged today in knowing you have the best Helper in the universe waiting to help you with every issue concerning you." – Aretha Grant

Possibly you need the encouragement that only God can give so you too can praise and rejoice. Women Ministries is excited to announce our next **Woman's Night of Worship** that will take place on Monday, March 30 at 7 pm in the Student Center. Our friends, Tamara and Laurie from the Clay Center Covenant Church, will lead our time of worship and reflection. Consider this your invitation to bring a friend and join us for this meaningful time together.



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

... During the months of April and May, Women Ministries will once again encourage women to sign up to spend a casual evening with five other women for dinner.

The hostess will contact you and ask you to bring a dish to compliment the main entrée. You'll find good food, conversation and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere! (In 2019 several women attended these gatherings and the reports included "I had a great time and can't wait until we do this again.") Be sure to watch for opportunities to sign up!



Remember too that our Saturday morning **Women's Coffee** is currently meeting at Countryside Café at 9 am. It's a great way to meet other women who attend CCC and spend an hour or so together!

Sew & Share, Monday, March 30, 9:00 am, Room 5. Come and help make/create projects for the mission field.



Sherry Siemens shared her quilt craft in February.



Church Life Update



Birth: Kaelynn Jane Bower,
born January 29 and adopted by
Pastor Jeremy & Kari Bower



Coming up on **April 18, 2020** is the annual
Brush Up Mac. Contact Sandee Thompson
@ 620-241-7828 with any questions or for
more information.



Thank You's

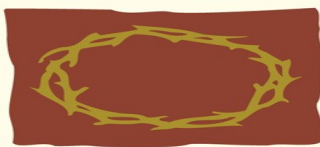
Dear Countryside Covenant Church,
The holiday season is over, but not the
memories. Thank you for the caroling,
the beautiful flowers, cards and visits.
The Christmas Eve service was such a
blessing.



Sincerely with thanks,
Betty Brandsted & Pat Johnson

Thanks to everyone who helped with the dinner for
the funeral of Bill Snyder, to everyone who provid-
ed salads and cakes, and to those who helped in
the kitchen: Juliana Meador, Linda Pritchett,
Emilie Schulz, Cynthia Swenson, Taryn Vetter &
Sarah Walker-Goering. What a great crew!

Val Mork



Holy Week Calendar

Palm Sunday, April 5

Worship Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday for all kids ... Please plan to arrive
to the service of your choice a few minutes early.
We will be handing out palm branches before
each service and inviting the kids to process
around the sanctuary during our opening songs.
Look for Amy when you come in the lobby!

Christian Formation Classes at 10:00 a.m.

Baptism Service, 6:00 p.m. (If you or a family
member desires to be baptized, contact the
Church Office. An informational meeting will be
held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1.)

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Worship Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

No Christian Formation Classes

Easter Lilies... If you wish to place a lily in memory or
in honor of a loved one, please write "Lily" on your
Response Card or call the Church Office no later than
Sunday, March 29. Cost is \$8 per lily. Please specify too
the name(s) that your lily is in recognition of.

March Lifestumin Schedule

4th | 6:30pm Edge
8pm Ignite

11th | 6:30pm Edge
8pm Ignite

13th | Lifestumin to Wichita Union Rescue
Mission
Edge & Ignite 8:30am – 2:30pm

18th | No Youth Group – Spring Break

20th | Edge Spring Break Event

25th | 6:30pm Edge
8pm Ignite



Lifestumin Service Opportunity

Wichita Union Rescue Mission
Leave Countryside at 8:30am
Bring Sack Lunch
Return Home Approximately 2:30pm
Sign-up deadline is March 9th



EDGE SPRING BREAK EVENT

Friday, March 20th

8:30am Meet at Church
Aviate Trampoline Park
The Arcade & Lunch
Movie in Newton
Arrive back at church by 4:30pm
Sign up by March 13th–Cost is \$35



Leader Spotlight:
Brandon Cook

Brandon has lived in Canton since 2004, graduating from Canton-Galva High School in 2008. His senior year, he was the recipient of the Citizenship Award.

Brandon currently works at Walmart. Some of his favorite hobbies include gardening, video games, working on vehicles and small engines.

Brandon has served in Lifestumin for six years in various rolls. Brandon is dedicated and hardworking and will serve wherever he is needed. Brandon enjoys all the different personalities of students and what each of them add to the group. He currently co-leads 6th/7th grade boys. Brandon has an incredible story of how God gave him a second chance, and he strives to live out his faith with a servant's heart.

McPherson High School Food Pantry is collecting food. Here is a list of items that are needed:

- ★ Individual Meals
- ★ Individual Soups
- ★ Beef Sticks/Beef Jerky
- ★ Granola Bars
- ★ Pop Tarts
- ★ Cheese



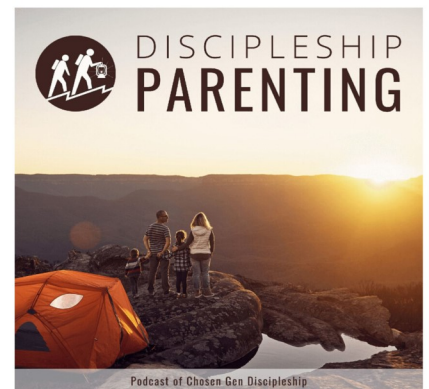
Items can be left on the table by the Church Office.



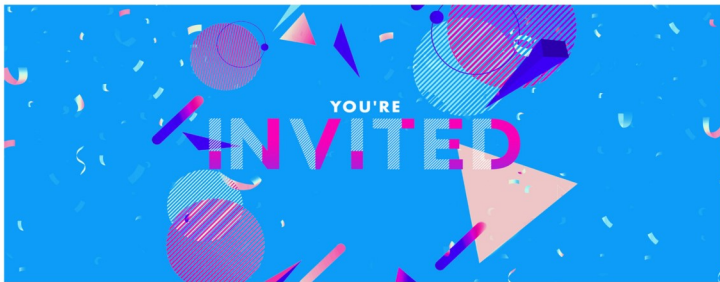
Countryside Kids

PODCASTS

Podcasts are one of the fastest growing areas of communication today, primarily because our mobile phones enable us to listen to them while driving, working out, cooking, or doing chores around the house. Check out these two podcasts! *God's Big Story* is a new podcast made just for kids! *Discipleship Parenting* will help you to be fully equipped to be a parent who is intentional about discipleship!



KIDS TOWN



When some people hear the word “worship,” they think of church buildings, or hymns, or special rituals. To some people, worship sounds pretty boring. But that’s not at all how God talks about worship! In the pages of Scripture, we discover that worship is so much bigger than what happens at church — and it’s definitely not boring. Worship is a party! And it’s a party we’re all invited to attend. In this series, kids will be invited to worship God both at church and at home as they learn that we can worship God through prayer, we can worship God by living for Him, we can worship God even during hard times, we can worship God out loud, and we’re all invited to Jesus’ party.

CALENDAR

March

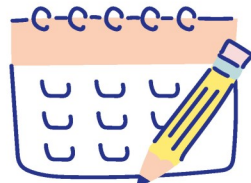
18 - No Kids Life (Spring Break)

April

29 - End of Year Celebration for Kids Life

VBS 2020 June 1-5

Summer Camp July 6-9/10



WORSHIP

In February our praise team grew when we added a few guitarists! Jake Kaufman has been working with the guitar team for a few months now and they were ready to join the praise team on a few songs they have been working on! And, a special thanks to the *Lifestumin* for inviting us to join them during a special worship service at the end of January when the Sterling College Praise Team visited!

FUNDRAISERS

In June, 11 kids will be heading to Texas for the preteen mission trip! We are continuing to raise funds for this trip and during the month of March we will be selling donuts and muffins. They will be available on Sunday mornings near *Countryside Cafe*. Also, don't forget to check out *Countryside Kids Market* during the month of March for new items! All proceeds go toward the mission trip as well!



DO YOU WANT WEEKLY UPDATES ABOUT WHAT WE ARE LEARNING?

Receive weekly email updates by emailing Amy at amy@csidecov.org

Worship

Discipleship

Service

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

As I was driving to work this week, I heard a song on the radio that really spoke to me. The song "Nobody" is by a Christian group, Casting Crowns. The song has been out for a couple of years, but this week was the first time that I had heard it. The gist of the song is that God uses all of us for his purpose if we are intentional about our obedience to Him. It doesn't matter what we bring to the task, God has gifted us individually for a purpose that no one else can fulfill. Here's the refrain to the song:

*I'm just a nobody trying to tell everybody
All about Somebody who saved my soul.
Ever since You rescued me,
You gave my heart a song to sing.
I'm living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.
I'm living for the world to see nobody but Jesus.*

How great would it be if we could start every day with the attitude of living our day-to-day lives in such a way that people see nobody but Jesus?

I was also reminded this week that we live out our faith by the actions we take to demonstrate the love of God. Nowhere is this plainer than in the words of James:

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:14-17 NIV)

In our February Leadership Team meeting we discussed several opportunities which sometimes come our way for the church to support special requests for financial assistance. As we respond to these requests, we strive to demonstrate the love of God and show the world who Jesus is. I am so thankful that our congregation is faithful in their giving and that we have the ability to share God's blessing. Over the past year,

we have been able to support several local organizations as well as special needs for some of the missionaries we support. Please know that we, as a church, are having an impact on our community and the world around us.

Another way we show the love of God is through service projects and mission trips. Please check-out the information regarding the upcoming All Church Mission Trip on page 1. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to actively engage in showing God's love to a broken world.

Blessings in Christ our Lord,
Bob Williford

¹Nobody lyrics © Kobalt Music Publishing Ltd., Songtrust Ave, BMG Rights Management



We are planning on putting two softball teams together this year, so dust off your glove and sign up at the Information Center or call the Church Office! Games will start in May.

February 2020 Attendance

	Christian Formation	Worship
February 2	242	443
February 9	253	443
February 16	244	487
February 23	241	501
Y - to - D	245	482

February 2020 Giving

February 2	\$17,463.50
February 9	\$15,538.35
February 16	\$18,719.50
February 23	\$15,205.06
Total Y-to-D	\$189,205.06
Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D	\$16,509.05

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

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Your March 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.
Christian Formation Classes, 10:00 a.m.

MARCH EVENTS

1, 15	Single Women
3	Widows Connection @ The Cedars Wellness Center
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Men's Coffee
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Celebrate Recovery
4, 11, 18, 25	Adult Spring Choir Rehearsals
7, 14, 21, 28	Women's Coffee
10, 24	MOMs Group
21	Crescendo CovTalk
24	Leadership Team Meeting
29	Ministry Coordination Council Meeting
29	Joy Game Night
30	Sew & Share



Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Amy Brunk, Children's Ministries Director

Connor Gibson, Worship Arts Director

Kelly Morrow, Student Ministries Director

Lynn Black, Adult Ministries Director

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant