



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 10  
October 2021

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

# THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

## The Words We Speak

- Pastor Jon Black

When I think of the Apostle Paul, I have typically thought of a leader that was passionate, convicted, strong, risk-taker, outspoken and confrontational; as one who would never back down from a good argument. I have often thought of Paul as a consummate Alpha male with whom I would not dare to disagree or debate. I would get schooled.

But as I read through Paul's letter to the Ephesian believers this past week, I was struck with new insights into his leadership strategy and character.... namely how often he demonstrated kindness, gentleness, and patience in dealing with others.

The words we speak (or write) spill out from what is inside. Our words and attitude reveal our true heart's condition.

Consider some of Paul's words in his letter and hear what spills out from his heart.

***Eph 4:2** - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

*Does this mean we should never confront others with the hard truth?* No. But when we speak the truth, our motive should be out of love for the other.

***Eph 4:15** - Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*



*What does it look like when we speak the truth in love?* Paul continues:

***Eph 4:29** - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen...31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

And in all of our conversation...

***Eph 5:17** - .....be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.*

There is much to debate and confront these days. There are many reasons to be frustrated. In all our conversations....

- *What do our words reveal about our heart condition?*
- *What are our true motives for speaking forth the truth?*
- *What kind of attitude is displayed in the tone of our voice and nonverbal signs?*

- continued on page 2

## October Youth Schedule:

6 | 6:15-7:45 pm Edge  
8-9:30 pm Ignite

13 | 6:15-7:45 pm Edge  
8-9:30 pm Ignite

20 | 6:15-7:45 pm | Edge  
8-9:30 pm | Ignite

24 | Ignite Paintball Event at Elite Sports

27 | 6:15-7:45 pm | Edge  
8-9:30 pm | Ignite

### Save the Date:

Edge Fall Retreat, November 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> @ Covenant Cedars

Ignite Fall Retreat, November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> @ Covenant Cedars

Details coming soon!



Life Student Ministries recently hosted the **See You After The Pole** event. We had over 120 students attend from various churches in the community!



### 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.



### Sandwich Generation

You've heard the term, now what does it mean? Any adult who finds themselves both with dependent children and aging, transitioning parents can get "sandwiched" when either or both ends need your help, support, or financial assistance. If this is you or soon to be you, we're starting a group who can offer support and resources. Contact Lynn Black or Kristi Monroe in the church office to learn more about how your entire family can benefit from doing some preparation for this season in life.



### - The Words We Speak, continued from page 1

After reading the words of Paul, maybe he wasn't as hard-headed as I would have imagined him to be.

- *Could it be that we, like Paul, can display confidence in a gentle way?*
- *Could it be that we can confront others with kindness and compassion as our primary motive?*
- *Is it possible to correct others by focusing on how we can build them up according to their needs?*

I think it is.

Let us make every effort to speak the truth in love.....and maybe we will look a lot like Paul.



# Countryside Kids

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER!



### KIDS LIFE

**WEDNESDAYS | 6:15 PM - 7:45 PM**

#### DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Kids ages 4 - 5th grade will be dropped off and picked up in the Worship Center on Wednesday nights.

#### PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

While we know that life can get crazy and it can be difficult to commit to a class just for parents on Wednesday evenings; we don't want to lose sight of our mission to come alongside parents and equip them to be spiritual leaders in their homes. Instead of meeting weekly, we will be planning parent gatherings once a month for parents to attend (during the same time your child is participating in Kids Life). **We will meet on the first Wednesday of October, November, January, February, March, and April.**



### TRUNK OR TREAT | OCTOBER 31ST 5-6 PM

This is a fun event that connects us to our community. Please consider serving for this event by either hosting a trunk or donating candy! Contact Amy with questions.



### FAMILY NIGHT MEAL

Join us on October 6th for our Family Night Meal from 5-6 PM. We will be serving Taco Soup. We are still looking for people to prepare and serve the meal. Please contact Kristen Houston at (620) 242 - 7551 for more info. You may RSVP for this meal by responding on your connection card or through the website!



### PARENT EQUIPPING CLASS ON ZOOM

There are some conversations that we need to have with our kids that are really hard! Maybe you never had it modeled in a healthy way or maybe you really aren't sure how to approach it in a biblical way. Join us on Zoom on Wednesday nights at 9:00 PM starting October 10th as we walk through having "The Talk" with your kids together. Check out the website or email Amy to sign up!

### OCTOBER

**3, 10, 17, 24, 31** | Kids Town @ 10:00 AM

**6, 13, 20, 27** | Kids Life @ 6:15 PM

**3** | P&M Pumpkin Ranch

**6** | Kids Life Family Meal & Parent Gathering

**31** | Trunk or Treat 5-6 PM

### NOVEMBER

**3, 10, 17** | Kids Life @ 6:15 PM

**7, 14, 21, 28** | Kids Town @ 10:00 AM

**3** | Kids Life Family Meal & Parent Gathering

## Thank You's

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Celebration of Life dinner for Jaymie O'Dell. A special thank you goes to all of you who provided salads, cakes, and cookies, to my callers and to those who helped with the set-up on Thursday and Friday. Most of all, I wish to thank the wonderful ladies who helped in the kitchen. I think we would have made Jaymie proud.

- Val Mork

Thank you for offering your support in our time of need. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

- Molly Stucky & family

### Open Door Pregnancy Care Center

22nd Annual Fall Fundraising Banquet

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

**Dinner & Program: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Meadowlark Building at the  
Kansas State Fairgrounds

Speaker: Matt Hammitt

An opportunity to make a financial gift will be extended. Dinner is complimentary.

RSVP before October 4, by calling  
620-728-2229

Adults only please, as seating is limited.



On September 1st, we lost a dear friend and a vital member of the Oak Harbor Cottages team in Jaymie O'Dell. She was one of the driving forces

behind the cottages and, most importantly, a prayer warrior for the project. As we grieved her loss, we asked ourselves, "how do we move forward as a team after such a tragedy?" Karolyn Moore, the Director of supportive services for MHC, has this to say, "Yes, we are all in shock and grieving; but God knew she was coming home. He will make a way."

The team had no idea what He had in store for us, but we prayed and marched on. Immediately the phone began to ring; the first call was from Linda Andersen "I want to help," she said, and then Barb Bland stepped forward. Next, Wendy Johnson from the Baptist Church offered to hold the garage sale that Jaymie was planning and on we went. More and more people stepped out in faith to help us continue the work that Jaymie was doing. We were amazed at how things were coming together.

We have known from the beginning that this was God's project and not ours, and once again, He proved His faithfulness to us as we relied on Him to bring us what we needed every step of the way. This project is not complete, and we need more volunteers and funding to complete it, but we know that God is faithful.

We remind ourselves daily that the Oak Harbor Cottages are more than a group of homes; it is Hope for a community that has been left behind. Watching it unfold has been incredible. We do not know how this story will unfold, but we hope that it not only reveals the love of Christ to the community, but that it inspires others to follow God's leading.

We believe that every cottage has an extraordinary story behind its construction, and we recognize the efforts of every person who has worked toward its completion. We will never forget Jaymie's contributions, and through Jaymie's Place, she will have a lasting impact on the community.

Romans 8:28 "and we know that in all things God works for the good of all who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Please continue to pray as we move forward.

For additional information contact:

Don Bland (620) 334-0360

Chris Goodson (620) 242-6799

Karolyn Moore (620) 242-3351

### Disaster Relief Opportunity

Our national denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church, through its MERGE program is hosting some relief efforts. Our Mission Team is researching opportunities for next spring and summer. However, there are immediate needs for displaced families. One being offered is in Mound Bayou, MS, Nov. 6-14 or any portion thereof. Because of the short notice the Mission Team is not promoting this; however, my wife and I are considering going. Housing and meals are provided, but there is a \$25/day fee/person. Work involves sheetrock, flooring and electrical. A trip with more notice is being researched for next spring or summer, but if anyone is interested in the November trip, please contact me. Allan Sents, allansents@hotmail.com, 620-241-4713.







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

### Escape Room Experience in Wichita:

Saturday evening Oct. 16. Teams meet in a themed room and have one hour to complete a mission and “escape” the room by uncovering hidden clues, cracking tough codes, and solving challenging puzzles. Each discovery and “aha” moment brings you closer to completing the mission. But hurry, the clock starts ticking the moment you enter! To sign up stop at the Crescendo Escape Room Table in the church lobby after church or call the church office. Space is limited.

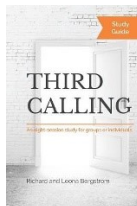


### Prayer Walks on Mondays in October.

Praying while walking outdoors is one way to make your prayer life become more real as well as revive your walk with God! A Prayer Labyrinth offers a guided approach to praying and helps you focus on specific things that you may not take time to deal with in your busy life. Carpool from church Mondays at 9:00am to various sites for walking and prayer. Check the church bulletin, app, or website for more details. RSVP to Lynn Black 755-7585 before each Monday so we know you’re coming.



**If you’ve recently retired,** Crescendo has a gift for you! The book “Third Calling” has played a significant role in helping many people re-tool, re-focus, and re-evaluate their concept of retirement. Gain insight into how God may be leading you in this new season of your life. Your best years of ministry are still ahead! Contact Lynn Black.



### Get to Know Kids by Serving Them! Create Relationships and “Be a Paul.”

#### Community Mental Health Event.

*Ushers needed!* The Pandemic has caused a host of issues that affect the mental health of students. Your grandkids and/or their friends are needing help from older adults who care. McPherson USD 418 is sponsoring two community mental health events on Thursday, Oct. 7 (Anxiety and Depression) and Tues., Oct. 26 (Suicide Prevention) at 6:30pm at the community building. *They’ve asked us to usher* and then stay for the event free. Please contact



Lynn Black if you are interested in serving our community by ushering and learning more about how to help your children and grandchildren.

**Tutors needed** for helping 5<sup>th</sup> graders with their math facts. You don’t have to be amazing at math to be helpful, just available and encouraging! Help an hour a week at Washington Elementary by working one on one with a student and quizzing them with simple math flash cards. Contact Kristen Houston (242-7551) for more information.



### Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> - Dinner for Wednesday evening volunteers

so they can go straight from work to a hot meal to ministry with our kids/students. Sign up to meal plan/shop, cook, or serve and clean up. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CACAF2EA4FC1-wednesday> Plan to stay for dinner to get to know our younger families! Great opportunity for your life group to work together!



Looking ahead to November...

### CovTalk Monday, November 8, 7:00pm.

“Pieces Falling, Navigating 9/11 with Faith, Family, and FDNY,” by Ann Van Hine. Her husband was a first responder and made the ultimate sacrifice. Ann will share her testimony of how this event rocked their world and how God met them in the midst of it. She is Pastor Jeremy Bower’s aunt! We will invite the community so bring friends to hear this amazing story!

[Media | Ann Van Hine](#)



### Church Life Update

**Death:**  
Jaymie O'Dell, September 1

**Dedication:**  
Faith Nichole, daughter of Nick & Ashley Schafer

**Wedding:**  
Leah Parker & Mitch Harger, September 6

**White Rose:**  
Kyson Sides



## Ministry to Women

As we turn the page on the calendar to October, I have to admit that this is my most favorite time of the year! I love football games, crunchy leaves, sweaters and sweatshirts, bonfires, candy corn with m&m's and peanuts and almost anything pumpkin! But even more than all of those things, it is the opportunity to encourage women to grow in their faith as they plug into Bible studies or attend special events and participate in service projects that Women Ministries organize.



**GOING BEYOND SIMULCAST** with **Priscilla Shirer** will be hosted by Women Ministries here. Priscilla is such an awesome teacher of the Word and her brother Anthony Evans leads

worship that ushers a person into the presence of God. And, even though it will be served up differently than originally thought, we pray that you'll be able to join us for this time of learning. Because some have said that the day gets to be too long to attend, Women Ministries has reached the decision to break up the simulcast in three viewings. What has been a typical six-hour presentation, we will turn into three 2-hour segments. The first will be held on **Saturday, October 9 from 9 - 11 am**; the second on **Thursday evening the 14th from 6:30 - 8:30** and the third on **Monday, October 18 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm**. And by doing that we are able to keep the costs to a minimum ... You can choose to pay \$5 per session or purchase a pass for all three sessions for \$12. Those tickets are now on sale!

Our WM Team is currently making plans for **A Woman's Night of Service** which will be held on Monday, November 29. Projects are soon to be announced but we look forward to serving others together. The evening begins at 7 pm and most likely we'll be finished by 8:30.

If you haven't joined a **Bible study**, there's another opportunity for you to do so. The Thursday group will begin a new study on October 28 at

7 pm and we are looking forward to using the READ Method for our time in the Word and together. More than just a worksheet, READ will lead you step-by-step through your study of God's Word in less than 20 minutes a day. Join with other women as we transform



our quiet time by learning how to **RECORD, EXPLORE, APPLY, and DO**. The READ Bible Study Method will give you confidence each time you study God's Word. Slowing down to spend dedicated time on one passage allows the Holy Spirit to speak and provides time to digest God's Word.

- You'll discover how scripture supports scripture by examining similar and connecting Bible passages.
- You'll learn how to dig deeper into scripture to uncover historical and cultural context that will shed new light and understanding on the verses you've read.
- You'll recognize the promptings of the Holy Spirit to be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer only as James 1:22 instructs.

Watch for details as soon we will announce which book of the Bible we will be studying.

*"Lord, may Your light so shine in me that I become a light to all who know me. May it be not I who live, but You who live in me. Make me to be so much like Christ that when people see me they will want to know You better."*

Blessings to you, Linda Totman  
Women Ministries Coordinator



### Next Step Class

Do you have questions about how to get involved at Countryside? Hoping to meet others? Curious about our denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church? Considering membership? These are all reasons people attend our six-week **Next Steps Class** on Sunday mornings. Starting **Oct. 3rd at 10:00am** during the Christian Formation hour, this bi-annual offering will have you informally interacting with staff and others newer to Countryside. Contact the church office to register so we have materials ready for you.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Greetings Church!

What an awesome God we serve! He never fails us nor forsakes us. Even as we have opportunity to walk through difficult times in our lives, He is always beside us; even when we may not feel His presence. Many times, it is the difficult issues that bring us closer to God. Those times when we lean hard into His love, mercy and grace while seeking His comfort and peace. And we have seen firsthand, His comfort and care among those in our church who have experienced hardship or have had loved ones called home.

When God brought His chosen people out of Egypt, He led them in the desert. How many times have we referred to their 40 years in the desert as “wandering”? And yet, they were following where God led them. He led them into difficult situations for the purpose of training them and allowing them to put into action their commitment to Him. God brought them to a position of being completely and solely dependent upon Him.

How often do we find ourselves being completely and solely dependent upon God? And when we do, what does it look like? In the eyes of the world, it may look like foolishness. In many ways it will be counter cultural. Afterall, aren't we bombarded with the concept that we must be self-sufficient? We must take care of “Number One”? No one's going to look out for us so we must look out for ourselves?

That's not the training that God was giving to His chosen people while leading them in the desert. He was teaching them to be a community, to live with the perspective that the needs of others are as important as our own needs. And to live in such a way (counter culturally) that the world would see God through the lives of this chosen people. They were to be God's message to the world. That's us. We are His chosen.

The Leadership Team takes seriously the charge of demonstrating to our community what God's love looks like in action. As a congregation, you have been faithful in your service and giving. Through that, God continues to allow us to be His blessing to others. Through our FAITH Funds, we have been able to be God's blessing in some very tangible (and counter-cultural) ways, helping individuals, families, and other churches in our community. Most recently, we allocat-

ed funding to the Oak Harbor Cottages project. We are looking forward to great things happening because of this project. Things that will bring glory to God as we demonstrate His sense of community.

I want to express my personal thanks for your continued support to the work God is doing at Countryside. That support comes not only in the tithes and offerings, but in your involvement in the ministry activities of the church and furthering God's kingdom in our community. It is awesome to be part of a church where God's spirit is overwhelmingly present.

I also want to put in a plug that October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Your expressions of affirmation and support for our pastors and staff members are welcome and greatly appreciated. I can't wait to see how creative you are in expressing your thanks to our awesome staff.

In Christ's service,

Bob Williford - Chairman



Pastor Jeremy returns soon! If you can help Kari with yardwork or painting, contact Lynn Black for more information, 620-755-7585.



### September 2021 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation	Worship
September 5	—	388
September 12	248	515
September 19	237	523
September 26	216	510

### September 2021 Giving

September 5	\$22,028.47
September 12	\$17,583.50
September 19	\$17,916.39
September 26	\$19,711.45
<b>Total Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$896,537.44</b>
<b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b>	<b>\$71,139.13</b>

**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 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.  
Christian Formation, 10:00 a.m.



### **OCTOBER EVENTS**

2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Women's Coffee Connection
3	P & M Pumpkin Ranch
4, 11, 18, 25	Crescendo Walks
5, 23	Widows' Connection
5, 12, 19, 26	Men's Coffee
5, 12, 19, 26	Celebrate Recovery
6, 13, 20, 27	Time of Prayer
6, 13, 20, 27	Preschool Story Time
6	Family Night Meal
9, 14, 18	Going Beyond Simulcast
10	Ministry Coordination Council
12 & 26	MOMs Group
16	Crescendo to Escape Room
19	Leadership Team Meeting
25	Sew & Share
31	Trunk or Treat



## **Countryside Staff**

Pastor Jon Black, Lead

Pastor Jeremy Bower, Associate

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

Kristi Monroe, Children's Ministries Assistant

(see enclosed calendar for a full list of events)