



# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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*We joyfully  
welcome  
and nurture  
all people  
by providing  
a vibrant  
Christ-centered  
community  
of faith,  
dedicated to  
spiritual growth  
through  
worship, study  
and service.*

## New Staff Organization

The Personnel Committee has approved a staff reorganization plan, which was recently presented at the Congregational Board meeting and the State of the Church event. The reorganization both streamlines our existing staff and takes advantage of skills and proficiencies within the staff. The plan creates two new ministry teams, an Administrative Ministry Team and a Pastoral Ministry Team.

### Administrative Ministry Team



Carla Aday

Rev. Carla Aday will lead the Administrative Ministry Team in her redefined role as Executive Minister and will also serve in a supervisory capacity over the Pastoral Ministry Team led by Rev. Joe Walker. Rev. Aday will continue to preach and teach and will direct planning.

Day-to-day administrative functions will be provided by Rachel Clement (Director of Finance), Jason Ashley (Director of Building and Grounds), and Paul Cutelli (Director of Technology and Administrative Services).



Left to right, Rachel Clement, Jason Ashley, Paul Cutelli

### Pastoral Ministry Team

Under the guidance of Rev. Walker, the Minister of Congregational Care, the Pastoral Ministry programs will also be staffed by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families, and Dr. Meredith Holladay, Minister of Spiritual Formation.



Joe Walker

That team is working on ways to reach, connect with, and care for all members of the congregation, from the youngest to the most senior, as well as those in our community looking for a church home.



Monica Lewis



Meredith Holladay

A personnel organization chart is available at [cccckc.org/about-us/church-governance](http://cccckc.org/about-us/church-governance), or in the Parlor on Sunday.

### New Sermon Series: *Creating the Covenant*

- Feb. 1 – The Bible’s First Covenant – From Storm-Tossed Seas to Rainbow Filled Skies, Genesis 9:7-17
- Feb. 8 – The Ten Commandments – No Other Gods, Exodus 20:1-17
- Feb. 15 – Jesus Liberates Us – Become What You Believe, Matthew 9:18-33



## Creating the Covenant

### Bible Study

Designed for those who want thought-provoking and spiritually engaging Bible study but have limited time for personal study, *Creating the Covenant* is the most up-to-date way to learn about themes from the Bible that shape our daily living.

Multiple small group studies will begin in February. Each group will meet for eight weeks. Personal readings to prepare for class may be accessed on your phone or iPad or through a printed booklet (\$20).

### Classes will meet Feb. 1-Mar. 28.

**Men's Class** – Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Glen Miles and Jeff Zimmerman.

**Women's Intergenerational Group** – Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Meredith Holladay (bring a sack lunch).

**Parents of Younger Children** – Sundays, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Monica Lewis.

**Senior Adults** – Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m. Joe Walker.

### South Johnson County Couples

**Group** – Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.; at the home of Lee and Kris Brumitt; Carla Aday.

**Monday Evening Group** – Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Lauren Weinhold.

**Wednesday Evening Group** – 6:00-7:30 p.m.; Meredith Holladay.

Contact Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccckc.or](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.or) or 816-333-4917 to sign up for a group.

### Sermon Series

Dr. Glen Miles will preach a series of sermons on the *Covenant* themes during the first three weeks of February.

**Feb. 1** – The Bible's First Covenant – From Storm-Tossed Seas to Rainbow Filled Skies, Genesis 9:7-17

**Feb. 8** – The Ten Commandments – No Other Gods, Exodus 20:1-17

**Feb. 15** – Jesus Liberates Us – Become What You Believe, Matthew 9:18-33

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth will be collecting money after each worship service on Sun., Feb. 1, for Souper Bowl of Car-



ing, a national fundraising initiative to combat hunger. Please donate cash or your spare change as you leave worship. Please give generously.

At the same time, the Virginia Reed Food Drive will focus on collecting cans of chunky soup as part of this initiative. We always have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community:

1. Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and the chapel, and at the doors any time.
2. Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)). On Feb. 1, a computer will be available in the parlor for you to make an online donation.
3. Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship or leave them in the box in the parlor on Feb. 1.

## Pathways to Learning in March

### Resurrection Themes in Art, Literature and Music



**Mar. 8** – Aram Demirjian, Associate Conductor of the Kansas City Symphony.

**Mar. 15** – Dr. Madeline Rislow, Lecturer in Medieval and Renaissance at The Kansas City Art Institute.

**Mar. 22** – Dr. Bill Stancil, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Rockhurst University.

**Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall**



# Marcus Borg

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Marcus Borg, a popular though at times controversial Jesus scholar, died last week after a long illness. I was caught off guard by the grief I experienced when I heard the announcement of his death. I shook his hand once at an event where he was the main speaker but beyond that I did not know him personally. I wondered out loud as I read the *New York Times* article about him, “Why am I so sad about this?”

I realized the next day that my sadness emanated from feeling like he and I were companions in the study of the Bible. I loved reading his work when

I first discovered him over 20 years ago because it felt like he was publicly asking questions that I had kept to myself for many years. There were many other theologians who had tackled many of his topics and ideas but their writing was directed at the academic world. Marcus wrote for the person in the pew.

His book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, quickly became one of my all-time favorites. Early on in the book he reminds us that “we have all met Jesus before.” He notes that most of us did so as children. The problem that developed for him, and many adult Christians, is the inadequacy of the childhood image of Jesus. He needed to meet Jesus again, to discover the post-Easter Jesus.

There are a few theological quibbles one might take him to task over but I won't bother with those today. I suspect that part of my grief is centered on the fact that for many years I had hoped to spend some time with him in study and reflection; to respectfully wrestle with some of his ideas. I'm sad that will not happen on this side of the resurrection. (I'm thinking about creating a Marcus Borg reading group. Stay tuned for more on that later.)

In the meantime, I've stacked up his books on my desk and I'm rereading them. And once again, I'm caught by the quiet humility, the clear and crisp writing, and the thoughtful analysis of the ancient word.

This morning I ordered his final book, *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. I can't wait to read it. According to my good buddy Russ Peterman, the last line of this, his last book, declares “And the future, including what is beyond our lives? We leave that up to God.”

Amen Brother Marcus. Rest well in the eternal arms of love.

Grace and peace to you,

## Leadership Nominations

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2015-2016 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. We need members who are energetic, dedicated and motivated to serve. The nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions: Congregational Board: Chairperson-Elect, treasurer, secretary, and Board members; Personnel Committee at-large member; Personnel Committee chair; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons.

The deadline for all nominations is Mar. 1. Nomination forms are available in the church office or at <http://tinyurl.com/2015nominations>.

## Worship with us!

**Service Times: 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Sermon Series:  
Creating the Covenant**

**Feb. 1**

Part 1: The Bible's First Covenant –  
From Storm Tossed Seas  
to Rainbow Filled Skies  
*Genesis 9: 7-17*

**Feb. 8**

Part 2: The Ten Commandments –  
No Other Gods  
*Exodus 20:1-17*

**Feb. 15**

Part 3: Jesus Liberates Us – Become  
What You Believe  
*Matthew 9:18-33*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Lunch and Learn: The Health Effects of Stress

Join us as Dr. Evan Mladenoff explores ways stress sabotages your well-being and how you can recognize and manage stress. Dr. Mladenoff practices in Overland Park and has lectured internationally. Among other patients, he serves as a sports medicine consultant for players from National Football League and Major League Baseball teams. Tuesday, February 10, 11:30 a.m., Social Hall. Everyone welcome, Bring a friend. \$10 includes lunch. RSVP to 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

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## 2015 General Assembly Is Coming!

The 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is set for July 18-22 in Columbus, OH and planning is well underway. If you've been before, you'll find a bounty of new worship experiences and learning tracks. If you've never been, there is a website with a wealth of information, including a page just for you. Go to [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org) to see the schedule, workshop offerings and register online. See you in Columbus!



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## After Christmas Sale in The Well

All Christmas merchandise in The Well is 75 percent off beginning this Sunday, Feb. 1. The Well, our book and gift store, is on the ground floor of the church. It is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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## Save the Date for Grace at Work

Do you have the passion to volunteer, but don't know where to start? Do we have an opportunity for you! Join us at the annual Grace at Work event on Sat., Apr. 18, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. Many different volunteer opportunities are available. Through your participation you will have the opportunity to experience fellowship, while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community.

## February Collection Connection: Laundry Detergent Pods for Newhouse

In February, we are collecting laundry detergent pods for Newhouse. Newhouse is part of our Northeast PartNership and they are in desperate need of laundry detergent for use in the facility. The pods work best as it makes it easy to use the correct amount of detergent per load. Newhouse provides a safe environment for positive development of women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. Please leave your donations in the basket in the Parlor.

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## Save the Date!

### Annual Celebration Dinner

In continued recognition of our past and as we move forward with a greater vision of who we are as a church, we are proud to announce that the 2015 Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., Apr. 25, at The Roasterie Bean Hangar, 1204 W. 27th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the dinner and auction, which not only has become an important source of funds for the church's operating budget, it has more importantly cultivated friendships that extend across generational lines and nurtured a sense of stewardship within our community.

You can help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels starting at \$250 or purchasing tickets to the event. Do you have auction items you'd like to donate? Watch for more information.

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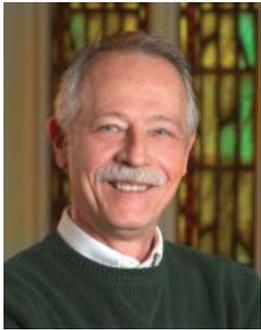
## New Member Sunday on February 15

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is Feb. 15. Contact Dr. Meredith Holladay at 816-333-4917 or [meredithh@cccckc.org](mailto:meredithh@cccckc.org) for more information.



# Welcome Dina Evans

By David Diebold, Minister of Music



On Jan. 18, Dina Pannabecker Evans joined our staff as Associate Organist. After a five-month search, Dina was the unanimous choice of the search committee to succeed Brian Mathias in this position. She holds a doctorate in organ from KU, where she is on the faculty and staff at the School of Music. In addition to teaching a number of courses, Dina is the Assistant Dean for Student Opportunity for the School of Music and their Scholarship Officer. Dina was born in Bluffton, OH and did her undergraduate work at Bluffton College (now University). Her Master of Music degree is from Bowling Green State University.

Dina is a well-respected member of the music community throughout the Midwest. For a number of years, Dina has been a substitute organist in the Topeka – Lawrence – Kansas City area and has worked in a wide variety of denominations. She has been very active with the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is currently serving on the Program Committee for the national convention of the AGO, to be held here in 2018. She has served as chair of the annual AGO Bachathon over the span of several years, and has performed for pre-Vespers concerts at KU. In spring 2012 she also served as organ accompanist for the KU Opera Gala held at Helzberg Hall.



The search committee was comprised of Brian Campbell, Lynn Cockle, Dale Ramsey and David Diebold. We have been deeply indebted to Dale Ramsey, who again filled the position of Interim Associate Organist. Dina’s primary responsibilities will be for the 10:00 a.m. worship service, accompanying the Chancel Choir, and assisting with weddings and funerals. When you see her around, please introduce yourself and make her feel welcome.

*David*

# Children and Families

## Preschool and Parents’ Day Out Registration

Registration for currently enrolled families for preschool, transition and PDO sibilings will be Mon., Feb. 2, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 3, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Registration will be open to the general public for preschool, transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

## Club Kids

Feb. 1 – 5:00-7:00 p.m., Social Hall.  
Mar. 1 – 5:00-7:00 p.m., Social Hall.

## Spring Musical

### Auditions on Feb. 1

All children and students are invited to audition for the spring musical, *iAm: The Real Life App for All That.* on Sun., Feb. 1 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Whether your child is interested in a general chorus part, a small part, or the lead, all Children and students should audition. Children and students do not need to prepare anything for the audition. Just show up. See page 6 for more information.

## First Steps of Faithfulness

Beginning Mar. 1, join us the first Sunday of the month as families with children birth-2 years old explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

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## Upcoming Student Events

### Souper Bowl of Caring Volunteers Needed

Middle and high school students are needed to help raise money for Harvesters Food Bank on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1. Volunteers are needed to collect money after the 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Our goal is to collect at least \$500. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation in advance please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org).

**Valentine's Day Party** – Sun., Feb. 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Middle school and high school students are invited to the Crocker's house for food and games. Please RSVP to Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org). Friends are welcome too. If you would like a ride to the Crocker house, please be in the Chapel parking lot by 4:30 p.m. and let Allie know ahead of time so transportation can be arranged.

**Hope House Service Project** – Sun., Mar. 1, 5:00-7:30 p.m. Middle and high school students will be going to Hope House to volunteer for the evening. We will be playing games and making crafts with the children that reside there. We will also provide a "sack" dinner. If interested in volunteering, please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org) so we can arrange transportation.

**High School Late Night** – Mar. 6 and 7, 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. More details on this exciting event are to come soon. Please contact Allie Cobb if interested in attending.

**Green Team Volunteering** – Sun., Apr. 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the church and chapel. Middle and high school students do you have a green thumb? Even if you don't, you are invited to help the Green Team get ready for spring! The more hands the better. Snacks will be provided. Contact Allie for questions and sign-up.

### Sunday Evenings

Middle School and High School students are encouraged to participate in Youth Group, a monthly fellowship opportunity.

**High School Youth Group:** Third Sunday of the month.

**Middle School Youth Group:** First Sunday of the month.

### Middle School Grade-Level Gatherings

6th through 8th graders are invited to participate in 30-minute quarterly gatherings that are grade specific. This offers students the chance to connect and have fun with other students in their grade. These gatherings occur just before Middle School Youth Group. Sundays, 4:30-5:00 p.m., Youth Center

**Feb. 1: 6th grade gathering**

**Mar. 1: 7th grade gathering**

**Apr. 5: 8th grade gathering**

**Aug. 2: 6th grade gathering**

### Auditions for Spring Musical

All children and students are invited to audition for the spring musical, *iAm: The Real Life App for All That*. on Sun., Feb. 1 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.



Musical auditions are quite simple. However, they are very important. Auditions let us know who is interested in participating. Whether your child is interested in a general chorus part, a small part, or the lead, all Children and students should audition. Children and students do not need to prepare anything for the audition. Just show up. If you have a conflict with the audition date, contact Michael Patch at [michaelp@cccckc.org](mailto:michaelp@cccckc.org).

The cast will be announced Sun., Feb. 8. Rehearsals will begin Feb. 15 and continue every Sunday from 11:00-11:30 a.m. The musical will be Sun., Apr. 26, at noon in the Social Hall.

*iAM: The Real Life App for All That* is a children's musical designed to teach kids that even with all of our distractions and entertainment, the most exciting thing in life is getting to know the God who made us. Join super app-designer Solomon and the amazing creative team at the App Factory, where you not only play the games, but you get into the game, and discover the real life app for all that.

For more information, contact Michael Patch, Director of Children and Student Music, at [michaelp@cccckc.org](mailto:michaelp@cccckc.org).



## Branding Study Results

*Mary McClure is chair of the Congregational Board and led the Branding Task Force. In this column she shares the results of the task force's work and the marketing study.*



For years, there has been an undercurrent rumbling about changing the name of our church. The strong feelings on both sides of this idea show how much we care about our church; imagine if we changed our name and no one noticed!

To consider this issue, the Congregational Board chartered a branding study in 2013. Based on your feedback, the project gave us clarity on

the message we want to give to our community about who we are as a church.

Last fall, we conducted a community survey designed to explore the hypothesis that “Country Club” as part of the church name is a barrier to visiting/engaging with our church.

Zip codes along the State Line corridor were chosen, as this area represents more than 50 percent of our membership. Two zip codes were included to ensure diversity among respondents. The survey, which also assessed new names, nicknames and slogans, was completed by Dwight Risky, PhD, of STROP Insights, a Dallas-based market research firm.

Key findings from the survey are:

- The current name is not wildly popular (rated only slightly above neutral in attractiveness), but is also not strongly disliked. None of the suggested name alternatives were rated as more attractive than the current name.
- Drivers of church selection show that “name” is an extremely unimportant consideration, next to last of 20 factors. The most important drivers of church selection are: excellent preaching, friendliness, theology, denomination, worship style and music.
- Country Club Christian Church is viewed as: beautiful, spiritual, generous, inviting, accepting and loving.
- Country Club Christian Church is NOT seen as: rigid, dogmatic, or exclusive.

At its January meeting, the Congregational Board unanimously agreed that Country Club Christian Church should retain our



current name and use what we have learned through this project to improve our marketing. But just as this photo from last fall shows, we have work to do in updating many things given what we've learned. For example, people said they don't know that we are theologically open and value study.

Frankly, the survey results were a pleasant surprise in how positive and consistent they are. What we learned allows us to move on from discussing just the “Country Club” part of our name. Now, we can look towards our second century of ministry and focus on the more important part of our name, “Christian Church.”

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# Our Church Family

## In Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the families and friends of:

**Mary Ann Cooper**  
**Carl Corbin**  
**Laura Cray**  
**Valerie Garrison Hutsell**  
**Linda "Janie" McCune**  
**Susan Edlund Rysko Vold**

## Memorials

**Mimi Gillin**

Jill Reynolds

**Barbara Williams, Music Endowment**

June Turley

**Mimi Gillin, Congregational Care**

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

**Mimi Gillin, Music Endowment**

June Turley

**Valerie Garrison Hutsell, Congregational Care**

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

## Honor

**Nancy Watson**

Peter & Lesley Holt

## PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                     |                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. R. Glen Miles<br>Senior Minister                                | Ms. Allie Cobb<br>Director of Student<br>Ministries             |
| Rev. Carla Aday<br>Senior Associate<br>Minister                     | Ms. Lindsay Howes<br>Director of Children's<br>Ministries       |
| Rev. David Diebold<br>Minister of Music                             | Ms. Lisa McCleish<br>Director of Early<br>Childhood Programs    |
| Dr. Meredith Holladay<br>Minister of Member<br>Development          | Mr. Michael Patch<br>Director of Children's<br>and Youth Choirs |
| Rev. Monica Lewis<br>Minister to Children,<br>Students and Families | Ms. Lara Schopp<br>Director of<br>Communications                |
| Rev. Joe Walker<br>Minister of<br>Congregational Care               |                                                                 |

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