



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister

What Are You Reading?



Rev. Carla Aday

During these 40 days of Lent, many of us look for ways to deepen the spiritual journey. One way is to pray, to have a conversation with the

Divine One. But getting started with prayer isn't always so easy. First you need to get yourself in the right frame of mind. One way that I like to pray is to first open a book. It doesn't always have to be the Bible. One author suggests: "Start by reading something that will warm your spirit. Get rid of a coldness that may have developed in your spirit. You have to learn how to kindle a flame in your spirit, to warm yourself up, to give yourself a start." (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

I recommended one of my all-time favorites: *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. My copy is worn, tattered and marked up. She reminds me that God is everywhere if I will but take the time to look. And she teaches the practices that tune our hearts to God's.

Fiction can also warm the heart. My latest find was *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. It was achingly beautiful and a parable about what love can create and the power of community to restore us.

If you are a fan of poetry, I recom-

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Congregational Meetings: Feb 25 and Apr. 8

There will be a congregational meeting at noon on Sun., Feb. 25 to review the church's annual report and proposed changes to the bylaws. Join us in the Social Hall for this gathering. Light snacks will be served.

There will be a Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 8, after each service to vote on proposed bylaw changes.

Celebration of Membership

Join us on Sun., Mar. 4 for a Celebration of Membership during the 11:00 a.m. worship service as we welcome new members to our church family and give thanks for all of you who are part of our community. Whether you've been a member for life or just joined our congregation recently, we invite you to help us celebrate that morning with a reception at noon. If you are interested in joining the church that day, contact Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org.

The Season of Lent Continues

The journey to Easter continues during the season on Lent as we ponder our mortality and remember our reliance upon God.

Lent Sermon Series

Followers of Jesus asked him many questions. They wanted to know how to connect with God, what was most important, how to deal with the government, what to do next. We too have questions. On the way to the cross, Jesus engages the questions. During Lent, we are asking again what it means to live in the wake of God's undying love for us.



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mend *This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems* by Wendell Berry. Some days they feel like scripture to me. I also love *Consolations* by David Whyte. His insight into the human psyche evokes a spiritual awareness I know but have no words to express.

If you enjoy daily devotions, you might like *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God*, edited by Upper Room Books. I read it almost every day and find the quotes from spiritual masters to help me hit the reset on how I see the world and the day ahead.

Some other favorites are *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr and *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond and Mpho Tutu. I would love to know what you read that warms your spirit.

The best Lenten season my family and I ever enjoyed was the year we gave up television for 40 days. It gave us more time to read and play together.

Blessings on this journey we take together to the cross and the empty tomb.

Grace and peace, ☩

Carla

Last Chance to Purchase Tickets

Sunday is your last chance to purchase tickets to our annual Celebration Dinner and Auction: An Evening on the Boulevard, on Fri., Mar. 2 at Boulevard Brewery. Don't miss this fun evening featuring entertainment by The Pic and Bow. Tickets are available in the parlor this Sunday or online at <http://www.cccckc.org/2018-dinner-auction/>. We are still looking for fun and unique items for our auction. Fill out the form at the link above to submit your item. ☩



Memorial Easter Lilies

Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter lily to be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Deadline for orders is Mar. 19. Pick up an order form in the parlor. Return the completed form with payment of \$25 to Carla Rauth. Questions? Contact Carla at 816-381-9241 or carlar@cccckc.org.

Grace at Work Save the Date

Sat., Apr. 21, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities.

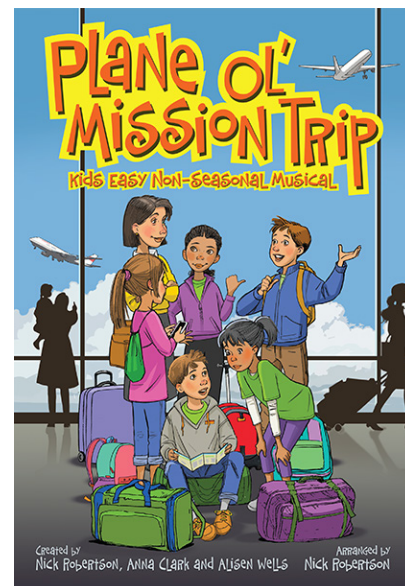


Children's Musical is Mar. 4

All are invited on Sun., Mar. 4 as our Children's Choir presents the musical "Plane Ol' Mission Trip" 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

When a group of kids headed on a mission trip find themselves stranded at the airport due to inclement weather, they quickly learn that our mission field is everywhere.

Please join us that morning to support our Children's Choir, directed by Sara and Alex Goering.





Shining Like the Sun

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence and Minister of Spiritual Formation



Space does not permit me to name the differences between serving in the seminary and the local church, although as Fred Craddock used to rightly remind folks, the seminary is the education wing of the church. One year ago, I began my time at Country Club Christian as the interim guest preacher. A year later I'm on staff full-time. Many of you have asked how it's going, do I like it, those sorts of inquiries.

The answer is yes, an unqualified yes, but one that demands an explanation, a testimony really. I can think of lots of reasons I like it, and I'm not even including how the church doesn't require me to grade papers. Here are just a few things: I like my colleagues very much, a gifted and dedicated group of people. I like this incredible building in which I work. Not many people get to work in a space like this.

But there's no question that what I like best is the collective made up of each of you. I like the people. I like your passion for justice, whether it's caring for the least here in Kansas City or the other side of the world. I admire your care for each other, taking Communion to shut-ins and casseroles to those recuperating from surgery and illness. I am speechless at your work ethic when it comes to projects and missions in the church. I like your gentle spirit, recalling that the Apostle Paul lists "gentleness" as a mark of the Spirit in a person's life. I enjoy visiting about big things and small things in your life over refreshments in the parlor.

Just recently I was recalling something from the life of Thomas Merton, the reluctant monk and spiritual writer, who had a vision one ordinary day in Kentucky. He was on the corner of Fourth and Walnut in downtown Louisville. It was March of 1958 when he suddenly realized that all of us humans are connected, what we call six degrees of separation these days. He found himself attracted to humanity. Writing about it later, he observed, "There is just no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun." Maybe there's not, but that's what all of us on the staff are trying to say every Sunday, along with the fact that God feels the same way. ☞

Do You Follow Us?



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

February 25

Mark 10:32-45

Questioning Jesus Part 2:

Mark's Question

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

March 4

Mark 1:40-45

Questioning Jesus Part 3:

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Leadership Nominations Underway

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2018-2019 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. Nomination forms are available in the parlor today or online at <http://www.cccckc.org/leadership-nominations/>. Deadline is Apr. 8.

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

TED Talks on Sunday

Discuss the intersection of social issues, ideas and our shared faith in a series utilizing TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talks from the popular TED live events, videos and podcasts. Participants will watch together, then participate in a discussion. Open to all ages. Facilitated by Craig Doty. This Sunday's topic: *It's Time to Reclaim Religion* by Rabbi Sharon Brous. Mar. 25: *What It's Like to Be a Parent in a War Zone* by Aala El-Khani. Meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205).

Where Is God in a Time Like This?

Led by Mike Graves • March 12, 19, 26, 7:00 p.m.
As long as people have followed God and thought about what it means to follow God, there is one question above all others they have asked: Where is God in a time like this? Theologians call it theodicy, the problem of evil and suffering. This is not the kind of question one “solves,” so much as it is the kind of question one wrestles with. During the season of Lent when we recall the suffering of Jesus, we will think about the suffering of all humanity, even as we embrace the virtue of hope.

Faithpub

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves • Mar. 22, Apr. 19 and May 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

This popular men's group meets for beer and conversation on a host of spiritual topics. This spring we will be in our new location at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd, Kansas City, MO, with a guest speaker each session.



Service Opportunities: Seasonal Gifts, Blood Drive

Opportunities to serve this spring include delivering a flower to a shut-in and organizing our summer blood drive. The week before Easter, teams will deliver small potted flowers to a home-bound members. Spring is also the time to plan our summer blood drive. We are looking for help coordinating with the blood center and recruiting donors. For information: joew@cccckc.org.

Collection Connection

In February we are collecting supplies for the Easter egg hunt. We need 2,000 filled plastic Easter eggs for the hunt on Mar. 25. Pick up plastic eggs in the parlor and return them filled with small stickers, toys, coins or nut-free pre-packaged candy.

Coming in April: We will be collecting new sweatshirts, sweatpants, and underpants and for Della Lamb's Operation Santa. We wanted to let you know now, while sweatshirts and sweatpants may be on sale.

Here's what we need:

- Girls' Extra Small Sweatshirts
- Girls' Medium Sweatshirts
- Boys' Large Underpants
- Boys' Large Sweatpants
- By buying in bulk, Della Lamb can purchase items at a lower cost, so if you wish to donate money instead of the listed items, it will be welcome.

Each year in December Della Lamb distributes almost 2,000 outfits to boys and girls 12 and under. Many members of our congregation worked hard to sort, inventory and assemble those outfits last year and have already been getting ready for this year. By assembling the clothing items early, we can save money and be more organized!

Max Dewese Golf Tournament

Attention all golfers: We are pleased to announce the inaugural Max Dewese Golf Tournament on Fri., Sept. 21, at Swope Memorial Golf Course. Beginning with lunch, this 1:00 p.m. shotgun will be a great time of fun, but will also raise funds for the Veterans Community Project, providing shelter for veterans here in the Kansas City area. Make plans now to sign-up, form a team, and sponsor a hole. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org.



a message from staff

Being Present in the Moment

By Lisa McLeish, Director of Early Childhood Programs



The week(s) leading up to February 14 were full of excitement as children picked out cards and treats to share with their classmates, created all kinds of Valentine art and worked extra hard on being kind to others. The culmination was parties that involved delicious treats, passing

out the cards they oh so carefully wrote their names on, and some special activities.

On February 15, though, Valentine's Day was over and all but forgotten. Now the children are talking, and learning, about the Olympics as we get ready to hold "Kiddy Olympics" at Country Club Christian Church.

I appreciate this trait in children. The ability to prepare and wait for something with so much excitement they cannot talk about anything else, and celebrating with equal happiness. Then, when it is over, immediately putting all your energy into something new and exciting.

As an "over-thinker," I share the excitement leading up to a special event, but during the event I find myself dreading the end instead of enjoying what is happening in the moment. The time after is often spent wishing I had done something more (talked longer with a relative at a wedding or made time to see an old friend while I was in the neighborhood).

During the Ash Wednesday sermon several years ago, we were challenged with doing something positive along with making a sacrifice, during the season of Lent. The premise was to make a positive change in your own life and then find a way to share that with other people.

This year, I will work toward being present in the moment. I want to listen to hear, instead of listening to respond. As I look forward to what is happening next, I will remember the last event with a smile instead of with and "I wish." ☺

Our Church Family

Memorials and Tributes

Memorial gifts and gifts honoring loved ones are placed into the Church's Endowment Funds, which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disperse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board.

Carol Anderson

Anniversary Class
Tom and Helen Gray
Round Robin Study Club

Nancy Barnes

Max Deweese
Courtney Earnest

Marilyn Carrell, for Virginia Reed Food Drive

Jeanne and Perry Cockayne
Marilyn and Chuck Dreas
Greg and Nancy Lear
Pat Martin
Jill Reynolds

Doug Irwin

Max Deweese
Virginia Donnell
Courtney Earnest
Esther Giffin, for Koinonia Sunday School Class
Bill and Brucie Hopkins
Duane Huitt
Greg and Nancy Lear
Donna Porter
Lynne Stark
Helen Wooster
Chandler and John Moenius Charitable Fund

Sam Kribbs

Nancy Ralston

Tyler Moffat

Bill and Brucie Hopkins
Nancy Ralston

Jack Waller

Tom and Helen Gray

Larry Winn, Jr.

Doug Winn

Student Ministries

Youth Choir

Meets Sundays from noon to 12:45 p.m. in Rm. 213.
Come sing with us!

Support our Students

Looking for a service opportunity that is fun and connects you with our amazing students? Contact April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org to find out how you can get involved with Sunday School or youth group.

Need Service Hours? Serve at Micah Ministry!
The next service opportunity at Micah Ministry will be on Mon., Mar. 12. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday School for 6th-12th Graders meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 205 and 202.

High School Youth Group meets every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. at Panera. Dinner provided!

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Center. Dinner provided!

Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?
Contact Lori Bennett, Chair of the Student Ministries

Children and Families

Conscious Discipline Parenting Workshop

Feb. 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Social Hall



Conscious Discipline is a proven, comprehensive approach that empowers you with skills that create a safe, connected, problem-solving environment for families. Join us for an evening with a trained facilitator to gain insight to navigating the world of parenting

young children. Please contact April Booth, aprilb@cccckc.org, to reserve your spot. Cost is \$10 per family and childcare is provided upon request.

Children's Choir

For grades kindergarten - 5th grade. Rehearsals are on Sundays, 10:45-11:30 a.m. (until musical), Rm. 213.

First Friday

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders. Join us on Mar. 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church. Dinner provided.

Family Worship Night

April (date TBA) from 4:30-6:00 p.m.
All ages of children are invited to come with their families as we learn about the church season of LENT through worship and activities. Sing, pray hear a bible story and create worshipful items to use at home. Free dinner provided.
RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.



MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month during the school year, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Scout Sunday



Scouts from Troop 84 were recognized on Scout Sunday, Feb. 11, including 11-year-old William Rebman (at left with his family) who was honored for saving his mother's life using CPR he learned as a Scout. Troop 84 is one of the oldest, continuous running programs in the church, organized in 1923.

Lenten Books Available in The Well

Check out these books in The Well to enhance your Lenten journey. .



Family Worship Night

Families gathered in the Youth Center on Sun., Feb. 11 for Family Worship Night, where they learned about the season of Lent. The next Family Worship Night is in April.



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SAVE THE DATES



Congregational Meeting

On Sun., Feb. 25, noon, the annual congregational meeting will be held.

Celebration Dinner and Auction

Fri., Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m. at Boulevard Brewery.

Palm Sunday Worship

Mar. 25. Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants. Egg hunt at noon on chapel lawn.

Maundy Thursday

Mar. 29, 7:00 p.m.

Easter

Sun., Apr. 1. Special service times at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Child care available for all services.

Grace at Work Save the Date

Sat., Apr. 21, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

