



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.

A Place at the Table Pledge Sunday is May 21

Our Stewardship Campaign culminates this Sunday with **brunch** between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the parlor. Please **bring your pledge card to worship** when we will dedicate our gifts and ourselves to the ministry God calls us to share.

You may also submit your pledge by:

- Visiting cccckc.org/church-life/give/make-a-pledge/.
- Emailing Rachel Clement, Director of Finance, at rachelc@cccckc.org.

Thank you for your generous support of Country Club Christian Church. If you haven't had an opportunity to watch our brief campaign video, check it out at cccckc.org/a-place-at-the-table/.



Update on Staff Transitions From the Personnel Committee

In April we reported that Rev. Carla Aday had been called by the Congregational Board to serve as Senior Minister. The Personnel Committee is now working to fill the two primary staff roles previously held by Carla.

First, we are happy to report that the congregational board approved the recommendation for Dr. Mike Graves, currently our Guest Preacher, to be called to serve as a part-time Scholar in Residence. In this role, Mike will oversee the worship ministry, will teach on a regular basis and preach when Carla is away.



Dr. Mike Graves

Second, the personnel committee plans to seek an Executive Director of Operations to manage staff responsible for finance, technology, building operations and maintenance. Carla will continue to lead the operations staff until

a replacement is identified, so over the summer months Carla and Mike will share pulpit duties and Carla will begin preaching regularly after Labor Day.



Outdoor Worship Begins May 28

Beginning Sun., May 28, we will move the 9:00 a.m. worship service to our front lawn. We will meet on the sidewalk in front of the steps with our building as the background view for worshippers. The service features gospel style music, a message of hope and grace, and an invitation to share in the Lord's Supper. Musical guests Connor Ehman and Murphy Smith will play during the service on May 28. Other musical guests will follow throughout the summer.

Collection Connection: Flashlights and Batteries

In May, we are collecting flashlights and batteries for Micah Ministry. Many of our Micah guests have had their utilities turned off or are homeless. These folk depend on candles, which can be dangerous, and flashlights to help them light their darkness. If you'd like to help our brothers and sisters at Micah, please bring batteries and/or flashlights with batteries for our May Collection Connection.

Infants Dedicated on May 14



Grace Cobb, daughter of Natalie and Wyatt Cobb



Saylor Green, daughter of Whitney and James Green



Charlie Mason, son of Rachel and Brian Mason



Owen Taylor, son of Mike Taylor and Ingrid Larson

New Member Welcomed



Debbie McQueeny joined the church on May 14. Debbie is a psychologist working to integrate behavioral health care into primary care.

She is married to Phil Klever and together they have four sons and six grandchildren.

Debbie spent her adult life in Lawrence and loves the Jayhawks. She also enjoys spending time during the summer at their family cottage on Lake Michigan.

New member host is Cindy Irely.



On Coming to Country Club

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



When back in 1999 I felt led to have my ordination recognized by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), I never could have imagined the role our church would play. The Committee on Ordination and Standing that I met with was incredibly supportive, comprised of several clergy persons, and one lay person, a woman from our congregation whose name, sad to say, I no longer recall. Shortly thereafter, I was invited to preach for the monthly gathering of Disciples clergy in the area, a service hosted in our own Combs Chapel. Several years later I would join Country Club Christian Church, although I warned Glen and Carla that I would quickly achieve status as “the least-involved member” since I would either be preaching elsewhere most Sundays or coaching various pastors on their preaching.

Fast-forward to September 2016, when after a terribly frustrating faculty meeting, I emailed Glen. I was sort of joking, sort of not. I wrote, “I don’t know if you’ve ever pondered calling a person to serve as scholar-in-residence, but if so, I’m applying now.” I probably printed “Ha” after that. Glen surprised me by saying it had been a dream of his, that we should have lunch and talk it over. We did just that, and I think both of us were excited about the possibility. A few months later, Glen announced he was being called to another congregation. I wished him well, but realized the dream of joining the staff at Country Club was no more.

Only that dream wasn’t over. Carla and I met to talk about my serving as guest preacher until a new senior minister was called, which turned out to be her. After that, she visited with me about the scholar-in-residence position. During the entire discernment process, I would be lying if I didn’t admit to some measure of anxiety mixed with elation. Changing denominations is a big thing for a clergy person; now I was discerning my vocational identity. Pretty much my entire ministry has been as seminary professor and what was I thinking? Then I remembered something my mentor Fred Craddock said years ago, how the seminary is the education wing of the church. He was right, of course.

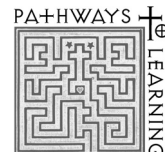
Words fail me in describing how excited I am to combine my two callings, teaching part-time at the seminary and serving part-time with the amazing staff at Country Club Christian Church. Ok, words never fail preachers, right? As Carla shared last Sunday about her being called as the new senior minister, I too am honored and humbled. What a great gift the Christian Church has been to me, and especially Country Club Christian Church. Thanks be to God.

Congregational Meeting on June 4

Congregational meetings will be held at the conclusion of each worship on Sun., June 4 to vote on the leadership slate for the 2017-2018 church year.

Pathways to Learning: Vision of Ministry

At Pathways to Learning on Sun., June 4, Rev. Carla Aday will present her vision and goals for the congregation. Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing on timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Ideal for those who aren’t involved in a Sunday School class; entire Sunday School classes also encouraged to participate as a group. Visitors and guests welcome. 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Worship with us!

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

May 21
Acts 20:7-12
The First Day of the Week
Dr. Mike Graves preaching

May 28
Acts 1:6-14
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Easter Offering Raises Record Amount

On behalf of the members and friends of Country Club Christian Church, the Outreach Grants and Special Offerings Team was able to present to the Veterans Community Project a check in the amount of \$32,596. The total amount of the offering was \$41,082. This is the largest amount that our congregation has ever raised for a Easter/special offering.

Our donation for the Veterans Community Project will fund two tiny houses and some left over to help with items like towels, toothpaste, combs, dishwashing soap, etc. In addition, Global Ministries will receive \$8,486 to help our friends in Haiti to rebuild their houses, gardens and fields that were destroyed by recent hurricanes.

Thank you for generously supporting this Easter and special offering.



Above, Clayton Hasser (far left) and Beverly Johnson (third from left), present the check to Bryan Meyer, Kevin Jamison and Chris Stout, co-founders of the Veterans Community Project.

Upcoming Mission Trips

Mungeli, India

In early 2018, two teams will travel to Mungeli, India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli and the Rambo Memorial English Medium School. The first will go from Jan. 6-20, and the second from Jan. 21-Feb. 3. Each team will spend about 11 days at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex, followed by several days of sightseeing. There will be an informational meeting on Sun., June 11 in Room 201 after the 11:00 a.m. service for anyone interested. Reservation forms and deposit checks (\$250) will be accepted beginning at the meeting on June 11. Space is limited.

Nicaragua

Mark your calendar for our next Nicaragua mission trip, set for the end of February 2018. We plan to focus on health and medical needs and either efficient, sustainable stoves in individual homes or water purification systems. For information: joew@cccckc.org

Author Gin Phillips Speaks at Building Community Book by Book Event

The gift of stories, in particular literary fiction, is that “when you read smart books with complex characters, you put yourself in the position of those characters,” explained Gin Phillips, author of *The Well* and *the Mine*. “You wonder,” Phillips continued, “what you would do if you were them.”

“I think there’s incredible value in learning what it feels like to be someone else. More than that, to WANT, to know what someone else feels like and thinks like. It changes the way you see the world,” Phillips said.

Phillips spoke at our Building Community Book by Book presentation on May 11. Her remarks were followed by a reception and book signing, complete with bluegrass music from The Smokey Hill Band.

Many thanks to Randy Irey and Melanie Thompson who chaired this event, and to their committee.

FaithPub

FaithPub for men will meet at The Well (7421 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO) on Thurs., June 8 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Mike Graves, our guest preacher, will lead the sessions and guest speakers will present on the theme “Glimpses of God.” Guest speaker is David Sallee, former President of William Jewell College.



Hartman Field Day Volunteers

Join the fun as students at Hartman Elementary School enjoy their end-of-the-year Field Day on Tues., May 23. Adult volunteers will help with games and activities that the school staff has planned and prepared. Kindergarten-3rd grade will participate in the morning with grades 4-6 playing in the afternoon. This one-day activity does not require background checks; adults will always be working alongside school personnel and other volunteers. For information contact Marjorie Jump, reply1+genius@thejumps.org or go to <https://tinyurl.com/hartmanfieldday>.



Tall Oaks: The Best Place on Earth

By Rev. Chuck Pickrel, Director of Student Ministries



Every summer, hundreds of (Disciples of Christ) children, youth, and adults make their way to a magical place not far from the heart of Kansas City. They will play, eat, listen, and worship together. New friends will be met, old friends will be hugged, and great memories will be made.

Tall Oaks is holy ground for just about every current and former (Disciples of Christ) youth from the greater Kansas City region. Any who have spent time at camp there have experienced something that isn't easy to put into words. Sure, there are beautiful views in literally every direction, comfy beds in air conditioned cabins (that's rarer than you might think...), a great pool, high/low ropes challenge courses, horses, and AMAZING food... but there's something else. Tall Oaks is alive with the Holy Spirit. Walking around you can feel it, it's impossible to ignore.

The experiences that have been shared at Tall Oaks have left an impression that will only grow and intensify in time. Long after all of us are gone, the love we have shared there, the games we have played, and the songs we have sung... they will all resonate through that place for future campers to hear. I can't wait to go back this summer.

There are many opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy Tall Oaks. From grandparents camp to High School conference, camp counselor to employee, there is an opportunity for YOU.

Check out the website for more info, registration forms, and pictures: talloaks.org. Also, talk to me if you have any questions, I love talking about camp at Tall Oaks!

Hope to see you out there this summer!

Faith and Grief Luncheon

In the Wake of Suicide

One of life's biggest struggles is dealing with the loss of a loved one. When you lose a loved one to suicide, the process of grief includes reconciling your emotions with a search for answers to the big question - why? Jennifer Jones-Lacy will share her story of grief and healing at our Faith and Grief Lunch, Tues., June 6 at Noon, at Village Presbyterian Church. Everyone is welcome.



The Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The meal begins at Noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m., on the first Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The complimentary lunch is provided by the sponsoring churches. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry. Lunches are hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS.

To register: (469) 251-9612 or www.faithandgrief.org

For information: (816) 381-9249 or care@cccckc.org

The lunches are a collaboration of five churches: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, Second Presbyterian Church, Village Presbyterian Church, and Country Club Christian Church.

Student Ministries

Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday during the academic year. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Youth Center. The last gathering of the academic year is May 26.

High School Youth Group

All 9th-12th graders are invited to participate in weekly fellowship gatherings over food with different topics each week. Meetings are all on Thursdays now. Depending on your schedule and location, join fellow students for fellowship and food. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Spin Pizza (6541 W. 119th St, Overland Park, KS), and 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO). The last gathering of the academic year is May 25.

Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Rm. 202

9:55-10:55 a.m.: High School Sunday School, Youth Center

Youth Music Group

Youth Music Group for grades 6-12 meets on Sundays from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). This is a creative and collaborative group. Vocalists and instrumentalists welcome. Come join us!

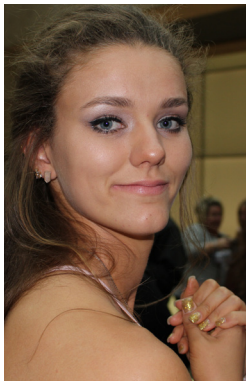
High School Mission Trip

June 17-23. High school students (9th-12th grade) will travel to Fort Worth, TX and Texas Christian University this summer.

Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)

June 12-13, 2017. Middle School students will engage in mission in Northeast Kansas City in cooperation with Country Club Christian Church's PartNerShip. This will be an opportunity to learn about the needs of our own city and build memories and lasting relationships with other students.

Margo Hunter named to Regional Youth Cabinet



Country Club Christian Church's own Margo Hunter was recently selected for the CCGKC Regional Youth Cabinet (RYC). Her selection included recommendations and an interview process with peers and adults who currently serve on the committee. The RYC is a group of committed high school students from the Greater Kansas City Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who plan and create fun, faith-filled events for

their peers. The goal of the RYC is to grow in faith, meet new friends, and have fun. Events they plan have included dances, concerts, hayrides, ropes-course events, conferences, as well as the Mid-Winter retreat in January and two week-long camps in the summer at Tall Oaks. We are excited for Country Club Christian Church's representation on the RYC and look forward to watching Margo continue to grow in her leadership skills as she serves our region's youth.

A Place at the Table



On Sun., May 7, our children filled grocery bags with non-perishable food items to donate to our feeding ministries as part of our 2017 Stewardship Campaign.



Who Invites Who?

By Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



Tables..

At an oval conference table, my clergy colleagues pulled up a chair and glanced at the agenda. Hmm. Stewardship season again? At the head of the conference room table, a tall white haired elder with broad shoulders and a booming voice took his seat. As he described how he and his family wrote their first check to the church every month, I shuddered with fear. After I paid the rent and the car payment, there was barely enough for groceries. But as a minister of the church, I was called to give. So I began, in 1988, to give \$10 a month.

When I saw a child with cancer in Nicaragua gain access to chemo because of our congregation's generosity, I became motivated to give more. As my own son was mentored by caring church members who went out of their way to encourage and guide him, I realized that such grace couldn't be purchased anywhere. It was pure gift.

This year, when the theme "A Place at the Table" was chosen for our stewardship season, it made perfect sense to me. I realized that a wise elder had invited me to the table decades ago. The congregation daily makes a place at the table for the poor and marginalized here in Kansas City and around the globe. And my family has been welcomed repeatedly at God's table. So why wouldn't I want to make room at the table for others? After all, we Disciples of Christ gather at the table of Jesus every Sunday and we are always wanting to make room for just one more, to include all of God's children at the table.

But then a few days ago, I just happened upon a little line in the gospel of Luke that startled me.

"...a Pharisee invited Jesus to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table" (Luke 11:37)

Suddenly I reversed my perspective on a "place at the table." Jesus was the one without a place at the table. And this man, a Pharisee, who was both faithful and flawed, invited him into his home for supper. Could it be that Jesus still waits for us to invite him in to have a place in our homes, our lives, our world, our church?

Children and Families

Family Worship Night

Sun., May 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Join us for the last Family Worship Night of the school year. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

Vacation Bible School

Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 19-22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun Day Sun., June 25. For children ages 2 through 5th grade. Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc>.



Adult volunteers also needed.

Sunday School

Deep Blue curriculum is inspired by the verse, "In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47 CEB) The children will discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ today through science experiments, art and crafts, animated videos and active games; making the Bible stories, characters and verses part of their lives. Parents, please check out the site, www.deepbluekids.com.

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Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

Mary L. Johnson
Alexander Hernandez, Sr.

Memorials

Memorial gifts 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.

Harold Christie, father of Karen Sherbondy
The Outlook Class

Diane Fitzpatrick
Deborah Dribben
John and Erma Hess

Mary Louise Knutson for the Music Department
Judith Callaway
Maureen McGinty

Shirley Mills
Martha Jo Strickler

Charlotte Zachman for the W. Ralph Jones Youth Center and The Charlotte O. Jones Playground Fund
Tom and Melinda Beal
John Kenneth Higdon
Milburn & Evalyn Hobson
Veda Hoffhaus
Louise Lucas
Ryan and Sarah McQueary
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Schultz
Ortrrie Smith
Ann and Jay Wooldridge

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Sara and Alex Goering Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
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