



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.*

FESTIVAL SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 10



Celebrate the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults.

- New Senior Minister Rev. Carla Aday preaching at all three services. **New Heart, New Spirit: God at Work in You**, based on Philippians 2:1-13.
- 3rd grade Bible presentations at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Installation of Rev. Carla Aday as Senior Minister September 24

Rev. Carla Aday will officially be installed as our new Senior Minister on Sun., Sept. 24. There will be one service only that day at 10:30 a.m., followed by a reception. Rev. Gary Walling of Wilson, North Carolina, is preaching that day. Former senior ministers Dr. Gene Brice and Dr. Bob Cueni, as well as Regional Minister Rev. Bill Rose-Heim will join us for this special day.

Join in this historic moment as we celebrate a new chapter in our congregation's history.

- Guest Musicians: String Theory Quartet at 9:00; Brian Rood, trumpet, at 10:00 a.m.; and the Kansas City Brass at 11:00 a.m.
- Picnic Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs served by Two Guys and a Grill. Live music provided by String Theory Quartet. Bounce house, games and prizes, food and music! \$8 per person, maximum \$30 per family. Cash and credit cards accepted.
- Guests complimentary.

Blood Drive on Sept. 10



The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, which serves the greater Houston area, has been severely impacted

by Hurricane Harvey. Locally, the Community Blood Center, along with other blood centers, is still working to help meet the needs in this area, as well as maintain the supply for our area. You can help by donating blood on Sun., Sept. 10. The Community Blood Center is conducting a blood drive in our Social Hall that morning. Walk ins are welcome.





Miroslav Volf to Preach

Renowned theologian Miroslav Volf will preach at Country Club Christian Church on Sun., Oct. 8. Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and Founding Director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture. “One of the most celebrated theologians of our time” (Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury), Volf is a leading expert on the public role of religion. The most recent of his many books are titled *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World* (Yale UP, 2016) and *Public Faith in Action* (Brazos, 2016). His *Exclusion & Embrace* (Abingdon) won the 2002 Grawemeyer Award in Religion and was deemed one of 100 most influential religious books of the 20th century by Christianity Today.

Neighborhood Communion Starting this Fall

When the earliest followers of Jesus experienced the Spirit’s coming at Pentecost, breaking bread was one of the hallmarks of their gatherings. They ate their meals together as well as the bread and wine. They devoted themselves to sharing life and caring for each other. It’s in this spirit that you are invited to participate in small group gatherings in your neighborhood for a similar experience of fellowship and guided discussion. Each group will meet up to three times between Oct. 16 and Nov. 17. Sign up in the parlor beginning Sept. 10. Contact: Barbara George at 816-381-9251 or barbarag@cccckc.org.

Dr. Mike Graves Teaching Classes Beginning in September “Table Talk: Rethinking Communion”

September 12, 19, and 26, 7:00 p.m.

What if we told you that we are not just 2,000 years removed from how the earliest followers of Jesus ate the meal we call Communion, but more like light years? Based on a book he’s just finished writing, Dr. Mike Graves will lead an exploration of three key dynamics of the Jesus meal: intimacy, inclusion, and joy. We’ve celebrated some joyful Communion services in our church, but there’s more to learn about their practices back then, and about what it might mean for us now.

“Don’t Know Much about the Bible”

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00 p.m.

If there ever was a time when everyone attending Sunday services knew the Bible well, it’s no longer the case. Surveys indicate we are better at naming the four members of The Beatles than the names of the four Gospels. Even entering seminarians admit to lacking basic knowledge of the biblical texts. In this introduction, we will explore the library of documents we call “Bible.” We will get an overview of both testaments and discuss approaches to reading more closely and fully.



On Sun., Aug. 27, a lovely celebration honored the Tri C’s Sunday School class, which held its last meeting that morning after 71 years of dedication to God, one another and to Country Club Christian Church. A rainy morning did not deter the planting of a white oak tree near our south entrance in honor of this class. Thank you to our Green Team for this special tribute.



Spiritual Millionaires

By Rev. Carla Aday



I am intrigued by the phrase “spiritual millionaire.” The phrase jumped off the page at me as I was re-reading the autobiography of one of the great spiritual leaders of the 20th century, Thomas Merton, called *The Seven Storey Mountain*. In the opening pages of the story of his life he reflects on the rich childhood he shared with his artistic bohemian parents. He says that “if all you needed to be happy was to grab everything and see everything and investigate every experience and then talk about it,” he would

have been a “spiritual millionaire” from the cradle through his adult life.

Which got me to thinking about what it would take for you and me to become spiritual millionaires.

What do you think? If becoming a spiritual millionaire was the goal, how would we spend our time, our money, our energy? What activities might we add? Delete? Sometimes my husband and I have an extended conversation about what we will do if we won the lottery. It takes a while to decide how you would spend \$746 million. We get rather serious about exactly where to invest the money. And then we stop to remember that we never bought a ticket! Some folks day dream about early retirement but never put extra money into their retirement funds. I wonder if many of us are similar in our efforts towards the spiritual riches. We’d like to be spiritual millionaires, but do not get around to investing ourselves in that goal.

Of course the good news of the gospel is that spiritual riches cannot be sought or found but always come as a gift. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Which is a reminder that sometimes God comes to us when we seem to be the least well off. Most mornings I watch out my office window as a dad walks his 2-year-old to preschool. The little boy stops to examine the rocks in the garden while the father patiently gets down on his knees to look with his son at the marvel of a round grey stone. Or the boy stomps his tennis shoes gently through the puddle of rain while the father smiles with delight. And I remember that when Jesus was asked who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, he called a child and put the child among them and said “unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18).”

The Sound of Silence

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence

One of the rarest commodities in our busy world these days is sitting still with one’s thoughts. Just watch folks waiting for their oil to be changed or for the doctor to see them, and you’ll notice the incessant fiddling with smart phones. Turns out, sitting still is also rare in worship, traditionally referred to as meditation. If you are one of those persons who values a time of reflection, we’ve got good news. Starting this Sunday, we will introduce a time for reflection after the sermon, thirty seconds or so in which we can think about the gospel we have heard preached. You could think of it as a time of prayer and reflection, imagining what God might be saying to you through the Scripture and sermon.

Worship with us!

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

September 10

Philippians 2:1-13

New Heart, New Spirit

Part 1: God at Work in You

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

September 17

Genesis 50:15-21

New Heart, New Spirit

Part 2: Beyond Grudges

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

September 24

Genesis 1 and 2

Calling Carla

Rev. Gary Walling Preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Prayer on the Road

Everyone is invited to join us for fellowship, prayer, and song as our monthly Prayer on the Road visits the residents at Armour Oaks Senior Living Community on Thurs., Sept. 21 at 10:00 a.m. Our informal service lasts about 25 minutes and is preceded by casual conversation with our neighbors and hosts. We will gather in the chapel which is in the Assisted Living wing of the facility. Armour Oaks is located at 8100 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64114. For more information 816-381-9249 or joew@cccckc.org.

Running/Walking Groups

Run or walk with us at either or both weekly gatherings. Runners on Tuesdays at 6:00 a.m. with Lara Schopp and walkers on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. with Carla Aday. Groups will share a word of scripture, prayer or devotion prior to a three-mile route. Sept. 19, 26 and Oct. 3.

TED Talks

Listen to a relevant TED Talk as a group and engage in group discussion. Facilitated by Craig Doty. Third Sunday of the month, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. at 10:00 a.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).

Nicaragua Mission, Feb. 24-Mar 4, 2018

You can be a part of our exciting yet affordable mission experience in Nicaragua, Feb. 24-Mar 4, 2018. We are making plans with our long-time indigenous partner, CEPAD, for a health clinic and a clean water project. No prior mission experience is required, just a heart for meeting our brothers and sisters. Airfare is a little more than in previous years; we expect the all-inclusive cost to be around \$1,800. We are accepting applications now at joew@cccckc.org.

One of our projects will be helping families build clean drinking water filters. The team hopes to make and distribute 25 filters to rural homes. The Bio-Sand filters have proven to be economical and easily maintained. Each filter costs \$40; we are hoping to raise \$1000 to pay for the materials.

If you cannot join us in person, support our mission team with a donation to offset costs or a gift toward clean drinking water for a family. Donations of any size are appreciated, please mark your envelope or check "Nica Mission" or "Water Filters." For information, joew@cccckc.org, 816-381-9249.

Save the Date for Grace At Work

Sat., Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m. - noon. Join us for a fun-filled half-day vounteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects.



FaithPub returns in September



FaithPub

FaithPub returns this fall, a group of men meeting the third Thursday of each month at The Well in Waldo. Speakers this fall include: Brian El-lison, Executive Director for Covenant Network of Presbyterians (Sept. 21), David May, Professor of New Testament at Central Seminary (Oct. 19), and Emanuel Cleaver III, Senior Pastor at St. James United Methodist Church (Nov. 16). Be sure to mark your calendars now.

Via Women's Retreat is Oct. 20-22

The Via spiritual renewal retreats are designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time, and have fun while also reconnecting with the Spirit of God. Participants will learn new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, enjoy the beauty of nature, and have time to relax and play.



Cost: \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials. Each room sleeps 2, 3 or 4 people. Rooms will be assigned unless a roommate preference is noted. Early registration is \$110 by Sept. 15.

Contact Anne Haraughty for more information at anneh@cccckc.org, or register online at cccckc.org/



The Next Big Adventure

By Chuck Pickrel, Director of Student Ministries



As an army brat growing up I faced new schools, homes, friends, and places more often than most people. As a mechanic and detail specialist I got my hands dirty on some very cool and expensive cars that a lot of people only dream of seeing and touching. As a minister to youth I have been part of the lives of hundreds of amazing young people from all over the country. As a gamer I've saved a pretend world from threats both earthly and alien. But my greatest adventure has only just begun.

On Sun., Sept. 2nd at 5:01 pm (eastern time) I met my daughter for the very first time. Violet Marie Emerson Pickrel is six pounds, ten ounces and nineteen inches long. The very first thing she did when they put her in my arms was grab my beard. Her eyes weren't even open yet. She already has me wrapped around her tiny little finger. She is beautiful and perfect in every way.



I can't wait for everyone to meet her. In the mean time, here's a cute photo to tide you over.

The world is a scary place for everyone right now, but little ones like Violet bring hope for a brighter future. We can make it together.

I hope you all feel as blessed as I do.

Faithbook Starts in September

Women exploring scripture and forming friendships. Come and go as your schedule permits on either Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. Fall session begins Sept. 19/20 and concludes Nov. 14/15. The first six sessions of fall will be based on *More than Words: 10 Values for the Modern Family* by Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor at St. Andrew Christian Church. These sessions will be led by Rev. Carla Aday and Rev. Monica Lewis. The topic for the last three sessions is "How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor," led by Dr. Mike Graves. (Dr. Graves will also present a Pathways to Learning series on this topic. See description below). Winter/Spring begins Jan. 9/10 and concludes Apr. 24/25.

Pathways to Learning

A series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon 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. Social Hall.



How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor with Dr. Mike Graves

Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12

Thomas Foster's book, *How to Read Literature like a Professor*, invites readers to glimpse how English professors discover insights that students often miss. Adapting his title, this class will consider the techniques taught in seminaries for how to interpret the Bible, including older as well as newer methodologies. In addition to looking at these methods, we'll consider biblical texts used in Sunday sermons this past year.

Middle and High School Events

A new year of activities for Middle and High School ministries kicks off soon! Mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

Mark Your Calendar

Festival Sunday - Sun., Sept. 10

Serve at Micah Ministry - Mon., Sept. 11. Meet at the church parking lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Pickup back at church at 7:30 p.m.

Middle School Pizza Tour

Sun., Sept. 17, noon-3:00 p.m.



High School BBQ Tour

Sun., Sept. 17, noon-3:00 p.m.

Youth Group

High School Youth Group starts meeting weekly on Thurs., Sept. 21 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Waldo Pizza

Middle School Youth Group starts meeting weekly on Fri., Sept. 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the church.



2017-2018 Calendars

Pick up a copy of the Student Ministry calendar flyer for 2017-2018 in the Youth Center, or visit www.cccckc.org/2017-2018-student-ministry-calendar/ to find all of the Student Ministry events planned for the school year.

Disaster Relief

We continue to monitor clean up efforts as a result of Hurricane Harvey, and the pending situation related to Hurricanes Irma and Jose, and will continue to work with our partners at Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and others as we consider plans for a mission team to visit the Houston area.

We are also mindful of the devastation wrought by storms and flooding in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. As just one barometer of the severity of the humanitarian crisis, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 16 million children are at risk in South Asia. Water, food, shelter, and medical care are all in short supply in the aftermath of the catastrophic monsoons.

To contribute to disaster relief either domestically or globally visit www.weekofcompassion.org.



Mom Guilt

By Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students, and Families



The first day of kindergarten was a rough one for me. I knew it would be. I knew I would be teary eyed as I left the school. But what I didn't anticipate was the deep sobbing that would come the moment I stepped out of the building. For me, it wasn't just that I was dropping off my only child at kindergarten. It wasn't the rite of passage that we were finally privy to. It was guilt. Pure "Mom Guilt."

We got to school early that day and walked to the classroom just like all of the other parents who were taking in their children. Because it was still a little early, she sat down in the hallway with the rest of her class. Johnny turned to me to ask if we should go ahead and leave since some of the other parents were. Didn't he know that you walk your child in and take the obligatory first-day-of-school-sitting-at-your-desk-with-your-mom photo?! How could he have missed that memo?

But when I asked our daughter if she wanted us to wait with her and she told us to leave, I listened. The moment we starting walking away, the tears started. Shortly after, the sobbing came. I realized very quickly that I'd made a mistake but I couldn't turn back in my current emotional state. I couldn't believe that I'd missed the one opportunity in our lives to take that picture. How did I not walk my baby girl into her classroom? How did I not usher her into her new normal? Why had I just let her go?

The rational side of me knows that we've tried our best to raise an independent young woman and that, in the moment that day when she told us to go ahead and go, I could have absorbed that moment of success. It also reminded me how excited she was for her new adventure and all of the unknowns that await her. But the guilt. The guilt is what took hold. In that moment, like so many others, it won.

I've been thinking a lot over the last year about the difference between shame and guilt. There are moments when guilt can be a good thing; shame, on the other hand, never is. But guilt should be the feeling that comes when we've hurt God's creation in some way. It should not come from the social pressures that mothers face to provide a Disneyland experience for our children in every moment of their lives.

I didn't get the picture I wanted. And there will be many more moments that don't live up to my ridiculous standards of success—you'll have those, too. My prayer for us is that we realize our worth is not handed to us by Pinterest or Instagram, rather it is defined by the God who is a parent to us all. I'm doing the best I can...and so are you. Keep it up!

Children and Families

2017-2018 Calendars

Pick up a copy of the Children's Ministry calendar flyer for 2017-2018 in the Youth Center, or visit www.cccckc.org/2017-2018-childrens-ministry-calendar to find all of the Children's Ministry events planned for the school year.

First Friday

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders. Meets every first Friday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church. Dinner provided. (Starts Oct. 6. No gathering in January. Concludes Apr. 6.)

Family Worship Night

Oct. 1, Dec. 3, Feb. 4, May 6

A worship experience for the entire family. Free dinner provided. Pray with your family. Worship with your family. Sing with your family. Be active with your family. Serve the world with your family.

4:30-6:00 p.m.



Trunk or Treat

Sat., Oct. 29, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Dress your little ghoul or goblin in his or her Halloween costume to trick or treat between decorated cars. Food, pumpkin decorating, games and more!

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Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

Midge White

Memorials and Tributes

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

Don Landes

Alan and Susan Garner

Joyce Minor, for Micah Ministry

Alan and Susan Garner
Jonna and Dale Hunter
Peggy and Carty Johannsen
Martha Jo Strickler
James and Elaine Swope
Mary Alice William

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