



November 3, 2017 | Vol. 91 No. 22

From the Senior Minister



As you eat the last "fun size" snickers, take down the spider webs from the shrubs and store the goblin costumes away, your mind might drift towards the Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings on the horizon. And these celebrations can arouse anxiety and dread. The newlywed wonders what it will be like to dine at the new in-laws home where they serve the wrong kind of dressing with the turkey. The widow might worry about the gaping hole in her heart widening as she celebrates without her life-mate by her side. The step-children might fret about opening gifts on Christmas day instead of Christmas Eve. And the step-father may fear that his ex-wife will add unnecessary drama.

Even the healthiest, happiest families have their own unique ways of handling conflict and celebrating holidays. There is no one "right way," only the way we have grown comfortable with as "the way." Every family is made up of imperfect people which means that there is no such thing as the perfect family. David Sedaris highlights this reality in his *Santaland Diaries* essay where he plays the role of an elf at a Santa booth in the mall.

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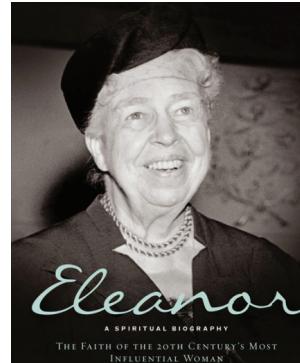


COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Thanksgiving Dinner is Nov. 16

Harold Ivan Smith will be the speaker at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration on Thur., Nov. 16. Smith is the author of *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography*, which takes a look at the faith of Eleanor Roosevelt. Many know the former first lady as a tireless social activist. Often overlooked, however, is her deep and inclusive spirituality which her commitment to civil rights, women's rights, and the rights of all those marginalized in American society.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings, catered by Expressive Catering with Bonnie Hensley. Smith's talk is titled "Eleanor Roosevelt: Thanksgiving for a Life Long-Lived, Well-Lived". Music will be provided by pianist Carl Bolte, Jr. Cost is \$18 per adult and \$10 per child. Purchase tickets in the parlor on Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12. Contact Anne Haraughty at (816) 333-4917.



Eleanor
A SPIRITUAL BIOGRAPHY
THE FAITH OF THE 20TH CENTURY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMAN

Operation Thanksgiving Della Lamb Food Drive



Support Della Lamb's Operation Thanksgiving by bringing non-perishable food items to the Thanksgiving Dinner on Thurs., Nov. 16. (Items will be accepted any time before then too.) Each year Della Lamb collects items to provide more than 1,700 low-income families with groceries, recipes and special holiday greetings. This project is being led by our students. Contact Caroline Schopp 816-914-1814 with any questions! Look for us on Sundays, Nov. 5 and 12.

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From the Senior Minister

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He watches parents cajole their crying children to smile, shout at them to sit on Santa's lap, so that "on paper everything is exactly the way it's supposed to be" even though this picture is of a world "they cannot make work for them."

Best selling marriage authors Les and Leslie Parrot propose that we attempt to honor the family of our spouse as a way of loving our spouse. Maybe we don't love football but we watch it with the in-laws because we love our spouse. Maybe we don't love board games but we play them to connect with our spouse's kids. I love the biblical guidance from Colossians "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, meekness, patience, bearing with one another..." because it reminds me that we cannot change our families but we can offer them love in concrete ways. ☺

Carla

Pumpkin Pies for Micah Ministries



Last Thanksgiving we collected enough pies and donations to serve more than 1,000 slices of pumpkin pie at Micah Ministry. Your extraordinary generosity made the traditional Thanksgiving meal sweeter and more festive for our neighbors in need of hospitality. Again this year, our November Collection Connection invites you to make a pumpkin pie or donate so that we can

buy a big, delicious pie from Costco. Checks or cash donations may be placed in the offering with "Micah Pumpkin Pies" in the memo line or written on the envelope. For text giving, text the word PUMPKIN to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you'd like to contribute. Micah Ministry is the social services outreach at Independence Boulevard Christian Church in the historic Northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City. For information on volunteer opportunities to serve meals, sort clothing, and help with other ministries, contact Joe Walker.

Socks for Micah Ministries

Make Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! Fill tube socks with items that can be used by either men or women such as small sized toiletries including shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, and washcloth. Socks are available in the parlor on Sundays or from the church office for .75/pair or \$9 for a pack of 12. Return to church by Sunday, Dec. 1.



Guest Gatherings

If you are a guest we are happy to welcome you at the Guest Gathering, Sun., Oct. 22. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the library for a pastry and coffee as a member of our clergy guides you through our values, traditions and beliefs. Discover ways to connect with service opportunities, classes, small groups and of course, our members. We would love to become your church family. The next new member Sunday is Oct. 29.

Do You Follow Us?





reflections

Sir?

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



When did I become “old”? That’s not a punchline, it’s a serious question.

Last weekend our congregation helped host Culver-Stockton College students on their “Know Thy Selfie” retreat. As a church we arranged for a service opportunity at Grace United Community Ministries, one of our Northeast neighborhood partners. The retreat was funded, in part, by a grant from our Endowment Committee. Culver-Stockton is one of our historic Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) schools. You may have seen the students here in our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service. t

I had lunch with the students on Saturday. I was impressed beyond words with their heart for people and the depth of their spiritual reflection. They shared stories from their lives and insights from studies. The students talked about serving “outside their comfort zone” and what they learned from that about others, systemic poverty, themselves and, most importantly, what God is doing in all of our lives. They identified God-given gifts that they will bring to their vocations: medicine, mental health, science, business, the arts, and communications.

Jeff Algie, our Grace United champion, was also impressed. “They were so engaging,” Jeff said, “about their school, how it is growing, what they are into there, singing to the music they played, and really interested in the ministries and programs of Grace United. There is one thing about them that made me a little uneasy - they kept saying ‘Sir’ - that kept me looking around to see who they were talking to.”

Of course, neither Jeff nor I were really surprised by their youth, but we both took note of their age. Even their Chaplain, Rev. Amanda Sorenson, had celebrated her ordination only two weeks earlier.

Which brings me back to my observation: As I have gotten “older” I have become ever more appreciative of gifted young people. They give me great hope for the future. That is not to say that I/we are done and can coast but simply that I have a new perspective on Isaiah’s prophecy: *“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

If they are to help heal our people and our planet, our emerging generations will have to “dream of things that never were and ask ‘why not?’”

I pray for our young people and welcome opportunities to empower, equip, and encourage them. ☰



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

Nov. 5,

A Life Worth Living, Part 1:

Setting the GPS

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Nov. 12

A Life Worth Living, Part 2

Matthew 25: 1-13

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Nov. 19

A Life Worth Living, Part 3

Matthew 25: 31-46

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Holiday Shopping at The Well

It's that time of year when we gather together to celebrate family and friends.



Stop by The Well to pick up a hostess gift or an item to enhance your own get together. Our pinecone collection including decorative towels and platters plus cheese boards, markers, and knife sets are just what you need!



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Pathways to Learning

How to Read the Bible Like a Seminary Professor

The current Pathways to Learning series “How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor” continues this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Dr.

Mike Graves leads this series which is reviewing techniques taught in seminaries for how to interpret the Bible, including older as well as newer methodologies. Guests and visitors welcome.



Upcoming Music Series

KC Guitar Society Casual Concert Series in the Chapel on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. – free and open to the public. Nov. 12, Chris Hudson, guitar, Dec. 17, Daniel Krieg, guitar.

KC Brass Holiday Concert in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 5.– free and open to the public.

Grief Lunch: Facing Death

Alice Kitchenzs husband died after a long bout with progressive illness. Join us at the Faith and Grief Lunch where Alice will share her experiences of accepting her husband's diagnosis, engaging with family and friends in the dying process, and reflecting on her own mortality. The lunch is Tues., Nov. 7, noon at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. 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

FaithPub

Led by Mike Graves. Group for men of all ages. Meets Thur., Nov. 9, 7:00 p.m. at The Well (7421 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO), where participants can enjoy a beverage, appetizer or light meal, and connect with other men looking for sacred conversations around stuff that matters. Guest speaker is Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology at Saint Paul School of Theology.

Diane Robertson in Concert

Diane Robertson, a regular guest soloist for the 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. services, will be performing a concert of sacred and secular favorites on Sun., Nov. 12 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Wesley Chapel at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. Diane will be joined by Eleanor Hill, mezzo soprano, and Phil Eatherston, baritone. Dina Pannabecker Evans will accompany. All are warmly invited to attend!



TED Talks

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



a message from staff

Music Outreach

By Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, Co-Director of Music



As we dream of what the church can become, and consider our vision of ministry, Brian Campbell, chair of the music committee, challenged Paul Tucker and me to develop a series of music events outside of the Sunday morning worship services. It was a joy-filled challenge, as we are so pleased to share our beautiful church home with others as we also work to meet the vision of ministry set out by the Board. It is also a goal of ours to bring a variety of music into the sanctuary and the chapel.

The Combs Chapel is now the home to the KC Guitar Society Casual Concert Series. The Guitar Society hosts a free monthly concert on a Sunday afternoon. While we are pleased to see church members there, it's a thrill to see many people we don't know becoming more familiar with our facilities and hospitality. We are grateful to John Lehoczky for making the initial contact. If you are interested in an intimate setting with gentle music, plan to attend one of these concerts in the future!

In October, we hosted the Allegro Choirs – a non-profit choral program for singers from the 3rd through 12th grade, representing more than 60 public and private schools in seven counties, as well as home-schooled singers. On Oct. 22, the sanctuary was filled with 250 singers and an audience of 800. We were able to share information about the church's children's and youth programs as the families departed. There are discussions underway for another concert here next November.

In addition to new connections, we are very pleased to continue an annual holiday tradition -- the KC Brass Holiday Concert – on Tues., Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. We look forward to an evening of sacred and secular favorites, interspersed with the good-natured humor of the KC Brass.

All of these events, and more, can be found on the church website at: cccckc.org/music-events/

Please consider inviting your family, friends, and neighbors as we extend our hospitality to our musical colleagues in the region! ☺

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.

June Turley, for Music Ministry

G.H. and Glenda Appleby
Christy and Ward Kinne
Greg and Nancy Lear
Doug and Annette Leonard
Beverly Snyder
Mike and Doris Sorice

June Turley, for Congregational Care

Jeanne Cockayne

Don and Midge White, for Congregational Care, Stephen Ministry

Matthew and Jenny Jordan

Daylight saving is this Sunday,

Nov. 5 at 2:00 a.m.

Fall back!



Student Ministries

Need Service Hours? Serve at Micah Ministry! Join us in serving at Micah Ministries the second Monday of each month. Meet at the church in the Chapel parking lot at 4:30 p.m. Pick up back at church at 7:30 p.m. The next opportunity is Mon., Nov. 13.

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.



Middle Schoolers at the Oct. 28 Lock In.

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 5:30-7 pm. at Waldo Pizza. Dinner provided!

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

Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?

Contact Lori Bennett, Chair of the Student Ministries Team, at lorib77@me.com.

Children and Families

Advent In Advance

Make plans to attend this free Advent workshop for children birth through 5th grade on Sun., Nov. 19, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Social Hall. Enjoy a light lunch and make-n-take session to prepare your family and home for the Advent season.



You can make a wood block nativity set (start or add to yours), family keepsakes, and other fun activities to help us celebrate Advent.

First Fridays

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders on Friday, Dec. 1st. Meets every first Friday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church.

Family Worship Night

Dec. 3, Feb. 4, May 6 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

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.

Student Poinsettia Sale

Purchase a Christmas poinsettia from Country Club Christian Church youth on Sun., Nov. 5, in the parlor. Full payment must be received with all orders. The deadline for orders is Sun., Nov. 26. Plants will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 3, at the church. The poinsettias cost \$15 for a 6-inch plant, \$20 for an 8-inch plant, and \$25 for a 10-inch plant. Proceeds benefit our student mission trip scholarship fund.



Trunk or Treat



Clark Kent, Wonder Woman, princesses, baseball players, ninjas, witches and more were among the crowd that gathered at Trunk or Treat on Sun., Oct. 29. Thank you to all who provided trunks full of candy for our children, and for all those who contributed to this fun and festive event.



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Program Staff

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Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Pro- grams
Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Paul Cutelli Director of Technology	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
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SAVE THE DATES



Thanksgiving Dinner

Thurs., Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker Harold Ivan Smith

Author of Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography

Topic: "Eleanor Roosevelt: Thanksgiving for a
Life Long-Lived, Well-Lived"

Advent in Advance

Sun., Nov. 19, 11:00 a.m.

Free Advent workshop for children birth
through 5th grade. Includes light lunch and
make-n-take session to prepare your family and
home for the Advent season.

Christmas Festival

Sun., Dec. 10., 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Join us for this festive intergenerational event
featuring a candlelit Christmas carol sing-a-
long on the front steps (weather permitting) and
followed by a chili dinner, visit with Santa, family
photos in the Sanctuary, Christmas crafts and
service project.

Christmas Eve

Sun., Dec. 24.

10:30 a.m. – one morning service only

5:30 p.m. – Children and Families service

8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. – traditional candlelight
service featuring the KC Brass

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCKC.org

Follow us!

