



VOLUME 89 · NUMBER 12

COUNTRY CLUB

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.*

Join us for Outdoor Worship

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in June and July

Have you ever worshipped outdoors? Perhaps you were on a hike or attending a church summer camp.

“When I was growing up, my youth group used to go to the beach every Sunday afternoon for one month in the summer for fun and games in the sun and sand,” Dr. Glen Miles said. “As the sun began to set, we closed with a campfire worship service. There were a few songs led by one of the youth on guitar and an encouraging message from our youth minister on living out our faith. The worship was simple yet powerful.”

We are going to try something like this during the 9:00 a.m. worship hour in the months of June and July. We will meet on the sidewalk in front of the steps surrounded by the beautiful new landscaping with our newly renovated building as the background view for the worshippers. The service will be simple, with gospel style music, a message of hope and grace, and an invitation to share in the Supper of our Lord.



Setting up for 9:00 a.m. service.

Please dress casually too. If you are heading to a Royals game or a day of shopping on The Plaza, this will be a great way for you to start your Sunday! We are hopeful that this will enhance the early morning worship hour. If there is rain, the service will be moved indoors. Give this new service a try. You may just find that it helps your spirit soar in new ways!

The first Sunday will be June 7. We will return to the sanctuary in August.



Annual Congregational Meeting Is June 14

On Sun., June 14, annual congregational meetings will be held after each worship service to vote on next year's slate of officers, new board members, elders, deacons and trustees. Please be sure to attend worship that day so that you have an opportunity to vote!

The Nominating Committee has presented the following 2015 slate:

Chair of the Congregational Board – Phil Love

Chair-elect of the Congregational Board – Leeann Blundell

Secretary of the Board – Amy Holmes

Treasurer – Amy Guthrey

Congregational Board Members – Outreach–Esther Giffin; Member-at-large–Kathy McDandel, Amy Rose

Chair of Personnel Committee – Lee Brumitt

Personnel Committee Member – Jennifer Parker

Endowment Trustees – Andrea Bough, Stan Cyphers, Dave Forsee

Nominating Committee – Cathy Egan and Stephanie Becker (worship), Linda Rives and Katie Cronin (outreach), Erin Parkinson and Pat Jessee (spiritual growth), J.J. Jones and Lance Jessee (administration)

Elders – Kevin Briggs, Brian Campbell, Karen Gallagher, Greg Garrison, Brook Howard, Chris Howard, J.J. Jones

Deacons – Eric Adler, Jennifer Austenfeld, Karen Cook, Rick Cook, James Cronin, Carol Crouch, Bruce Erickson, Kara Erickson, Scott Fuller, Makeda Hawk, Christa Jessup, Diane Jones, Joe Meinhardt, Tamara Morris, Lauren Weinhold, Cathy Egan (renewing), Patty Love (renewing)

Youth Elders – Jackson Berry, Ashley Bough, Caroline Brumitt, Sam Brumitt, Hailey Hunter, Charlie Jensen, Lita Lockhart

Youth Deacons – Sam Berry, Ben Crocker, Clayton Forsee, Scott Holt, Margo Hunter, Zoey Jensen, Luke Lapatofsky, Ethan Meuret, Sophie Narmeyer, Lucy Patterson, Lauren Reddin, Wynne Reddin, Aislinn Sullivan

2016 Nicaragua Mission Trip

Our adult mission trip to Nicaragua is scheduled for Feb. 20-28, 2016. The mission team commissioning will be on Sun., Feb. 14. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Joe Walker at joew@cccckc.org. We will keep you up-to-date as information becomes available. If you will not be able to participate but want to help provide scholarships for adults or for the high school student mission to Nicaragua (Summer 2016), please contact Joe.

Pathways to Learning: Aging Gracefully

June 7 – Caring for the Caregiver. Penny Shaffer R.N., M.A., is Program Director for Health and Human Services at Johnson County Community College. Sanctuary. 10:00 a.m.



June 14 – Aging and Alzheimer's. Eric Vidoni, PT, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor. Dr. Vidoni is Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Social Hall, 10:00 a.m.

June 21 – Family Conversations. Peter Holt, M.D., Maxwell G. Berry, M.D., Endowed Chair in Primary Care and Geriatrics at Saint Luke's Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at University of Missouri at Kansas City. Social Hall, 10:00 a.m. Everyone welcome. Free.

Forum on Programs and Ministries

Sunday, July 12, 12:15 Social Hall

Save the date! Everyone is welcome to this gathering to learn more about the wide variety of ministries and programs of the church. There will also be time for questions and comments. This is one of four annual congregational meetings for the year.



Summer Reading

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Every year I like to share my summer reading list with you all. If any of you are reading some of these books, please let me know! I'd love to hear your thoughts about them.

Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World, by General Stanley McChrystal. A friend, with a strong background in leadership, highly recommended this book to me. I'm looking forward to gaining insights from Gen. McChrystal on this new and very complex world and how it affects our work in the church.

The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel James Brown. Another friend highly recommend this story about nine Americans and their quest for gold in the 1936 Summer Olympics. She described it as a cross between *Unbroken* and *Seabiscuit*, two terrific books! It's also about sports and history, my two favorite topics outside of the Bible.

The Road to Character, by David Brooks. Brooks is a regular columnist for *The New York Times*. This book provides us the opportunity to rethink what matters the most in our lives. I'm only two chapters in but, so far, it is worth the read!

My friend and ministry colleague, George Gordon, gave me a copy of T. M. Lurhman's book, *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God*. I'm really glad he did. It is one of those books I've wanted to read since it came out in 2012. I grew up attending evangelical churches. I'm certain Lurhman's highly praised work will provide me with both personal and professional insight.

Anne Lamott's latest, *Small Victories*, has been sitting on my desk unopened for several weeks now. I love reading her work and I know there will be a sermon illustration or two on her pages.

That is enough for now. I'd love to hear what you are reading. Send me a recommendation or two and why you think the book is good. I'm always looking for great reads.

Grace and peace to you,

Upcoming Guest Event

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend an upcoming social and informational gathering to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and congregation. Sun., June 14, 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information, please contact Dr. Meredith Holladay at meredithh@cccckc.org.

Worship with us!

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

Summer Sermon Series
The Pursuit of Happiness

June 7

Part 1: The Elusive Search
Nehemiah 8: 5-12

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Reel Faith – Date Change

The next session of Reel Faith has been changed to Sun., July 19. Watch a movie, enjoy pizza and then discuss the movie to see what images of faith are captured by the film. Meet at the Sulgrave Regency Condominiums in the movie theater. Led by Phil and Patty Love. Limit 14 people. 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie title or to sign up.

The Holy Land – In the Footsteps of Jesus

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to the Holy Land Oct. 28-Nov. 6, 2015. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. Stops include Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Contact Lauren Weinhold at weinhold.lauren@gmail.com for more information.

Ice Cream Social Coming Soon!

Sunday, June 28, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the front lawn! (Rain location: Social Hall.) Join us for food, ice cream and fun as we say thank you to our volunteers and leaders of the church. The event is free and for everyone! Entertainment provided by Jay & Leslie's Laughing Matters.



Branson Music Trip

August 14-16

Join us for a visit to beautiful Branson, MO, Aug. 14-16. Enjoy three of Branson's most popular shows, Dublin's Irish Tenors and the Celtic Ladies, New Jersey Nights, and Jonah, and the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art. Tour price includes deluxe motor coach transportation, two nights lodging, four meals, and the three shows. \$394 per person double occupancy or \$465 single occupancy. Optional trip insurance is \$25 per person double or \$34 single. Reservation deadline is June 22. Contact Rev. Joe Walker at joew@cccckc.org or Sandi Riley at rileys425@gmail.com.

Lemonade on the Lawn Continues Through June 22

June 8, 15, 22

Join us on Mondays through June 22 as we gather on our lawn for lemonade and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. Come for a glass of lemonade and a snack. Stay for conversation – or study – or meditation! At 7:00 we'll break up into small group options. Everyone is welcome regardless of whether they have attended the previous week.

○ **Men's Bible Study with Glen Miles.** *Great Leaders, Flawed Souls.* A Bible study for men focusing on the stories of Moses, Joshua, Saul and David. These men were great leaders. They were used by God to do something amazing yet each one was also deeply flawed in some way. We will look at the lives of these biblical leaders to see that God can use us in profound ways.

○ **Podcast Group with Carla Aday** This group will discuss a selection of episodes from the *On Being* podcast, hosted by Krista Tippett. The episodes include:

- June 8 – “The Mystery and Adventure of Life and Songwriting” by Joe Henry

- June 15 – “Mindfulness, Suffering and Engaged Buddhism,” Thich Nhat Hanh, Cheri Maples and Larry Ward
- June 22 – “Finding God in All Things” with James Martin

Go to www.cccckc.org for links to the podcasts.

○ **Book Group with Meredith Holladay.** This group is discussing Lauren Winner's newest book, *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God.* Homework optional! Feel free to read along, or just come and participate in the conversation.

○ **Meditation/Spirituality Group** – A time to experience different ways of being present to God through spiritual practices and meditation.

○ **Volunteer with the Green Team.**

Childcare will be provided.

Students are encouraged to attend one of the groups!



Musical Thanks

By Michael Patch, Director of Children's and Student Music



After talking about the spring musical for nearly an entire year, this past month the children's music program put on *iAm: The Real Life App for All That*. It was quite the event! The performers worked very hard to learn their lines and songs. They rehearsed for four months, decorated the set, and came up with their own costumes. After getting to know the story and how it applied to their faith, some of the performers



even suggested changes to the script to better reflect their faith. In the end, all of their hard work paid off! The performance was terrific!

There are many people who volunteered to make the day such a huge success. We all owe them a big THANK YOU! Lori Bennett, Maureen McGinty, Lesley Holt, Don and Diana Bennett, Glenn and Tepring Crocker, Jere Hanney, Lara Schopp, David Calvert, Cynthia Petrie, Krista Calvert, the Tiegreens, and Dale and Marcia Ramsey.

This list of names is in addition to all of the families who dedicated their time and talents to help bring the show together. We hope that we will see the children and youth music continue to grow and more families become a part of this wonderful program.



Now, on to the next big thing!

June Collection Connection School Supplies for Della Lamb

In June, we are collecting school supplies for Della Lamb Community Services.

They need:

- Protractors, compasses,
- 1-inch three-ring binders
- Combination locks

Other more common school supplies are received but these are the items that usually are needed but not received. Please place your donations in the bin in the Parlor. Della Lamb is one of the agencies in our partnership with the Northeast Kansas City community and focuses on empowering low-income clients to meet the challenges of education, employment and self-sufficiency.

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 to see the schedule, workshop offerings and register online. See you in Columbus!

Upcoming Student Events

High School Mission Trip

June 14-20. We are going to Chicago. Current high school students are invited to join in a week of fun, fellowship and mission work. Cost is \$500 per person. Scholarships are available upon request. Please contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org if interested in attending.

Middle School Mission Trip

June 22-23. Students in grades 6-8 will engage in ministry opportunities as part of our PartNERship in Northeast Kansas City. This is a free experience for students. Please contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 for more information.

High School Nicaragua Trip

We are planning a mission trip to Nicaragua for high school in 2016. If you are interested in this trip, contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org.

Service Hours Opportunity

June 5-7 – VBS. Contact Lindsay Howes at lindsayh@cccckc.org if interested in volunteering.

Sun., June 28 – Ice Cream Social. 6th-12th grade serving together to assist with event setup. Social Hall.

Sunday Mornings

June 14 – 11:00 a.m. Balcony. 6th-12th grade worship together.

June 21 – 11:00 a.m. Balcony. 6th-12th grade worship together.

July 5 – 11:00 a.m. Family Worship Sunday. No Sunday School 6th-12th grade.

July 19 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

July 26 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

July 12 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Movies on the Lawn

Middle School. Sun., July 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m., East lawn. Movie for the 6th-8th graders.

High School. Sun., July 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m., East lawn. Movie for the 9th-12th graders.

Family Worship Night

Sun., July 26 – Join us in the Social Hall for fellowship, music, and prayer as a family. All ages welcome. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner provided. Free event for the entire family.

Boy Scout Court of Honor Welcomes New Eagle Scouts



Three new Eagle Scouts were recently recognized at a Court of Honor by Boy Scout Troop 84, which meets here at Country Club Christian Church. New Eagle Scouts are, left to right, Ciaran Fitzpatrick, Jackson Lovelace, and Aurturo "Turo" Viers.



I See Opportunity

By Dr. Meredith Holladay, Minister of Spiritual Formation



Perhaps you heard the news; or at least you might have read the headlines. The sky is falling! The sky is falling!

No wait. That's not quite it.

About a month ago, the Pew Research Center released results from their Religious Landscape Study. The most distressing findings were the decline of Christianity and the rise of the "nones" – those who claim no specific religious affiliation. Since 2007, the number of U.S. adults who self-identify as Christian

has decreased from 78.4 percent to 70.6 percent. In contrast, the number of "unaffiliated" adults has risen by almost the same percentage – from 16.1 percent to 22.8 percent.

This likely seems scary. The world is certainly changing. The "religious landscape" of our community, country and the world is rapidly becoming more diverse. This narrative, however is not new for sociologists. Sociologists have been talking about "secularization" and the diminishing of Christendom for decades.

Here's the thing: it doesn't have to be bad news. It is hard news – and it means we will have to work harder to understand the church's place in our world. Used to be it was "taken for granted" (as sociologists would say) that our society was religious – and more than that – overwhelmingly Christian – so much of our religious identity was wrapped up in the fabric of our society. And we know that is simply not the case any more.

It is fine when these numbers tell a story about them: Christians elsewhere, other churches. But what happens when the story is about us? What happens when we start to see the changes in our own pews and classrooms and rosters? What happens when we start to notice the decline? We don't want that story to be true about us. We want to be different. Change begets worry and worry begets panic. It doesn't have to be this way.

Change always seems to echo with doom. But I look around at the changing landscape and see opportunity. Rather than worry, what if we gave each other permission for creativity? I see an opportunity to rediscover where God's Spirit is at work around us – within and outside the walls of our church buildings. I see an opportunity to create anew – alongside our Creator – the church that is and will continue to be the bearer of good news to the least of these: the burdened, the poor, the searching, the broken.

Meredith

For more about the Pew Study: <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

Children and Families Vacation Bible School



June 5-7, Friday-Sunday, ages 2 years-5th grade, Free

2-year-olds – Fri., June 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Sun., June 7, 10:00 a.m.-noon

3 years through 5th grade – Fri., June 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m; Sat., June 6, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; and Sun., June 7, 10:00 a.m.-noon

Family Fun Day – Sun., June 7, 12:15 p.m.

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ccckc-vbs> or in the parlor on Sunday.

Family Worship Night

Sun., July 26 – Join us in the Social Hall for fellowship, music, and prayer as a family. All ages welcome. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner provided. Free event for the entire family.

Sunday School Apps

Parents please check out the *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* app to help you reinforce our Sunday lessons.

- For iPhones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-apple> to download the app.
- For Android phones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-android>.

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Our Church Family Sympathy

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

Frank Siler

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday
Executive Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

Dr. Meredith Holladay
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Monica Lewis
Minister to Children,
Students and Families

Rev. Joe Walker
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Mr. Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology and
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Ms. Allie Cobb
Director of Student Ministries

Ms. Dina Pannabecker Evans
Associate Organist

Ms. Lindsay Howes
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Sally Huggins
Assistant Director of Communications

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Mr. Michael Patch
Director of Children's and Youth
Choirs

Ms. Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

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email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org