



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister On Inconvenience



Rev. Carla Aday

**W**hen my son was 10 he refused to practice the guitar. I told his teacher he wanted to quit. “Good,” said the teacher, “I want

him to quit also.” This was not one of my finer “mother” moments. Should we push harder, I wondered? Today, my son practices guitar eight hours a day. Even over Christmas break. He practices the scales a hundred times because he wants to become a great guitarist. He dreams of making his living making music.

When I was home last week, my Mom made her traditional black eyed peas and cornbread for New Year’s Eve. Mom cooks slowly. She never buys pre-grated cheese or cake mix. She soaks the beans before stewing in homemade ham broth. I cannot describe for you all the meals she has cooked for me in my life, but I can tell you that at her table I was nourished with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. In every bite of her food, you can taste love.

The best things in life are like music and fine cuisine. They are inconvenient. They take time. A recent article in *The Christian Century* by Peter Marty reminded me that “church is incon-

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## Dr. Mike Graves Joins Staff Full Time

Dr. Mike Graves, who has been on the church staff since February 2017, first as our Guest Preacher and most recently in a part-time position as Scholar in Residence, will join the staff full time effective this month in the role of Scholar in Residence/Minister of Spiritual Formation. Mike holds a PhD in preaching from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary and is ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He has been on the faculty at Saint Paul School of Theology and at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, and has served in various interim ministry positions and as the Regional Minister of Preaching for the Greater Kansas City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). You can reach Mike at [mikeg@cccckc.org](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org) or 816-381-9255.



Our three new staff member, Dr. Mike Graves, Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, and Rev. Corey Meyer were welcomed in worship in Jan. 7

## New Classes and Groups Starting Soon

### Faithbook

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. Begins Jan. 16/17. No class weeks of Mar. 20 (spring break) and 27 (Holy Week). Concludes week of Apr. 3 with spring parties. Teachers: Carla Aday, Catherine Stark-Corn, Corey Meyer, and Mike Graves



**Session 1—Fierce:** Women of the Bible. This four-part series will look at women of the Bible and their stories of violence, mercy, bravery, wisdom, sex, and salvation. Based on a new book by Alice Connor.

*See more upcoming classes on page 4.*

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## From the Senior Minister

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venient.” We are bombarded with demands to attend soccer games, finish the work report before Monday, catch up on chores. And pushing ourselves seems unspiritual. Unless we want to become a Christian. 🙏

With grace and peace,

*Carla*

## Celebration Dinner and Auction

Save the date, Fri., Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m. at Boulevard Brewery. Tickets and benefactor sponsorships are available for purchase online at <http://www.cccckc.org/2018-dinner-auction/>. Auction – Do you have an item you’d like to donate for the 2018 auction? We are looking for lots of fun and unique items, such as vacation homes, tickets to sporting events or concerts, gift certificates, jewelry, artwork and more! Fill out the form at the link above to submit your item. 🙏

## Weather Closing Information

During the winter months when the weather can be unpredictable, we encourage you to check the church’s Facebook page or website, or call the church at 816-333-4917 when there is extreme cold, ice or snow before heading out to church. Although we prefer not to close the church, when there is inclement weather—particularly on Sundays—we want you to be safe. In the event of a Sunday closing, we will update the church voice mail message by 8:00 a.m. with information. We will also always post weather closings on our website and on Facebook, and will also send an all-church email. If you are not currently receiving church emails, please contact Paul Cutelli at [paulc@cccckc.org](mailto:paulc@cccckc.org). We also notify local news stations of our closings, however their automated systems don’t allow us to provide detailed information. Stay safe and warm during these cold winter months! 🙏

## Collection Connection

In February 2018, we will sponsor the twelfth mission trip to Nicaragua. We will be building water filters and providing a general medical clinic in small villages. YOU can play a critical role in the success of this mission by donating toothbrushes or work gloves. Many toothbrushes are needed to include in home health kits provided to families in remote communities. Hard work is the norm for most people of Nicaragua. They build their own homes, community centers and schools, farm the land or collect wood to cook over open fires. Your contribution of work gloves can help make these tasks a bit easier for everyone. You can also make a monetary donation to allow us to purchase additional materials. Mark your donation Nica 2018. 🙏

## January Food Drive

This month our Food Drive focus is on canned fruits and vegetables. You may bring canned goods to the donation points or make a financial contribution by marking your check or giving envelope “food drive” and placing it in the offering plate, or texting FOOD and the amount you’d like to donate to 816-839-9410.

Your gifts support area food pantries that our church supports: La Gloria de Dios Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services. 🙏

### Do You Follow Us?



## Little Reminders

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister or Congregational Care



It is no coincidence that doves wake me each morning with their soft cooing right outside our bedroom window. They gather to feast on a generous supply of birdseed in the feeder at our house. It is part of the “arrangement” we have had for years. They coo and get fed and in return they help me remember a long ago time and place.

Doves used to wake me up at my grandparents’ old farm house. They nested in the row of majestic pines right outside my bedroom window. I loved to hear their gentle stirrings as my younger self emerged from sleep. Whatever else was going on in our world at the moment, those doves always sounded peaceful and hopeful.

The small corner bedroom I inherited came with a lot of family history. It had been the bedroom of my beloved great-grandmother, Mama Harper. It was there that my grandmother discovered her one morning in July of ‘59, paralyzed by a massive stroke. Mama Harper refused medical treatment and died in that room two days later.

My father, Jim, already gravely ill, was the next occupant. He relinquished it when he went to the hospital for the final time in October of that same year.

That room and its memories of my loved ones was very important to me as I was growing up.

Time marches on, things change. The room, the pines, the farm – lost in history.

But with the help of my feathered friends I have recreated a little sense of connectedness with Mama Harper and my father and the other family and friends who inhabited that time and place.

Every morning the cooing helps me remember the good times we had and the funny stories we retell over and over. I remember that as a family we persevered through the sickness and the death of our loved ones. I am reminded to honor their memories and the lessons of their lives in my own daily choices. I am prompted to thank God for the gift they were in my life.

Perhaps you, too, have little reminders of family or friends that keep their memory alive in your heart. Maybe it’s a physical item or a well-worn catch-phrase or a song or a place. If so, I hope those little reminders warm your heart as does my wake-up call which touches mine. ☺



Join us for worship!

**Sunday Service Times**

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

**January 14**

**1 Samuel 3:1-10**

**Clouded Vision**

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

**January 21**

**Mark 1: 4-11**

**Following God in the Real World**

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

**January 28**

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

## Live Streaming

We are now live streaming the 11:00 a.m. worship service each Sunday. Watch online if you’re not able to come to worship or if you’re out of town by simply visiting our web site at [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org). When you are in worship, you can participate in our efforts to create a high quality viewing experience by sitting toward the front. Seeing the front rows full of worshippers will help viewers virtually connect with our community. ☺



## *Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities*

### **Bible Basic for Busy Parents**

This class will familiarize parents with the Bible in a way that will help them more confidently have those post-Sunday school conversations with their children. For parents of children ages birth to 5th grade. Childcare available; those in the Children's choir may go to childcare after choir. Led by Jennifer Austenfeld and Lesley Holt. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. Offered twice: 10:00-10:45 a.m., repeats at 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. RSVP to April Booth, aprilb@cccckc.org.

### **Acts and Action**

If you're the kind of person who makes New Year's resolutions about growing closer to God in Bible study or volunteering to make a difference in the world, this course is for you. We will study several key passages from the book of Acts, focusing on three themes: wealth and poverty, food justice, and fear of the other. As a follow-up to the study, we will engage in ministries around the KC area that are seeking to address these needs. This is a great opportunity to put your faith into action. Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26

### **FaithPub returns in February**

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, 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, KC MO. Join us from 7:00-8:00 p.m., each time with a special guest speaker. Dates: Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 19, and May 17.

### **Upcoming Music Series**

**KC Guitar Society Casual Concert Series** in the Chapel on Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Feb. 11, Francisco Venegas, guitar

Mar. 18, Guitarras Ibéricas

**Ignea Strata**, women's four part vocal ensemble, a subset of KC VITAs), Fri., Mar. 2, Chapel 7:00 p.m.

All performances free and open to the public.

### **Faith and Grief Lunch**

A safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. Gather around tables for a simple box lunch and sharing guided by a trained facilitator. Guest speaker is Jon Arnsmeier. Tues., Feb. 6, 12:00-1:00 p.m. at Village Presbyterian Church. Meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. to make it accessible for those who work. To register: (469) 251-9612 or [www.faithandgrief.org](http://www.faithandgrief.org)

### **Guest Gatherings**

If you are a guest at Country Club Christian Church, we are happy to welcome you! Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the library on Jan. 14 at 10:00 a.m. This is an opportunity to learn more about us in a casual setting. A member of our clergy will guide you through our values, traditions, and beliefs and you'll discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups, and of course, our members. We would love to become your church family. RSVP to Barbara George, 816-381-9251. The next guest gathering is Feb. 11.

### **New Yoga Schedule**

Yoga with new instructor Jill Conners is now offered on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309).

Jill brings a passion for yoga and a belief that the practice can benefit every body, physically, mentally, and spiritually. She teaches all types of yoga to all levels with a focus on Vinyasa Flow and Yin/Deep Stretch. Classes are \$10/session. Open to members, non-members, and all faiths. 🍷



## **In Memory of Diana Black**



Longtime staff member Diana Black died on Sun., Jan. 7 after a long illness. Diana was an administrative assistant supporting various ministry areas, including Congregational Care, Worship, and Membership Development, from 2004 until June of 2017. Diana's friendly voice and warm smile greeted thousands of callers and visitors to the church over the years, and she was much beloved by her colleagues and the church members she encountered. Memorial gifts may be made to Linwood Boulevard Seventh-day Adventist Temple, 4300 Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64128. Cards may be sent to her husband, Jesse Black, 1232 N 48th St., Kansas City, KS 66102-1716.



a message from staff

## Celebrating Membership

By Barbara George, Director of Member Development



**A**t Country Club Christian Church we don't just talk about it, we Celebrate Membership!

Last month we held our first Celebration of Membership and welcomed 13 individuals into our faith community. This is a celebration because we know the benefits it brings to each person as well as to our community. Membership is taken seriously here because it really does matter.

In my early adult life, the word "membership" reminded me of a sales rep who tried to talk me into buying a flashy gym membership that had the newest equipment but which I would never consider using! After that, every time I heard the word "membership" to anything, I was skeptical.

So look where I am now...the church's Director of Membership Development! But I've learned over my 20 years of membership what this commitment means to each new individual. Yes, membership has responsibilities as does any fruitful commitment. But as a community, we place real emphasis on touching the lives of our members by creating opportunities to feed spiritual development. Enhancements such as:

- A sense of connection – interactions with others creating a community of like-minded folks. Life-long friends have developed through our church family. Parents, children and grandchildren have weathered difficult times and shared wonderful milestones together.
- Music programs and choirs for all ages that will inspire the soul.
- Faith development for children that is relatable and sows the seeds of a child's moral compass.
- The opportunity to serve those in need along-side others making a real difference.
- Faith that is not static. We learn and grow through small groups and Bible studies. We worship together.
- Involvement for everyone. This can't be stressed enough. What a gift.

Again, on Sun., Mar. 4 we will welcome individuals into our faith community at a Celebration of Membership, and what a celebration it will be! We look for you to join us. 🍷

## Our Church Family

### *Sympathy*

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

Diana Black  
Kay Barclay Davis  
Beverly Tapp  
Larry Winn

### *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**

Deanne Gound  
Randy and Cindy Ireys  
Ann Smith

**Nancy Barnes**, for Congregational Care  
Jill Reynolds

#### **Sam Kribbs**

Greg and Nancy Lear

**Gloria McLerran**, for Congregational Care  
Martha Jo Strickler

#### **Tyler Moffat**

Greg and Nancy Lear  
Mary and Pete Thorsell, *for Music Ministry*  
Jeanne and Perry Cockayne, *for Congregational Care*

#### **Mary Saxton**

Randy and Cindy Ireys

#### **Jack Waller**

Wayne and Nancy Ifft  
Mary Jane Krugh  
PEO Chapter GD  
Hal and Gay Woosley

## Youth Choir

Three young women are standing in a hallway, smiling and holding large metal pots. The woman on the left wears a grey sweater and a colorful floral apron. The woman in the middle wears a green cape and a costume that looks like a bunch of purple grapes. The woman on the right wears a red cape and a costume that looks like a bunch of red apples. They are all holding large metal pots.

Feb. 4, Students will be raising money for the Virginia Reed Food Drive as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Looking for a service opportunity that is fun and connects you with our amazing students? Contact April Booth at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto: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., Feb. 12. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m.

**Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?**  
Contact Lori Bennett, Chair of the Student Ministries Team, at [lorib77@me.com](mailto:lorib77@me.com).

## Leadership Re-Launch

Did you know that in the beginning of each school year volunteers in our Children and Student Ministries gather together for training on curriculum, safety policies and procedures and to learn about our children? If you volunteer throughout the year in any capacity, we'd love for you to join us to find out more about what you'll be doing! Contact April Booth, [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org) for more information.

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](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org), by Feb. 16 to reserve your spot. Cost is \$10 per family and childcare is provided upon request.

For grades kindergarten - 5th grade Rehearsals are on Sundays, 10:45-11:15 a.m., Rm. 213.

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders on Feb. 2.  
This month's theme is Art Night. Meets every first Friday  
of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church.

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.

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.



## Christmas Offering Supports Local Agencies

**T**he 2017 Christmas offering has raised more than \$28,000 (as of January 4, 2018) for two local agencies: Harvesters Community Food Network and KC Care Clinic.

Both of these organizations have been supported with grants from our endowments in the past and both receive highest marks from our grants team.

Harvesters provides the food for the Backsnack program that has been a part of our outreach for several years. Volunteers from our congregation gather weekly during the school year and fill backpacks with Harvesters food that they then deliver to Hartman and Garfield Schools. The backpacks are distributed to students who have food needs over the weekend. One half of the Christmas offering will support this program.

The other half will go to Kansas City Care Clinic. K.C. Care Clinic serves the under-served. 83% of their patients have no health insurance. 75% live below the Federal Poverty Level. 60% have one or more chronic conditions. In April of this year the Clinic opened a third location in Northeast Kansas City, an area of high need and an area that is our special focus area as well.

Please pray for the continued work of these two organizations. If you'd like to make a contribution to this special offering, you may still do so. Mark your gift "Christmas Offering" and leave it in the offering tray on Sunday morning, or in the church office. For information about electronic giving, visit [www.cccckc.org/church-life/give/](http://www.cccckc.org/church-life/give/) 📄

## Micah Ministries Stats

We provide volunteers to serve dinner and help with clothing needs at Micah Ministry on the second Monday evening of every month.

In 2017, 41,796 meals were served. Over 2000 more than the previous year.

Our four cake cutters cut and plated 10,896 pieces of cake and over 1000 pieces of pie.

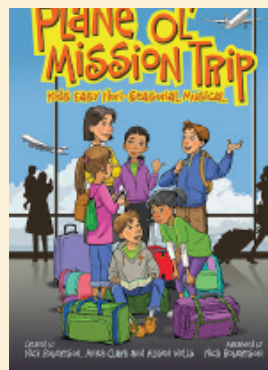


If you would like more information about Metro

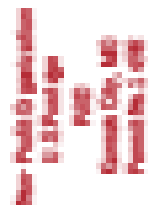
Mission volunteer opportunities, contact Corey Meyer at [coreym@cccckc.org](mailto:coreym@cccckc.org).

## Children's Musical is March 4

The Children's Choir will present "Plane Ol' Mission Trip" on Sun.



Mission Trip" on Sun. Mar. 4 at 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.



## Program Staff

Rev. Carla Aday  
Senior Minister

Dr. Mike Graves  
Scholar in Residence

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. Corey Meyer  
Director of Mission Partnerships

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn  
Interim Director of Children,  
Youth, and Families

Rachel Clement  
Director of Finance

Paul Cutelli  
Director of Technology

Dr. Dina Pannabecker  
Evans  
Executive Director of Operations/  
Co-Director of Music

Barbara George  
Director of Membership  
Development

Sara and Alex Goering  
Associate Directors of Music  
for Children and Students

Anne Haraughty  
Ministries Coordinator

Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood  
Programs

Elizabeth Pfalzgraf  
Assistant Director of Children  
and Student Ministries

Rev. Chuck Pickrel  
Director of Student Ministries

Lara Schopp  
Director of Communications

Leslie Tenjack  
Assistant Director of Communi-  
cations

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-Director of Music

The Board of Christian Community Camp meets the first Monday  
of each month. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty at  
anneh@cccckc.org

816-381-9252

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

## SAVE THE DATES



### Congregational Meeting

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

### Guest Gathering

Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m.

Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the Brides' Room.

### Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14, 6:00 p.m.

### Celebration Dinner and Auction

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

### Christian Community Camp

The 2018 camp will be June 9-16. Enjoy a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org or 816-381-9252.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

**CCCCKC.org**

Follow us!

