



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Twenty-Five Years



Rev. Carla Aday

As I write, it is the 25th anniversary of a snow day in Telluride, Colorado, where the temperature hovered around zero, I took that risk

we call marriage. The first year was the most difficult. Who would manage the money and would the other person trust that it was being managed well? I stumbled more than once in learning how to parent someone else's chicks. Fortunately, Karmen and Kyle were forgiving of my cluelessness about parenting and we forged deep bonds. Then Dave and I had Connor and began the long and sometimes painful process of letting our beloved child grow up and become his own person. We became certified marriage enrichment leaders and trainers in the Couple Communication Course but that did not shield us from facing our own challenges. One year was particularly difficult as Dave navigated being executive director of a not-for-profit counseling center that was no longer financially viable.

Looking back, I wish I could have been more relaxed and calm about the inevitable challenges that come in any marriage: money, career, and parenting. Marriage has been an enormous

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Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction



Join us for an Evening on the Boulevard on Fri., Mar. 2 at Boulevard Brewery. Featuring an evening of fun and fellowship with entertainment by The Pic and Bow as well as the silent and live auctions and fund-a-need opportunity. Tickets and benefactor sponsorships are available for purchase online at <http://www.cccckc.org/2018-dinner-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. Fill out the form at the link above to submit your item.

The Pic and Bow members David Smart and Michelle Gawith share fun and dynamic energy – world class musicians with very different backgrounds coming together for the sheer joy of music and sharing it with others. Together, they create a distinctive and quality musical experience. You've heard them play in worship on Sundays, now enjoy their music in a new way as they share their signature sound during this event. 🍷



Acts and Action

Led by Mike Graves • Mondays, Feb. 12, 19, 26, 7:00 p.m.

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 passages from the book of Acts, focusing the themes of wealth and poverty, food justice, and fear of the other. As a follow-up, we will engage in ministries in KC seeking to address these needs. This is a great opportunity to put your faith into action. 🍷

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From the Senior Minister

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teacher. I have learned so much about my own vulnerabilities and how to grow beyond what seems natural and easy into what is life giving and joyful. In marriage, it is impossible to hide or pretend. Every day, this person is there, calling from me my best self. And on the days when I did not give it, I discovered what Jesus meant when he talked about the freedom and new life that comes from knowing that one has been forgiven.

On our anniversary, we go out for a special dinner and there at the table, we pull out a journal and write down the highs and lows of the past year of married life. There has never been a year without both. But today, it seems like there were about 100,000 high moments and about five low ones. I am grateful that God has given us the gift of human relationships to teach us about God's divine love.

Barbara Brown Taylor said in a sermon once that "Sticking with one person is the best chance you have got of growing up." And Gilbert Meilander said "The purpose of marriage is not to create happiness but to create holiness, though in the long run there can be no happiness without holiness."

Grace and Peace,

Carla

Do You Follow Us?



Lent Begins With Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14

Literally, the word Lent means "spring," which always sounds lovely this time of year. But as we all know, there are still some cold days ahead. That seems an appropriate parallel since before we get to the glory of Easter's resurrection, there is this season of self-examination.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year, and it ends on Easter, which falls on April 1 this year. In contrast to boxes of chocolate and romantic sentiments of never-ending love, on the first day of Lent, a minister smears the sign of the cross on our foreheads and reminds us that we are indeed finite. And when Easter rolls around, the message of resurrection is not an April Fool's prank, unless we think of it as God's prank on death and despair.

The 40 days (or more accurately 46, since the six Sundays of Lent are the day of resurrection and technically don't count as part of the season) are a time of pondering our mortality, of remembering our reliance upon God. In many ways, the season corresponds to Israel's forty years in the wilderness and Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness, both a journey of sorts. We invite you to join us on the journey this year.

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 14. 6:00 p.m. service with a traditional imposition of ashes.

Palm Sunday Worship – Mar. 25. Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants. Egg hunt at noon on chapel lawn.

Maundy Thursday – Mar. 29. 7:00 p.m. – In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion.

Good Friday – Mar. 30. 12:15 p.m. (prelude at noon) – Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar.

Easter – Special service times at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Child care available for all services.

Collection Connection

It's not too late to support the Nicaragua mission trip by donating tooth brushes or work gloves for our team to take on its trip in February. Many toothbrushes are needed to include in home health kits provided to families in remote communities, and work gloves will also be distributed, as hard work is the norm for most people in these communities. You can also make a monetary donation to allow us to purchase additional materials. Mark your donation Nica 2018.

February Collection Connection Sneak Peak:

February 1-11: Love gift bags for Sheffield House. Your donation will bring a smile to the face of a mother who is working diligently towards healing and self-sufficiency. Gift bags and items with personal care or hygiene products or gift cards for gasoline or medicine may be placed in the collection basket in our parlor.

February 12-28: Supplies for Easter egg hunt. We need 2,000 filled plastic Easter eggs for the hunt on Mar. 25. Pick up plastic eggs in the parlor and return them filled with small stickers, toys, coins or nut-free pre-packaged candy. 🍪



Moment By Moment

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



The sounds of trotting feet and nervous giggles came from behind the curtain as the 1st graders moved into place to perform their song and dance. The music filled the large room and the curtains drew back to reveal 20 decked out 6 year olds performing a traditional Mexican dance as part of the

Cinco de Mayo celebration at my son's school, Foreign Language Academy. What a treasured time to see his bare feet stomping out the steps and his hat moving as he swayed with his partner. And yet as I look at the pictures from this event some years ago, what I recall most was how worried I was to get into position to 'capture' the whole performance on video and in pictures – so much so that I am not sure I can recall the event aside from the pictures. I was so busy trying to immortalize the moment that I was not even present in the moment when it was happening.

In this time of endless pulls to publish our lives on social media; these days full of mounting worries that cause us to feel like we need up to the minute information – are we losing the ability to be present, fully present in any one moment? With small and large screens dominating our daily lives – what are we missing out on in our interactions? When is the last time we sat undistracted at dinner with a friend or family? It's hard to recall the last time I lost myself singing a favorite song while driving all the while resisting the urge to check texts or the newsfeed at the stoplight.

There seems to be a false urgency to be in the know, to be constantly connected – but what are we trading for this perpetual virtual presence? When I wrestle with practicing being present my mind is always pulled to the Hebrew passage from Psalms, Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10) How purely simple and yet how often I utterly fail at this action time and again. Being aware of our need to focus our attention, our hearts, our spirits on the ever loving Creator can be the first step in living in the moment. And once you have experienced the fullness that connection can bring to one's life, it is hard to get enough of it. 🕯



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

January 28

Mark 1:21-28

Mark's Favorite Word

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

February 4

Mark 1:29-39

Lifted Up

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

February 11

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Service Opportunity Highlight

Looking for a new way to get involved? Join the Della Lamb service team on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. The group meets at the church at 9:30 a.m. to carpool, finishing by noon. Projects include helping our partner agency Della Lamb organize donations for its yearly Operation Santa Claus. Questions? Contact Rev. Corey Meyer, coreym@cccckc.org.

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.

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.



FaithPub

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

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 Feb. 11 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.

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 Feb. 13/14. 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

faith
book

Session 1 continues; concluding Feb. 6/7 – 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.

Session 2 - From Pew to Pulpit. This five-week series, starting Feb. 13/14, will explore the scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon to see how it applies to our daily lives and what message God might have to say to us from this scripture. What sermon do you hear in between the lines of the Bible text?

Celebration of Membership

Join us on Sun., Mar. 4 for a Celebration of Membership during the 11:00 a.m. worship service as we welcome new members to our church family and give thanks for all of you who are part of our community. Whether you've been a member for life or just joined our congregation recently, we invite you to help us celebrate that morning with a reception at noon. If you are interested in joining the church that day, contact Barbara George.

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

Ignia 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.



a message from staff

Kindness Challenge

By Anne Haraughty, Ministries Coordinator



The schools my children attend are promoting a Kindness Challenge this week which prompted me to give acts of kindness some extra thought.

It sounds easy to be kind, but, in reality, being kind often takes thought and effort. I often miss opportunities to be kind because I'm busy, I'm distracted, or generally focused on myself. Acts of kindness don't always come naturally to me, and they might take me out of my comfort zone, but that's no excuse so I am challenging myself to be more intentional. Practice makes progress.

My daughter brought home a list of kindness suggestions, and boy, do I love a list! Here are some simple ideas that resonated with me:

- Sit with someone who is sitting alone.
- Give a compliment to someone working hard.
- Offer a hug, high five, or fist bump.
- Register to be an organ donor or donate blood.
- Send a care package to someone away from home.
- Smile.
- Be a good listener.
- Volunteer your time.
- Pick up litter.
- Offer encouragement.
- At the dinner table, ask "Who did you help today?" and "Who helped you today?"

"Everyone is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." - Adapted from Plato 🍷

Our Church Family

New Baby

Congratulations to the Jones family on the birth of **Elizabeth Grace Jones** to parents Ryan and Quinn Jones and sister Caroline.

Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the family and friends of Doug Irwin.

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.

Jack Waller

Dr. Milburn and Evalyn Hobson
Cindy Corbin Davidson
James Stinson
Sandra Higgins-Stinson

Carol Anderson

Dr. Milburn and Evalyn Hobson
James and Mary Ann Arnett
Howard and Gay Woosley

Diana Black

Greg and Nancy Lear

Student Ministries

Youth Choir

Meets Sundays from noon to 12:45 p.m. in Rm. 213.
Come sing with us!

Souper Bowl of Caring



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

Midwinter Retreat for Middle Schoolers

It's time for middle school students to register for Chi Rho Midwinter, a retreat for 6th-8th graders at Tall Oaks Conference center on Feb. 23-24, 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Featuring games, fun activities, and meaningful worship experiences. Registration and more information at cccckc.org/midwinter-retreat/. Cost is \$75. Deadline to register is Feb. 16.

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.

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.

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 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Waldo Pizza.

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?

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

Children and Families

Conscious Discipline Parenting Workshop

Feb. 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Social Hall

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, by Feb. 16 to reserve your spot. Cost is \$10 per family and childcare is provided upon request.

Children's Choir

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

First Fridays:

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.

Family Worship Night

Feb. 11 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

All ages of children are invited to come with their families as we learn about the church season of LENT through worship and activities. Sing, pray, hear a Bible story and create worshipful items to use at home. Free dinner provided. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.



MOPS

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.



On Jan., 14 we welcomed new members Matt , Antoinette, Camila, Ashton and Alana Pennington.



Charolette Verschelden daughter of Joselyn and George Verschelden, was dedicated on Jan. 14.

Snowed in?

Watch the 11:00 a.m.
Service Live Streamed

We've had some warmer weather this week, but winter is a long way from over. We know that icy, snowy Sundays can make it hard for some to get out and come to worship, so if you're snowed in, don't forget that you can still worship with us virtually. Of course we always want you to join us in community here at 6101 Ward Parkway when you're able, but if you're not, you can watch the 11:00 a.m. service streamed at <http://www.cccckc.org/about-us/sunday-worship-services/>. You can view archived services at the same link.

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 worshipers will help viewers virtually connect with our community.



Children's Musical is Mar 4

The Children's Choir will present "Plane Ol' 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.



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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 on the first floor.

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14, 6:00 p.m.

Celebration Dinner and Auction

Fri., Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m. at Boulevard Brewery.

Easter

Apr. 1, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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!

