



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister That Night



Rev. Carla Aday

There is nothing quite like that night. The sanctuary goes dark and one candle is lit, until the room radiates a holy light. When

the gathered community sings Silent Night on that candlelit night, even the biggest skeptic can believe.

What is it about the night that settles ominously over us, and what is it about candlelight that awakens us to wonder? A few years ago I drove to my monthly Scrabble group in a pouring rainstorm. The group was fairly new and we were still getting acquainted, not yet completely revealing of our personal woes. We mostly laughed, spelled words and talked about the news. But on this night, the power went out. And the host only found one candle. It was not enough light to play scrabble. But it was enough to share refreshments and talk. And there in the candlelight, we talked for hours, just talked. In a real way. Not just about the news, but about the stories of our lives.

I realized recently that most of the Christmas story takes place in the dark: the wise ones following the star in the night sky; the shepherds keeping their flock by night, Joseph

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A Christmas Festival

Get into the spirit of the Christmas season by joining us for this festive intergenerational event featuring a candlelit Christmas carol sing-a-long on the front steps (weather permitting) followed by a chili dinner, visit with Santa, family photos in the Sanctuary, Christmas crafts and service project (preparing socks for Micah Ministry). Sun., Dec. 10, 5:00-7:00 p.m.



KC Brass Holiday Concert

In a long-held Country Club Christian Church tradition, we welcome back the KC Brass to greet the season! Join with us in a fun evening of sacred and secular favorites, interspersed with the good-natured humor of the KC Brass. In the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 5.— free and open to the public.



Live Streaming Begins on Sun., Dec. 17

Starting on Sun., Dec. 17, we will live stream the 11:00 a.m. worship service each Sunday. Watch online you're not able to come to worship or if you're out of town by simply visiting our web site at www.cccck.org. We will also live stream the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

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From the Senior Minister

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has a dream, the angels sing their birth announcement in the night sky. And yet we spend so much of our lives avoiding the unknown dark corridors of life. Regardless of the rotation of the earth, there are situations we prefer to avoid, emotions that constrict the heart. Maybe that is why Christmas happens at night, so that God can descend into the corner of our lives that most needs to be illuminated by love.

I have not missed a candlelight Christmas Eve service for over 40 years. But this year will be the first time I get to speak the word, not just read the scripture. I am excited. And afraid.

With grace and peace, ☩

Carla

Join us this Advent Season

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

— *John 1:5*

The darkness sometimes overwhelms us. World events and family concerns challenge us. In the midst of the worry and the busyness, “One Candle Is Lit.” The December sermon series will look at how God’s light becomes meaningful and real, bringing hope, peace and love to us and the whole world.

Join us in worship on Sundays, December 3, 10 and 17 at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Then, return on Christmas Eve as one candle is lit, and then another, and another, in exultation of the child born to bring light and peace to the world.

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



New Director of Mission Partnerships Named



The Personnel Committee announces the appointment of Rev. Corey Meyer as the church’s new Director of Mission Partnerships. The board voted on his appointment in November.

Corey has a Masters in Divinity from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who has developed hands-on learning experiences through mission trips with agencies such as Urban Spirit and Disciples Home Mission. He also was involved in establishing International Fountain of Hope, a non-profit organization which organizes resources to provide access to water, food and education to some of our most vulnerable global neighbors.

In the position of Director of Mission Partnerships, he will work to strengthen the partnership between Country Club Christian Church and Northeast Kansas City by building vital relationships through volunteer presence and financial investment, and he will work with lay leaders and staff in guiding the work of local hands-on mission, grants and mission trip.

Corey will join the church staff in January. ☩



A Word about Advent

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence



The term Advent literally means “coming,” as when historians write about the advent of the industrial age or some such thing. Or perhaps a more appropriate analogy would be the advent of winter. The season of Advent spans the four Sundays prior to Christmas, and the idea is to slow down and prepare for the coming of Christ. In our busy culture, slowing down may be next to impossible, but preparing is an essential spiritual discipline this time of year. There are lots of wonderful

traditions associated with the season, such as the weekly lighting of different candles on the Advent wreath, postponing the singing of actual Christmas carols until December 25, and decorating trees with Chrismons (monograms of Christ). The season of Advent did not get started until around the fourth century, although it was Bernard of Clairvaux in the 12th century who popularized the three-fold understanding of Advent. He said Christ came in his Bethlehem birth, will come again at the end of the age, and comes everyday into our hearts and this world. 🍷

Decking the Halls

The beginning of Advent is a day when churches have traditionally decorated their sanctuaries, a tradition known as the Hanging of the Greens. The evergreen pine boughs and the circular wreaths symbolize everlasting life in Christ. As one can imagine, decorating our church is no small thing, and we are grateful to the committee that oversees this each year. The first Sunday of Advent, however, we will “deck the halls” with a special procession at each of our three services with candles and special ornaments known as chrismons (monograms of Christ). “Let every heart prepare him room.” 🍷

Holiday Shopping at The Well



Do your Christmas shopping at The WELL. We have something for everyone on your list. Be sure to show your appreciation to the host and hostess on your party circuit. Take a decorative dish, holiday kitchen towel or cheese serving set instead of the usual bottle of wine!



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

Dec. 3

One Candle is Lit, Part 1:

Different Light

Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Dec. 10

One Candle is Lit, Part 2:

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Dec. 17

One Candle is Lit, Part 3:

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Country Club Singers Holiday Concert

Our vocal ensemble, along with the Jubilee Ringers, presents a selection of Christmas music. Sun., Dec. 17, 10:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary.

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

A Celebration of Membership

Join us this Sun., Dec. 3 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 at barbarag@cccckc.org.

Grief and Healing: Beyond the Myths

At our December Faith and Grief Lunch, Rosemary Polk will share how her experiences with loved ones who died in very different circumstances helped her move past our culture's myths about the grieving process. Join us for lunch on Tuesday, December 5, 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

For information: (816) 381-9249 or care@cccckc.org

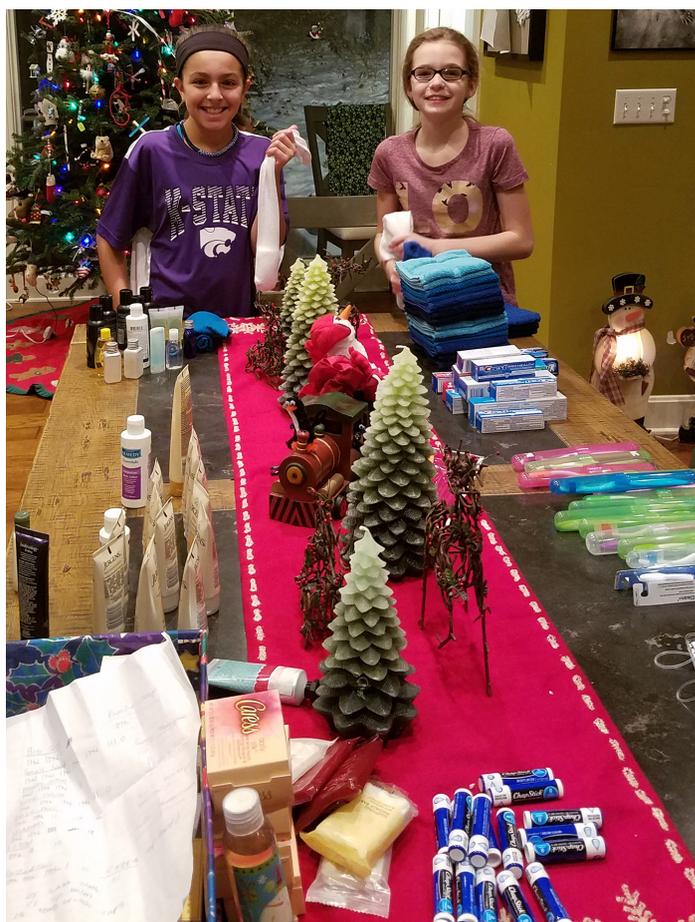
The lunches are a collaboration of five churches: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, Second Presbyterian Church, Village Presbyterian Church, and Country Club Christian Church.

TED Talks

Listen to a relevant TED Talk as a group and engage in group discussion. Sun., Dec. 17 at 10:00 a.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).

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. 17.



The Rebka children stuff socks for Micah Ministries.



a message from staff

Christmastime Joy

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



Christmas Eve is exactly 27 days from the moment I sit to write this article. With that brings lots of joy, anticipation, and panic, but mostly joy. Joy because we get to spend more time together as a family, joy because we will come together to celebrate Christ's birth, and joy that we

get to continue faithful conversations with our children around the excitement of the season.

I also feel joy around all the fun things we get to do with our church family. We just wrapped up Advent in Advance and the Christmas Festival is right around the corner, but I absolutely love our family Christmas Eve service.

During this service the children get to decide whether to be an angel or a shepherd— which always takes my crew an additional 10 minutes, followed by lots of chaos as we situate ourselves for the Holy Family's arrival, followed by the Angel and Shepherd families. At this moment is when things get even a little more crazy as the other angel children and shepherd children make their way to be with the Holy family. It is absolute joy to see all the kids and their families together on this very special night.

This year I am even more excited as we have planned for a few more fun details and a special moment for the children with the Holy family. I think it will be a night to remember, so come early, get the right costume headpiece for your littles (to avoid any added meltdown) and be ready to celebrate Christ's birth!

Wishing you much joy this advent season! 🕯

Our Church Family

Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the family and friends of Samuel J. Kribbs

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

Patricia Hahn, Robert and Marjorie Jump, Richard Sorice, Norma Tilton

Gloria McLerran, for Food Pantry

Thomas and Pamela Claycamp, Jeanne and Pat Doyle, Ada Lee Gibbs, Mark and Patricia Gibbs, Anita and Gene Hartley, Bonnie Hensley, Craig and Sue Hill, Randy and Cindy Irely, Bob King, Dewey McLerran, Juanita Millen, Reid and Marie Ordnung, D. Michael and Julie Wood

Gloria McLerran, for Congregational Care

Gerald and Maureen Haake, John and Jennifer Stipetich, Norma Tilton

Gloria McLerran, for Sewing Ministry

Linda Kekina

Student Ministries

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.

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., Dec. 11.



(L-R) Scott Holt, Lauren Reddin, Russell Smith, Caroline Schopp and Indigo Nelson Fry.

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

First Fridays:

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders on Friday, Dec. 1. The theme for this month is ugly holiday sweaters. Meets every first Friday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church. No gathering in January.

Family Worship Night

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. No gathering in January.

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.

Children's Choir

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



On Sun., Nov. 19, children and families gathered in the social hall for Advent in Advance at which they worked on craft projects to prepare their homes for the Christmas season.





Thanksgiving Dinner



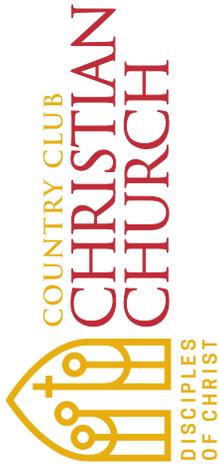
A full house gathered to hear speaker Harold Ivan Smith at this year's Thanksgiving Dinner on Thurs., Nov. 16. During the Thanksgiving season our Student Ministries led the Operation Thanksgiving food drive for our partner in the Northeast, Della Lamb Community Services. Nonperishable food items and monetary donations were collected to provide hearty Thanksgiving meals for Della Lamb's families.



Susan Garner Retiring from Yoga Instruction

Susan Garner, a certified yoga instructor who has been teaching classes at Country Club Christian Church for 17 years, will retire from teaching on Wed., Dec. 13. Susan's classes have embodied the yoga concept of namaste, which means "I see the divine spirit of God in you, and you see the divine spirit of God in me. And if we are in that place together, we are one with God." Susan will be recognized at a reception on Sun., Dec. 10 at noon. Please stop by that morning to thank Susan for her years of service. 🍷

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SAVE THE DATES



Christmas Festival

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

Join us for this free, 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.

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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

Post-Christmas Schedule

The church offices will be closed on Mon., Dec. 25 and Tues., Dec. 26

On Sunday, December 31, there will be one service only at 10:30 a.m. No Sunday School; child care will be available

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

