



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December 15, 2017 | Vol. 91 No. 25

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister God's Grace



Rev. Carla Aday

Something shifted within me. I saw something beyond what I was seeing.

The adorable children were singing on the front steps of the church. There were 13 voices. They captured each note in a way that conveyed the meaning of the lyrics. Their eyes focused Alex as he directed. Their smiles melted me as they finished singing.

The grieving family sat on the front row. The man who had served as the faith mentor to the deceased stood carefully to approach the pulpit. He spoke tenderly about the 12 year old boy he had befriended during Pastor's Class. He spoke reverently about the pain of loss of a 23 year old son. His compassion for the family reminded me why church is like no other place in all the world.

The gregarious gentleman cheerfully wheeled his chair into place in his suite at the rehab unit. His eyes twinkled as he listened to the visiting communion liturgy led by a newly installed deacon. As the three of us uttered the Lord's prayer in unison, something holy emerged. A handwritten note arrived just a couple of days later describing how his hip was

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Christmas Offering

Each year, a special Christmas Offering provides our congregation an opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. This year's Christmas offering will be directed to local organizations that are providing food to the hungry and healthcare those in need: Harvesters and KC Care Clinic.

Half of the Christmas offering will go to support Harvesters' Backsnack program, which provides a weekly backpack filled with nutritious food for schoolchildren in food insecure homes. The other half will go to Kansas City Care Clinic, which serves patients who have no health insurance, the majority of whom live below the federal poverty level. Please pray for the continued work of these two organizations and give generously to this year's Christmas offering. Mark your gift "Christmas Offering" and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate, or visit cccckc.org/give for information about how to give electronically. 🙏

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.

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 Kansas City Brass. Communion at 11:00 p.m. only.



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mending and his soul had been nourished by bread broken.

The 14 year old Somalian boy picked up the guitar and began to pick a few notes. He listened intently to the instructions of a retired Midwestern man. The music bridged the gap of 50 years and 5,000 miles. For a moment they were not rich and poor, haves and have nots but two souls healed by music.

The church enables me to see what I might not otherwise see, that hope is real, mutual caring empowers us and love becomes flesh. In gratitude to God for these astounding gifts of vision and new life, Dave and I will make an over and above year end gift to the church. I invite you to join us, so all might see and receive God's grace. 🙏

Carla

Live Streaming Starts Dec., 17

Beginning on Sun., Dec. 17, we will live stream 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. We will also live stream the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.



Interim Minister of Youth, Children and Families Named



The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn has agreed to serve as Interim Minister of Children, Youth and Families on a part time basis beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Catherine served faithfully on our staff from 2001 to 2013 in various roles including Minister to Children and Families and is well acquainted with the congregation. We are excited to have her continue our progress while we search for a full time Minister of Youth. She looks forward to working with Lindsay Howes,

Director of Children's Ministry and Elizabeth Pfalzgraf and Rev. Chuck Pickrel in Student Ministry. 🙏



Rev. Carla Aday dedicated Isabel James Joseph, daughter of Mark Joseph and Elizabeth Icenogle, on Nov. 19

Advent Devotionals

A devotions booklet has been written by Country Club Christian Church staff, lay leaders and friends for you to use as you prepare for Christmas. A hard copy booklet of these devotionals is available in The Well. You may also find them on the church's web site at www.cccckc.org and the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ccckc. 🙏

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. 🙏



Cold Hope

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



Can you imagine having 200 guests in our sanctuary in sub-freezing weather and us not having heat in our building?

Can you imagine 200 guests staying for two hours with coats, hats, and gloves on?

That was the scene one evening during the first week of Advent when I visited St. Mark's Lutheran Church (ELCA). St. Mark's is a grand, old, cathedral style church – bigger than our sanctuary. In its day

it boasted a large, active congregation from the surrounding neighborhood. But St. Mark's sits on the corner of Troost and Manheim and we all know that prejudice and policies dragged that neighborhood down. The church faithfully struggles forward even though its congregation is fewer in number. The night I visited I wasn't clear whether the boiler was not working or they just couldn't afford to run it for an evening event.

The cold did not faze the congregation who had gathered to talk about ways to heal racism, end poverty, and unite our community. Community groups had brought together people of all ages and ethnic groups from across our larger city. If anything, the temperature and the setting contributed to the Advent experience of the evening. Like our ancestors, we were huddled against the cold and the injustices in the world and speaking words of hope and encouragement to one another. We were listening for a Word and looking for a Sign from God that peace and justice are not only possible but gradually being revealed in our lives and world. We were committing to continue to pray and hope and work for a time when the homes, schools, and stores in that neighborhood would be treated with the same dignity and have the same opportunities as other parts of our city. We were hoping for that day when St. Mark's neighborhood and church would bloom again.

In our Christian tradition "Hope" is a recurring theme in Advent. Sometimes when we see memes and posters about "Hope" the word is written in a pretty script with warm, fuzzy images behind it. In my experience, hope against desperate odds, hope despite centuries of injustice – that kind of hope braves the elements and is strong as steel. It is that hope that comes down from the ancient prophets and calls us all to wait and work and hope with and for our neighbors for the fullness of God's peace and justice. 🍷

Holiday Shopping at The Well

Do your Christmas shopping at The Well. We have something for everyone on your list. \$1- \$5- \$10 tables, just in time for Christmas. Proceeds benefit the Week of Compassion, a mission fund that is used to alleviate suffering of others through disaster relief humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

Dec. 17

**One Candle is Lit, Part 3:
Angels Dancing**

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Dec. 25

The Sound of Different Music
Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Dec. 31

All Will Be Well
Mark 1:1; 16:1-8

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Dec. Food Drive

This month our Food Drive focus is soup and crackers. 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.

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

TED Talks

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

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.

Dec. 17, Daniel Krieg, guitar

Jan. 7, The Pic and Bow; David Smart, guitar and Michelle Gawith, violin

Feb. 11, Francisco Venegas, guitar

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.

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.

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. Teachers: Carla Aday and Catherine Stark-Corn

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.

New Class Starts in February

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. February 12, February 19, February 26

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.

Outreach by the Numbers

Grants and Special Offerings:

\$70,500 Grants given

\$20,835 Given to Disciples Ministry Fund

Metro Mission:

People served: 15,696 (meals served at Micah and Cross-Lines Food Kitchen, kids receiving Back-snacks, clients served through Della Lamb resettlement, Grace at Work, Grace United, Hartman Elementary School, Virginia Reed Food Drive, Sheffield Place, Micah Clothes Closet, Sewing and Knitting groups and Collection Connection.

Hours Volunteered:

4370

Volunteers:

641 (multiple encounters)



a message from staff

Your Gifts Matter

By Rachel Clement, Director of Finance



I am blessed to receive your annual giving pledges but also to see your gifts at work. Each time I write a check to pay a bill I am reminded that your contributions make so many things possible. The generosity of your gifts should be celebrated.

I brought my family to the Christmas Festival this year. For me, it represented this church in so many ways. All were welcome! Multiple generations gathering for fellowship and a meal. Standing in front of the church singing of the coming of Jesus for all to hear. We ended our evening assembling socks for Micah Ministries. What an amazing event!

If you have been in the building in the last few weeks you have noticed the keep out zone. There are some structural issues with the ceiling above the parlor. Because of your generosity, and careful planning by the Board to create the Capital Maintenance Fund, there is money available for the repairs, should we need it.

Soon you will be able to share the ministries of this church with your friends and family outside the metro area when we do our full launch of live streaming. Your gifts made it possible for us to increase our technology budget this year to move forward with this plan.

There are so many ways to make a gift to the church. You can give through our online giving with your credit card or automatic deduction from your checking account. You can even text in your gift! (See instructions at cccckc.org/give) I have already received many calls from members donating stock to the church. And of course we always accept checks and cash! Please remember now is a great time to bring your annual pledge up to date. All gifts to be credited for the 2017 tax year must be in the church office by noon Sun. Dec. 30 or postmarked by Dec. 31 if mailing to the church.

I know you have many options when you consider your year-end giving but I hope that you remember that gifts to Country Club Christian Church touch lives in so many ways, both inside our congregation and in the world at large.

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support of Country Club Christian Church and its ministries at this time of year and all year long. 🍷

Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

Jack Waller
Ramon Rodriguez
Tyler Moffat
Nancy J. Barnes
Carol Anderson

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.

Paul A. and Virginia T. Jordan
Dorothy O'Sullivan

June Turley, for Music Ministry
The Maneke Law Firm
Bette McDaniel

Tyler Moffat, for Music Ministry
Bobbie Vanice

Gloria McLerran, for the Food Pantry
Bette McDaniel

Ramon Rodriguez
Anniversary Class

**Midge White, for Congregational Care –
Stephen Ministry**
Harold and Jane Holder
William and Beverly Yarberry

Do You Follow Us?



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.

Middle School Youth Group

Meets Fri., Dec. 15 and then takes a break for Christmas. Resumes on Fri., Jan 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church.

High School Youth Group

Christmas Party Lock In—Fri., Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Sat., Dec. 23. Come celebrate and relax after surviving finals! Ugly Christmas Sweater contest, gift exchange, crafts and games. Please RSVP to April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org by Dec. 19. Youth Group is off for Christmas break. Resumes on Thurs., Jan 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Waldo Pizza.

Need Service Hours? Serve at Micah Ministry!
The next service opportunity at Micah Ministry will be on Mon., Jan. 8. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m.

Children and Families

Children's Choir

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

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.

Welcome New Members

These new members were welcomed into the congregation on Dec. 3. Stop by the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the well to read more about these new members and get to know them better.



Scott Branton and Becky Hopkins
Hosts: Marcia and Andy Berry



Casey Hutchins
Host: Gabe Kranz



Nancy and Robert Williams
Hosts: Beckie and Steve Rogers



Joyce Squires
Host: Sally Nielsen



Jim and Bette Love
Host: Hank Riffe



Sandi Squires
Host: Shirley Hansell



Jim Fitzpatrick
Host: Lance Jessee



Christmas Festival

The spirit of the season was alive at the Christmas Festival on Sun., Dec. 10. After a sing-along on the front steps, featuring numbers by the Children's and Youth choirs and the Orffestra, kids and adults alike enjoyed chili and fellowship along with a visit from Santa and an opportunity to assemble socks for our friends at Micah Ministries.



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6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

Program Staff

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Senior Minister

Dr. Mike Graves
Scholar in Residence

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Jason Ashley
Director of Building and Grounds

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

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The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday
ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

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SAVE THE DATES



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

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 ser-
vice only at 10:30 a.m. No Sunday School; child
care will be available. Office closed Jan 1.

Congregational Meeting

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

Guest Gatherings

Jan. 14 and 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 Library.

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!

