



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Love and Folly



Rev. Carla Aday

I don't ever remember this happening before. Ash Wednesday will fall on Valentine's Day. And Easter will fall on April

Fool's Day. Or perhaps I should say the reverse: Valentine's will fall on Ash Wednesday and April Fool's will fall on Easter. Surely the observance of the Christian traditions of Ash Wednesday and Easter pre-date Valentines (496) and April Fools (1582).

We could explore how the holy days/holidays are radically different. Ash Wednesday is the day we get somber and ponder the seriousness of our own death, fragile nature and need to radically change our distorted lives back into the ways of a graceful God. And Valentine's is a frivolous celebration of romantic Eros where we spend extra money on flowers and candy to delight the senses. April Fool's is a day to play practical jokes whereas Easter is a day to blast the trumpets and sing hallelujah because evil is defeated and new life is given to all.

Or we could talk about how the holidays are similar. For surely, at its core, Ash Wednesday is about love, how much God loves us and longs to have us know that and live lives con-

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Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year, and it ends on Easter, which falls on April 1 this year. The 40 days of Lent are a time of pondering our mortality, of remembering our reliance upon God. In many ways, the season corresponds to Israel's 40 years in the wilderness and Jesus' 40 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. Dr. Mike Graves preaching.

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.

An Evening on the Boulevard Tickets on Sale

Join us for an Evening on the Boulevard on Fri., Mar. 2 at Boulevard Brewery. This evening of fun and fellowship features entertainment by The Pic and Bow as well as the silent and live auctions and fund-a-need opportunity. Buy your tickets in the Parlor on Sundays, Feb. 11 and 18. Or, tickets, benefactor sponsorships and auction item donation forms are available for purchase online at <http://www.cccckc.org/2018-dinner-auction/>. Auction items are coming in and include: gourmet wine dinners, a stay on Sannibel Island, front row tickets to Sporting KC and more! (More information about The Pic and Bow on page 2.) 🍷

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sistent with that powerful force of grace. And Easter is the truth that seems foolish to the world, that one would save us by giving up power and control and dying and then God getting the final say, a shocking truth that most couldn't believe when it was right in front of them. Folly for sure, in the cosmic sense.

Or we could just use this calendar year to remind us that we always live in two worlds. You and I live in a secular culture that marks days with common customs. And we live in the Christian reality, where we claim a unique set of values and beliefs that shape us and nudge us to live a different kind of life. Each day on the calendar is both God's day and the world's day. Every day, we have to decide which truth will shape us – the love and folly of God revealed in Jesus or the culture that nudges us elsewhere.

When I think about the best things that have ever happened in my life, most of them involved loving in foolish ways. As you meander from Valentine's to April Fools, from Ash Wednesday to Easter, take time to ponder what has made your life worth living. Maybe God is still calling us to kneel with ash smudged faces and shout the joy of resurrection. ☞

With grace and peace,

Carla

Worship from Home



Have you checked out the live stream of our 11:00 a.m. worship service yet? If you're unable to leave your home, due to sickness, inclement weather or any other reason, join us for worship online from your computer or iPad.

You can watch the 11:00 a.m. service live streamed at <http://www.cccckc.org/about-us/sunday-worship-services/>.

You can view on demand 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 worshippers will help viewers virtually connect with our community. ☞

Collection Connection

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. ☞



"Sometimes it is hard for us to get to church. The live streaming helps us still be part of our community and blessed by hearing the word of the Lord. Thank you for making the video available to us."

- Hal and Gay Woosley

The Pic and Bow

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 year's Celebration Dinner and Auction.



When Goodbye Becomes Welcome Back

By Rev. Corey Meyer, Director of Mission Partnerships



Life has a way of taking us back to places we thought we once said goodbye to. There is in some way a ritual when leaving a place – we begin to take in the sights, the smells, the tastes, the memories of laughter and crying, the ways we have grown and changed. As we gather up along our belongings, we also create a suitcase of memories that we will carry with us onto our next destination. This was certainly true for me when I decided to leave Missouri for seminary. But, there was another goodbye tucked away in another suitcase of memories

that I unexpectedly had the opportunity to open again this week.

The route to Tall Oaks Conference Center was new to me because the last time I was there I could not drive myself. But once I was on the grounds suddenly I was taken back to my youth group days – a very much younger Corey suddenly came back. It had been over 10 years since I was there for a weekend retreat with my home church. In those days I had not the slightest idea what the future would hold for me in my career and journeys, so when I said goodbye it felt like a goodbye forever. As I pulled into the grounds I was suddenly overwhelmed with smells, tastes, conversations, and names of old friends.

I had forgotten all the ways this place helped shape the person I am today. Memories of laughter and emotions were swirling around in every space I walked. It's incredible the way our memory keeps old experiences tucked away until one little spark happens. And here I was now back in the same space ready to add on new memories of relationships and inspiration. There at our staff retreat this week suddenly two persons met – a boy who grew in the light of mentors and old friends and a man who was ready to grow in the light of colleagues and new friends. I imagine we all have these places that we once said goodbye to and find ourselves back at some point in our lives. It's those places that connect us to something deeper; it's those places that remind us of the mysterious way that God leads us through the world. Where are those places for you? 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

February 11

Mark 1:40-45

Breaking Bad

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

February 14

Ash Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Genesis 2:4-9; 3:17-19

The Two Stones

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

February 25

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Keeping Up with the Congregational Board

Did you know that you can follow the important work of the Congregational Board on our web site? The Board's minutes and other important documents are posted at www.cccckc.org/church-life/member-portal/church-governance/. 🍷

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Bible Basics for Busy Parents Continues

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. 11, 18, 25. Offered twice: 10:00-10:45 a.m., repeats at 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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 on 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.

FaithPub returns in February



FaithPub

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. Join us from 7:00-8:00 p.m., each time with a special guest speaker, Emanuel Cleaver III on Feb. 22. Future dates: Mar. 22, Apr. 19, and May 17.

Faithbook Session 2 Begins

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



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

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.

Micah Reminder for Feb. 12

Micah Ministry volunteers will serve on Mon., Feb. 12 at the Independence Boulevard Christian Church. At Micah, nourishing suppers are served to neighbors in need, mostly the working poor. Unlike some meal programs, guests are served at tables, with tablecloths, rather than having them stand in a line to be fed. If you would like to serve, carpools leave from the Chapel parking lot at 4:30 p.m. Please let Jackie Cunningham know if you would like to participate (jackiekcunningham@gmail.com). All are welcome; children must be at least 12 years old in order to serve.

Just a Few Rooms Left at Community Camp

Dr. Mike Graves leads this year's Christian Community Camp, June 9-16 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. There are just a few rooms left so sign up now to secure your spot! Enjoy a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing. Cost is \$1,750 for a private room; \$375 for the women's bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org or 816-381-9252.



a message from staff

Baptism for the Class of 2024

By Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries



Ash Wednesday holds an additional purpose in our Student Ministry; the start of Pastors' Class for our 6th graders! Through the season of Lent, these students, along with their faith mentors, meet each Wednesday night to gain a deeper understanding of faith and what it means to them. A new topic is covered each week including Faith and Communion, led by Dr. Mike Graves, Faith and Baptism led by Rev. Joe Walker, Faith and Communion led by Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, and Rev. Carla will bring it all together for the final session on Faith Statements and Preparing for Baptism.

While these sessions are outlined to provide theological formation for our 6th graders, they also includes time for fellowship and for them to "get their wiggles out" as I put modestly for previous Pastors' Classes. (Yes, 8th graders, this might include your class, yes I still love each one of you!) This fellowship is also an important part of our time together as the relationships that are built, we hope, are sustainable for a life-long connection to their faith, our church and each other. We love hearing stories at Senior Brunch about their time together in Pastors' Class and seeing all the fun pictures that make their senior slide show.

On Palm Sunday, as these students make the choice to become baptized in the presence of their church, their family and their friends, I urge you to listen to their faith statements as they are read aloud, and join me in welcoming them to what we hope to be just the beginning of their faith journey. 🙏

Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

Joan Newby
Marilyn Carrell

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
Mark and Vicki Johnson

Kay Davis
Maureen McGinty, *for Congregational Care*

Doug Irwin
Jeanne and Perry Cockayne, *for Congregational Care*
Dr. Milburn and Evalyn Hobson
Thomas and Rhetta Johnston
Bob and Kay Moffat
Jill Reynolds, *for Congregational Care*

Sam Kribbs
Maureen McGinty

Diana Black
Pat Martin
Doris and John Soltys, *for the Sewing Group*

Doin Arch "Mac" Mackey
Pat Martin

Beverly Tapp
Leta Mae Hodkins, *for Micah Ministry*

Student Ministries

Youth Choir

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

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 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

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, 10:45-11:30 a.m. (until musical), Rm. 213.

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.

Children's Musical is Mar 4



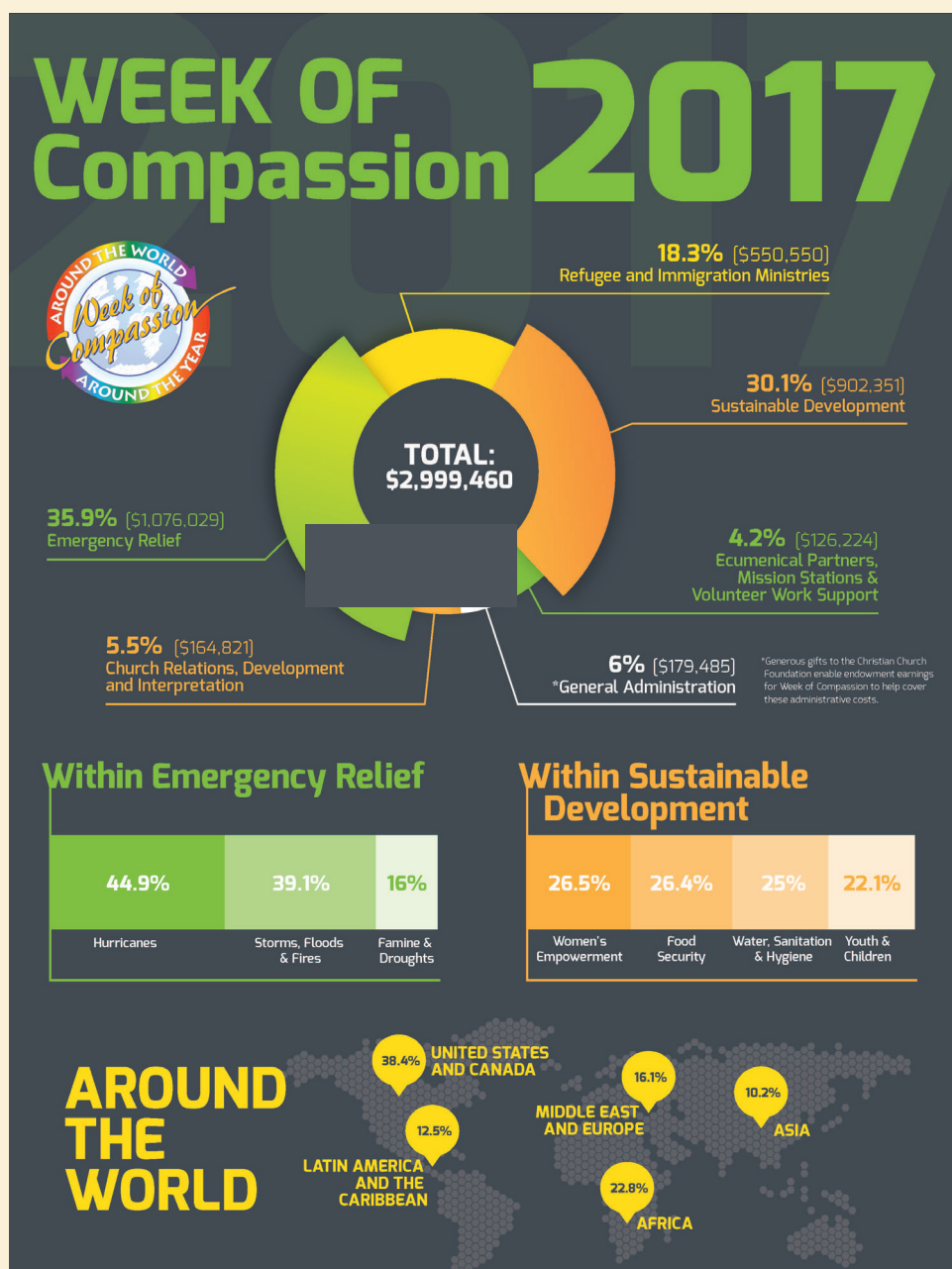
The Children's Choir will present "Plane Ol' Mission Trip" on Sun. Mar. 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. When a group of kids headed on a mission trip find themselves stranded at the airport due to inclement weather, they quickly learn that our mission field is everywhere.



The Well is Now Open

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Well Gift and Book shop has reopened after being closed for construction during the month of January. Stop in on Sunday to find the perfect gift for your sweetheart, or pick up a book or gift for yourself. All proceeds from The Well benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief around the world.

See how Week of Compassion works in our world at right.



The Student Ministry raised over \$900 for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sun., Feb 4.



It's not too late to join Bible Basics for Busy Parents. Led by Jennifer Austenfeld and Lesley Holt. Feb. 11, 18, 25. Offered twice: 10:00-10:45 a.m., repeats at 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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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 Minister to Children,
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Rachel Clement
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Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology

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Executive Director of Operations/
Co-Director of Music

Barbara George
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Associate Directors of Music
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SAVE THE DATES



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.

Congregational Meeting

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

Celebration Dinner and Auction

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

Easter

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!

