



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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We joyfully welcome and nurture all people by providing a vibrant Christ-centered community of faith, dedicated to spiritual growth through worship, study and service.

Guests Welcome! Next Guest Gathering is August 6

Did you know that most first-time visitors to church come because they are invited by someone they know?

Do you know someone who might be seeking a church where they will be welcomed and supported on their faith journey?

If you know someone who would like to learn more about our church and denomination, or if you are a visitor who is interested in getting more connected, all are welcome at our next Guest Gathering on Sun., Aug. 6 at 10:00 a.m.

attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the library.

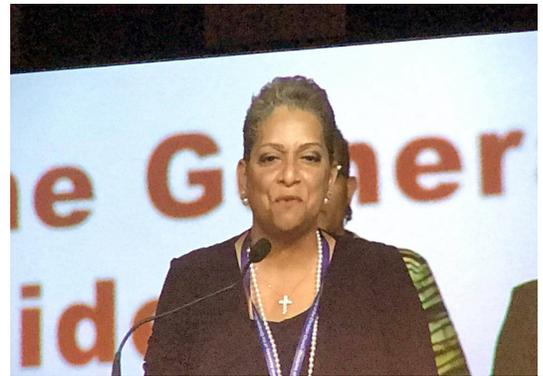
This gathering is designed to help you learn more about us in a casual setting. A member of our clergy will guide you through our values, traditions, and beliefs and you'll discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups, and of course, our members. We would love to become your church family. RSVP to Barbara George, 816-381-9251.

The next New Member Sunday is Aug. 27.

Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been

Denomination Names First African-American Woman as President

At its General Assembly last week, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) elected the Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord Owens as its new General Minister and President. Dr. Owens is the first African-American woman to lead a major American denomination. She succeeds Dr. Sharon Watkins, who has led the denomination since 2005. For more information about Dr. Owens, visit <http://disciples.org/ogmp/meet-the-gmp-nominee/>.



New Members Welcomed on July 9



Kristan and Bryant Bell and William

Bryant is Marketing Director for Opentext. Raised in southern California, he loves the outdoors, especially being on the water. Kristan is a consultant with the Crawford Group. Kristian enjoys renovating old homes/decorating and landscaping.

New Member Hosts: Allison and Chris Hettinger



Beckie and Steve Rogers

Beckie and Steve are retired and moved to Kansas City from Stillwell, OK, to be near their daughter and her family. They were very active in their Disciples of Christ church in Oklahoma for 37 years. They enjoy gardening, reading, traveling and sailing.

New Member Hosts: Nancy and Greg Lear



Paul Paczkowski and Anna

Paul is from Kansas City and grew up in Prairie Village. He and daughter, Anna, enjoy going to parks, the zoo and other activities. Paul is happy to be part of this new church community

New Member Host: Stuart Hoffman

Amani Choir to Sing July 23

The Amani Choir, made up of church members and friends from our partner agency Della Lamb Community Services, will sing in worship on Sun., July 23. There is still time to join this group. Contact Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org for more information. Meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Della Lamb. Meet in our chapel parking lot to carpool, leaving at 6:30 p.m.



The choir recently sang at a World Refugee Day event on Sat., July 8.





Together on a New Journey

By Rev. Carla Aday



“to be robust again is to leave the excuses we have made not to risk ourselves and to find ourselves alive once more in the encounter.”

David Whyte, *Consolations*

I have been walking into the same building to come to “work” for 29 years. But today feels different. And new. And scary. And exciting. I am humbled by and grateful for the call you have extended to me to serve as Senior Minister.

When I was 20 years old, I sat on the middle step of the shag carpeted stairwell of a home in Houston, Texas where I was house sitting for the summer. I didn’t know what to do. The teenage boys in the church youth group I was leading as a summer intern were giving me fits. They were testing my limits. I held my forehead up with my palms as the tears watered the shag carpet. I wanted to quit and throw in the towel on that job, on those boys and on the whole idea of ministry. I don’t know what happened exactly. But when I stood up, determined to go back to church and keep ministering to that rag tag group of teenage boys, I knew that it meant I was going to go to seminary and becoming a pastor. Something in that encounter with the silent holy presence of the living God propelled me. And I felt alive.

When I wonder if I can live up to the high calling to be your pastor, or whether I am robust enough, I then remember that you are a remarkably robust congregation. I remember about 15 years ago when I led a church mission trip to Honduras. We were hosting a pop-up medical clinic in a rather crude building with few medical supplies. Suddenly a lady was wailing loudly in the street in front of the clinic. I went outside and learned that a young mother wanted to have all of her teeth extracted. Oh and by the way, she has AIDS. I sat down with our medical team. What should we do? I don’t want to risk anyone’s health or safety. My team refused to discuss it. “We are doing it. She will be our next patient.” I was stunned. But the team was moved to tears as they learned the woman’s story. Her husband was abusive and unfaithful. She was trapped. They encountered something of the living God in helping her find some relief from the daily pain.

We cannot begin to imagine what God has in store for us as individual people nor as a congregation. But we go together now on a new journey. I pray that we will leave our excuses behind, risk ourselves, and find ourselves alive once more in the encounter with each other and with God. For a robust church deserves a robust pastor. And God no doubt waits for us.

Save the Dates

Festival Sunday

September 10

Join us on Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults. Featuring a picnic lunch after worship with bounce house and games.

Installation of Rev. Carla Aday as Senior Minister

September 24

Rev. Carla Aday will officially be installed as our new Senior Minister on Sun., Sept. 24. There will be one service only that day at 10:30 a.m., followed by a reception. Join us as we celebrate Carla and her vision for our shared future as a congregation.

Worship with us!

**Service Times: 9:00, 10:00
and 11:00 a.m.**

July 16

Will They Grow?

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

July 23

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

July 30

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

August 6

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

August 13

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Upcoming Mission Trips

Mungeli, India

In early 2018, two teams will travel to Mungeli, India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli and the Rambo Memorial English Medium School. The first will go from Jan. 6-20, and the second from Jan. 21-Feb. 3. Each team will spend about 11 days at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex, followed by several days of sightseeing. An informational meeting about this trip will be held Sun., July 23 at noon in Room 201. Reservation forms and deposit checks (\$250) will be accepted at the meeting.

Ready for Nicaragua?

Are you looking for an inspiring and affordable mission opportunity in a country where we have an established and successful local partner? If so, start saving your spare change and vacation days and plan to join us on our Nicaragua Mission in February 2018.

For over 14 years we have had a vibrant partnership with Nicaragua's indigenous community empowerment organization, CEPAD. On our missions we have staffed health clinics, built houses, and worked on farms. But most importantly we have built friendships with our sisters and brothers in the villages and cities of this breathtakingly beautiful Central American nation.

The exact dates are not set yet, but the mission will be one of the last two weeks of February. We will focus on health and medical needs and either efficient, sustainable stoves in individual homes or water purification systems.

Stop by our information table in the parlor on Sun., Aug. 13 or if you can't wait that long, contact Rev. Joe Walker at 816-381-9249 or joew@cccckc.org

Faith and Grief Lunch

Tues., Aug. 1

This monthly gathering offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The meal begins at noon and is hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry. For information: Rev. Joe Walker (816) 381-9249 or joew@cccckc.org

Coming of Age Presentation

Persons considering retirement and other senior adults are invited to learn about Coming of Age Kansas City on Sun., July 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pine Room (across from the Social Hall). The Anniversary Sunday School Class is hosting the presentation by Sandra Mellinger and Kay Barnes. Coming of Age Kansas City offers workshops such as Explore Your Future, a four-module series that guides individuals as they envision their next phase of life including community engagement, lifelong learning, and encore careers.

Summer School Collection Connection

You can help support improving reading and math skills through this month's Collection Connection. Over 100 students are enrolled in the summer program at Grace United Community Ministries, one of our Northeast partners. Students and the specially trained adult mentors need notebooks, paper, pens and pencils, and calculators to help them achieve their academic goals. During the summer program students work in a clean, safe and air conditioned environment. They receive two nutritious meals and a healthy snack each day. Field trips on Friday and daily exercise contribute to the fun and attractive learning environment. Your school supply donations may be placed in the Collection Connection basket in our parlor.

Prayer on the Road

Everyone is invited to join us for fellowship, prayer, and song as our monthly Prayer on the Road visits the residents at Brookdale Overland Park on Thursday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m. Our informal service lasts about 25 minutes and is preceded by casual conversation with our neighbors and hosts. This Brookdale facility includes assisted living and dementia care as well as rehabilitation and skilled nursing services. Brookdale is at 12000 Lamar Ave, Overland Park, KS 66209. Located one long block west of Menorah Medical Center, you will find the entrance to the parking lot is on the west side of Lamar. For more information contact Rev. Joe Walker, 816-381-9249.



The Traces We Leave

By Dina Pannabecker Evans, Co Director of Music



I'm currently in the process of cleaning out my desk as I prepare to transition into a fulltime position at church. The prospects ahead are exciting: short term, as we gear up for Carla Aday's installation; and longer term, as we think about what 100 years of existence – and beyond – looks like...

But it was the modest mug on my desk – the repository for my pencils, pens, a couple of rulers and a big eraser – that serves as a reminder of one of the most wondrous stories of redemption that I have ever publicly witnessed.

A number of years ago, it was part of my job to connect fine arts alumni and students. So I worked with faculty and administration to bring selected alumni back to campus to tell their career story and interact with students. One particular alumnus was on our radar for a return trip – a visual artist whose career path had taken him to major auction houses in New York City. So the visit was scheduled and confirmed.

Turns out that decades prior, the now-booked guest had made derogatory comments about the department from which he graduated... and the long-term faculty hadn't forgotten. I also learned that his senior show had been rather controversial, as his art consisted of mostly text on a variety of mediums.

So the alumnus showed up in Lawrence. And I was surprised to meet a very modest, quiet, gentle, good-humored man who wore impeccably tailored vintage clothing. He was gracious and congenial with no apparent subversive leanings.

But things came to a head at his final presentation. During the question-and-answer session, a well-known emeritus professor stood up and confronted the alumnus.

Tempered by time and experience, the artist calmly, though visibly nervous, responded, "That's why I wanted to come back. I want to say that I'm sorry for what I said." He went on to explain his feelings of not belonging – being gay and Jewish, and making art that was roundly criticized at the time.

Following the session, the two talked privately and shook hands. And as everyone exited they received a mug that had been specially designed by the artist for the occasion – a generic white coffee cup, printed with a stream-of-consciousness text in blue. And the artist stood at the door with a Sharpie, happily personalizing and signing the bottom of each cup for the recipient.

My mother is a collector of quotes and this is one: "We leave traces of ourselves wherever we go, on whatever we touch." I encourage you to think about the traces we as a church wish to leave in the future. I look forward to hearing your ideas and vision as we work together towards the next 100 years.

Global Mission Intern to Speak

The Koinonia Class is hosting a guest speaker, Toni Reynolds, on Sun., July 30 at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to come to her presentation.

Ms. Reynolds serves as a Global Mission Intern with Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID). This appointment is through Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Her ministry is possible because of funds provided by the Week of Compassion of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

For more about Toni and her work, visit http://www.globalministries.org/toni_reynolds.

Student Mission Opportunity

Students in grades 6-12 will be going to Micah Ministry on Mon., July 17. Participants should meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. to carpool and will return between 7:30-8:00 p.m. Contact Chuck Pickrel at chuckp@cccckc.org for more information.

Student Pizza/Movie Night

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a pizza/movie night in the social hall on Sat., July 22 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Friends are ALWAYS welcome!

2018 Christian Community Registration is Open

It's not too early to plan next summer's vacation! Country Club Christian Church will return to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO, June 9-16, 2018. Registration for 2018 is open via our website: www.ccccckc.org. All are welcome to come, members and non-members alike.

If you have any questions, contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org or Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org.



High School Mission Team Goes to Fort Worth, TX

High school students traveled to Fort Worth, TX, from June 17-23, visiting Texas Christian University and working with Connect Fort Worth, an organization that connects mission teams with projects focusing on homelessness, hunger, children and urban poverty.





Juxtaposition

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence



The renowned Lutheran scholar Gordon Lathrop claims that one of the many amazing things about Christian worship is how we set this next to that, what he calls “juxtaposition.” We set Sunday next to the other six days of the week, for instance. We set the preaching of the word next to the table. We set the rhythms of Advent and Lent next to Santa Claus and March Madness, respectively. This set next to that.

I was struck by his observation once again last Sunday morning during the early worship service. Because it was a day to thank the congregation for all their service, there was a latte machine hissing in the background as Carla welcomed folks to church that morning. But even on other mornings, there are those who ride their bicycles to that early outdoor service, while others sit on blankets with the family dog. This set next to that. It’s like Starbucks, Shakespeare in the Park, and Sunday worship all rolled into one.

And it’s not just the outdoor service during the summer months. Every Sunday morning the preacher of the day dares to set a story from the Scriptures next to the time a dear uncle was hospitalized or tasting some amazing ice cream recently. Preachers set everyday stories next to the ones in the Bible, and no one bats an eye. That’s because properly understood, there is no distinction between sacred and secular. Well, there is nowadays, but that’s a modern construction.

Our ancestors in the faith considered pretty much everything sacred because God’s creation is good, a doctrine backed up with Jesus becoming flesh. They also thought of everything as secular too, if by that term we mean fleshly. Bread and wine, like cookies and cream, is material, not some spiritual nothingness. This doesn’t mean they didn’t recognize some spots as hotter than others, to use a modern Wi-Fi analogy, but everything was and is both ordinary and extraordinary for those with eyes to see.

So if your favorite thing about Sunday worship is the pipe organ, I get that. Or maybe the table set with gorgeous gold ware. If you’re at the outdoor service, crane your neck some time and take in the intricacies of the architecture. It’s breathtaking, to be sure. But it could be the coffee in the parlor is your favorite thing. Or maybe a high five from that youngster holding a cookie in the other hand. As the saying goes, it’s all good. This set next to that.

Children and Families

Backpack Blessing

Sun., Aug. 20

Save the date for Backpack Blessing, when all school-aged children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship at 11:00 a.m. for a prayer for the new year.

Sunday School

Deep Blue curriculum is inspired by the verse, “In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my Savior.” (Luke 1:47 CEB) The children will discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ today through science experiments, art and crafts, animated videos and active games; making the Bible stories, characters and verses part of their lives. Parents, please check out the site, www.deepbluekids.com.

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Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

James B. Nutter

Memorials

Memorial gifts 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.

Cindy Stewart, for Congregational Care

Marjorie Kilpatrick
Maureen McGinty

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