



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.*

Pledge Celebration Sunday Is May 8

How Can I Keep from Singing?

The glorious songs of the KU Chamber Singers filled the Sanctuary and Chapel last Sunday, inviting us all to sing God’s praises with our own lives. “Requiem” and “Fragile” highlighted the themes of community service and world outreach to which our congregation dedicates significant resources. The theme song, “How Can I Keep From Singing,” recalled the ways in which God’s presence and grace sustains us through life’s joys and sorrows.

You are invited to consider what fills your heart with song as we dedicate our collective gifts this Sunday, May 8, at all three services: 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Does a song rise up when a teenager breaks bread with a 98-year-old during visiting communion? Does the echo of God’s grace resound on Easter morning when the trumpets soar? Or does a song of gratitude reverberate when you watch your daughter walk down the aisle to say “I do?”

Our lives are blessed with abundant gifts from God. One of those gifts is this church where we worship

God, serve, and grow spiritually. The pie chart shows how our resources empower

this mission and bring this ministry to life. Worship includes 154 services as well as special events like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Christmas Eve. Service includes weekly feeding ministries for Kansas City’s most economically disadvantaged citizens as well as grants to international missions. Countless activities such as the Via Spiritual Renewal Retreats, Vacation Bible School, FaithPub and Faithbook comprise Spiritual Growth.

Please give prayerful thought to your own commitment and bring your pledge card to church on May 8 where together we will dedicate our gifts to God.

Check out our video at <https://youtu.be/b-NoSfDZFgk>



2016 Stewardship Campaign

2015-2016 Expenses



The University of Kansas Chamber Singers performed at all services on May 1 under the direction of Dr. Paul Tucker, Co-Director of Music at Country Club Christian Church.



Outdoor Worship Returns

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in June and July

We will once again move the 9:00 a.m. worship hour to our front lawn in the months of June and July. We will meet on the sidewalk in front of the steps surrounded with our building as the background view for the worshippers. The service will be simple, with gospel style music, a message of hope and grace, and an invitation to share in the Supper of our Lord. Our first Sunday will be June 5.



Via Retreat for Women

Oct. 21-23 at Tall Oaks Conference Center

Carla Aday and Meredith Holladay will lead the women's Via spiritual renewal retreat, designed to foster renewal, relaxation and reconnection. Cost is \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials. It's not too early to register. Register by Aug. 1 for the discount price of \$110. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-women>.



The women's retreat will follow the same curriculum as the men's, opportunity for personal reflection and reconnecting with the Spirit of God while also connecting with new friends, learning new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, and enjoying the beauty of nature.

Spring Musical Entrances



The Children and Student Music Ministry presented "The Big Fish: Jonah's Whale of a Tale" on Sun., Apr. 24 in the Social Hall.



Jesus Sought Me When a Stranger

Dr. R. Glen Miles



Last Sunday as the KU Chamber Singers combined with our own Chancel Choir filled the rafters of our sanctuary with the overwhelmingly beautiful sound of the final anthem for the day, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” my vision was momentarily blocked by the tears pooling in my eyes. I could barely see but it did not matter. Their song was the perfect end to a wonderful day of worship and praise.

As their strong voices carried the message forward I was caught by the serene simplicity of the opening line in the third verse: “Jesus sought me when a stranger.” In that moment my mind rushed to all of the many ways Jesus has worked through our church to welcome the stranger. This congregation has done amazing things lately. We’ve welcomed many who otherwise might have been ignored, forgotten or pushed aside by our culture. My eyes were filled with tears of gratitude for the way this church continues to live out the command of Jesus to welcome all.

I thought too of my life and Jesus’ willingness to come after me even when I chose to wander away from God’s care. I recalled my mom, who will be here this weekend to celebrate Mother’s Day, and the way she has loved me throughout her life even when I was at my worst and less than lovable. I also realized in that moment that my sons have always loved me even when I was a lousy father. And, I pretty much lost it during the anthem when I considered how grateful I am for the love of my life and the gracious joy Julie has brought to all that we have shared together as husband and wife.

I love this old gospel hymn for the way it both calls us to account for the foibles and missteps in our lives and the way it names God’s merciful willingness to come after us. That is a pretty good summary of the good news of Jesus Christ. We are loved. When we are lost, even when we choose on our own to go in the wrong direction, God comes after us, to rescue us from danger.

Sunday’s service was a sweet reminder of the power of God’s Spirit among us and what can happen when we open our hearts and minds to God. I am so very proud of this church and our willingness to love God, each other and our neighbor (no matter who they are). The road that God sets before us is not always easy to walk. We, like the old song says, are “prone to wander.” Nevertheless, God still believes in us and is always willing to find us and fill our hearts with love again and again.

Even now as I type these words my eyes are filled with tears of gratitude for the God who never stops looking for you and me.

Grace and peace to you,

Annual Congregational Meeting Is June 5

On Sun., June 5, annual congregational meetings will be held after each worship service to vote on next year’s slate of officers, new board members, elders, deacons and trustees. Please be sure to attend worship that day so that you have an opportunity to vote!

Worship with us!

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

How Can I Keep from Singing?

May 8

Pledge Sunday

Love is Lord

1 Peter 4:8-11

Pentecost Sunday

May 15, 2016

Old Dreams, New Visions

Acts 2:1-21

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Virginia Reed Food Drive

On Sun., May 22 we will be collecting food and donations for the Virginia Reed Food Drive. A special emphasis is peanut butter, all sizes and types. We have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community: Bring peanut butter to the donation points at the doors; make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org) or make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check “food drive” and place it in the offering plate.



Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, Alta Vista Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

Collection Connection: Supplies for VBS

We are collecting supplies for VBS. Please check out our “wish-list” by visiting the site below.
http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish_list/

Take the Stage Performance Is May 10

Join us to celebrate the achievements of students from our partnership with Hartman Elementary School and Take the Stage on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the J.C. Nichols Auditorium at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Take the Stage uses dance to help students discover a love of the arts, build self-confidence, and to engage in healthy physical activity. Our Metro Missions Ministry supports the work of Take the Stage.



Organ Concert on May 16

The Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will hold a members’ concert in our sanctuary on Mon., May 16 at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The theme for the evening is “Music of the UK.” You will be treated to music both grand and sublime from the great English tradition on our wonderful Schantz pipe organ. Our Music Ministry is sponsoring the concert.

Participating organists and their respective home bases are:

- Barbara Eichenberger, Church of the Resurrection, Leawood
- Paul Erickson, Parkville Presbyterian Church
- Kathy Hellwege, Freelance Substitute
- Ronald Krebs, Reuter Organ
- Dina Pannabecker Evans, Country Club Christian Church
- Pam Robison, Staff, Community of Christ, Retired
- Chloe Stodt, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lenexa

Hartman Field Day Volunteers Needed

What could be more fun than helping students play games on a beautiful spring day? Hartman Elementary School’s annual Field Day is Wed., May 11 and volunteers are needed to start and oversee the activities. The school provides written instructions and all the necessary materials for each game. For this one-time volunteer opportunity adults are not required to have completed the safety screening process. Volunteers will always be under the supervision of school staff. Volunteers are needed for one of two shifts 8:30 a.m. -noon and 1:00-2:30 p.m. When Field Day activities are concluded, volunteers are invited to gather for a picnic at McGonigles Market, 79th and Ward Parkway.

If you would like to learn more about the important encouragement and tutoring we provide at Hartman, this is an opportunity to become more familiar with this special partnership. For information: Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org.



Making a Movie

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



At the beginning of her career, my mom was a high school teacher in the small town where I grew up. While she doesn't remember that stage of her professional life fondly, a few of her students made an impression on her.

Early in my own career, Mom put me in touch with one of those former students who lived here, and he and I made plans to meet for lunch. Rick is a filmmaker, and my mom thought he'd be a good contact for me professionally. I'm not sure what

I expected, but I don't think it was the long-haired, gravely voiced, leather-wearing, motorcycle-riding man I met that day. I was intimidated by his crazy look, but soon we were laughing as he told me tales of his work.

Rick has worked on critically acclaimed independent films, as well as dozens of national television ads for big brands. He's active and well-respected in Kansas City's film community, and I learned a little lesson that day about judging a book by its cover.

Since I took Electronic Media 101 in college, shooting and editing video with ancient equipment, I've been interested in filmmaking, though my career did not take me down that path. Until recently.

I hope you've had the opportunity to see our newest video, "How Can I Keep from Singing?" about this year's Stewardship Campaign. The concept for the video is about extraordinary moments in life that make us want to sing with joy.

I started by having the campaign theme song arranged into an instrumental track, then I interviewed Lesley Holt, Hannah Fenley, Steve Bough and Avery Davenport, Elvin Knight and his grandchildren, Lucy and Max Patterson, and campaign chair J.J. Jones. I eventually edited more than an hour of conversation down to just a couple of minutes of moments, and mixed in photos and video of the life of our church community over the last year.

One of our communication goals is to use video more liberally and effectively. To that end, while I'll never be as good at filmmaking as my friend Rick, I'm trying to get better. We think video gives folks a more intimate and tangible look at who we are as a church.

If you have not yet had a chance to watch the video, please check it out at <https://youtu.be/b-NoSfDZFgk>. Share it, and our other videos, with your friends and family. It's a great way to tell our story.

Lara

Faith and Grief Luncheon

"I didn't know hearts could break over and over again," Rev. Peg Ruth explained, "yet such is the hard lesson all of us have to learn." Ruth had just shared the stories about deaths of her spouse and two children and the pain of those losses with guests at our monthly Faith and Grief Lunch on May 3. "We learn to bend with the wind, to daily remember with a smile and a tear and, sometimes without warning, to laugh from the belly, down to our toes." Following Ruth's meditation, guests shared, as they were comfortable, about their own losses and grief guided by a trained facilitator.



Our new Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry, on the first Tuesday of every month, offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. All are welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The lunch is free, provided by the sponsoring churches. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry.

The ministry is a collaboration of five churches, St. Andrew's Episcopal, St. John's United Methodist, Second Presbyterian, Village Presbyterian, and Country Club. Lunches are hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village.

For information: Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org. To register: (469) 251-9612 or <http://bit.ly/1VAQzEw>

Pastors' Class Reunion Breakfast

As the Ministries to Children, Students, and Families begins to create a lifelong mentorship program, we are working to foster the existing intergenerational relationships in our church. People who have participated in Pastors' Class as a faith mentor or student gathered May 1 to share breakfast, a lot of laughs, and catch up with each other.



Pictured above, faith mentors Lesley Holt, Cindy Irej and Teila Gilcrest.



On the right, Kevin Briggs, faith mentor, with Duncan Bennett and Max Patterson.

Student Events

Benefit Car Wash

Sat., May 14, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., George Combs Chapel parking lot. Proceeds from the car wash will go toward the purchase of sports equipment, toys, and supplies for the children in Nicaragua. We are asking a \$10 donation per car. Buy a ticket from one of our students today or just drop by on May 14.

Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)

June 17-19, 2016. Middle School students will engage in mission in Northeast Kansas City in cooperation with Country Club Christian Church's PartNERship. This will be an opportunity to learn about the needs of our own city, build memories and lasting relationships with other students, and invest in our

Our Graduating Seniors



Graduating high school seniors were honored on Sun., May 1 during the 11:00 a.m. service and with a brunch following. Left to right, Alyssa Hess, Zach Ziegenhorn, Hailey Hunter, Jackson Berry, Sam Brumitt, Charlie Jensen.



The guys reprised a photo (holding and below) of themselves as youngsters.





You Are Not Alone

by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families



As Mother's Day approaches, my heart is with all women. All of them. The mother who is so fortunate to have the family she's always dreamed of. The mother who has struggled with her own fertility or the fertility of her partner. The woman who is happy with the children she does or doesn't have but for whom the path to that place was complicated. The mother who has given birth to a baby who was never able to take a breath. Mothers who are sitting in the NICU right now unsure of life's next turn. Mothers who are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their child.

The mother who feels guilty. The woman who is navigating motherhood while living with postpartum depression. The woman who is missing her mother. The mother who is missing her child. The mother who is on pins and needles waiting for the arrival of the child she's adopting. The aunts and grandmothers and friends raising children. The young girls I see every day for whose present and future I pray. The women who have found that being happy doesn't always mean escaping tragedy or grief.

This morning I read a blog post by my friend Brooke who is brilliant, witty, one of the smartest people I know and the mother of three girls, Eliza, Caroline and Colette. Eliza, who was stillborn, prompted Brooke's blog post discussing W. H. Auden's poem "Musee de Beaux Arts" in which he describes the painting called Landscape and the Fall of Icarus. Bruegel's painting shows the landscape of a typical seaside town with people going about their business. What is not immediately seen in it are the legs of Icarus (from Greek mythology) sticking out of the water after his fall. Here's what Brooke has to say, "Because that's the thing that Bruegel and Auden know about suffering. It happens while someone else is eating a sandwich. Or rolling down a car window. Or just walking dully along. It doesn't knock the entire world off its axis. It's barely a blip on the radar. A boy falls out of the sky, and ploughman doesn't notice and the shepherd is a few seconds too late to figure out what's going on." You can find that post here: <http://bythebrooke.blogspot.com/2016/05/suffering-and-sandwiches.html>

My prayer for you is that your experience isn't forgotten. Not everyone will know. Not everyone will care. But your church does.

Though it's as romanticized as marriage in our culture, motherhood and the quest for it is wrapped in many layers of emotions and experiences. For some it's fantastic. For others it's tragic. And for many it's both. However you experience Mother's Day, I want you to know this: you are not alone. You are God's beloved and your church will walk with you this Sunday and all the days after.

Monica

Children and Families Family Worship Night

Sun., May 15, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

A worship experience for the entire family. It's a birthday party for the church around the world! Come celebrate with us! Sun., May 15, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. 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.

MOPS Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The next meeting is May 11. No meetings during the summer. The monthly meetings will resume in September. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

Vacation Bible School

Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 20-23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun Day Sun., June 26. For children ages 2 through 5th grade. Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc>



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Our Church Family

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.

Don Hartstack

John & Erma Hess

Jet Rawlings

Dale & Jonna Hunter
Greg & Nancy Lear
Marsha Hunt

Sue Deweese for the Permanent Missionary Endowment Fund

Alan & Susan Garner
Andy & Marcia Berry
Ann Brabson
Bob King
Clayton Hasser
Courtney Earnest
Dale & Jonna Hunter
Diane Jones
Donald & Diana Bennett
Eugenia King
Gloria McLerran
Greg & Nancy Lear
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John & Doris Soltys
Jon & Connie Gustafson
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Leo & Kathleen Halloran
Margaret Brinkman
Marie Tompkins
Martha & Thomas Lieser
Michael & Kathleen O'Leary
Rachel & Jeb Clement
Ronald & Linda Lieurance
Ruth Rader
The Sewing Group of Country Club Christian Church

Sue Deweese for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communciations
Dr. Meredith Holladay Minister of Spiritual Formation	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
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Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-Director of Music	

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