



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 24

COUNTRY CLUB

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.*

Join Us this Advent Season



Advent Sermon Series: Where the Love Light Beams

The sentimental Christmas carol, “I’ll be Home for Christmas,” is a reminder of the desire of every human heart to find its way home. The advent sermon series, “Where the Love Light Beams,” will invite all of us to allow the light of Christ’s birth to guide us on a journey to peace, hope and joy.

Nov. 27 – Dreamin’, *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Dec. 4 – If Only, *Isaiah 11:1-10*

Dec. 11 – A Long Road Back, *Isaiah 35: 1-10*

Dec. 18 – Home for Christmas, *Isaiah 7:10-16*

Brass Christmas Concert

Tues., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Get into the Christmas spirit as the Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring seasonal favorites in the sanctuary.

A Christmas Festival – for All Ages

Sun., Dec. 11

This holiday tradition for all ages is designed so you can enjoy all or part of the festivities as your schedule allows. Bring your kiddos for cookies with Santa, come just for the program, or stick around to carol with your friends.

4:00 p.m. – The whole church is invited to enjoy chili and cookies with Santa. Have your photo taken for a complimentary keepsake ornament; cookie decorating and reindeer food; children can shop in The Well (\$5 gifts available).

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Story and Song, a program featuring seasonal music and readings in the sanctuary.

6:00 p.m. – Chili, Santa and ornaments continue. Bundle up and join us for old-fashioned caroling

as we spread cheer in our church neighborhood on the trolley.

Country Club Singers Holiday Concert

10:00 a.m., Dec. 18, Sanctuary.

Christmas music by Country Club Singers.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Dec. 24

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services.

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service.

8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Traditional candlelight service featuring the Kansas City Brass. Communion at 11:00 p.m. service only.

Christmas Day Worship

On Sun., Dec. 25, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary

New Year's Day Worship

On Sun., Jan. 1, 2017, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.



New Members Welcomed on November 13

Janice Bacon was a member here 20 years ago and is renewing her membership. She is Program Director for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Washburn University. Janice's interests include theatre and music, walking/biking, and reading. New member host is Sally Nielsen.



Ellen Durbin is transferring from Red Ridge Christian Church. She retired from Travelers Insurance Company after 32 years. Ellen enjoys movies and word puzzles. New member host is Prudence Irwin-Brennan.



Mark Durbin is Ellen's son and also a life-long Disciples of Christ member transferring from Red Bridge Christian Church. Mark has been a Human Resources Specialist at the IRS for 25 years. He enjoys tennis, movies and travel. New member host is Prudence Irwin-Brennan.



Janice Champion is transferring from Red Bridge Christian Church. She is retired and enjoys volunteering being with her friends. New member host is Anne Hoffman.



Leslie and Tom White have two children, Addy and Vinnie. Tom is a self-employed wholesaler and Leslie works part-time and spends time with her children. Tom enjoys sports, history and reading. New member hosts are Susan and Alan Garner.



Student Poinsettia Sale

Purchase a poinsettia from Country Club Christian Church students Sun., Nov. 20 and 27 in the parlor. Full payment must be received with all orders. Plants will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 4, at the church. The poinsettias cost \$15 for a 6.5-inch plant, \$20 for an 8-inch plant, and \$25 for a 10-inch plant. Proceeds benefit student mission trip scholarship fund.

Save the Date! 2017 Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the 8th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction, Fri., Apr. 7, 2017 at the College Basketball Experience (1401 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106). Sunday School classes are encouraged to include this event on your schedule as your April social event.



New This Year – Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join in the fun at an event designed just for them on the first floor of the College Basketball Experience. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend for an evening of games, food and fun!



Praying Together for the USA

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



On Nov. 9, at the end of a long day, I took a moment to pray for the United States. I confess my prayer was not profound. Like many of you, I stayed up until the wee hours watching election returns. I struggled to find words. My prayer was simply this: “Gracious God, my trust is in you, the Lord of All. Watch over the USA as we move forward with a new president. Amen.” The prayer will not win me any awards but I want you to know it was spoken from my heart.

There are some in our congregation who are heart-broken over the result of this election. And, by the same token, there are others who are celebrating. I’ve thought about what to say to every member of our church since Secretary Clinton conceded the election to Mr. Trump. My thoughts went back to the Lord’s Table and the words I recently spoke there. I quoted from Paul’s letter to the church in Galatia, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female...” You may recall I added, “there is no longer Republican or Democrat, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

I believed that was true on election day as Julie and I spent the day volunteering to drive “Souls to the Polls.” I believed it was true after President-Elect Trump’s victory was declared on Wednesday. We in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have always worked hard to welcome everyone to the table, regardless of who they are or where they are from. We take that effort seriously but often it means there will be someone sitting there with whom you strongly disagree. Many churches follow a safer route, one that creates a congregation filled with like-minded folks. But in our church where there are a variety of views and a diversity of thought we strive to name our unity in Christ as our guiding principle.

In the days ahead, we will continue to welcome all in the name of Jesus Christ. As my friend Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) wrote recently, our church will minister to “people of all races, ages, gender identities, abilities, religions, and yes, politics, and to find ways to work together to extend to each other – across the whole human family – the abundance of a generous God.”

Here, we are actively working to fight racism and we will continue in that effort. Throughout our history we have recognized women as ones fully gifted by God to serve in every aspect of church life and leadership. Our congregation will lead in the effort to welcome refugee families to the Kansas City area. We will preach that the all-inclusive love and grace of God is bigger than anything we have ever imagined. We will go to the most hellish places on earth

continued at top of next column

Praying Together, *continued*

with not only the good news of God’s mercy but the willingness to partner with humans wherever there is pain and sorrow. We will stand with the LGBTQ community, recognizing they too are part of God’s family.

It is an overwhelming privilege it is to serve as your pastor. I am continually amazed at the depth of your love for God, your joy in the presence of each other and your willingness to care for the world. The times ahead of us are unique but we can, through the gracious love of the Creator of all, find the strength we need to follow the one we name Lord and Savior of all.

With grace and hope,

Glen

Worship with us!

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

Nov. 20

Loosening Our Grip
Colossians 1:11-20

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Advent Sermon Series

Where the Love Light Beams

Nov. 27 – Part 1:

Dreamin’
Isaiah 2:1-5

Dec. 4 – Part 2:

If Only
Isaiah 11:1-10

Dec. 11 – Part 3:

A Long Road Back
Isaiah 35:1-10

Dec. 18 – Part 4:

Home for Christmas
Isaiah 7:10-16

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Artist to Be at The Well on Nov. 20



Local artist, Bernadette “Bernie” Lee, will be at The Well on Sun., Nov. 20 selling notecards and prints. Proceeds benefit Week of Compassion.

After almost 30 years as a fine wine professional, a permanent shoulder injury left her unable to lift cases of wine, but she was still able to lift a pen and paintbrush. Her previous hobby of painting landscapes and drawing custom home portraits, has evolved into a passion for creating lasting memories of places that people hold close to their heart. The detailed iconic scenes of Kansas City take from five days up to two weeks to sketch, and then finish in pen and watercolor.

Purchases through AmazonSmile Benefit Week of Compassion through The Well

Every time you shop through AmazonSmile, your purchases can benefit Week of Compassion through The Well.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same prices and

selection as amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to The Well for Week of Compassion.



To shop at AmazonSmile go to smile.amazon.com using your regular account from Amazon.com. Your shopping cart and other account settings are the same. You need to select Country Club Christian Church as your charitable organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

New Christmas Books Available in The Well



Faithbook: Women Exploring Scripture and Forming Friendships

FaithBook is a place for women to connect and reconnect, a place to share stories, a place to challenge one another to grow in faith. All are welcome. Meet amazing women forming friendships and sharing scripture. Come and go as your schedule permits on either Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. Carla Aday presents a scripture and small groups discuss.

Thanksgiving break – Nov. 22/23

PARTY! – Nov. 29/30. Stay tuned for our holiday party details.

Winter/Spring Session – Jan. 3/4 through Apr. 4/5

Topics: Jesus and Muhammed – Let's Talk

Women in the Gospels,

Paul's Invitation

Via Spiritual Renewal Retreats in 2017

Save the dates for men's and women's spiritual retreats at Tall Oaks Conference Center in 2017.

Men: Mar. 31-Apr. 2

Women: Oct. 20-22



These retreats will be the same as those offered this year. If you missed out, this is your chance to experience the renewal provided to all participants.

Life gets busy and it is easy to drift away from the journey of faith. The retreats are designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time, and have fun while also reconnecting with the Spirit of God. Participants will learn new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, enjoy the beauty of nature, and have time to relax and play.



Super Powers Are Over-rated

By Rev. Chuck Pickrel, Director of Student Ministries



For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to be a super hero. Reading comic books, watching television, going to movies, playing video games, and standing on the roof with a cape... I have fed my Super Hero dreams as much as I possibly could. I often find myself drifting off into fantasies of saving the world from evil geniuses and other worldly threats of horrific proportions.

As I've grown older, I have also had dreams of saving people from more familiar threats: war, hunger, oppression, natural disaster... the list goes on and on. But alas, I have neither the super natural ability or limitless wealth and technology to make these dreams anything other than fantasy.

The entertainment value of the Super Hero has become little more than escapism. I can watch fictional characters and dust just a little more hopelessness off before returning to the real world, where very real people are dealing with very real threats none of us can block with our non-existent powers.

But we are NOT helpless. We CAN be heroes. While we may not be able to stop a speeding train, we can use our hands and feet to bring hope to the oppressed. We can use our resources to bring food to the hungry. We can use our strength and persistence to clean up after the disasters. We can use our hearts, minds, and mouths to bring hope and love through prayer and action. We each have within us the power to make change for the better, and to stand with our sisters and brothers who cannot stand on their own.

So, while I don't have a nifty super suit, I do have faith that we can all do good. Each of us can be a hero in so many ways, from the simplest friendly greeting to the heaviest donation of food, we can all make a difference. I know I'll see you out there, fellow heroes!

Love in Christ,

Chuck

Volunteers for Christmas Season

To make our Christmas season a success we need your help. Many opportunities to serve to make our events a success are available – A Christmas Festival, Brass Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve. Sign up in the parlor on Nov. 20 and 27 and Dec. 4 and 11. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty, anneh@cccckc.org.

TED Talk Discussions

Discuss the intersection of social issues, ideas and our shared faith in a series utilizing TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talks from the immensely popular TED live events, videos and podcasts. Participants watch the talks together and then participate in a discussion. Open to all ages. Facilitated by Craig Doty. 10:00-10:50 a.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).

■ Dec. 4 – My Year of Biblical Living, AJ Jacobs

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Dec. 11. We have three ways to donate:

- Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and chapel any Sunday.
- Make a financial contribution on the Harvesters Community Food Network website. On Dec. 11, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation. (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org).
- Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.

reStart the MusiKC: A Benefit Concert for Teens, Put on by Teens, to Help Teens in Kansas City

Country Club Christian Church Student Ministries will again host reStart the MusiKC, a benefit concert for high school students, planned by the church's high school students. Proceeds will benefit reStart, Inc., an agency providing shelter and support services to homeless individuals and teens in Kansas City.



The concert will be on Tues., Nov. 22 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Students in grades 9-12 are welcome. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Socks for Micah Ministry Christmas

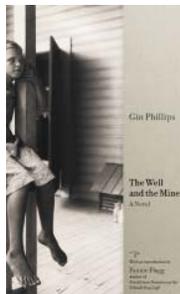
Make Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of \$9/12 pack or .75 per pair, then purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. Each sock should be filled with the second sock in the pair and 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. Please, no candy or food items. Tie the socks closed with ribbon. Filled socks should be delivered to church no later than Sun., Dec. 180.



BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

2017 Book: *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips

This church-wide book read begins with book groups meeting in April followed by an appearance by the author on Thur., May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. If you are in a book group, invite your group to read this wonderful novel and plan to come hear the author. The event is free and open to the public. All members and friends are welcome to participate in a one-time book discussion group in homes and coffee shops this spring. The book is available for purchase in The Well. Stop by and pick up a copy for yourself and give a few copies as Christmas gifts for friends. Randy Irely and Melanie Thompson are co-chairing the event.



Upcoming Student Events

Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Rm. 202

9:55-10:55 a.m.: High School Sunday School, Youth Center

Monthly Special Event

reStart the Music Concert

Tues., Nov. 22, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Social Hall. For 9th-12th grade.

Parent Volunteers for reStart the MusiKC

Parent volunteers to help with "security" and general set up/take down for the concert are needed. Tues., Nov. 22, 4:00-10:00 p.m. (flexible)

Monthly Service Project

Poinsettia Sales – One or two students to sit in parlor before 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services to take orders. Sun., Nov. 20 and 27.

Pumpkin Pies Due Nov. 20

Our November Collection Connection invites you to make a pumpkin pie or donate so that we can buy pie. Pies need to be delivered to our church on Sunday, Nov. 20. Checks or cash donations may be placed in the offering with "Micah Pumpkin Pies" in the memo line or written on the envelope. For text giving, text the word PUMPKIN to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you'd like to contribute. Micah Ministry is the social services outreach at Independence Boulevard Christian Church in the historic Northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City.



Boring Socks, Powerful Prayers

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



I have one pair of “I Heart KC – Red and Yellow” socks from our very own local entrepreneurs, SOCK101. Other than that, all my socks are black and cotton. Oh, and boring. But they are clean and when they wear out I recycle the cotton and buy some new socks.

It occurs to me that when I put my socks on in the morning, I should say a prayer of gratitude because I have clean, boring socks. And, I should pause to remember all the people in

our city who do not have clean, boring socks to wear that day.

You may remember that last Christmas we donated 800 pairs of socks to our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church’s Micah Ministry. I think most of the socks were white tube socks; still boring but at least they were clean and new. Each pair was filled with travel-sized toiletries – soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, lip balm, etc. – and tied with a festive ribbon.



I hope you will buy a pair of socks (or a few pair) and fill them for this year’s collection. I invite you to experience filling the socks as a guided prayer meditation.

As you roll the first sock to stuff it inside the second one which will house all the items, imagine the person who will receive the socks. Are they homeless? What do they look like? By the way, the average age of a homeless person in Kansas City is 7 years old. That’s right, a second grader.

Carefully put the soap and shampoo in the sock and imagine that you are placing the items in the recipient’s hands. Soap and shampoo seem so domestic, so mundane, yet for a person working at a job that pays less than a living wage, basic personal care items may be a luxury beyond their means.

Add the lip balm and hand lotion to the sock and let a gentle word come to your mind and fill your heart. Softly say the word aloud as if you are speaking to this new acquaintance. The word repairs some of the harshness experienced by those who suffer in poverty.

Now tie the sock closed. Over, under, around, through – the ribbon flowing with your fingers and creating a bow. Let the action become a gesture tying the two of you together in your shared humanity. Recognize this bow – and every bow this holiday season – as a symbol of your commitment to care for those in need and address the root causes of poverty. Amen.

Joe

Children and Families

Advent in Advance

Sun., Nov. 20, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Join us for this free Advent workshop for children birth through 5th grade in the Social Hall. Enjoy a light lunch and make-n-take session to prepare your family and home for the Advent season. You can make a wood block nativity set (start or add to yours), family keepsakes, and other fun activities to help us celebrate Advent.

Children’s Collection Connection

Operation Santa Claus for Della Lamb

Della Lamb Community Services

Operation Santa Claus is a Christmas holiday program, which serves over 1,700 low-income Kansas City families with all items needed to provide memorable holiday experiences – new toys, new clothing, filled Santa stockings, new household items, new gift items for mom and for dad, Christmas groceries, giftwrap and bows. Donations needed:

- New gift items for all ages
- New children’s (all sizes; boys & girls) sweatsuits, underwear, socks, hats and gloves
- New children’s toys
- New children’s books
- Grocery items for holiday meal

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 Dec. 14. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Sara and Alex Goering Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communications
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
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Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

Marianne See
Nola Odle
Wayne Heady

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.

Arnie & Ellen Lanner

Jane Jacobs

Cynthia MacFarland

Randy & Cindy Irely
Bob & Kay Moffat

Donald White, for the Stephen Ministry of Country Club Christian Church

Gene & Liz Brice
Harold & Jane Holder
Bill & Brucie Hopkins
Gladys Jacobs
Jessie Martin
Martha Rolofson
Donald & Charlotte Sauerwein

Lucille Lambert, for the Sewing Group of Country Club Christian Church

Linda Schooling-Kekina

Marianne See

Maureen McGinty
Dale & Betty Miller

Marianne See, for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

Marianne See, for the Building Fund

Don & Mary Dibble
Leta Mae Hodkins
Bob & Marjorie Jump
Jill Reynolds
Linda Schooling-Kekina

Nola Odle, for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

Robert Woodbury

Bill & Brucie Hopkins

Wayne Heady, for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

Don & Mary Dibble
Linda Schooling-Kekina
Huberta Fore and Dewey & Cheri Fore