



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

July 13, 2018 | Vol. 92 No. 14

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister The Ladder



Rev. Carla Aday

*If there are a  
"chosen few"  
Then I am not  
one of them,  
If an "elect," well then  
I have not been elected.  
I am one who is  
knocking  
At the door. I am one  
whose foot*

*Is on the bottom rung,  
But I know that Heaven's  
Bottom rung is Heaven  
Thought the ladder is standing on the earth  
where I work  
By day and at night sleep  
With my head upon a stone.*

Wendell Berry, *This Day*  
Collected and New Sabbath Poems

Some days, I read a Wendell Berry poem as a prayer. This one particularly hooked me. I love imagining that the ladder we climb to heaven is heaven itself, even if our feet are on the bottom rung. And I am prompted to ask where in the middle of real life, this ladder is propped up.

For me the screened-in porch is one of the places where the ladder stands. The screens have some holes in them and one screen flaps loose in the breeze where the dog dislodged it. Spider webs form in the corners. But the gentle summer breeze and the ceiling fan keep it a cool place to sit at dawn or dusk. We eat our breakfast there and listen to the morning bird songs.

*continued on page 2*

## A New Thing at 9:01 a.m. Sacred Space/Modern Message

In the book of Isaiah, there's a verse that reads, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is. 43:18-19). This fall the church is doing a new thing with our 9:00 service on Sunday mornings, but not so new that folks should forget the things of old. It's more a combination of the best of both.

For the last six months a task force has pondered what people love best about the outdoor service each summer and what that might look like indoors. If you've been to the outdoor service, you understand. Words like "casual," "family-friendly," and "intergenerational" quickly became the essence of what we envisioned.

We are calling this new service **9:01- Sacred Space/Modern Message** as a way to honor our gorgeous architecture while reaching people with a timely message for our day. The 9:01 reference also echoes something in found in Psalm 90:1, about how God has been "our dwelling place in all generations."

Families are encouraged to join the regulars at 9:00 a.m., and also to invite people not currently attending our church.

Here are some of the basics of what this new service will look like:

- Casual in feel and attire; you really can come as you are.
- Lively and engaging music, drawing from the best of historic hymns and new songs.
- Families with children will be invited to participate by lighting candles, reading scripture, and collecting offering.
- Children who attend can partake of communion or receive a blessing and hear a children's sermon before departing to choir and other age-appropriate activities for the second half of the service.
- A time of prayer and sermon in the second half will allow adults to be fully present and focus on God.

Two Q&A sessions have been scheduled to answer any questions you might have about this new service.

### Q&A Sessions

**Sun., July 15, 9:45-10:05 a.m.** with Rev. Carla Aday in the Library

**Sun., July 29 9:45-10:05 a.m.** with Dr. Mike Graves in the Library

### IN THIS ISSUE



Backpack Blessing is Aug. 19. ....page 2

No Service and Fully Connected by Corey Meyer .....page 3

A New Perspective by Lara Schopp.....page 5

## From the Senior Minister

*continued from page 1*

I write my sermons there some weeks. In the evening we sip a drink and neighbors stop by for a visit uninvited and unannounced. It has become our favorite room of the house. It is hard to rush on a screened in porch. It invites a slow down.

Summer's long days invite us to pause and pay attention to the ladder. Both "where we work by day and at night sleep." Where in your daily routine do you place your foot on the bottom rung of the ladder that leads to heaven? Is it reading a bed time story to a toddler at night or watching children splash and squeal in delight in the pool? Is there a task or responsibility at work that brings you joy? Or a part of your personal rhythm of daily rest that brings the ladder of heaven into focus again? If so, place a stone there to remember that the holy invades the ordinary, when we have eyes to see.

Grace and Peace,

*Carla*

## Backpack Blessing is Aug. 19



Save the date for Backpack Blessing, when all school-aged children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a prayer for the new year.

## Save the Date for Festival Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 9 is Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults. Featuring lunch, bounce houses, live music and more after worship. Watch for more information.



## Guest Gathering on Sunday

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 Bride's Room on Sun., July 15 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.

## Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Attention all golfers: Sign up now for the inaugural Max Deweese Golf Tournament on Fri., Sept. 21, at Swope Memorial Golf Course. Beginning with lunch, this 1:00 p.m. shotgun will be a great time of fun, but will also raise funds for the Veterans Community Project, providing shelter for veterans here in the Kansas City area. Make plans now to sign up (\$150 per person), form a team, and sponsor a hole (\$750). All are welcome. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves at [mikeg@cccckc.org](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org). Sign up and pay electronically at [cccckc.org/golf-tournament](http://cccckc.org/golf-tournament).





## No Service and Fully Connected

Rev. Corey Meyer, Director of Mission Partnerships



It was three full days of “no service.”

When I realize I am digitally disconnected from the world a slight panic mode ensues. At first it's a lonely feeling because I spend my life 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year connected to the world through the technology of my cell phone and internet. The what ifs start creeping into mind about who may need to get ahold of me, what if there is an emergency, what if I need to reach out to somebody. I start to wonder

about what I will be missing on Facebook and Instagram, what's going to happen in the news cycle that I won't immediately be informed about, how I won't get to show my friends what I am doing on Snapchat.

All the anxiety and nervousness about being disconnected lasted for like, 10 minutes. I got over it pretty quickly, which clued me into something I hadn't been aware of as we made our way down to Table Rock Lake for the 4th of July festivities. I needed – actually I was thirsty – to just simply be for a couple days. I left my cell phone on the bed-side table in the morning and walked out the door to embrace the world unfiltered and uninterrupted.

It is incredible what we hear and see when we're out in the world without any distractions. In the woods we could hear the Earth talking through the sounds of the winds and the birds chirping. On the water we could hear the stories that the lake was telling. At meals the conversation was beautiful and at night the joy of kids laughing and playing filled our hearts. It was everything I needed in that moment to pause, take a breath, and enjoy the world that God has been creating around us.

If you're like me, you wouldn't have just simply put your cell phone away if you weren't forced to, but I'm so grateful it happened. Because even when we're on vacation or taking time away we need to be encouraged to really be present with world and people directly surrounding us. It takes moments to be disconnected from one world to be fully connected to the world of God around us. ☞



### Join us for worship!

#### Sunday Service Times

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

#### July 15

Reading John for Dear Life,  
Part 1-Reading John's Gospel  
in Starbucks

John 1:1-5; 20:30-31

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

#### July 29

Reading John for Dear Life,  
Part 2

John 4: 1-42

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

### Do You Follow Us?





## *Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities*

### **Instructions on Becoming a Disruptive Christian: From Four Who Were**



Learn from the lives of four believers who followed Jesus's example as a disruptor of the status quo. Insider, outsider, extrovert or introvert — any one of us

can help shift the way things are to the way things should be. No book to read; no outside study. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Mondays, July 16, 23, 30. Led by Teresa Williams. Social Hall.

### **An Evening with Carla and Mike For Parents of Young Children**

Parents with young children are invited for dinner and drinks with Mike and Carla and other young parents from Country Club Christian Church. Connect with new friends, share your ideas, and help us dream about the future of young adult ministries at Country Club Christian Church.

Thurs., July 19 at 6:00 p.m. Peter and Lesley Holt's Home, 5049 Wornall Road, Apt. 8D (middle building)

RSVP to Carla Rauth at [carlar@cccckc.org](mailto:carlar@cccckc.org). Child care is available at church. Please note in your RSVP if you will need child care.

### **Amani Choir**

Our interfaith and intercultural singing group, formed in partnership with Della Lamb Community Services, meets Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Kansas City University Alumni Center. Singers of any skill level are invited to join this group. Please email Corey Meyer at [coreym@cccckc.org](mailto:coreym@cccckc.org) if you wish to join.

### **Meditation**

Meditation is offered in our George Gordon Prayer Room on Wednesdays at noon. All are welcome. Begins with a brief introduction to meditation, followed by 20 minutes of meditating and five minutes of sharing. Those who are able may choose to spend a few more minutes on reflection.

### **Join the Cookie Ministry**

Pick up a bag on Sunday and return it with two dozen home-baked cookies, brownie bites and/or homemade breads cut into quarters for Sunday fellowship. Return filled bags to baskets in the Parlor next Sunday. Cookies are needed every week and will be frozen for use in coming weeks.

### **Metro Mission Serve and Share Collection Connection**

During the month of July we are collecting stainless forks and spoons for Cross-Lines Community Outreach's Food Kitchen. A three decade partnership continues between Country Club Christian Church and Cross-Lines Community Outreach Food Kitchen. We provide the groceries and cooks and serve lunch the first Tuesday of each month.

### **Northeast KC Summer Concert Series**

Come join our Northeast Kansas City neighbors in Con-course Park for a free summer concert series every third Friday of the month. Hosted by Northeast Arts KC, this event is a wonderful opportunity to play, get to know, and enjoy music with our neighbors with whom we do mission and outreach work in Northeast KC. For more information visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/northeastartskc](http://www.facebook.com/northeastartskc).

### **Fall Houston Mission Trip**

Looking for an opportunity to serve over Labor Day Weekend? Corey Meyer and Mike Graves will lead a long-week-end trip, August 30th to Sept. 3 to Houston for hurricane recovery work with Disciples Home Missions. Please email Corey Meyer at [coreym@cccckc.org](mailto:coreym@cccckc.org) for more information.

### **Virginia Reed Food Drive**

Our Virginia Reed Food Drive is collecting peanut butter and jelly for the month of July. Bring items to the parlor on Sun., July 15. Another way to participate is to make a financial contribution to the church. Mark your check or giving envelope "food drive". You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.

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



## *a message from staff*

### A New Perspective

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



**T**he friends we were traveling with suggested a guided bicycle tour. Never in a million miles of travel could I have convinced my husband this was a fun idea, but majority ruled and that's how we found ourselves rolling through some parts of Chicago we'd never

seen, despite having visited the city dozens of times.

It's funny how different something familiar can look when you see it from a fresh perspective.

Yes, we'd been to the Fulton Market District, but we'd never eaten tlayuda at Cruz Blanca. (Highly recommended.) Yes, we'd been in classic Chicago dive bars, but never tried a "Chicago Handshake." (Not so highly recommended.) Yes, we'd roamed cool streets, but we'd never heard of The 606, a gorgeous, elevated park/trail. Yes, we'd seen Lake Michigan, but we'd never cruised alongside it as the fog rolled in and you could just barely make out the sparkling top of a silver skyscraper catching a stray kiss of sunlight.

Since that Chicago weekend, which also included one of the best meals we've ever eaten, we keep coming back to conversation about the bike tour. It was a good reminder that coming at a familiar thing from a fresh perspective can give you a whole new experience. Take church for example. Here are some ways you might experience church from a new perspective:

- Attend a different worship service than you normally do. Try the outdoor service. Try a chapel service. Sit in a different pew. Sit in the balcony. Sit toward the front.
- After worship, greet folks you might not otherwise chat with.
- Stop by the church on a weekday. See all the work that is done here Monday through Friday. Sit in the quiet, darkened Sanctuary for a bit.
- Try a new class. Not the Bible study type? Great, you have an even better opportunity to see a fresh perspective.
- Serve with the Children's or Youth Ministries. You'll be especially enlightened by our children and youth and their perspectives on God and life.
- Read the church newsletter from cover to cover. You'll be surprised by what you learn.

### Our Church Family

#### *In Sympathy*

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

John Soltys

#### *Special Gifts*

**Clayton Hasser**, gifts to Della Lamb

Bob and Kay Edsall

Charles Hasser

Don Reynolds

Dennis and Carol Zarr

**Jay Wooldridge**, for a park bench for the church grounds in Jay's honor. Donations beyond the cost of the bench will be added to the Mission and Outreach Coordinating Team projects for the 2018-19 church year.

Anonymous

#### *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.

#### **Lucille Armacost**

Joseph Albertson

Tom Corso

MC Realty Staff

Jill Reynolds, for Congregational Care

Todd Smith

#### **Merceda Larkin, for Sewing Ministry**

John and Doris Soltys

#### **Bob Legg**

Jill Reynolds, for Virginia Reed Food  
Pantry Ministry

#### **Barbara Oberlander**

Richard and Jane Bruening

## Student Ministries

### Middle School Mission Trip

Sun., Aug. 5 - Wed., Aug. 8, St. Louis, MO

Students (who completed grades 6-8 during the 2017-2018 school year) will stay at the Urban Mission Inn housed at Union Avenue Christian Church in St. Louis. For full details, email Aprilb@cccckc.org.

### Middle/High School Happenings

**Pool Party** - Sun., July 22, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Watch the weekly email to youth families for full details or email Aprilb@cccckc.org.

**Youth Group Gathering** - Aug. 3, 6:00 p.m. Watch the weekly email to youth families for full details or email Aprilb@cccckc.org.

**Middle School Pizza Tour** - Aug. 19, noon - 3:00 p.m. Cost \$8.00. (For new 6th-8th graders)

**Youth Group info session with Tyler Heston** - Aug. 26, 10:00 a.m., Rm. 202. See what's ahead for the 2018-2019 school year.

**High School BBQ Tour** - Sun., Aug. 26, noon - 3:00 p.m. Cost \$15.00. (For new 9th-12th graders.) (Note this change in date from previous information.)

### Serve at Micah Ministry

The next service opportunities at Micah Ministry will be on Mondays, Aug. 13 and Sept. 10. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m.

Micah Ministry serves nourishing suppers to neighbors in need, mostly the working poor. Unlike some meal programs, the guests are served at tables, with tablecloths, rather than having them stand in a line to be fed.

**Sunday School for 6th-12th Graders** meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 202.

## Children and Families

### 9:01 - Sacred Space/Modern Message

**A space for you; a space for your children.**

Starting on Aug. 19, our first service becomes 9:01, a service in a sacred space – our Sanctuary – with a modern message. This service is designed with families in mind. See page 1 for more information.

### Incredible Faith in Children's Sunday School

From beginning to end the Bible is filled with INCREDIBLE stories of heroes whose faith in God allowed them to be used by God to make a difference in the world. Sunday School classes will explore various biblical characters and come to know the many INCREDIBLE men and women in the bible.



### Save the Dates

August 19: Back Pack Blessing Sunday. Teachers and children ages preschool through college bring your backpack for a blessing and celebration of the new school year. Remember to bring box tops you are collecting for Hartman too!

September 9: Festival Sunday. Celebrate with our church as we begin a new church year!

### MOPS Registration

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. For more information or to register for next year email aprilb@cccckc.org.



VBS participants sang in worship on Sun., July 1.





More than 100 children and adult volunteers participated in Service Circus – Vacation Bible School June 25-27. This year VBS focused on service projects, including working with and learning about some Country Club Christian partners agencies in Kansas City's Northeast, like Micah Ministry and Della Lamb Community Services, and Hartman Elementary School. Children created hygiene kits with travel sized toiletries for our neighbors in need, learned about refugees living in Kansas City, and collected box tops for Hartman. Box tops are still being collected through Backpack Blessing Sunday on Aug. 19. A HUGE thank you to those who served at VBS and helped make it a success for our children.

## Organist Christopher Houlihan Concert Draws 1,000

Renowned organist Christopher Houlihan performed in the Sanctuary on Tues., July 3 as part of the 2018 American Guild of Organists National Convention. More than 1000 people attended the concert, and the live stream of the concert drew 200 unique viewers and close to 500 in on-demand viewing.

The concert was underwritten by the James and Carlene Neihart Family in memory of Carlene Neihart.



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## Program Staff

Rev. Carla Aday  
Senior Minister

Dr. Mike Graves  
Scholar in Residence

Rev. Corey Meyer  
Director of Mission Partnerships

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn  
Interim Minister to Children, Youth,  
and Families

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

Jason Ashley  
Director of Operations

Rachel Clement  
Director of Finance

Paul Cutelli  
Director of Technology

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
Executive Director of Operations  
and Co-Director of Music

Barbara George  
Director of Membership  
Development

Sara and Alex Goering  
Associate Directors of Music  
for Children and Students

Anne Haraugthy  
Ministries Coordinator

Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood  
Programs

Elizabeth Pfalzgraf  
Assistant Director of Children  
and Student Ministries

Lara Schopp  
Director of Communications

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-Director of Music

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

816-333-4917

email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)

## SAVE THE DATES



**Outdoor Worship** – Outdoor worship continues through Aug. 12. Join us on the front lawn during the 9:00 a.m. hour.

**Backpack Blessing** – Sun., Aug. 19. All school-aged children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a prayer for the new year.

**Festival Sunday** – Sun., Sept. 9, help us mark the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults. Featuring a lunch after worship with bounce house and games.

**Max Dewese Golf Tournament** – Fri., Sept. 21, at Swope Memorial Golf Course

**Community Camp** – July 27 – Aug. 3, 2019. Online registration available.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

**CCCCKC.org**

Follow us!

