



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Summer Reading



Rev. Carla Aday

Though summer now feels 2/3 over, I still look forward to hours of uninterrupted reading while on study leave at a monastery in

Colorado and some vacation time on the beach. While the bulk of study leave is devoted to mapping out sermons for the coming months, I also try to read some bigger theology tomes and race through as many novels as possible. Sometimes, fiction allows us to glimpse the truth of God and the human spirit “at a slant” in the words of poet Emily Dickenson. Still looking for an August read? How about:

Eternal Life by Dara Horn – This recent novel tells the story of a woman who is unable to die, though she wants too. She was born in the Holy Land, about the time of Jesus but is now living in current times in New York. Not only was it a good read and interesting history about biblical times, but it prompted me to ponder why we don’t actually want to live forever.

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah – I couldn’t put it down. To say that it is about a hippy family who moves to Alaska to start over just doesn’t do it justice. I fell in love with the main character and gained a new appreciation for those who find themselves victims

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9:01 – Sacred Space/ Modern Message

For the last six months a task force has pondered what people love best about the outdoor service each summer and how to bring the casual, family friendly and intergenerational elements inside. We are calling this service 9:01– Sacred Space/ Modern Message as an opportunity to honor our traditional sanctuary space while reaching people with a timely message for our day. If you’d like to hear more, stop by the Social Hall on Sun., July 29 at 9:45 a.m. for a question and answer session, with Dr. Mike Graves.



Sun., Aug. 19 is the annual Backpack Blessing. All school-aged children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a prayer for the new year. Children will also be promoted to their next grade/age level in Sunday School.

Mission Partnerships Year in Review

Since joining this thoughtful congregation in January 2018, I have been amazed and inspired by the work we do with our Kansas City community and across the world. We at Country Club Christian Church are taking God’s call to be in relationship with our neighbors wholeheartedly and graciously. This spring, we revisited our mission partnerships throughout the metro area and recommitted our relationship and support of a wide range of ministries including Hartman Elementary, Della Lamb Community Services, Micah Ministry, Grace United Community Ministries, Cross-Lines Community Outreach, and more! In all of our visits the theme resounded: Country Club is a vital partner in the life and success of these community outreach programs.

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From the Senior Minister

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of PTSD and domestic violence. The resilience of the human spirit gave me hope.

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Gran is not fiction but it reads like it. I was astounded to find how little I knew about a tragic chapter of history among my Native American neighbors in Oklahoma .

Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner remains my favorite novel of all time. A simple story of two couples who share a life-long friendship, elegantly captures the magic of the ordinary. Both the prose and the character development are as good as it gets!

If you'd like to read a book more explicitly about the Christian journey, I suggest Norman Wirzba's *Way of Love: Recovering the Heart of Christianity*. A divinity school classmate of mine, Wirzba unlocks complicated theology with personal stories of everyday modern life.

Or if you enjoy poetry, I suggest: *Joy: 100 Poems* by Christian Wiman, former editor of *Poetry* magazine and a professor at Yale who was diagnosed with an incurable form of cancer as a young man. This collection and his introduction point to a joy beyond mere happiness.

What are your suggestions?

With grace and peace,

Carla



New and returning youth deacons and elders attended a training session on July 22 with Dr. Mike Graves.



Sun., 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.

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This summer brought the rebirth of the Amani Choir. This partnership, led by Amanda Sipes, is a way to bridge the trauma of refugee resettlement with music therapy. We sent our 12th mission trip group to Nicaragua where people across borders worked together to build new gardens and new pathways to sustainability. Another fall and spring Grace at Work sent Country Club Christian Church members to our partnerships to beautify gardens, prepare for fundraising events, cultivate grounds and support organizations to do their best work. As well, our Della Lamb group has been working graciously to set up houses for refugees coming into the metro area.

It is overjoying to think back to all the ways we have been in partnership together with our community over the last year! It's all possible because of our compassionate, neighbor loving, and justice seeking community that is dedicated to bringing about healthy lives for all peoples. Our work is always just beginning and always becoming and God calls us to keep going and doing and coming and seeing. 🍷



Another Name for Community Camp

Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence and Minister of Spiritual Formation



In the movie, *Cool Hand Luke*, there is a classic scene culminating with Paul Newman's timeless line, "What we've got here is failure to communicate." Pardon the grammar, and never mind the context; but I think the same could be said about our church's annual Community Camp. (Shortly after coming on staff, I had a conversation about the upcoming men's retreat at Tall Oaks Camp. This person's reply? "I'm not really into anything with the word camp in it.")

Like I said, failure to communicate. And it's not just the word camp. The annual gathering takes place at a YMCA. Ask anyone you know what comes to mind when they hear that, and more likely than not it's the song about how it's fun to stay there (with hand motions, no less) or they picture a walking track surrounding exercise equipment, accompanied with the smell of sweat.

Picture instead a week in breathtaking (not too strong a word) Estes Park, Colorado. Picture the lodge where we stay somewhere along the lines of a Motel 6, maybe a little nicer. As for the YMCA, picture the world's largest Y, with miniature golf, swimming pool, basketball, horseshoes, riding stables, Frisbee golf, and the list goes on and on. All of this nestled on the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park, complete with deer, elk, moose, and all manner of beautiful butterflies.

But I'm a theologian, not a travel agent. So let me share what I think are the best things about Community Camp, and in no particular order: 1) Intergenerational. Where else do kids and adults who aren't related get to hang out together? 2) Unstructured. Besides breakfast and dinner, the latter prefaced by a short devotional, you're free to hike or nap or read or play golf or shop in town. 3) Tradition. It quickly becomes obvious some folks have been coming for years and they are eager to share the rituals with newbies, including the amazing induction ceremony of Mountain Women. 4) The people. It's easy to think of our church as the building on Ward Parkway, when in reality it's all the people. But in KC, we rarely get to enjoy each other's company for any prolonged sense of time. Sitting on the ample deck of the lodge and visiting with others from our church is an amazing treat.

I could go on, but you get the idea. I think. Feel free to ask me or any of the folks who have been before. Next year's experience is July 27-August 3, and registration is open. Hope to see you there. 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

July 29

Reading John for Dear Life,
Part 3: Spiritually Paralyzed
John 5:1-18

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

August 5

Reading John for Dear Life,
Part 4

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

August 12

Reading John for Dear Life
Part 5

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Sunday Morning Sign Up Reminder

If you are a Deacon or an Elder and have not yet signed up to collect offering or serve communion during Sunday morning worship, there are still spots available. Please consider serving two or three months over the next year as your schedule permits. You can contact Amy Holmes (adholmes75@yahoo.com or 816-868-3417) or Carla Rauth (carlar@cccckc.org or 816-381-9241) with the service time and month(s) you prefer.

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Faith and Grief Lunch

Join us Tues., Aug. 7 at Village Presbyterian Church at noon for our Faith and Grief Lunch. We begin with prayer, then a guest speaker shares her/his experience of loss, grief, and healing, followed by lunch and sharing and remembering in informal table conversations. To register: (469)251-9612 or www.faithandgrief.org.

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. Mon., July 30. Led by Teresa Williams. Social Hall.



Join the Cookie Ministry

Thank you to all of the bakers who have contributed to our Cookie Ministry. It is working! Please keep them coming! Cookies are needed every week and will be frozen for use in coming weeks. Pick up a bag on Sunday and return it with two dozen home-baked cookies, brownie bites and/or home-made breads cut into quarters for Sunday fellowship. Return filled bags to baskets in the Parlor next Sunday.

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 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.

Metro Mission Serve and Share

Collection Connection

Our Collection Connection is currently collecting both new and gently used school uniforms for the children at Hartman Elementary. Khaki or navy pants and navy polo shirts, in sizes 6, 8, and 10 especially needed. Please leave your donations in the basket. Monetary donations marked “school uniforms” also needed.

Northeast KC Summer Concert Series

Come join our Northeast Kansas City neighbors in Concourse 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.

Fall Houston Mission Trip

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



Marie Hunter, Shelle Jensen (pictured), Margo Hunter, Lesley Holt, Scott Holt and Reagan Flora spent many hours cleaning, emptying and organizing the church attic and a storage closet in the Social Hall. Thank you for generously serving our church community!

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. Sign up and pay electronically at cccckc.org/golf-tournament.



a message from staff

A July Full of Music

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



It's a thrill for me to be able to share some recent, extraordinary musical experiences with you, thanks to the support of the Country Club Christian Church congregation. On July 3, we sponsored an organ concert as part of the American Guild of Organists National Convention, held in Kansas City for the first time. I was told to expect about 600 people for the performance. We had at least 1000 people seated in the sanctuary, and extra chairs. The preschool children were excited to see the convention tour buses lined up along the curb. Our facilities, tech, and membership development staff went out of their way to make sure that every detail was in place. Welcoming greeters were excited to introduce so many new people to our beautiful space, and the Zappia sculpture received a great deal of attention. Minister of Music Emeritus, David Diebold, returned from Texas to attend the convention and help sell tickets at the event. We remain grateful to the Neihart family for their generous gift to the American Guild of Organists so that we could all remember Carlene in this once-in-a-lifetime event. At a conference workshop the next day, I sat by a woman from North Carolina. When I shared that I was employed here at Country Club Christian, she said that as the buses pulled up to the church on Tuesday afternoon, she and her husband immediately saw the sign out front – and noticed that the senior minister had a feminine name. They opted to sit in the balcony for the concert, and, as they walked up the stairway, marveled at the portraits of all the previous ministers, knowing that this church had made a definitive statement.

Two weeks later, I was able to represent the church at the annual Hymn Society conference, “Sacred Song in the Public Square”, in St. Louis. My goal was to find resources that we could use in worship services, reflecting progressive theology and inclusive language. While the days were long, I was pleased to learn of so many resources, and to renew and build a network of considerate, thoughtful, and helpful colleagues.

The mission of the Hymn Society is “to encourage, promote, and enliven congregational singing.” I look forward to sharing more music and meaningful texts with you over the coming year and thank you for your support of the music here at Country Club Christian Church. 🕊

All Baby Items on Sale

Please stop by The Well for a sale on baby items. Enjoy 25-40% off of blankets, toys, decor, children's books and more. The Well is open on Sundays, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit Week of Compassion.



Proud new owners of lovies from The Well: (Left) Brian and Leann Ritter's granddaughter, Marigold (Right) Marcia and Andy Berry's nephew, Jacob.

Student Ministries

Meet and Greet: Youth Minister Tyler Heston
Fri., Aug. 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Bennett Residence.
Middle and high school students and their families are invited to join us as we welcome Tyler, our new Minister to Youth, to the CCCC family! Stop by for snacks, drinks, yard games and an ice cream sundae bar. Please RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

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 April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Middle/High School Happenings

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. for dinner.

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

Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?

Contact Lori Bennett, Chair of the Student Ministries Team, at lorib77@me.com.

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 casual service is designed with families with children in mind. Children will be invited to participate by lighting candles, reading scripture, and collecting offering. Kids may partake of communion or receive a blessing and hear a children's sermon before departing to age-appropriate activities for the second half of the service.

Save the Dates

Aug. 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. Children will also be promoted to their next grade/age level in Sunday School. Remember to bring box tops you are collecting for Hartman too!

Sept. 9: Festival Sunday. Celebrate with our church as we begin a new church year! We'll have water inflatables so make sure to pack a swimsuit and towel!

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.



Children having fun in Sunday School.



Our Church Family

Special Gifts

Clayton Hasser, *gifts to Della Lamb*
Charlene and Ed Brennan
Greg and Nancy Lear
TJ Snyder

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 projects for the 2018-19 church year.*

Debbie Anderton
Joann Barrier
Ann Brabson
Mary Breed Brink
Elizabeth Brosius
Joann Carlson
John Cita
John and Marla Cope
Jeff and Kim Crawford
Mike and Jackie Cunningham
Max Deweese
Barbara Dietrich
Ann and Bruce Ebling
Frank Ebling
John and Gayle Ebling
Linda Ferry
Lois Fitzgerald
Darrell and Laurie Franklin
Alan and Susan Garner
Amy Dick Hanon
Cindy and Randy Irey
Lance and Pat Jessee
Peggy and Carty Johannsen
Tom and Rhetta Johnston
Alison Dick Kay
Robert King
Greg and Nancy Lear
Pat Martin
Mary McClure
Kevin Melia
Jill Reynolds
Linda and Denney Rives
George and Lois Satterlee
TJ Snyder
Juanita White
Alexander Wooldridge
Barry, Pattie and James Wooldridge
Jane and Chris Wooldridge

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

Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Schultz
Rogers and Peggy Strickland
Kitchens by Kleweno

Bob Legg

Max Deweese
Greg and Nancy Lear
Martha and Thomas Lieser, *for Virginia Reed Food Drive*

John Soltys

Donald and Diana Bennett, *for Sewing Ministry*
Margaret Brinkman
Cindy and Randy Irey, *for Sewing Ministry*
Martha and Thomas Lieser, *for Sewing Ministry*
Lori McKinley
Linda Schooling-Kekina
Carolyn Sellers, *for Sewing Ministry*
Craig and Jackie Soltys
Howard and Gail Sturdevant



Middle and high school students gathered during Sunday School to say thank you and goodbye to Rev. Chuck Pickrel.



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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 Haraughty
Ministries Coordinator

Lindsay Howes
Director of Children's Ministries

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Programs

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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.

Grace at Work – Oct. 13

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

