



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister God Welcomes All



Rev. Carla Aday

I'm at St Benedict's Monastery in Colorado. I longed to visit here for 32 years. When I heard Father Thomas Keating, the Abbot, present

a guest lecture in

graduate school I was mesmerized by his passionate approach to prayer and contemplation. Nestled in a wide valley surrounded by mountains, the monastery stretches the heart to inhale God's boundless beauty.

Posted on the doorway into the chapel is a small notice that says "the bishop of Denver wants us to remind you...the bread and wine are only to be served to the Catholics." As I listen to the monks in white robes sing the glorious liturgy, I meditate. And then my mind wanders back to that little sign. Somehow I am not worthy of the feast. My Protestant spirituality is not good enough. I remind myself that no church is perfect. But still I wonder, do they know I am a minister? And who gives them the right to separate me from God's holiest of gifts?

After the service, a monk greets me kindly. I want him to say "it's ok if you want to take communion...we have to post that sign but truly, you are invited, you are welcome, you belong." But he doesn't. Maybe he thinks I am too much of a sinner. Or not even a Christian. And so I leave,

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Celebrate the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults.

Guest musicians at all three services.

3rd grade Bible presentations at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Picnic lunch 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Bounce house, water play, games, plus music by String Theory Quartet

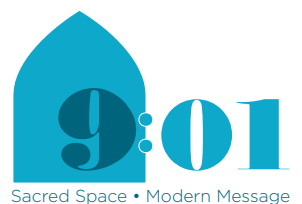
Sandwiches, sides, and dessert provided by Cosentinos. \$8/person, maximum \$30/family. Cash and credit cards accepted. Guests are complimentary.

Check Out the 9:01 Service

In case you haven't heard, 9:01 is our new, casual, family-friendly worship format. Designed to make it easy and comfortable for younger children, this service features:

- Relaxed atmosphere and attire
- Lively and engaging music
- Opportunities for young children to participate during the first half
- Age-appropriate activities on the second floor for children during the second half
- Prayer and a timely message for today
- A morning full of life, energy, music and the holy spirit

Join us each Sunday at 9:01 a.m. in our Sanctuary for this service. You'll find a space for you and a space for your children.



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feeling like an outsider.

And then I wonder, what barriers exist around our church. What signs have we tacked up inadvertently that keep others out. The stunning gothic stone façade? The million dollar homes lining Ward Parkway? The pretty cars we drive? Do folks assume that only perfect Christians with perfect beliefs and perfect lives of service are welcome inside our doors? Or do they need one of us insiders to invite them to ignore the signs and come on in?

I go back to my cabin and eat my supper in silence. Then I sit outside on the patio to read a book as the sun sets. A fellow pilgrim comes out on the patio. "We are going to have dinner. Please join us." I'm flattered but prefer to read so I explain. "No, I've eaten." She insists. "Please have a glass of wine, I'm getting you a plate and napkin." She will not take no for an answer. And I accept. Not because I'm hungry for food, but for welcome.

So when I get back to Kansas City, I am going to invite a few friends of mine to church. Not because the church needs more people. But because people need to know that God welcomes them at the table of grace. It's not our table. But is our honor to invite. Someone has said "It's nice to go to a friendly church. It's better to go to church with a friend." ☞

Carla

New Rideshare Partnership Announced

A new partnership will bring together church members who cannot drive to church and those who are able to offer rides. Country Club Christian Church is now participating in the volunteer rideshare program JET Express which is operated by Jewish Family Services. Used by more than 200 riders, this service provides upwards of 300 trips each month.

"Our hope is that our elderly members will use this system to request rides to church for worship and other activities," says Greg Lear. "Members who drive can offer a much-needed ministry through this system. Drivers can check the database and arrange to bring someone with them on Sunday or to choir, classes, or socials." Greg has been volunteering with JET Express for a year and a half and has provided about 70 rides.

Beyond trips to church, our driving members may also provide a ministry to other neighbors who need to go to medical appointments or shopping. The JET Express motto, "More than a ride," reminds us that offering transportation is an act of compassionate service.

How Does JET Express Work?

Eligible riders request rides by calling the JET Express office at least five business days in advance. Requests are entered into a database for volunteers to check on their phones or computers. Volunteer drivers select trips they are able to provide.

Who Is Eligible for Rides?

Individuals requesting rides must be 60 years of age or older, without readily available transportation, and non-wheel-chair bound.

What Is the Cost?

A one-time \$25 advance payment is required. Through a special arrangement with JET Express our church will be billed for rides to the church. Members who use the service for other trips pay the agency's normal \$5 one-way fee.

Who Are the Drivers?

JET Express drivers are volunteers who must pass a police background check, provide proof of insurance, participate in training, and have a reliable and accessible automobile. There is no fee to volunteer as a driver.

How Often Can I Request a Ride?

The maximum number of rides is two roundtrips each week. As an all-volunteer system, some trip requests may not be fulfilled. Some neighborhoods and destinations are not included in the service area.

How Do I Sign Up as a Rider or Volunteer Driver?

Riders and drivers may sign up by calling Jewish Family Services at 913-981-8877 or visit www.jfskc.org/jet-express.

For more information you may call or email our church office. Greg Lear and Joe Walker are available to speak to classes, groups, and retirement communities about JET Express. Email Joe at joew@cccckc.org or text him at 816-853-5375.



What Do You Make Space For?

Rev. Tyler Heston, Minister to Youth



What we make space for says a lot about who we are.

I realized this clearly as I packed up everything I own to move to a new state and into a tiny studio apartment. The boxes of old photos and posters that I kept reminded me that I'm deeply nostalgic; the bags of clothing I donated to Goodwill showed me that I

need a small-but-loved wardrobe, not dozens of t-shirts that I never wear.

We make space for more than material objects, though. An overdue phone call with a close friend or a sweet moment with family after a long day may prompt us to make more space in our schedules for the people we love. A stressful day at work might remind us to make for space for unwinding and relaxing.

Our spirituality is about making space, too. Prayer, at its core, is making space for God in our innermost being. When we pray, we engage in contemplation as "a way of opening ourselves to the ineffable," as David G. Benner says. Even the smallest space we make for God can grow into something powerful; the realm of God "is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches" (Luke 13:19).

What we make space for says a lot about who we are—and about what God is up to in our midst.

Country Club Christian Church, I am so grateful that you all have made space for me to join this community as the Minister to Youth. This space you've made speaks something boldly about who you are. You are a church that believes in young people, knowing that youth are not the future of the church but are a crucial part of who the church is today. You know that youth ministry is not a peripheral task of the church but is integral to the work to which we are called.

I take seriously the gift you have offered me to serve as the Minister of Youth. It's been a blast to meet and connect with so many of you already, and I look forward to the days, months, and years ahead of making space with you all for the youth and young people in this congregation. I cannot wait to see what God is up to and what grows out of our journey together. 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

August 26

Isaiah 6:1-13

Why Worship?

Part 2: Worship 401

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

September 2

Why Worship?

Part 3: Require or Desire?

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

September 9

The Whole Bible:

A Surprising Love Story

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

State of the Church

State of the Church Dinner and Update. Tues., Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Rev. Carla Aday will give a vision update and present the 2017-2018 annual report. Child care available with RSVP to April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Pathways to Learning on Sun. Sept. 16

The Heart of Democracy: Registering, Voting, Standing Up

Led by Rev. Bob Hill, Minister Emeritus from Community Christian Church. While Christians down through the centuries have prayed for justice, now more than ever, they are realizing the importance of working for it as well. In this interactive presentation, Rev. Hill will speak on the importance of voter registration and social justice.



Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Visitors and guests welcome. 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Understanding Your Grief Series

Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing led by Rev. Mary Linda McDonnell. From the book's foreword: "Think of your grief as a wilderness. To find your way out, the touchstones are your trail markers. They are the signs that let you know you are on the right path." Workbook \$15. Room 207. Thursdays, Sept. 6-Nov. 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry

A safe place for those who grieve to remember, pray and share a meal together. Noon-1:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month. Free will offering. www.facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC. Hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road.

10:01 Connections

For those ages mid-20s-mid-40s. Begins with a time of fellowship and doughnuts, followed by a Modified TED Talk on the Bible and spirituality by Mike Graves. Ends with small group discussion that relates to matters of faithful living in the real world. Mike Graves, Lesley Holt, and Jennifer Austenfeld will be the primary leaders. Fall series begins Sunday, Sept. 9 at 10:01 a.m. in rooms 206/207.

From Pew to Pulpit

Sermons mostly go in one direction, from pulpit to pew. Preachers talk and people listen. But preaching can go in both directions, and once did in the early church. Together, we will think about how preachers prepare sermons and work on one that Dr. Graves will preach on Sun. Sept. 23. Led by Dr. Mike Graves. Mondays, Sept. 10 and 17, 7:00 p.m. Social Hall.

Faithbook

Women exploring spiritual matters and forming friendships. After a brief presentation/lesson, break into smaller groups for discussion and sharing. Come and go as your schedule permits on Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Led by Carla Aday, Joe Walker, Mike Graves, Catherine, Corey, and Tyler. Childcare is available by request. Wednesday mornings 9:00-10:30 a.m. Sept. 12 – Nov 14 OR Tuesday evenings 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Oct. 2 and Nov 6. Youth Center.

faith
book

FaithPub

Led by Mike Graves with guest speakers each gathering, this group for men of all ages provides space to connect with other men looking for sacred conversations around stuff that matters. 7:00 p.m. at Bier Station. Thurs., Sept. 20: Rev. Corey Meyer, Director of Mission Partnerships.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes

Studying the Acts of the Apostles, led by Joe Walker. Light reading and conversation. Order textbook in The Well (\$10). Room 303. Beginning Sept. 5, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Metro Mission Serve and Share

Collection Connection

Many Micah Ministry guests are either homeless or have had their electricity turned off. Living in darkness is not easy – as some of us have experienced when we've lost our electricity due to storms. Candles create a chance of fire with serious injury and damage. In September we are collecting flashlights and batteries for our Micah friends. Dollar flashlights can be purchased with batteries in the camping section at Wal-Mart and at other discount stores.

Hartman School Partnership

Country Club Christian Church supports, encourages and assists students, teachers and support staff at Hartman Elementary throughout the school year. Choose from ongoing activities such as tutoring, serving in the after-school program, or preparing BackSnacks. One-time special events also offered at different times of the year. Stop by the Parlor Aug. 26 for more information or to sign up.

Save the Date for Grace at Work

Half-day service project open to all ages and abilities. Sat., Oct. 13.





a message from staff

9:01 Creator's Place

Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



We have been planning and talking and preparing for weeks now for the Creator's Place for children during the 9:01 service. We were hesitant to commit to certain ideas or crafts or activities until we knew what to expect. Then

finally, we realized, we were never going to know what to expect. That was the exciting part! The "art room" has been recreated into Creator's Place to allow the kids to reflect on the worship they had just attended, there are games and prayer stations for them to experience worship for themselves and fellowship with their peers.

These are all the things that excite me for the 9:01 worship, kids LOVE to be inside the sanctuary, but we as parents are often anxious about how that will go—will they wiggle too much, will they whisper too loudly or shout that they need to go to the bathroom or in my own personal experience, knock over a certain coffee mug and then giggle as it rolls down under ALL the pews, ahhhhh!

I know I worry that I am interrupting other people's worship time. But then I realized, how are my kids going to learn about and experience worship? How are they ever going to get into a routine of attending worship if we don't start now—before soccer interferes or sleepovers or you name it!

The 9:01 offers so much to all of us. I am excited for this new element to our children's ministry and our entire congregation. 🕯



Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

Nancy Plunkett

Max Deweese Golf Tournament

Registration Deadline is Sept. 1.

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. \$150 per person, form a team or sponsor a hole (\$750). For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org. Sign up and pay electronically at cccckc.org/golf-tournament or in the parlor.

Celebration of Membership

Join us on Sun., Sept. 16 for a Celebration of Membership during the 11:00 a.m. worship service as we welcome new members to our church family and give thanks for all of you who are part of our community. Whether you've been a member for life or just joined our congregation recently, we invite you to help us celebrate with a reception at noon.

Thank You Bakers

Thank you to all of the bakers who have contributed to our Cookie Ministry. 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 homemade breads cut into quarters for Sunday fellowship. Return filled bags to baskets in the Parlor next Sunday.

Student Ministries

Middle/High School Happenings

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.)

Serve at Micah Ministry

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

Sunday Evenings Come Alive

Beginning Sun., Sept. 9, a new format for youth groups will begin. Children in 3rd - 5th grades and youth in 6th -12th grades are invited to join each Sunday evening from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

6th - 12th graders

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Youth Choir

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday Supper

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Group time (with separate activities for middle and for high schoolers)

Our times together will include opportunities for fun and games, community building, service, and spiritual growth. We are excited for this space to provide a special place for children and youth to connect with their community at church every week.



Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?

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

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

Children and Families

Club Kids Kicks Off Sun., Sept. 9

3rd - 5th graders

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Gathering Games

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday Supper

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Group time

9:01 - Sacred Space/Modern Message

A space for you; a space for your children.

Our first service has become 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. Your children will be escorted to Creator's Place by a member of our staff, allowing you to remain in the worship service for the sermon.

Children's Choir

We hope the 9:01 format makes participation in Children's Choir a possibility for more families. Alex and Sara Goering will lead Children's Choir from 9:45-10:05 a.m. on the second floor. Children in Creator's Place (having come from the 9:01) will be walked to the choir room and joined by other children. Families attending the 10:00 a.m. chapel service would bring children at 9:45 a.m. to choir.

Festival Sunday

Sept. 9, 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!

Third Grade Bibles

We will be presenting Bibles to all third grade students during worship on Sept. 9. If you have not received information, email aprilb@cccckc.org.

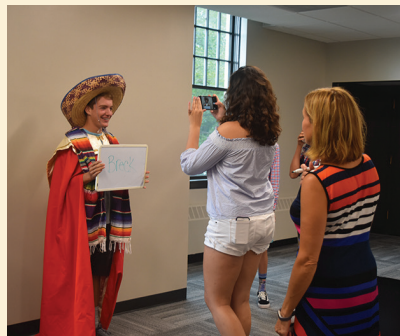
MOPS Registration

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 brought their backpacks to worship on Sun., Aug. 16 for a blessing for the new school year, and a backpack tag with a note of encouragement from our congregation.

Promotion Sunday and Middle School Pizza Tour



Youth Ministry kicked off the new school year with the debut of the newly renovated Youth Center, promotions to the next grade level of Sunday School, and the annual pizza tour for middle schoolers.

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SAVE THE DATES



Fall Houston Mission Trip – Aug. 30 to Sept. 3

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 Deweese Golf Tournament – Fri., Sept. 21, at Swope Memorial Golf Course

Grace at Work – Oct. 13, half day service projects.

Trunk or Treat – Oct. 28

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

