



# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## From the Senior Minister Sharing our Arms



Rev. Carla Aday

It happened so quickly. Immediately I tried to replay, rewind, undo, but while waiting in the ER, reality set in, I broke my arm on Dec. 20. All

it took was a slip of the boot on a pool of greasy water on a tile floor in a darkened hallway of a restaurant. Once in a sling, I wanted to apologize to everyone I had ever known with a broken arm on your dominant side. I had no idea how impossible it would be to do regular life: type, text, turn a door handle, open milk, mustard or wine. I kept thinking of a friend of a friend who had his arm amputated in his 20s, days before his wedding, and how he learned to ballroom dance with one arm. And of our fallen heroes who lose limbs and suffer from PTSD.

At a busy time, I was forced to slow down a little. Dial back the expectations of holiday cheer. Which turned out to be a good thing. I read more books, saw more movies, savored more visits with family and baked fewer cookies! And family and friends jumped in to put their arms at my disposal. My daughter-in-law applied my makeup. My son peeled the shrimp. My husband sliced the potatoes. My guests did the dishes. My friends dropped off soup.

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## January Sermon Series: Begin Again



As we begin a new calendar year we will look at how Jesus began his life changing mission. Like us, Jesus encountered setbacks and push backs. We will look at a series of “firsts” in Jesus’ life as a possible pattern for discovering the way to begin

again to live as God’s people in this complicated world. Join us in worship at our regular service times: 9:01 a.m. in the Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

### Monday Evening Classes Begin January 28

Dr. Mike Graves begins a winter/spring series of Monday evening classes starting Jan. 28. All are at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

#### **The Scandalous Act of Interpreting the Bible**

Jan. 28 and Feb. 4

Bible scholars often note that passages in the Bible don’t “say” anything; they have to be interpreted. In the

past, naïve approaches to reading led to burning witches and condoning slavery, what we might call textual harassment. In this interactive course, we’ll examine the scandal of what it means to interpret the Bible.

#### **From Pew to Pulpit**

Feb. 18, 25

Sermons mostly go in one direction, from pulpit to pew. Preachers talk and

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## From the Senior Minister

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It was a good reminder to me that none of us really goes it alone. We need one another to help carry the load – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And that is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength. We often quote I Corinthians 13 about “love is patient and kind” but just before that, chapter 12 reads:

*“the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body.”*

Real love is not some flowery metaphor. It is sharing our arms with each other. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (v 27) Thank you for all the ways you reach out with your own arms to reveal that love born in a stable 2000 years ago.

Grace and peace to you,

*Carla*

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*continued from page 1*

the 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 Sunday morning, March 3.

### **Walking with Jesus in Lent**

Mar. 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8

Christians often give things up for Lent, like chocolate or television. Others consider adding practices, things like daily Scripture reading or meditation. While the Sermon on the Mount is not explicitly about Lent, it is often considered the very heart of Jesus’ teachings. In this five-week series, we will walk through the Sermon on the Mount, to see what Jesus’ teaching might say about the Lenten journey and spiritual practices.

## **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May**

If you are interested in the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land trip being led by Rev. Carla Aday, Dr. Mike Graves and Dr. David May from May 20-29, contact Dr. Graves today at [mikeg@cccckc.org](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org) or 816-381-9255 for more information. This trip starts in Galilee, coming down the Jordan valley, and culminating with some of the most cherished sites in and around Jerusalem. Cost is \$3,400 per person, double occupancy, and it includes round trip airfare, ground transportation, hotels, and two meals per day, as well as entrance into all the sites and gratuities. Currently, there is no waiting list and the chances are good that some spots will open up.

## **Neighborhood Communion**

You are invited to participate in small group gatherings in your neighborhood. This time is for fellowship and guided discussions developed by Dr. Mike Graves. Gatherings to be held between Jan. 13 and Mar. 6. Sign up today. Contact Barbara George at [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org) for more information.

## **2019 Celebration Dinner and Auction**

Save the date for the 2019 Celebration Dinner and Auction on Fri., Mar. 8 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Boulevard Brewery, 2501 Southwest Boulevard. Tickets and sponsorship packages available soon.

## **Global Mission Intern Visit**

Join us next weekend in conversations with Cara McKinney, a Global Mission Intern with the Melel Xojobal, a children’s advocacy partner in Chiapas, Mexico. Cara has helped to design and give workshops with indigenous teenagers focusing on sexual and reproductive rights, living without violence, life planning, and human rights.

Cara will be joining us for worship on Sun., Jan. 13 with a presentation in the Koinonia classroom at 10:00 a.m. She will also be with the Youth Group Sunday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. If you’d like join an informal conversation with Cara McKinney on the evening of Sat., Jan. 12 at Nancy and Greg Lear’s house please contact Rev. Corey Meyer at [coreym@cccckc.org](mailto:coreym@cccckc.org)



## A Question for the New Year

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



**T**he Christ child is born – the new year is here and this is the week I begin to feel a bit deflated after all the build-up through Advent and anticipation of Christmas. It’s not that the Advent and Christmas seasons disappointed. It was all wonderful, from majestic music in worship to memorable moments with family, so many special experiences in these past weeks. But I am a bit perplexed after spending time preparing to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. All the many hopes tied to

this annual remembrance and recognition. And honestly it is so easy to leave it at that miraculous birth. God breaking into the world in a spectacularly ordinary way. Yet I can’t help wondering – now what?

So often in the church calendar we move from the birth into Christ’s adult ministry within a short time. It is not as though we are skipping much in the Bible. There truly is very little about him as a child or teen in the Bible. One of the few stories we know of Jesus before his adult years is the story of him as a pre-teen. This is the familiar one of Jesus and his family going to Jerusalem for Passover when he is 12 and taking a bit of a detour.

This story is layered. It is not simply a tale of Jesus as an adolescent giving his parents a hard time as he is not where he is supposed to be, but it sets up a pattern of Jesus reordering norms and expectations. He was expected to travel home with his parents who, when they realize he is not with them, begin searching and of all the places they assume he might be, they find him in the temple. They question him and Jesus pushes back on his parents, “Why were you searching for me?” Can you hear the tinge of irritation in his voice? His parents are said to have been looking for him for three days and when they find and confront him; he rebukes them. And it is in this rebuke that we may find connections to ourselves.

David Keck, in an article in the Christian Century (November 2018) comments, “When Christians and churches get comfortable with Jesus—when like his parents we presume to know where he should be and what he should be doing—Jesus rebukes us with what should have been obvious. Jesus turns, looks us in the eye, and asks us one more time, What, exactly, are you looking for?”

For me this is the question that moves me beyond the birth of Jesus and into the life of Christ. ❧



### Join us for worship!

#### Sunday Service Times

9:01, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m

#### January 6

Begin Again, Part 1: Us

Matthew 3:13-17

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

#### January 13

Begin Again, Part 2: A Sign from God

John 2:1-11

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

### Winter Clearance Sale in The Well

Stop in The Well Book and Gift store on Sunday for 50 to 75 percent off merchandise. (Some exclusions apply.) Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief around the world.



### Do You Follow Us?



## Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

### Pathways to Learning

"Race, Equity and the Christian Response"

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. 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. This series will examine race and equity in our lives, our city and our Christianity.

**Sun., Feb. 10** – Guest speaker PaKou Her, Tseng Development Group, will lead a conversation on what faith communities can do to create positive changes to empower people on both sides of the racial divide to see possibilities to grow together.

**Sun., Feb. 17** – A conversation about social justice. How do we approach social justice as a helper not an enabler? How do we learn to listen to the needs of our partners?



PaKou Her

### Faithbook

Women exploring scripture and forming friendships. Come and go as your schedule permits on either Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. Begins Jan. 15/16. No classes weeks of spring break (Mar. 12/13), or Holy Week (Apr. 16/17), and ends week of Apr. 30/May 1.



### Enneagram Class

Dr. George Gordon, Minister of Congregational Care Emeritus, will offer an Enneagram class Thursdays, Mar. 14-Apr. 11 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center. The Enneagram is a study of personality types and potential. This class is co-sponsored by the Shepherd's Center and is open to church members.

### Cookie Ministry

Our cupboards are bare! Please help up restock treats for Sunday fellowship. Pick up a bag on Sunday and return filled bags to baskets in the Parlor. Cookies are needed every week and will be frozen for coming weeks.

### 10:01 Connections

For those ages mid-20s-mid-40s. Features TEDD Talk (Theology, Everything else, Discussion, and Doughnuts) with Mike Graves Lesley Holt, and Jennifer Austenfeld as the primary leaders. Sunday mornings at 10:01 a.m. in rooms 206/207.

### Circles of Care

You can help nurture friendships across the generations in our church. Through personal visits and phone calls Circles of Care members help our elderly and shut-in members stay connected with our ministries. One hour per month commitment. Everyone welcome. For information text Joe Walker 816-853-5875.

### Faith and Grief Lunch

Tues., Feb. 7, Noon-1:00 p.m. February's speaker will focus on her particular experience of infant loss, but table conversation will open up to grief of all kinds. Complementary lunch is provided. Hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, and co-sponsored by Country Club Christian Church. More information at [www.facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC](http://www.facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC).

### Faithpub

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, this popular men's group meets for beer and conversation on a host of spiritual topics, with a guest speaker each session. Gatherings are at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd. Speakers to be announced. Wed., Feb. 20; Thurs., Mar. 21, Thurs., April 11, Thurs., May 16 • 7:00-8:00 p.m.



### Faithbistro

For women of all ages, with guest speakers on spirituality and real-life issues. Connect with other women looking for conversations that matter. 7:00-8:00 p.m., location TBA. Feb 28 - Kay Barnes, former mayor of Kansas City and member of our church.



### Souper Bowl of Caring

Sun., Feb. 3, our youth will be raising money for the Virginia Reed Food Drive as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national effort that empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the big game to help those in need.



## a message from staff

### Staying Informed

Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



When Glen Miles was the Senior Minister, he used to tell a story about good-hearted and well-intentioned lay leader who was passionate about a church project. “Glen, we’ve got to tell more people about this. Nobody knows it’s happening. We need to promote it. It needs to be in our communications.”

Glen pulled out the most recent copy of the church newsletter and pointed to the cover article which was all about this person’s project, complete with photos, details and a call to action.

The leader shrugged and said, “Eh, nobody reads the newsletter.”

On staff we joke about that story. Communicating with a large and diverse group of folks about dozens of ministry areas, opportunities and events can be daunting. People absorb information differently; some weeks you might not have time to read the whole Friday email; if you miss a week or two of worship you might miss details. Sometimes we think we have over-promoted an event, only to have folks tell us they knew nothing about it.

So as we enter 2019, I want to remind you about the top five ways to stay informed about what’s going on at church.

1. Read the newsletter email. If it’s been a while since you’ve checked it out, I invite you to give it a new look. We’re featuring highlights in the body so you can briefly scan the three or four things we think are most important for that week. When you have more time you can click into the link for the full layout version. (And yes, I recognize the irony of a column asking you to read the newsletter, published in the newsletter I’m asking you to read...)

2. If you have kids, make sure you’re getting our Thursday emails with information specific to your kids’ ages. Email [Aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:Aprilb@cccckc.org) to be added to these updates.

3. Follow us on social media. During December we posted daily Advent devotions, we post photos and videos, and we always try to keep you informed.

4. Check out the web site at [cccckc.org](http://cccckc.org). We strive to keep it up to date and easy to search.

5. Come to worship. In addition to the newsletter that’s in your bulletin each week, you’ll hear highlights from Carla or Mike, you’ll see promotional information around the building, and you’ll get a chance to chat with people who can give you details you need.

I look forward to communicating with you this year! 🍷

### Our Church Family

#### *In Sympathy*

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

**Jim Love**

**Lou Ann Snyder**



We delivered 780 socks filled with toiletries to our friends at Micah Ministry to distribute to individuals experiencing homelessness. Thank you to everyone who assembled a stocking this year. And thanks to Jason Ashley, Ed Pasley and Ed Buckley, pictured, for making the delivery.

### Metro Mission

#### Puerto Rico Mission Trip

We have a spots open for the Puerto Rico Mission Trip scheduled for March. 17-24. This trip is in partnership with the Iglesia Cristiana (Disciples de Cristo) en Puerto Rico to work with our neighbors in Puerto Rico on Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria disaster recovery. For more information visit [www.cccckc.org/puerto-rico-mission-trip](http://www.cccckc.org/puerto-rico-mission-trip) or contact Corey Meyer at [coreym@cccckc.org](mailto:coreym@cccckc.org)

#### Micah Ministry

Serve dinner at Micah Ministry from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., on Mon., Jan. 14. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m. Carpool to Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Questions? Contact Jackie Cunningham at 816-246-6202.

## Youth Ministries



The Youth Group gathered for a fun night of caroling and ice skating, before the holidays..

### Youth Group Go to Main Event

Sun., Jan. 20, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Grades 3-12. \$20 per person includes pizza dinner. RSVP required; email April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).

### Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. for middle school and high school Sunday School. Meet in Room 205 for announcements and snacks before breaking up into separate classes.

### Pastors' Class

The Pastors' Class is an annual series for 6th graders (or older youth) who are interested in learning more about what it means to be Christian and our church community. This year's class will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. from Feb. 13 to Apr. 10. At the end of the class, participants will have the opportunity to be baptized and join the church on Palm Sunday, Apr. 14. Contact Tyler ([tylerh@cccckc.org](mailto:tylerh@cccckc.org)) for more information or to sign up.

### Summer Mission Trips

**High School:** Ecuador - June 6-12 - High schoolers will partner with FEDICE for service-learning projects near Otavalo, Ecuador.

**Middle School:** Des Moines - June 23-26 - Middle schoolers will travel to Des Moines, Iowa, to partner with different nonprofits fighting hunger and poverty for service-learning projects .

For more information about either trip or to register, contact Tyler ([tylerh@cccckc.org](mailto:tylerh@cccckc.org)).

## Children and Families

### Club Kids Go to Main Event

Sun., Jan. 20, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Grades 3-12. \$20 per person includes pizza dinner. RSVP required; email April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).

**Footsteps in Faith: Jesus the Boy in the Temple**  
1st - 5th graders will explore one of the only stories of Jesus as a child. Through cooking, woodworking, storytelling and more the 1st - 5th graders will learn of Jesus' time in the temple when he was still a young boy and how his actions connect with us today.

Weekly room locations posted in the second floor children's wing.

### MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth – K) meets the second Wednesday of each month during the school year in Rm. 205, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. For more information or to register contact April [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).



Club Kids caroled at Armour Oaks Senior Living Community last month.



Children participated in the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service by dressing as angels and shepherds.



# Joyful, Joyful: Christmas in Photos

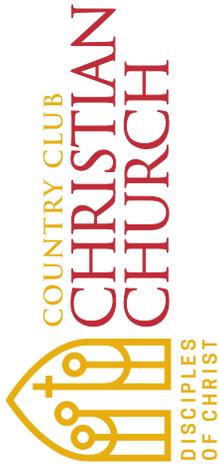


Above: the Country Club Singers and Jubilee Ringers presented their annual Christmas concert on Dec. 18.

Left and below: Joy was found and hope made real at all three Christmas Eve services. From the lighting of the Christ candle, to the visit from the holy family; the beautiful music by the Kansas City Brass and *Silent Night* on guitar; culminating in the lighting of the Christmas candles, it was a magical evening of peace and love for all.



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## SAVE THE DATES



### Club Kids and Youth Group Go to Main Event

Sun., Jan. 20, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Grades 3-12. \$20 per person includes pizza dinner. RSVP required; email April at [aprilb@cccckc.org](mailto:aprilb@cccckc.org).

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Sun., Feb. 3

### Ash Wednesday

Mar., 6, 6:00 p.m.

### Celebration Dinner and Auction

Fri., Mar. 8, 7:00 p.m., Boulevard Brewery

### Easter

Sun., Apr. 21, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

May 20-29. Led by Rev. Carla Aday, Dr. Mike Graves and Dr. David May. Contact Dr. Graves today at [mikeg@cccckc.org](mailto:mikeg@cccckc.org) or 816-381-9255 for more information.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

**CCCCKC.org**

Follow us!

